

Seven Churches Pilgrimage in Rome... 2021



Day 1 Welcome to Italy

Rome Upon arrival at Rome Airport, we will be greeted by our English speaking tour manager who will be with the group during the entire stay in Italy. We will board the private deluxe bus and transfer to our hotel. Following check-in, we will have free time to unpack and relax. If possible, we will celebrate Mass in a local church. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Rome (D)

Day 2 Walking day: from Church of St Maria in Vallicella to St Peter's Basilica (0,7 miles)

We begin our pilgrimage celebrating Mass at the church of Santa Maria in Vallicella which is the principal church of the Oratorians, a religious congregation of secular priests, founded by St Philip Neri in 1561. Then we will visit the private rooms of St Philip Neri who, according to the tradition, started the Seven Churches route back in 16th century during the Lent. From St Maria in Vallicella we will walk to St Peter's Basilica, the largest Christendom Church. This Basilica was built on the site where St. Peter, the first Pope and Bishop of Rome, was martyred. After the visit, feel free to explore the streets around the Vatican. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B, D)

Day 3 Walking day: from Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls to the Catacombs of St Sebastian (3,6 miles)

Today we start celebrating Mass at Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. Originally founded by Emperor Constantine in the 4th century, the Basilica is where the great Apostle Paul is buried. From the Basilica we will walk along the Appian Way, the earliest road of Ancient Rome, to reach the Catacombs and the Basilica of St Sebastian. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B, D)

Day 4 Walking day: from Basilica of St John in Lateran to Basilica of St Lawrence Outside the Walls (1,6 miles)

After breakfast we will transfer to Basilica of St John in Lateran to celebrate Mass. This Basilica is the seat of the bishop of Rome, who of course, is also the Pope. The Basilica houses magnificent artwork and also wood from the table used at the Last Supper. It is high above the altar above the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, to the left of the main Papal altar. From here we will walk to the Basilica of Holy Cross in Jerusalem to see the sacred relics from the Holy Land. Then we will walk to the minor Basilica of St Lorenzo Outside the Walls. It contains the relics of St Lawrence who was martyred on August 10, 258. The emperor Valerian sentenced him to die by roasting him on a gridiron. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B, D)



Day 5 Marian churches: Sanctuary of Divine Love and Basilica of St Mary Major

This morning we will drive to the Marian Sanctuary of Divine Love which was added by Pope John Paul II for the Great Jubilee of 2000, replacing St Sebastian Outside the Walls. Then we will complete the pilgrimage celebrating Mass at Basilica of St Mary Major which is one of the oldest and most important shrines in the world dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The basilica contains some of the finest artwork and architectural wonders in the world such as the ceiling which is a masterpiece of the Renaissance and the work of Giuliano da Sangallo. It contains also the painting of the Blessed Mother known as the Salus Populi Romani. In the afternoon we will enjoy a Marituzzo tasting. Marituzzo is a bigger pastry stuffed with whipped, fresh cream which history is as long as the city of Rome. In a long-lost tradition, young men used to gift their sweethearts a wedding ring baked into a marituzzo to ask for their hand. The pastry, as a matter of fact, shares the root of its name with the word marito ("husband"). In the Middle Age, marituzzo, slightly smaller in size, was the only type of "cake" allowed by the Pope during Lent. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight

Day 6 Papal Audience

Vatican Museums Following breakfast, return to the Vatican City to attend the Papal Audience in St Peter's Square with Pope Francis. After lunch, we will continue with a visit of Vatican Museums where we will see the magnificent rooms painted by Raphael as well as the Sistine Chapel. Tonight dinner is at leisure. Overnight in Rome (B)

Day 7 Free day in Rome

Free day in Rome to discover the Eternal City on our own or to enjoy a one-day excursion outside the city. Tonight enjoy a farewell dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight in Rome. (B. Special dinner)

Day 8 Departure

After an early breakfast, we will leave by motor coach and transfer to the Rome airport for return flights. (B)



This is a suggested itinerary:

We will be glad to customize a program that meets your specific needs, requirements and budget. You may also choose your own travel dates and city of departure.

For information on our Fund Raising Program and benefits for your group please email: anton@travelwithus.com