

The Popes: History and Cities 2021

Roma, Castel, Gandoleo, Anagni, Sulmona, L'Aquila, Viterbo, Caprarola



Day 1 Welcome to Italy

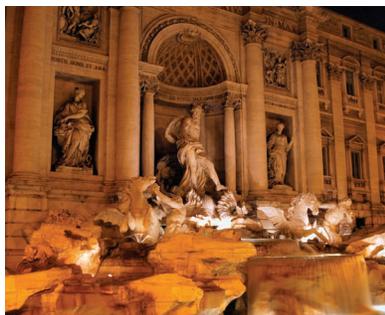
Rome Upon arrival at Rome Airport, we will be greeted by our English speaking tour manager who will be with the group during the entire stay in Italy. We will board the private deluxe bus and transfer to our hotel. Following check-in, we will have free time to unpack and relax. If possible, we will celebrate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

Day 2 St Peter's Basilica and Christian Rome

We begin our pilgrimage celebrating Mass at 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. We will visit the impressive interior of the Basilica which houses the Michelangelo's Pietà, one of the most famous sculptures in the world. Then we will walk to Castel Sant'Angelo to admire from outside this monument which has been a papal residence for many years. After lunch, we will visit the other major Basilicas of Rome: St Mary Major, the Holy Stairs and St John in Lateran. This last Basilica is the cathedral church of Rome and it is adjacent to the Lateran Palace which from the 4th century has been the principal residence of the Popes. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B, D)

Day 3 Papal Audience

Baroque Squares Following breakfast, return to the Vatican City to attend the Papal Audience in St Peter's Square with Pope Francis. Following the Audience there will be free time for lunch, or shop, or to stroll the streets adjacent to the Vatican. In the afternoon, we will enjoy a downtown walking tour of Rome including, Piazza Navona, Pantheon, Trevi and Spanish Steps. We will stop for a picture at Quirinale Palace which was built in 1583 by Pope Gregory XIII as a papal summer residence. The Palace was also used as the location for papal conclaves in 1823, 1829, 1831 and 1846. We will celebrate Mass in a local church. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B, D)



Day 4 Vatican Museums and Vatican Gardens in Castel Gandolfo

Today we will continue our tour with a visit to the Vatican Museums where we will see the magnificent rooms painted by Raphael as well as the Sistine Chapel. Then we will transfer to Castel Gandolfo to enjoy a light lunch inside the Vatican Gardens of Villa Berberini. Then we will enjoy a walking tour of the papal gardens. Celebrate Mass in Castel Gandolfo before going back to our hotel in Rome for dinner and overnight (B, L, D)

Day 5 Anagni - Sulmona

After breakfast and check out, we will drive to the medieval town of Anagni, in the hills east-southeast of Rome. During 13th century many popes and important families lived here and constructed their buildings and an impressive Cathedral of Santa Maria. We will visit the Cathedral and Palace of Boniface VIII. Celebrate Mass. After lunch in a local restaurant, we will continue to our hotel in Sulmona for dinner and check out. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Walking day: from Sulmona to the hermitage of St Onofrio al Morrone (4,2 miles) - L'Aquila - Viterbo

Following breakfast, we will drive to the Abbey of the Holy Spirit at Morrone which was built in the early 18th century after an earthquake had nearly leveled the former 13th-century monastery founded by Pietro Angelerio da Isernia, subsequently elected Pope Celestine V. After the visit of the abbey, we will walk for approximately 20 minutes in



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.

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the direction of the Morrone mountain. We will reach the hermitage of Sant'Onofrio al Morrone, which is the first stage of the "Way of Celestine". It was here in a grotto beneath the present church that Pietro da Morrone was apparently told he was to become pope in 1294. The views of Sulmona and the Valle Peligna below are superb. Then we will continue our drive to L'Aquila to visit the Basilica of Collemaggio which is the site of the original Papal Jubilee, best known as The "Celestinian Forgiveness, instituted by Pope Celestine V, who is buried there. After the mass, we will continue to Viterbo and set to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D)

Day 7 Viterbo

This morning we will enjoy a relaxing walk through garden of Villa Lante, one of the most loveliest and famous Italian gardens in the world built by Jacopo Barozzi da Vignola. In the afternoon we will walk through the narrow streets of Viterbo to discover its charming medieval quarter, the Duomo and the Palace of Popes which remained the residence of the papacy for twenty-four years, from 1257 to 1281. We will visit also the Monastery of St Rose, where her incorrupt body is enshrined. Each year on September 3rd people from all over the world come to admire the "Macchina", a huge structure made in the shape of a tall steeple, carried by hundred men, called Facchini, for nearly a mile, through the streets of Viterbo to the Monastery. Celebrate Mass. Dinner and overnight at our hotel (B, D)

Day 8 Caprarola

Rome Following breakfast and check out, we will drive to the near town of Caprarola to visit the famous Palazzo Farnese, an outstanding example of Mannerist architecture and decoration. Its origins date back to 1530 when Cardinal Alessandro Farnese, who became Pope Paolo III, commissioned Antonio Sangallo to build a fortress in Caprarola. Then we will continue to Rome to set in our hotel. Free afternoon for shopping or to rest. Today we will celebrate Mass in a local church. Tonight we will enjoy a special farewell dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight in Rome (B, Special dinner)

Day 9 Departure

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

