



St. Peter's statue in front of the St. Peter's basilica in Rome

Italy Tour, Oct 1 – 12, 2012

**Rome – Assisi – Siena – Florence – Pisa – Padua – Venice
12 days tour**

Day 1 – USA - ITALY, ROME, Oct 1, 2012

Your pilgrimage starts with overnight intercontinental flight to Italy, to **Rome**. Meals are served on board the plane.

Day 2 – Arrival to ROME, opening Holy mass, Oct. 2, 2012

Arrival to Rome, meet with our guide and transfer to the city center to our hotel. On the way panoramic city tour to meet with Eternal City, sites like **Piazza Venezia**, with **King Victor Emanuel II** monument, passing by **Coliseum**, **Arch of Constantine**, **Imperial forums** (Caesar, Augustus, Trajan), **Circus Maximus....!** Before checking to hotel **Holy Mass and visit of St. Mary Major Basilica**. The rest of the day is free until the dinner at our hotel.

Day 3 ROME - VATICAN AUDIENCE, Oct. 3, 2012

Early morning is reserved for Vatican. **Morning with Pope Benedict XVI** on General Audience and later in the afternoon after lunch break visit of the basilica of **St. John Lateran**. This is the **Cathedral of Rome, seat of the bishop of Rome (Benedict XVI)** and was the Papal residence from the 5C until the papacy departed to **Avignon in France** in the 14th century. We will also see the nearby **Holy Staircase** "Scala Sancta" actual stairs that Jesus Christ walked on the day he went to **Pilate**, many of these relics today are preserved thanks to **St. Helen**, mother of Roman **Emperor Constantine**, with both of them we will "meet" during our Rome tours. We visit **Santa Croce** to see the relics (St. Helen) of **Jesus' Passion**. At the end of the day we are at our hotel, check in and dinner.

Day 4 – VATICAN, ST. PETER'S, Oct. 4, 2012

Today we will start our day with the visit to the **Vatican Museums** where to see art masterpieces of **Michelangelo**, **Bernini**, and more. Visit will continue with walk through Geographical maps Gallery, **Sistine Chapel** with the magnificent fresco of The Last Judgment and many more halls and rooms filled with **Christian art**, history and inheritance of all civilization. Today is also our visit to the heart of **Vatican State**, **St. Peter's Basilica**, and with the tomb of **blessed Pope John Paul II** then underground burial stones with the tomb of **St. Peter**, and at the end the **Square** dedicated to same Saint. After some free time in the late afternoon for shopping we end our day at the dinner in one of the **typical Italian restaurants near Vatican**.

Day 5 ROME ANCIENT – ASSISI, Oct. 5, 2012

Today our farewell Holy Mass will be early in the morning at **St. Peter's basilica**, one of the underground chapels! Return to hotel for breakfast. We will then leave for visit to the **Coliseum & Imperial forums** (Caesar, Augustus, and Trajan). We will from here walk to the **Piazza di Spagna**, **Trevi fountain** and **Pantheon**. **After lunch break here we** are on the way to Appian Way with the "**Quo Vadis Domine**" church, passing by it we will arrive to **the Domitilla catacombs**. Last one of the four Patriarchal basilicas is also on the schedule today, **St. Paul Outside the Walls**. From here we will leave to Assisi, after about 3 hours drive we are in Assisi hotel on time for dinner.

Day 6 – ASSISI, Oct. 6, 2012

This morning as we wake up in Umbria one of the most beautiful Italian region, region of St. Francis, St. Rita, St. Clare, St. Benedict and Scolastica, we will start with sightseeing of Assisi..... learning about **St. Francis & St. Claire!** Your guided tour will start from church of **Santa Chiara** to see **The Cross** that spoke to **St. Francis** and pray his prayer before same Crucifix. Group will learn more about **St. Claire** the founder of **Poor Clair's** and see her incorrupt body. We will go down to the main square of Assisi, house of Francis and at the end of the city walls to the basilica of St. Francis. Through the St. Francis gate we are on the way to "**Porziuncola**" one of three restored churches of young Francis that nowadays is inside the **Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels**. Later in the afternoon free time for lunch, shopping and exploring on your own the **City of Peace** before dinner.

Day 7 ASSISI – SIENA – FLORENCE – Oct. 7, 2012 (total driving time 2,5 hours)

Today we will leave Rome, head towards Tuscany and its capital Florence. Today before reaching Florence we will stop for visit to **Sienna**. We will walk through well preserved **city of Siena**, the birthplace of **St. Catherine Virgin and Doctor of the Church**; we will stroll through the streets from the church hosting the **relics of St. Catherine**, her house then on to the **Cathedral of Siena** and our walk will end at the **Piazza del Campo** – where the famous horse Blue racing “**Il Palio**” takes place! Some free time before we continue to Florence, arrival on time for dinner at the hotel.

Day 8 FLORENCE, Oct. 8, 2012

After good morning rest and breakfast we are on walking city tour of **Florence**. **Visit** includes Franciscan church of “**Santa Croce**”, church of huge interior is a burial place of 280 nobles, among which are notables such as **Michelangelo, Galileo Galilei, Machiavelli, Rossini** and others. We will pass by National museum before reaching the heart of the city - **Piazza Signoria** - with its most important buildings such as Old Palace or **Palazzo Vecchio**, the **Uffizi Gallery** and a the “**Ponte Vecchio**”. The stories of **Michelangelo Buonarroti, the Medici, Dante Alighieri** and **Leonardo da Vinci** will come alive. We will continue with our walk through **Piazza della Repubblica** to the **Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore**. Our tour of Florence will finish at “**Piazza del Duomo**”, visiting **Giotto's Bell Tower, St. John's Baptistery** and the 13th century cathedral. At the end of visit we are in “**Accademia**” museum to see the “**David**” as finest example of the **Michelangelo's work** but also many other great artworks. Free afternoon for lunch in one of the numerous restaurants and shopping in a city so popular for good quality leather goods and hand-made paper! Dinner and overnight will be in Florence.

