



# FRANCISCAN PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

April 2-11, 2025

GEORGE'S  
INTERNATIONAL TOURS



# ITINERARY

## Day 1 - Wednesday, April 2: Depart USA

Our pilgrimage begins as we depart on our overnight flight to Rome.

## Day 2 - Thursday, April 3: Rome / Orvieto / Assisi

After we arrive in the "Eternal City" of Rome, we will be met by our tour manager at the airport and drive north, stopping in the walled town of Orvieto. In the 13th century, in nearby Bolsena, a priest doubted the Eucharistic Presence during Mass and the host turned to real flesh and the wine to real blood during the consecration. The priest brought the blood-stained Corporal to Pope Urban in Orvieto, and it is now kept in a special reliquary for the faithful to view. It was also in Orvieto where Pope Urban IV called for a worldwide Feast of Corpus Christi. After venerating the sacred Eucharistic miracle, we will continue driving to Assisi through the beautiful Umbrian countryside. This town welcomes us in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare and will be our home for the next four nights. (D)



## Day 3 - Friday, April 4: Assisi

On our first full day in Italy, we will witness where the power of the Eucharist turned away an army. The invading Saracen army was about to attack the Convent of San Damiano, where St. Clare lived with her nuns in 1241. Even though bedridden, St. Clare got up, held the Blessed Sacrament in the air, and saw the advancing army flee in terror, establishing "The Miracle of the Eucharist of Assisi." Also, in the convent, we will visit the chapel where Jesus spoke to St. Francis from the crucifix and then visit the Basilica of St. Francis to venerate his burial place. Afterwards is the Basilica of St. Clare, which holds the famous San Damiano Crucifix that spoke to St. Francis, and where the golden locks of St. Clare's hair and St. Francis' poor patched tunic are kept. Then, for those with the stamina, walk up Monte Subasio to L'Eremo delle Carceri (the Carceri Hermitage), the Saint's favourite retreat. There are many caves here that St. Francis and his followers retreated for seclusion and prayer. (B/D)

## Day 4 - Saturday, Apr. 5: Assisi / Cortona / La Verna / Assisi

This morning, we will drive north to Cortona to visit St. Francis' cell and his brothers' dormitory. Continue to La Verna, a small monastery in the mountains in the region of

Tuscany. Legend says the rocky outcrop on which the La Verna Monastery stands was split by an earthquake when Christ died on the Cross. This is where St. Francis received the stigmata and is one of the most inspirational places in Italy. The monastery is still run by the monks and nuns of the Franciscan order, and the vibration of St. Francis is particularly tangible. After Mass, drive back to Assisi. (B/D)



## Day 5 - Sunday, April 6: Assisi / Siena / Assisi

This morning, we take a day trip to Siena, home of St. Catherine. Our first stop, and a highlight of our tour, will be the Basilica of St. Francis, where we'll venerate the Eucharistic miracle of Siena: hosts which have remained incorrupt since 1730. Then we'll celebrate Mass at St. Dominic's, St. Catherine of Siena's parish church, where she attended daily Mass and went into ecstasy. Adjacent to the church is her home, which we'll visit to see the cell where she fasted and prayed. Afterwards, we stroll the ancient Gothic streets, which converge on the Piazza del Campo, one of the most beautiful squares in the world. Enjoy some free time in this mystical walled city before returning to Assisi. (B/D)



## Day 6 - Monday, April 7: Assisi / Greccio / Rome

This morning, we will celebrate Mass at St. Mary of the Angels Basilica, the site of the Porziuncola, the tiny church in the woods where St. Francis began his ministry and St. Clare began her religious life. Then, depart for Rome, stopping first at the medieval town of Greccio. Greccio, set on a beautiful mountaintop, is famous for its cool summer climate and mineral springs. However, it is even more renowned for its connections with St. Francis of Assisi and as the birthplace of

the Christmas crèche. On Christmas Night, 1223, St. Francis led shepherds to the top of a nearby hill, where they gathered in a stable sheltering an ox and a donkey. According to legend, the Baby Jesus miraculously appeared in the manger. On this spot, the Franciscan convent of Greccio was built, and the Chapel of the Crib was erected in 1228, the year St. Francis was canonized. Then, continue south to Rome, where we will check into our hotel. (B/D)



#### Day 7 - Tuesday, April 8: Rome

A full day of exploring Rome begins with Mass at St. Peter's Basilica, which beckons us into its interior through the arms of Bernini's Colonnade. Marvel at Michelangelo's Pieta and pray at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel renovated by St. John Paul II. Our guide then takes us through the Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel which has awesome frescoes painted by Michelangelo. In the afternoon, our sightseeing includes visits to St. Mary Major Basilica, one of the oldest and most important shrines in the world dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Then go to St. John Lateran and the nearby Scala Santa, which, according to tradition, was the staircase that Jesus climbed to be judged by Pontius Pilate. (B)



