

ITALY CATHOLIC TOUR 11 DAY



Day 1	Transatlantic
Day 2	Rome
Day 3	Rome
Day 4	Rome
Day 5	Rome / Abbey of Montecassino / San Giovanni Rotondo
Day 6	San Giovanni Rotondo / Monte Sant' Angelo
Day 7	San Giovanni Rotondo / Lanciano / Loreto / Assisi
Day 8	Assisi / Siena / Florence
Day 9	Florence
Day 10	Florence / Padua / Venice
Day 11	Venice / USA

*The richness of Catholic faith, tradition and practice is evident in this journey to Italy, the Vatican, and the scenes of miracles and saints.*

ITINERARY

**Day 1 Monday** **Departure / Transatlantic**

We depart on our flight to Rome.

**DINNER AND OVERNIGHT FLIGHT TRANSATLANTIC**

**Day 2 Tuesday** **Rome**

Arrive at Rome’s Fiumicino Airport. We will be met and assisted by an International Christian Journeys representative and transferred to your hotel where you will have the balance of the day to rest from the journey or explore on your own..

**DINNER AND OVERNIGHT ROME**

**Day 3 Wednesday** **Rome**

Attend the weekly general audience of the Pope (subject to availability). This afternoon, visit St. Paul’s Outside the Walls. We next visit the Catacombs were used as places of refuge for the celebration of the Eucharist during times of persecution. Later we visit St.. John Lateran Basilica where we see the Holy Stairs, which were brought from Jerusalem to Rome by St. Helena, Constantine’s mother, around 326 AD. They consist of 28 white marble steps and pilgrims may only ascend them on their knees. St. Mary Major Basilica is the impressive final visit on this wonder filled day.

**OVERNIGHT ROME**

**Day 4 Thursday** **Rome**

This morning, we visit the Vatican Museums where treasure abounds and the Sistine Chapel, where we see the world famous ceiling painted by Michelangelo as well as his mural, The Last Judgment. Continuing we step into vast St. Peter’s Square and enter the Basilica. Later, in this full day, we find ourselves on the site of the ancient capital of the Roman Empire. We cross the Tiber River and visit the Coliseum, the sight of sport and gladiatorial combat. We visit the Roman Forum where toga-clad Senators deliberated and

Roman legions once marched celebrating their conquests and Vestal Virgins kept their fire burning.

**OVERNIGHT ROME**

**Day 5 Friday** **Rome, /Abbey of Montecassino / San Giovanni Rotondo**

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After breakfast, we travel south to visit the Abbey of Montecassino, the first of the Benedictine monasteries founded by St. Benedict around 529 AD, and its Museum. Then, journey to Italy's eastern coast and San Giovanni Rotondo, home to the beloved St. Padre Pio.

**DINNER AND OVERNIGHT SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO**

**Day 6 Saturday** **San Giovanni Rotondo / Monte Sant' Angelo**

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Visit the Friary of Padre Pio, including his tomb, cell, confessional, and the Old Church where he received the stigmata. Also visit the New Church. Afterwards, visit the nearby Shrine of Monte Sant' Angelo, one of Christendom's most celebrated shrines and where St. Michael the Archangel appeared in years 490 AD, 492 AD, and 1656.

**DINNER AND OVERNIGHT SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO**

**Day 7 Sunday** **San Giovanni Rotondo / Lanciano / Loreto / Assisi**

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Visit Lanciano and the CHURCH that is home to an 8th-century Eucharistic Miracle. Afterwards, visit the HOLY HOUSE OF LORETO, where, according to tradition, angels transported the home of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Arrive at the hilltop village of Assisi, home of St. Francis and St. Clare.

**DINNER AND OVERNIGHT ASSISI**

**Day 8 Monday** **Assisi / Siena / Florence**

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Celebrate Mass this morning followed by a guided walking tour of Assisi. Visit the Basilicas of St. Francis and St. Claire. See the crucifix that spoke to St. Francis. Also visit the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels and the Portiuncula. On the way to Florence, stop in Siena and visit the Sanctuary of St. Catherine and the Basilica of St. Dominic.

**DINNER AND OVERNIGHT FLORENCE**

**Day 9 Tuesday** **Florence**

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Your walking tour with a local guide features a visit to the Academia to see Michelangelo's David, the Duomo, and Giotto's Bell Tower. The balance of the day is at leisure.

**OVERNIGHT FLORENCE**

**Day 10 Wednesday** **Florence / Padua / Venice**

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Depart for Padua and visit the Basilica of St. Anthony to see the tomb and reliquaries of this miracle-working saint and patron of lost and stolen articles. Journey on to Venice, one of the world's most romantic cities. Enter by private boat and meet your local guide. Visit St. Mark's Square and Basilica, and enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

**DINNER AND OVERNIGHT VENICE**

**Day 11 Thursday** **Venice / USA**

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Transfer to the airport for our flight home. Your homebound flight from Venice arrives the same day.

**INCLUDED:**

1. Flight on regularly scheduled flight from USA to Rome with return from Venice.
2. Lodging double occupancy in first class hotels in Italy.

3. Breakfast daily and six dinners.
4. Touring coach and English-speaking, government-licensed guide on sightseeing days.
5. Entrances to sites listed in itinerary.
6. Transfers and additional sightseeing per itinerary based on the time allowed.
7. Portage of 1 piece of luggage per person on arrival and departure from each hotel.
8. Emergency medical insurance for the whole group.
9. Local government hotel taxes at prevailing rates.

**NOT INCLUDED:**

Government taxes on airline tickets, airport taxes and fuel charges.

Tips and gratuities to drivers, guides or headwaiters. Approximately \$12.00 per day.

Meals other than those specifically mentioned

Personal spending money for drinks, souvenirs, laundry, etc.

Transfers to or from originating airport and passenger's home or organization.

Travel insurance except for the emergency medical insurance mentioned above.

Cost of obtaining passports, visas, handling fees, excess baggage and forwarding of baggage, entrance fees not mentioned, optional tours, transportation from cities other than the originating airport and vice versa, tips for personal favors, and costs resulting from absence or deviation from the itinerary and any items not mentioned as being included.