

Walk from Assisi to Rome

Along the “Way of Francis” through Umbria and Lazio

September 13-23, 2018

\$2,500 per person (Ground only) *

Walking Level: 6-12 miles per day**

Limited to only 7 Participants!



A Walking Camino Pilgrimage from Assisi to Rome Along the “Way of Francis” (Via di Francesco)

*Included in Price:

- Overnight accommodations (3-star hotels, or equivalent, at double occupancy)
- Half Board (breakfast and dinner daily)
- Daily luggage transport service (one piece/person); you carry only a day pack
- Taxi services/transfers (where indicated)
- “The Way of Francis” guide book
- Pilgrim’s kit with info on the Camino, packing instructions, training tips
- Pilgrim’s credential to obtain the official Testimonium certificate from Vatican
- Accompanied by Bret Thoman, OFS, and/or a professional guide
- [Airfare, lunch, and optional travel insurance not included]

**Please note that this is a hiking pilgrimage: walks vary between 6-12 miles per day through hilly and sometimes mountainous terrain; though this Camino has been modified to avoid the most difficult stages.



The “Way of Francis” is a newly restored walking Camino tracing the path likely trod by St. Francis as he walked from Assisi to Rome through Rieti.

The Camino begins in the birthplace of St. Francis where pilgrims soak in the “spirit of Assisi.” It then continues through the scenic Spoleto Valley, so beloved to St. Francis. Heading south, it passes through the storied medieval hill towns of the of Spello, Foligno, Trevi, and Spoleto.

The Camino then traverses the Apennine Mountains and ambles along the cool Nera River in the poignant Nera Valley. Next, it walks along the shores of Lake Piediluco before arriving in the “Holy Valley” of Rieti, where it passes by more places dear to St. Francis: the Beach tree and the hermitages of Poggio Bustone and La Foresta. The last four days to Rome follow the ancient Roman road, the Via Salaria, through Lazio’s scenic Sabine region known for its gentle olive groves. Finally, the Camino terminates at the tomb of St. Peter in majestic and grandiose Rome.

Immerse yourself in this experience of a lifetime walking the Way of Francis -- a Camino rich in spirituality, creation, and culture.



Itinerary, registration form, terms and conditions inside.

For more information, contact Bret Thoman at:
404-418-6683 ♦ bret@stfrancispilgrimages.com

www.stfrancispilgrimages.com

September 13: 10:30 am: We will offer one van transfer from Rome Fiumicino airport to Assisi. Check-in to hotel followed by orientation to pilgrimage. Rest and relax in hotel. (Dinner/overnight in Assisi)

September 14: In the Footsteps of Francis (10 km/6.5 miles)

Today, get to know Francis with a series of guided visits within the medieval walls of Assisi. In the afternoon, we will walk to St. Mary of the Angels, then to the church where Francis served lepers, to Rivortorto where the first brothers lived, and then on to Spina, a church Francis rebuilt. (Dinner/overnight in Assisi)

September 15: In the Footsteps of Clare (12 km/7.5 miles)

Retrace the footsteps of St. Clare as she departed from her father's house, met Francis in the Portiuncula, then retreated in a Benedictine monastery known as San Paolo. (Dinner/overnight in Assisi)

September 16: Valfabbrica-Assisi (13 km/8 mi; one 300 m/1000 ft climb)

Transfer to Valfabbrica and walk back to Assisi, enjoying stunning panorama of Assisi as it comes into view. Sunday Mass. (Dinner/overnight in Assisi)

September 17: Assisi-Spello (14 km/8.5 miles; mostly flat)

Begin with a contemplative visit of the Carceri hermitage before leaving Assisi. Today's walk boasts scenic views of the Spoleto Valley as well as a peaceful walk through the "Trail of Olive Trees" before arriving in Spello. (Dinner/overnight in Spello)

September 18: Foligno-Trevi (13 km/8 miles; mostly flat)

Transfer to Foligno and enjoy more views of the valley as we walk to the hill town of Trevi. Transfer to Spoleto and visit the storied city including the Duomo which boasts a letter written by Francis himself. (Dinner/overnight in Spoleto)

