



TEKTON MINISTRIES

Encounter Christ on a Catholic Pilgrimage

WITNESS THE LIFE *of* ST. FRANCIS

*You're invited on a
Pilgrimage to Italy:*

**THE SHRINES & WINES
ALONG THE**

**"CAMMINO *di*
FRANCESCO"**

May 25 - June 5, 2020



A TRULY CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

Tekton Ministries has been leading Catholic pilgrimages for more than 20 years. Working closely with your priest to create thoughtfully planned itineraries, we help make the Catholic faith more tangible to your daily life by taking you to the heart of our Mother Church today. Although we visit more than 50 sites in this holy and historic region, daily Mass and time for prayerful reflection are important parts of each day's experience.

We use only experienced Christian or Catholic guides, so you receive truthful explanations of scripture and the places we encounter. When the disciple Philip asked the Eunuch (who was reading Isaiah) if he understood what he was reading, the man responded, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" (Acts 8:35) Just as Philip guided the Eunuch with "the good news of Jesus," your Tekton pilgrimage will guide you into a deeper understanding of the Scriptures. Our prayers, service, and love of our Lord go with you.

● Day 1 – Depart USA

Our pilgrimage begins as we depart on our overnight flight to Rome. Meals and refreshments will be served aloft.

● Day 2 – Arrive Rome

Upon arrival in the "Eternal City" of Rome, we will be met by at the airport by our local tour manager. We begin our exploration of important Franciscan sites by visiting St. John Lateran, where St. Francis persuaded Pope Innocent III to grant permission to begin the Franciscan Order. Celebrate Mass and venerate the Holy Stairs before travelling to the Church and Monastery of San Francesco a Ripa. Here, St. Francis of Assisi lived during his visits to the Holy Father, when the Church greeted the Little Poor Man in its arms. Afterwards, we check in at our local hotel, our home for the next 3 nights. (D)

● Day 3 – Rome

Today, we will attend the weekly Papal audience given by His Holiness, Pope Francis (depending upon the Holy Father's schedule). In the afternoon we travel to St. Paul's Outside the Walls, originally built by Constantine in the fourth century over the site of St. Paul's tomb, followed by a visit to St. Mary Major. This evening, enjoy a walking tour of the city, including the Pantheon, Piazza Navona, Bernini's famous fountains, and the Trevi Fountain, where a coin thrown over your shoulder will guarantee you another visit to Rome. Enjoy dinner on your own. (B)



● Day 4 – Rome

We begin our day in Rome with an early Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, followed by a tour including the Pieta and Adoration Chapel. We'll then visit the Sistine Chapel and the Vatican Museum, marveling at the awe-inspiring works of art. This afternoon, we visit the tucked-away Capuchin Church of the Immaculate Conception where the shrine of St. Crispin, OFM rests. Crispin, a shoemaker, became famous for many healings as a result of his prayers. His body, in a remarkable state of preservation, rests under a side altar. Enjoy our last evening in Rome tonight, exploring other sites on our own before our last night in our hotel. (B, D)

● Day 5 – Rome / Greccio / Spoleto

This morning we depart Rome for Greccio and enjoy a tour of this medieval town. Greccio itself, set on a beautiful mountaintop, is famous for its cool summer climate and its 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 together 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. After Mass proceed to Spoleto and visit the Hermitage of St. Francis. Established in the 5th century by a community of hermits fleeing Syria, this hermitage has been part of the Franciscan family since the 13th century. We will spend time in peaceful prayer and reflection before checking into our hotel for our overnight. (B, D)

BONUS:

Theology on
Tap night *with*
Medjugorje
Locutionist,
Jelena Vasilj
one night in Rome