Day 9 FLORENCE – PISA – PADUA Oct. 9,

Today we will leave Florence. We will head towards the Padua via Pisa. Upon arrival to Pisa our focus here will be the “Square of Miracles” or “**Piazza dei Miracoli**” where we will spend quite a memorable afternoon visiting the **Cathedral of the Holy Mary of the Assumption, Baptistery**, dedicated to **St. John the Baptist** from 12th century and then the world famous Bell tower of Pisa “**Leaning tower**” whose construction began in 12th century. Time for lunch, shopping and afternoon cappuccino on the most interesting square we can have after our tour ends. Return to Florence on time for dinner.

Day 10 PADUA – Oct. 10,

This morning we are at the **basilica of St. Anthony** for the **Holy mass**. We will start our sightseeing tour of this second oldest university in Italy at “**Pratto Della Valle**” one of the biggest squares in Italy. We will pass by the **basilica of Santa Giustina** and to the **Basilica of St. Anthony**. Narrow streets of old Padua will get us to the **University founded in 1222**, where first women ever got the university diploma. We'll walk through “**Fruit**” and “**Vegetable**” squares in between which stands “**Palazzo Della Regione**” or The Law Courts. University palace from the 16th century also known as **Palazzo del Bo**, actually got a name after an inn that stood in place, and famous **cafe Pedrocchi**. Here at the café our tour end and we are on our own for the afternoon. Dinner will be on our own in one of the restaurants in Padua. Return to hotel on your own!

Day 11 VENICE, Oct. 11, 2012 – (total driving time 2 hours)

Bus drive and hydroplane to **Venice**, the city of romance, history and beauty. Our walking tour today will begin in the **Piazza San Marco**, world-famous marble square lined with shops, charming cafes and galleries. Our main attractions here are the **Bridge of Sighs, Doge's Palace**, the magnificent **Basilica di San Marco** with the mixtures of **Byzantine, Romanesque, Gothic styles** which reflect the history of Venice. We will celebrate the Holy Mass in basilica and after guided tour some free time before leaving back to Padua, boat ride to the mainland. Dinner and overnight is in our hotel.

(We can arrange the farewell dinner in Venice – later evening arrival to hotel)

DAY 12 VENICE – USA, Oct. 12, 2012

Today we fly back home to USA, arrival home will be the same day.

SERVICES INCLUDED:

- Airfares round trip from EWR, airport taxes included
- **AIRPORT TAXES & FUEL SURCHARGE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL THE DATE OF ISSUE –**
- 4* first class hotels, dinner and breakfast daily, drinks included (glass of wine, soft drink)
 - 3 nights in Rome, 4* Palatino Grand hotel or similar
 - 2 night in Florence 4* Starhotel Tuscany, GH Mediterraneo or similar
 - 2 nights in Assisi, 4* GH Roseo Assisi, GH Giotto or similar
 - 3 nights in Padua, 4* Hotel "Galileo" or similar
- Tours escort from Rome to Venice
- High class tourist coach
- Local guides in Rome, Florence, Siena, Pisa, Assisi, Padua & Venice
- Entrance fees according to the itinerary Vatican Museums Catacombs in Rome Santa Croce in Florence
- Baptistery in Pisa - Headsets for visits to Vatican Museums, Assisi and Rome
- Daily Holy mass and Vatican general Audience tickets
- Additional HOTEL City tax in Rome, Florence & Padua
- Farewell dinner in Padua or Venice, 3 course meals, bottle of wine per 3 people, water,

NOT INCLUDED:

- Tips for guides, driver and staff
(It is possible to include tips in final invoice per day per person 12.00 USD)
- Third meal daily, lunch any personal expenses
- Travel insurance, highly recommended

RATES / per person in double room – PACKAGE LAND & AIR:

Min 20 :.....\$ 3640.00
 Min 25:.....\$ 3550.00
 Min 30:.....\$ 3500.00
 Single room add on – \$ 590.00

DEPOSIT POLICY:

First deposit.....\$ 500.00 per person by March 11, 2012
 Second deposit.....\$1500.00 per person by May 20, 2012
 Final payment.....\$ balance by July 15, 2012

NAMES AND LIST OF PILGRIMS TO BE READY BY JULY 16TH, 2012.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Cancellation before or on May 14, 2012.....NO penalty
 Cancellation on or after May 14, 2012..... \$ 200.00 per person
 Cancellation on or after June 15, 2012..... \$ 400.00 per person
 Cancellation on or after July 15, 2012..... \$ 400.00 + the costs of the airline ticket
 Cancellation on or after August 15, 2012..... \$ 800.00 + the costs of the airline ticket
 Cancellation on or after September 15, 2012.....\$ NO refund

Checks made for: St Theodore Church

AZ flight 643 Newark to Rome FCO depart 4.50 pm arrival in Rome 7.10am October 1 2012
 AZ flight 1464 Venice to Rome FCO depart 8.00am arrival in Rom 9.05am October 12 2012
 AZ flight 642 Rome to Newark depart 10.40 am arrival in Newark 2.25pm October 12 2012

Flights are booked on Al Italia, from Newark, round trip airport taxes included.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Itinerary can suffer some slight changes due the flight schedule or after masses are booked, changes will be only on daily base and will not affect the final quality of the service

Please call for more information

ST Theodore Church

Port Murray, NJ

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