September 19: Pontuglia-Macenano (6 km/4 miles; flat)

Before walking today, we will visit the hermitage of Monteluco above Spoleto. Then, transfer around the mountain for a relaxing walk through farms and pastures along the cool Nera River. (Dinner/overnight in Macenano)

Sep 20: Poggio Bustone-La Foresta (12 km/7.5 mi; a few short steep climbs)

This morning, we will transfer by taxi, past the Marmore waterfalls and Piediluco Lake, to the Franciscan hermitage of Poggio Bustone. After a brief visit, we will enjoy another quiet walk with spectacular views of the Rieti Valley, through the medieval town of Cantalice, and then to another hermitage, La Foresta. Transfer to nearby Rieti, a charming little town with ancient history and today provincial capital of the Sabine area in the region of Lazio. (Dinner/overnight in Rieti)

September 21: Free day or walk Greccio-Fonte Colombo (20 km/12.5 miles; one steep 300 m/1000 feet climb)

Take a deserved rest day, or walk from Greccio, site of the first nativity scene to another hermitage where Francis wrote his first rule and where he underwent a crude operation on his eyes. (Dinner/overnight in Rieti)

September 22: Rieti-Ornaro Basso (19 km/13 miles; one short steep climb)

Begin with an easy ten miles out of Rieti along the Via Salaria (Salt Way). Then transfer to Milvian Bridge in Rome for the last jaunt along the Tiber River before arriving at Castel Sant'Angelo for our final entry into Vatican City. Receive pilgrimage Testimonium in St. Peter's. Sunday Vigil Mass. (Dinner/overnight Rome near St. Peter's)

September 23: End of Services. Transfer to Rome airport for return flight.



WALKING PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION FORM

September 13-23, 2018

\$2,500 per person (*ground only*)

Please return with a deposit of \$500 per person to reserve your place (\$300 is non-refundable but transferable). Make checks payable to **St. Francis Pilgrimages**. Include a copy of passport photo/signature page. Return completed form to:

St. Francis Pilgrimages
PO Box 143
Senoia, Georgia 30276

Name as it appears on passport (first/middle/last): _____

Passport expiration date: _____

*N.B.: Your passport must be valid for six months after the return date;
if you are not a European/US/Canadian citizen, you may need a travel visa in order to enter Italy.*

Name you prefer to be called: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

E-mail address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home tel: () _____ 2nd number: () _____

Emergency contact (name, telephone number): _____

Your flight itinerary: _____

What do you expect from this walking Camino? _____

Will you celebrate a special event (i.e. birthday or anniversary) during the Camino? _____

Do you have special needs or concerns (i.e. food allergies)? _____

Do you have any health conditions or do you take any medications? If so, please list: _____

Please note that this is a walking Camino requiring advanced training and physical fitness and the ability to walk 6-25 miles per day at a moderate pace. If you have any health conditions, please see the Terms and Conditions on the next page of this form.

How did you hear about this Camino? _____

Upon receipt of this registration, you will be mailed a welcome letter explaining what to do and expect next.

I have read and understand terms and conditions on reverse and on website.

Signature(s) _____ Date: _____

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Nature of Pilgrimage and Accommodations: St. Francis Pilgrimages, LLC organizes religious travel itineraries in the pilgrimage tradition, rather than typical tours. Accommodations are based on double occupancy and this tour will utilize 3 star hotels or agritourisms of good quality. Most hotel rooms have private bath; however, there may be one or two exceptions that utilize hall bath based on limited hotels in the area.

Price: The published price per person includes ground transportation as published on the itinerary; luggage transfer service; lodging (at double-occupancy); breakfast and dinner each day; and the presence of a guide. The price does not include airfare, one meal per day (estimate \$15 day), tips for driver and guide (if applicable), recommended travel insurance, personal expenses, or anything not expressly stated on the itinerary.