● Day 6 – Spoleto / Foligno / Spello / Assisi

This morning, we travel a short distance to Foligno to venerate the incorrupt body of St. Angela of Foligno, who experienced a deep conversion of heart after praying to St. Francis and later became a member of the Third Order of St. Francis. Continue into Spello where we will enjoy the magnificent frescoes of Santa Maria Maggiore church and venerate the tomb of Bl. Andrew Caccioli, companion of St. Francis. After lunch, journey to Assisi along the path known as "The Way of St. Francis." We will meander along relatively flat, secondary roads without much traffic, featuring lovely views of the Valley of Assisi before reaching the center of Franciscan history. The pathway takes us straight to the heart of the upper town and ends in front of the basilica of St. Francis. After celebrating our arrival, we check into our hotel, home for the next 2 nights. (B, D)

● Day 7 – Assisi

Our day begins at the Convent of San Damiano where the miracle of the Eucharist of 1211 took place and visit the chapel where Jesus spoke to St. Francis from the crucifix, and the Basilica of St. Francis. We will visit the Basilica of St. Clare and view her incorrupt body, then proceed to Santa Maria degli Angeli. This afternoon we will travel up Mt. Subasio to L'Eremo delle Carceri (the Carceri Hermitage), St.

Francis' favorite retreat center, where he could remain in seclusion and prayer. Enjoy some personal prayer time in this peaceful location before descending into Assisi for the evening. (B, D)



Basilica of St. Francis - Assisi

● **Day 8 – Assisi / Gubbio / Cortona / Arezzo**

This morning we will visit St. Mary of the Angels Basilica, site of the Porziuncola, the tiny church in the woods where St. Francis began his ministry and where St. Clare was consecrated. Afterwards, enjoy lunch at a local winery before proceeding to the town of Gubbio, important in the life of St. Francis as the town where he notoriously tamed a wolf that was terrorizing the local residents. After this miracle, the townspeople were converted to Christianity and became followers of St. Francis. We will visit the Church of St. Francis of the Peace, built in commemoration of this event. Continue through the Umbrian and Tuscan countryside to Cortona where, in 1211, St. Francis arrived to preach and found an isolated location in which to retreat and pray. It became a common location for Francis to stop along his journeys to and from Assisi. We will overnight nearby in Arezzo. (B, D)

● **Day 9 – Arezzo**

We journey north on a day trip today, through Tuscany, to the Sanctuary of La Verna, located on land that was donated to St. Francis by Count Orlando Cattani in 1213. The hermitage built here became a favored site for Francis and his followers, where they would come and retreat, spending long periods of meditation and prayer. In 1224, what would be St. Francis' last stay at La Verna, while absorbed in prayer, he had a vision and received the stigmata that he carried until his death two years later. We will enjoy the majority of our day in this retreat-like setting, reflecting upon the life and teachings of St. Francis, before returning to Arezzo. (B, D)



Sanctuary of La Verna

● **Day 10 – Arezzo / Florence**

Today, we enjoy the history and culture of the Tuscan countryside with a culinary tour of the Chianti region south of Florence. Visit a winery in Montepulciano and learn about the many varieties of grapes unique to this region. Then enjoy Pecorino cheese tasting in Pienza. Then proceed to Florence, our home for the next two nights. (B, D)



Basilica of Santa Croce

● **Day 11 – Florence**

Our last full day in Italy is another restful and cultural one. Traveling through the Tuscan countryside, we will arrive in Florence and explore this beautiful city. We will tour the Duomo and the Baptistery, see the replica of the famous statue of David, and visit the Basilica of Santa Croce, the principal Franciscan church in Florence, where we will celebrate Mass. One of the first missions of the Franciscan Order, this basilica houses the tombs of Galileo, Michelangelo, Machiavelli, and more. Enjoy a farewell dinner this evening at a local restaurant, enjoying some free time in the city afterwards, or retiring early to the hotel to prepare for our return flight in the morning. (B, D)

● **Day 12 – Depart Florence for the USA**

Today we say, "Ciao Italia" and return home, cherishing all of the wonderful memories and graces of this pilgrimage.