#### Day 8 - Wednesday, April 9 Rome

This morning, we will attend the weekly Papal Audience given by His Holiness Pope Francis (depending upon the Holy Father's schedule). This afternoon, we will travel to the last of the four major basilicas of Rome - St. Paul Outside the Walls. Though it was destroyed by a fire in 1823, it was initially built by Constantine in the fourth century over the site of St. Paul's tomb and was rebuilt in the 19th century exactly as it was before the fire. We then journey into the lives of the martyrs

as we visit the Catacombs. Here, Christians celebrated the Mass in secret and buried the martyrs, including several popes. This evening we will enjoy dinner including wine in a local restaurant. (B/D)

#### Day 9 - Thursday, April 10: Rome

This morning, our sightseeing of Rome includes visits to the Roman Forum (outside visit), the Colosseum (outside visit) and St. Peter in Chains where Mass will be celebrated. After lunch, we continue our exploration of Rome with a visit to the Renaissance section of the city. See the Trevi Fountain, where a coin thrown over your shoulder will guarantee you another visit to Rome; the Pantheon; Piazza Navona with the famous Bernini's fountains; and Campo de Fiori, one of the most colourful street markets in Rome. (B)

#### Day 10 - Friday, April 11: Rome / USA

Today, we say "Ciao" to Italy and transfer to the airport for our return home, cherishing this pilgrimage's wonderful memories and grace. (B)

### TOUR COST

**\$4,735.00**

*per person based upon double occupancy*

*For single occupancy please add \$966.00.*

#### This price includes:

- ✘ Roundtrip airfare from New York JFK
- ✘ Airline taxes/fuel surcharges as currently levied
- ✘ Accommodation in First Class/4 star hotels
- ✘ All hotel taxes and service charges
- ✘ Meals as per itinerary (B=Breakfast, D=Dinner)
- ✘ Arrival and departure transfers
- ✘ Baggage handling at hotels
- ✘ Land travel by deluxe motorcoach
- ✘ Sightseeing with professional local guides
- ✘ Professional tour manager
- ✘ All entrance fees as per itinerary
- ✘ Daily Mass

*Airfares from other departure cities throughout the United States are available upon request.*

*For those who prefer to arrange their own flights the Land-Only cost is \$3,896.00 per person.*

Please visit [www.holylandpilgrimages.org](http://www.holylandpilgrimages.org) for information on additional pilgrimages being organized by the Franciscan Monastery.



## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

**Reservations and Payment:** Please complete the attached Reservation Application and return it with your deposit of \$300.00 per person at the time of booking. Final payment is due 65 days prior to departure.

**Cancellations:** All cancellations must be in writing. Cancellations received after 5PM Pacific Time or on weekends/holidays will be processed the next business day. The following per person cancellation charges will apply: If canceled 91 days or more prior to departure, a \$50.00 administrative fee will be charged. If canceled 90 - 61 days prior to departure, \$250.00 will be charged. If canceled 60 - 31 days prior to departure, \$450.00 will be charged. If canceled 30 - 7 days prior to departure \$700.00 will be charged. No refunds will be made within 6 days of departure. In addition, once the airline tickets have been issued, 100% of the airfare is non-refundable unless you have been advised otherwise at the time of your booking. Additional cancellation charges may apply depending upon the cancellation terms of our suppliers.

**Refunds:** Subject to the foregoing Cancellation Terms, upon cancellation of travel related services, all sums paid to George's International Tours for such services will be promptly returned to the passenger, provided the passenger is not in violation of any of the terms and conditions previously, clearly and conspicuously disclosed and agreed to by the passenger. This refund provision does not apply where George's International Tours has remitted the payment to another registered seller of travel or a carrier and they default in providing the agreed-upon transportation or service without providing a refund. In such a situation, George's International Tours agrees to provide passenger with a written statement accompanied by a copy of the bank records establishing the disbursement of the payment, and if disbursed to a seller of travel, proof of their current registration.

**Trust Account Disclosure:** California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. George's International Tours has such a trust account.

**Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"):** George's International Tours is a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"). You, the passenger, may request reimbursement from TCRC if the Seller of Travel was registered and participating in the TCRC at the time of sale and the passenger is located in California at the time of payment. Please be advised that passengers purchasing from outside of California are not covered by the TCRC. Eligible passengers may file a claim with TCRC if the passenger is owed a refund of more than \$50 for transportation or travel services which the Seller of Travel failed to forward to a proper provider or if such money was not refunded to you when required. The maximum amount which may be paid by the TCRC to any one passenger is the total amount paid on behalf of the passenger to the Seller of Travel, not to exceed \$15,000. A claim must be submitted to the TCRC within six months after the scheduled completion date of the travel. A claim must include sufficient information and documentation to prove your claim and a \$35 processing fee. You must agree to waive your right to other civil remedies against a registered participating Seller of Travel for matters arising out of a sale for which you file a claim with the TCRC, if you were located in California at the time of the sale. You may request a claim form by writing to: Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation, P.O. Box 6001, Larkspur, CA 94977-6001; or by faxing a request to 415-927-7698.

**Travel Documents:** A passport which is valid for a minimum of 6 months past the date of your return flight home is required of all U.S. citizens. Visas are not required for U.S. citizens. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please call to determine your visa requirement status. George's International Tours is not responsible for individual visas or passports.

**Tour Cost:** All quoted prices are based upon airfares, tariffs and currency exchange rates at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. Should the minimum number of 20 tour members not be reached, the right is reserved to increase the tour cost accordingly.

**Tour Documents and Tickets:** Final tour documents are mailed, provided we have received full payment, within 3 weeks of departure.

**Baggage:** Each passenger is allowed one checked bag and one carry-on. You will be responsible for paying to the airline any additional charges for additional checked baggage or overweight baggage (if excess weight is permitted). George's International Tours is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen baggage.

**Air Transportation:** Airfare is in economy class on American Airlines (or any other IATA carrier). Fares are based upon levels in effect at the time of printing and fares/flight schedules are subject to change without notice.

**Hotels:** Accommodations are based on double occupancy rooms. A limited number of single rooms are available at the supplement quoted, and should be requested at the time of booking.

**Travel Insurance:** We strongly recommend that you have comprehensive travel insurance. Insurance may be purchased directly through George's International Tours and registration forms will be provided upon receipt of your deposit or you may purchase online at [www.georgesintl.com](http://www.georgesintl.com). George's International Tours acts only as an intermediary between you and the insurance provider and in no event shall George's International Tours be liable to any person or entity whatsoever for any direct, indirect, incidental, special, exemplary, compensatory, consequential, or punitive damages related to insurance coverage purchased.

**Not Included:** Gratuities (\$250.00 recommended per person), COVID-19 testing (if required), passport and/or individual visa fees, personal travel insurance, laundry, beverages and items not on the regular menu of the included meals, additional baggage in excess of airport allowance, optional sightseeing tours, and all expenses of a purely personal nature.

**Responsibility Clause:** The passenger contract issued by the transportation company shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation company and the passenger. Additional expenses incurred as a result of delay, change of schedules, illness, weather, strikes, hostilities, quarantine, government requisition of hotel space or any other reasons beyond the control of the tour operator or travel agent shall be borne by the passenger. George's International Tours reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category if necessary and to alter itineraries.

**Limitation of liability:** The airlines, hotels, and other suppliers (jointly: "travel suppliers") providing travel or other services sold by George's International Tours are independent contractors and not agents or employees of George's International Tours. George's International Tours and/or their cooperating selling agents and/or their travel suppliers offer these tours for sale only on the express understanding that they themselves do not perform or in any way assume liability for the performance of the individual components, transfers, hotels, flights, car, motorcoaches, etc. of these tours and act only to combine these components into a single unit of sale for the convenience of the general public. To the extent permitted by law, George's International Tours does not assume liability for any injury, damage, death, loss, accident or delay due to an act or omission of a travel supplier, including, without limitation, an act of negligence or the default of a travel supplier. To the extent permitted by law, no responsibilities are accepted for any damage and/or delay due to force majeure, sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, bankruptcy, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather, terrorism or any causes beyond George's International Tours' control. Further, no responsibility is accepted for any additional expense, omissions, delays, failure to make connections, non-performance or poor performance, loss of revenue, loss of anticipated profits, any additional expenses or lost business, attributable to you yourself, acts or omissions of any third parties, or acts of any governmental authority, even if George's International Tours has been advised that such damages were possible or probable.

Please refer to [www.georgesintl.com](http://www.georgesintl.com) for further disclosures concerning travel risks, travels with special needs or disabilities, and arbitration.

Your deposit certifies that you agree with the above terms and conditions.

*George's International Tours - CST# 2035995-40*

For further information on this pilgrimage please contact:

**Holy Land Franciscan Pilgrimages**

Phone: 443-832-0350

Email: [info@holylandpilgrimages.org](mailto:info@holylandpilgrimages.org)

or

**Fr. David Wathen, O.F.M.**

Director, Holy Land Franciscan Pilgrimages

Email: [dwfm1400@hotmail.com](mailto:dwfm1400@hotmail.com)