

# Travelling and Walking with St. Francis 2021

Roma, Poggio Bustone, Greccio, Spoleto, Perugia, Assisi, La Verna



## 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 city centre. We will enjoy a relaxing walk on Palatino Hill to visit the Church of St Bonaventura al Palatino to celebrate Mass. Then we will set into our hotel. Dinner and overnight (D)

## Day 2 Vatican Museums - Christian Rome

After breakfast, we will start our tour with a visit of Vatican Museums where we will see the magnificent rooms painted by Raphael as well as the Sistine Chapel, followed by a tour of the Basilica of St Peter. Following lunch, we will visit St Mary Major, the Holy Stairs and St John in Lateran. Just outside this Basilica there is a large statue of St Francis and his friars which commemorates the Saint's profound link to Pope Innocent III and to the Papal Archbasilica of St. John Lateran. Celebrate Mass. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B, D)

## Day 3 Baroque Squares - Trastevere

This morning we will start with a visit of the Basilica of St Lawrence Outside the Walls which 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. Then we will visit the Church of Our Lady of Conception, also known as the church of Capuchins, with its catacombs. It is located in Via Veneto, near Piazza Berberini. From here we will enjoy a relaxing downtown walking tour of Rome including, Trevi, Pantheon and Navona. After lunch, we will visit the old quarter of Trastevere and the Church of St Francis a Ripa which is the first church in Rome dedicated to the Saint. It was here that Saint Francis stayed when he visited Rome. We will be able to see the cell where he slept, the rock that he used as a pillow. Celebrate Mass. Tonight we will enjoy a dinner in a local restaurant in Trastevere. Overnight in Rome (B, Special dinner)

## Day 4 Papal Audience - Free afternoon

Today, early in the morning, we will return to the Vatican City to attend the Papal Audience in St Peter's Square with Pope Francis. Free afternoon for shopping or to discover the other beautiful monuments of the Eternal City! Tonight dinner is at leisure. Overnight in Rome (B)

## Day 5 Poggio Bustone - Greccio - Spoleto

After breakfast and check out, we will drive to the Franciscan Sanctuary of Poggio Bustone. According to the tradition, in this place, St Francis, as he Minor (Franciscans), and the Capella del Transito, which is the place of St. Francis' death. From this Basilica, we will be able to see our destination: the Basilica of St Francis. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Assisi (B, D)

Day 6 Spoleto - Perugia Following breakfast we will enjoy a relaxing walking through the streets of Spoleto and a visit of the Duomo, with its magnificent façade, in which one of the very rare original letters written by St Francis is kept. In the afternoon we will reach the city of Perugia to see

its historical centre and where St Francis was imprisoned after the battle of Collestrada in 1202. Dinner and overnight at our hotel (B, D)

## Day 7 Walking day: from Perugia to Assisi (13,40 miles)

This morning we will start the last stage of the St Francis' Way (Northern Way). It is called the "Perfect Joy" leg. In fact, on the way from Perugia to Santa Maria degli Angeli, St Francis explained to Friar Leone what the "perfect joy" was and how to achieve it. The route starts from the old town centre of Perugia and descends towards the valley. We will reach firstly the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels. This Basilica is where St. Francis spent most of life, and is made up of two structures; the Porziuncola is where St. Francis founded his order of the Friar

## Day 8 Assisi

Today we will enjoy a full day of touring the hometown of St Francis. First of all, we will visit the Convent of St Damiano, where St Francis received his miraculous calling in 1205 and where in 1253 St Clare died. Then we will visit the Basilica of St Clare, the foundress of the Poor Clare Sisters. She followed the teachings of St. Francis very closely by also living a life of poverty and humility. Finally we will visit the Basilica of St Francis. The upper Basilica with Giotto's frescoes represents the life of St Francis. We will have time to pray on the Tomb of St Francis and celebrate Mass. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B, D)

## Day 9 Assisi - La Verna - Assisi

After breakfast this morning we will drive to the Franciscan Sanctuary of La Verna. This is the place where St. Francis, over the years, has been seven times and where in 1224 he received the stigmata. Here we will be able to pray in the Chapel of the Stigmata. After lunch at the Pilgrim's refectory, we celebrate Mass. Then we return to Assisi for dinner and overnight (B, L, D)

## Day 10 Departure

After an early breakfast, we will leave by motor coach and transfer to the Rome airport for return flights home. (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](mailto:anton@travelwithus.com)