Payment Information: A deposit of \$500 is required to secure a reservation (\$300 is non-refundable but transferrable). The final payment is due 60 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check, money order, or through Paypal for an additional \$150 fee. Trip prices and costs are listed in US dollars (usd). Cancellations: If you cancel more than 60 days before departure, all payments will be refunded except \$300 of your deposit (which is transferrable to another trip with St. Francis Pilgrimages). If the cancellation is made within 60 days of departure, we will attempt to recover what has been paid to suppliers, but cannot guarantee reimbursements. Once issued, airline tickets are usually non-refundable, and refunds would be determined by the specific airline. Note that this pilgrimage requires a minimum of four paying participants. St. Francis Pilgrimages may cancel a pilgrimage if there are insufficient registrations or if other circumstances warrant it. If a pilgrimage is cancelled by St. Francis Pilgrimages, all payments will be refunded. However, if a participant cancels individually before St. Francis Pilgrimages officially cancels, refunds for that person will be based on the above criteria. We strongly recommend trip insurance. Note that the published price is based on a minimum of four paying participants; with less than four paying, the price could be adjusted accordingly.

Health: *Please note that this is a hiking trip; walking levels will be between 6-12 miles per day through hilly and sometimes mountainous terrain.* If a participant has any moderate or serious health conditions, full disclosure to St. Francis Pilgrimages, LLC is required. St. Francis Pilgrimages, LLC cannot accept liability for food ingested by participants with life-threatening food allergies or sensitivities. Any participant who has health conditions (including psychological/mental), must inform his/her doctor of their intention to participate in this hiking tour and submit a letter from his/her medical doctor stating that he/she is capable of fully participating in the pilgrimage. St. Francis Pilgrimages, LLC and suppliers contracted for services reserve the right to refuse to accept or retain any person whose behavior or health conditions are deemed likely to affect the smooth operations of the tour, or adversely affect the enjoyment or safety of other passengers. St. Francis Pilgrimages, LLC, its agents, and suppliers shall be under no liability to any such person for refund, compensation, repatriation or any other matters arising thereof.

Disclosure Notice: St. Francis Pilgrimages, LLC cannot accept responsibility for actions and/or service of independent contractors involved, i.e. air carrier, bus company, taxi, hotel, guides, etc. St. Francis Pilgrimages, LLC reserves the right to cancel a pilgrimage if there are insufficient participants registered, in which case a refund of monies paid St. Francis Pilgrimages, LLC will be granted to all participants. St. Francis Pilgrimages, LLC may change the itinerary if circumstances warrant it. St. Francis Pilgrimages, LLC cannot be held liable or financially responsible for illness, injury, or death incurred at any point during the trip. If travel is interrupted or the trip is forced to cancel due to labor strike, inclement weather, riot, national disaster, terrorism, or any other incident outside of the control of St. Francis Pilgrimages, St. Francis Pilgrimages cannot be held liable or financially responsible.

Release and Assumption of Risk: I understand and agree that during the tour in which I will participate, under the arrangements of St. Francis Pilgrimages, certain risks and dangers may arise, including, but not limited to, acts of God, the hazards of the forces of nature, (including but not limited to animal or insect bites or attacks), dangers and risks inherent in trekking activities (including but not limited to falls or injuries), and accident or illness in remote places without access to medical facilities, transportation, or means of rapid evacuation and assistance. St. Francis Pilgrimages shall not be responsible for any animal attacks, injuries, damages, or losses caused to any traveler in connection with any of the above, mechanical or construction failures or difficulties, diseases, local laws, climatic conditions, earthquakes, abnormal conditions or developments, or any other actions, omissions, or conditions outside the travel company's control. Traveler assumes complete and full responsibility for, and hereby releases the agent from any duty of, and all safety or security conditions at such destinations.

In consideration of, and as a part of the payment for, the right to participate in such treks, tours, expeditions, or other activities and as a part of the payment for, the services arranged for me by St. Francis Pilgrimages and its agents, employees, associates, affiliated companies, or subcontractors, I DO HEREBY EXPRESSLY ASSUME ALL OF THE ABOVE RISKS.