B=Breakfast D=Dinner

**Itinerary subject to change and Mass locations pending confirmation*



ITALY PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

REGISTER ONLINE AT
TektonMinistries.org

BASE PRICE PER PERSON

Double occupancy with base airfare **\$4,135.00**

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL EXPENSES (applied to final invoice)

Current airline taxes/fuel surcharges **\$240.67**

(subject to change until final ticketing)

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST \$4,375.67

Gratuities to guide, driver, hotel/restaurant staff **\$140.00**

OPTIONS:

- For a single room: add \$655
- Land-only option: \$3,299 (no flights included)

Final Payment Due

March 10, 2020

BASE RATE INCLUDES:

- Daily Mass at holy sites
- Roundtrip economy airfare from New York JFK on Delta/KLM
- 10 nights' accommodations, including taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one piece of luggage at airports and hotels
- Knowledgeable, friendly, Catholic/Christian guides; whisper headsets; deluxe motor coach transportation to holy sites; all entrance fees listed on itinerary
- Breakfast and dinner per itinerary (excluding drinks)
- Wine and cheese tasting at local wineries and restaurants
- Dinner at a local restaurant in Florence

Rates do not include: lunches, drinks with meals, gratuities, dinner on day 3

Reservations and Payment: Tekton Ministries requires a deposit of \$300.00 per person at the time of booking. This deposit forms a part of your final payment which is due 75 days prior to departure. Reservations made within 74 days of departure must be accompanied by payment in full. Payments made by credit card will incur a convenience fee. Any reservations received within 45 days of departure will incur a late booking fee of \$100.00 per person. This pilgrimage is based upon a minimum of 22 total pilgrims. Surcharges may be assessed for a smaller group size.

Cancellations: All cancellations must be in writing. The following per person cancellation charges will apply in addition to any airline penalties and charges incurred by our suppliers: If canceled 91 days or more prior to departure, a \$75.00 administrative fee will be charged. If canceled 90 - 31 days prior to departure, \$175.00 will be charged. If canceled 30 - 15 days prior to departure, \$450.00 will be charged. If canceled 14 - 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.

Travel Documents: A passport which is valid for 6 months past the date of your return flight home is required of all U. S. citizens. However, U.S. citizens do not require visas for Italy. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please call to find out if you need a visa. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for individual visas or passports.

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

Air Transportation: Air travel is in economy class on Delta Airlines/KLM. Fares are based upon levels in effect at the time of printing and fares and flight schedules are subject to change without notice. Note that any ticketing changes made within 90 days of your departure date will incur airline penalties.

Baggage: Each passenger is allowed one checked bag and one carry-on. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen baggage.

Travel Insurance: We strongly recommend that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. Registration information will be provided upon receipt of your deposit.

Not Included in Base Price: Airline taxes/fuel surcharges (currently \$240.67 per person, but subject to change until the time of ticketing), gratuities to guide, driver, and hotel staff, passport/visa fees, personal travel insurance, laundry, beverages and items not on the regular menu of included meals, excess baggage charges, optional sightseeing and expenses of a personal nature.

Refunds: Subject to the foregoing Cancellation Terms, upon cancellation of travel related services, all sums paid to Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours for such services will be promptly returned to the passenger, provided the passenger has not caused such cancellation and 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 Tekton Ministries/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, Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours agrees to provide passenger with a written statement accompanied by a copy of the bank records estab-

lishing 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 George's International Tours 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 George's International Tours 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 George's International Tours, 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.

Responsibility Clause: Tekton Ministries, George's International Tours and/or their co-operating selling agents and/or their suppliers of services 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, and are not responsible therefore, either directly or indirectly, for any loss, accident, or injury which may result from any act, omission, negligence in or responsible for performing or providing these component services. The transportation companies concerned take no responsibility for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not aboard their conveyances. 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. Tour operator reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category if necessary and to alter itineraries. Your deposit certifies that you agree with the above terms and conditions.



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