

Full Itinerary
Presented by Adoration Tours

Join us on Pilgrimage for an opportunity to deepen our own personal spiritual lives, our prayer, and union with God and the saints.

Monday Oct. 13 Depart USA

Prepare for a **“Journey of a Lifetime.”** We will visit beautiful cities, experience the arts, mingle with the local people and come home enriched in many ways.

Tuesday Oct 14 Rome - Assisi

Morning arrival in **Rome, Italy.** We will be met by our tour director and transferred by private, deluxe motorcoach through the lush Umbrian countryside directly to **Assisi**, hometown of our beloved **St. Francis.** Afternoon at leisure to wander the medieval, winding streets of this very peaceful village. Tonight our welcome dinner is in a quaint restaurant serving homemade local specialties. Buon Appetito!!

D

Wednesday Oct. 15 Assisi

Celebration of Mass and visit the upper and lower **Basilica de San Francesco**, view the cycle of Giotto's frescos with the twenty-eight episodes from the “life of St. Francis,” the **tomb of St. Francis**, the Basilica of Santa Chiara housing the incorrupt **body of St. Clare**, and the **cross of San Damiano**, which spoke to Francis. Afterwards continue to the lower part of Assisi to visit Santa Maria degli Angeli Basilica, the enclosed Porziuncola (little church St. Francis built), the thornless rose bush, and the cave where St. Francis retired for prayer. Dinner tonight at our hotel.

BD

Thursday Oct. 16 Florence

Morning departure for Florence, the **“Cradle of the Renaissance”** and the famous Ponte Vecchio. Upon arrival enjoy a city tour including the Cathedral (Duomo) and the **“Doors of Paradise”** by Ghiberti, Piazza della Signora, Cellini's “Neptune Fountain”. Afternoon guided tour of the magnificent **Uffizi Gallery**, a mecca for art lovers, including works by Giotto, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael. Dinner and overnight in Florence.

BD

Friday Oct. 17 Florence

We begin our day with a guided tour of the **Academy of Fine Arts** to stand where many have stood mesmerized before the famous **“statue of David”** as well as many other statues, sculptures and paintings. Afternoon, as you wish, optional tour to **Pisa** to view the **“Leaning Bell Tower,”** Cathedral and Baptistry with incredible acoustics. Those who prefer, may remain in Florence with time for individual sightseeing and shop-

ping. Florence is where you will find the **best selection of fine leather goods and gold** located in the Piazza de Santa Croce, a beautiful Franciscan Church and masterpiece of Gothic art. Dinner and overnight in Florence.

BD

Saturday Oct. 18 Siena - Orvieto

Morning departure through Tuscany as we continue leisurely southwards through hilly countryside dotted with Chianti Vineyards & olive groves to old **Siena**, the best preserved medieval town in Italy. Stop and see the Cathedral with frescos by Pinturicchio and the pulpit by Nicola Pisano. Also, St. Domenic's Church which houses the incorrupt **St. Catherine of Siena**, doctor of the Church.

St. Catherine's letters are considered among the most brilliant writings in the history of the Catholic Church. We will also visit the famous shell shaped **Piazza del Campo**, where the famous **Palio** (annual 75 second horse race) is held every summer. Later this afternoon we will enjoy the very beautiful ancient city, **Orvieto**, high above the Umbrian plains. The Gothic cathedral, begun in 1285, is one of the most beautiful churches in Italy. It is embellished with scenes from the Old and New Testaments, and with mosaics and statues of the Blessed Virgin, the Prophets, and the Apostles. The walls in the interior of the edifice are built of layers of Travertine marble; the choir is adorned with frescoes, illustrating the life of the **Blessed Virgin.** Late afternoon arrival in the glorious **“Eternal City” of Rome.**

BD

Sunday Oct. 19 Beatification of Mother Teresa

Today we will have the honor of gathering in **St. Peter's Square** to **celebrate the Beatification of Mother Teresa, "Angel of Mercy" and "Saint of the Poor"** who devoted her life to caring for lepers and the poor in India. She was affectionately known as the "Nun with the Unforgettable Touch." Mother Teresa is to many a true example of faith in Christ in the late 20th century. She showed us that true faith is possible if we only let Jesus into our lives.

In 1979, Mother **Teresa** was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize**. **The following is an excerpt from her Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech:**

"I choose the poverty of our poor people. But I am grateful to receive (the Nobel) in the name of the hungry, the naked, the homeless, of the crippled, of the blind, of the lepers, of all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared-for throughout society, people that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone."

Today is a day you will cherish always.

BD

Monday Oct. 20 Rome

Morning tour featuring **Christian Rome**, the Catacombs and **four major Basilicas**. On our tour we will see Piazza della Repubblica, Esquilino Hill, Basilica of St. Mary Major, Piazza Vittorio, **Basilica of St. John Lateran** (the Holy Staircase Jesus ascended to meet Pontius Pilate), Baptistery, Imperial Walls, Ancient Roman Baths of Caracalla, Appian Way, Chapel of "Domino Quo Vadis", Tomb of Romulus. Also visit the Catacombs, and **St. Peter in Chains** (statue of **Moses by Michelangelo**). **BD**

Tuesday Oct. 21 Rome

On this classic Roman tour see Diocletian's Bath, Largo Santa Susanna, Via XX Settembre, Quirinale Palace, Coliseum, the Forum, Piazza Venezia, The Synagogue, Castel San Angelo, Via della Conciliazione, **St. Peter's Basilica** in the Vatican (detailed visit of the Basilica, where the **Pieta** by Michelangelo and the **Glory** by Bernini can be admired). Remainder of the afternoon at your leisure to explore this fascinating city on your own. **BD**

Wednesday Oct. 22 Rome

Morning transfer to the **Vatican** for a **Papal Audience**. Immediately following the audience, we will enjoy a guided tour of the **Sistine Chapel** (seat of the Conclave for the election of the Popes with famous frescos by Michelangelo), **Vatican Museum**, and Hall of Maps.

This afternoon you will have time on your own for last minute shopping. Maybe a visit to the **Spanish Steps**, or toss a coin in the **Trevi Fountain**. Tradition tells us this assures your return to Rome. Farewell dinner tonight with music and wine in the Trastevere district. Enjoy!! **BD**

Thursday Oct. 23 Departure for USA

Morning transfer to the Rome airport for our return flight home with fond memories of the wonderful places we visited, people we met and friendships made along the way.

**Arrivederci for now, but we know you will
"Come Back to Bella Roma!!"**

Included features:

Roundtrip air from LAX (other gateways available)

Private deluxe motorcoach throughout

First Class hotels with private facilities

Breakfast & Dinner daily

Special Farewell Dinner

All sightseeing / admissions as indicated in itinerary

Professional Tour Manager

Local step-on guides

Porterage at hotels

All local taxes, service charges and road tolls.