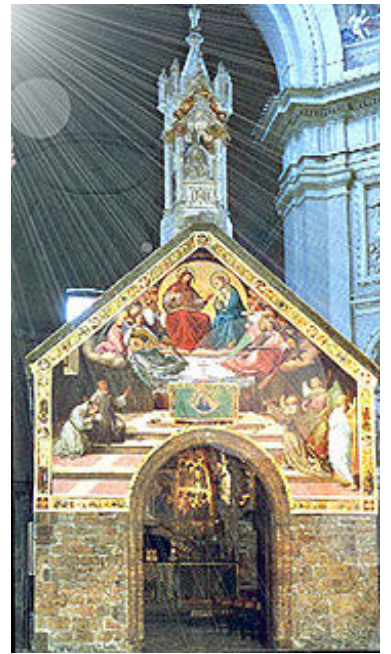


Rome and Assisi Immersion
September 27-October 6, 2010
\$1,590 * (ground-only)
Rome, Assisi, LaVerna, Tuscany,
the Marches
Accompanied by Bret Thoman, SFO

Join a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi. Attend a **Papal Audience** and see Pope Benedict. Visit the **Patriarchal Basilicas** of St. Peter's, St. Paul's, and St. John Lateran, as well as seeing the **ancient sites** of Rome. Immerse yourself among the Franciscan places in Assisi. Enjoy the festivities of the **Transitus** and **Feast day of St. Francis of October 4**. Visit all places in and around Assisi associated with the life of **Saints Francis and Clare**. Plus take day trips to **LaVerna**. Also hidden places, like **Camerino** and **San Severino in the Marches**, known only to locals.



***Included in Price for :**

- 2 nights in Rome, 6 nights in Assisi
- Continental breakfast, plus dinner daily
- Chartered Motor coach (as per itinerary)
- Hotel Room (2 pilgrims per room)
- Franciscan guide with spiritual reflections and prayer
- *NOT Included are one meal per day tips/gratuity (estimate \$10/day), or optional travel insurance.*

Note that this pilgrimage will not be accompanied by a priest. Private Mass for the group will only be offered several times. Daily Mass is available in Italian.

For more info, contact: Bret Thoman, SFO
Tel: 770-402-4335
www.stfrancispilgrimages.com

See Next Page for Itinerary

Monday, September 27

Depart from the US on overnight flight to Italy.

Tuesday, September 28

We will offer one coach transfer to the hotel in the morning at 10:30am. After getting settled in at our hotel near St. Peter's (Casa Bacciarini), we will begin by visiting St. Peter's Basilica. We will conclude our first night with dinner and overnight in the hotel.

Wednesday, September 29

In the morning, we will return to St. Peter's square where we will listen to the Holy Father give his General Papal Audience* in seven languages. In the afternoon, we will offer a guided visit of the Basilica of Saint Paul outside the Walls, and the Cathedral of St. John Lateran. We will take a bus tour of the ancient sites of Rome including the Coliseum, Forum, and Circus Maximus. We will conclude with dinner, and overnight in our Rome religious hotel.

Thursday, September 30

Today we will depart for Assisi with a stop in the Rieti Valley, a panoramic area with four Franciscan hermitages. Most important is Greccio, where St. Francis created the first live nativity scene. After lunch, we will continue to Saint Mary of the Angels and check in to our hotel next to the Portiuncula. In the afternoon, we will visit the Portiuncola. We will conclude with dinner and overnight in our hotel in Saint Mary of the Angels: Domus Pacis: www.domuspacis.it

Friday, October 1

This morning we will continue our pilgrimage in the footsteps of Saint Francis with Mass and a guided visit of the world renowned *Sacro Convento* Basilica, where St. Francis' body is entombed. The church is adorned with beautiful frescoes painted by masters of the high Middle Ages like Giotto and Lorenzetti. In the afternoon we will take a walking tour through the Franciscan sites in medieval Assisi including Chiesa Nuova, Home of Bernard of Quintavalle, Saint Mary Major, and the Basilica of St. Clare. We will conclude with dinner and overnight.

Saturday, October 2

Today we'll visit Rivotorto, where Francis and the first brothers lived in huts while they served lepers. Then we'll continue our journey eastbound through the Apennine Mountains to the little-known region of the Marches of Ancona. We will stop in Camerino to meet and have lunch served by the Poor Clare Sisters. They will introduce us to the life of Blessed Camilla Baptista, a 15th century Poor Clare nun. Then we will continue to San Severino where we will spend the evening with another community of Poor Clare Sisters. Here we'll have a reflection given by one of the Sisters, followed by evening prayer and dinner. We will return to Assisi for overnight.

Sunday, October 3

After visiting San Damiano in the morning, we will be free for the festivities of the Transitus in the Porziuncula. This triumphant procession celebrates Francis' passing from this world. We will conclude with dinner and overnight. At night, there will be a solemn prayer service in the Basilica.

Monday, October 4

On the feast of Saint Francis, you will be free in the morning to participate in the festivities as you please. We will meet in the center of Assisi for lunch in a medieval restaurant. Afterwards, we will take taxis up to the Carceri hermitage on the slopes of Mount Subasio above Assisi for prayer. We will return to the hotel overnight.

Tuesday, October 5

After breakfast we'll board our private coach to the mountain hermitage of Laverna in Tuscany where we will have a day of quiet prayer and retreat. Here in 1224 St. Francis mysteriously received the stigmata, the wounds of Christ. We will accompany the friars on their daily procession at 3:00 and then return to Assisi for dinner and overnight.

Wednesday, October 6

Today we will offer one early morning chartered bus departure to the Rome airport. It will arrive at Rome Fiumicino airport at 7:00am.

The itinerary is subject to change due to factors beyond our control. However, the focus on the spiritual nature of the trip will always be the overall objective, and