



TEKTON MINISTRIES

Encounter Christ on a Catholic Pilgrimage

WITNESS THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE
SAINTS AND SHRINES OF

ITALY

March 20 - 30, 2023



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 numerous 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 - Monday, March 20 *Depart USA*

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

● Day 2 - Tuesday, March 21 *Arrive Rome / Orvieto / Assisi*

Upon arrival at the airport in Rome, we are met by our tour manager who will be with us for the duration of our pilgrimage in Italy. Journey to Orvieto, a walled town high on a hill that holds one of the greatest Eucharistic Miracles in its cathedral. In nearby Bolsena, in the 13th century, a priest doubted the Eucharistic Presence during Mass and the host turned to real flesh and the wine to real blood during the consecration. The priest brought the blood-stained Corporal to Pope Urban in Orvieto, and it is now kept in a special reliquary for the faithful to view. It was also in Orvieto where Pope Urban IV called for a world-wide Feast of Corpus Christi. The Cathedral of Orvieto has striking similarities to the beautiful Duomo in Florence with its unique exterior. Inside is the Signorelli Chapel that holds some of the greatest artistic masterpieces in the world. After time for prayer and reflection, continue north through the Umbrian countryside to Assisi, the picturesque town made known by the piety and works of St. Francis. (D, Mass)



● Day 3 - Wednesday, March 22 *Assisi*

Witness where the power of the Eucharist turned away an army that was about to attack the Convent of San Damiano where St. Clare lived with her nuns in 1241. Even though bed-ridden, St. Clare got up and held the Blessed Sacrament in the air. In a vision

she saw the advancing army flee in terror, thus establishing "The Miracle of the Eucharist of Assisi." Also in the convent, we will visit the chapel where Jesus spoke to St. Francis from the crucifix, asking him to rebuild the church. Visit the Basilica of St. Francis to venerate his burial place. Afterwards is the Basilica of St. Clare, which holds the famous San Damiano Crucifix, and where the golden locks of St. Clare's hair and St. Francis' poor patched tunic are kept. 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, Mass)

● Day 4 - Thursday, March 23 *Assisi / Rome*

This morning, 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 began her religious life. Then depart for Rome, where we are immersed into the Classical era and early Rome. We will visit the heart of ancient Roman government and see the remains of the Forum, including the basilica of Sts. Cosmas and Damian built over the site of a pagan temple, then tour the Colosseum. Afterwards, transfer to our hotel and check in before dinner and overnight. (B, D, Mass)



● Day 5 - Friday, March 24 *Rome*

Begin the day in the heart of the Vatican: St. Peter's Basilica, where we contemplate centuries of history of the Catholic Church. Here we see the life-like Pieta statue by Michelangelo, stunning paintings, and the importance of Eucharistic Adoration at the chapel renovated under the direction of St. John Paul II. We then tour the Vatican Museum that hosts artifacts from around the world, some of the greatest depictions of the Eucharist in art, papal apartments, hand-woven intricate tapestries, and the stunning hallway of maps from the 1500s. The most famous ceiling in the world awaits us inside the Sistine Chapel. Popes are elected under this ceiling and the faithful have continued to come and be awed by its splendor for centuries. This afternoon, we will split up into small groups for tours of the Scavi – the necropolis under St. Peter's Basilica, pending confirmation. The balance of the day will be free for personal reflection and activities, including dinner out on your own. (B, Mass)

● Day 6 - Saturday, March 25 *Rome*

Visit two other major basilicas of Rome today, but first we climb the Scala Santa (Holy Stairs), which our Lord climbed on His way to His condemnation. Afterwards, enjoy a tour and time for personal prayer and reflection in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the official seat of the Bishop of Rome. Afterwards, we continue to St. Clement's Basilica, a minor basilica in Rome, which houses an original fresco depicting St. Clement celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, giving us a picture of Eucharistic worship at the end of the first century or the

beginning of the second. Finally, we proceed to St. Mary Major where we venerate the crib of Christ, view the famous icon attributed to St. Luke, and see inestimable artwork that makes Rome renowned throughout the world. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D, Mass)

● **Day 7 - Sunday, March 26**
Rome

Today we join thousands of other pilgrims at St. Peter's Basilica to pray the Angelus with Pope Francis and receive his blessing – as his schedule allows. Afterwards, travel to St. Lawrence Outside the Walls, commemorating the martyrdom of St. Lawrence, one of the first deacons of Rome. Peek through one of the grates under the altar and you might see some of the ancient tunnels that led to a catacomb where he was first buried. The remains of the martyrs St. Justin and St. Stephen are also beneath the altar. In addition, this gem of a church holds the body of Pope Pius IX who declared the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. The rest of the afternoon and evening will again be free to explore on your own and enjoy a meal out on the town. (B, Mass)



● **Day 8 - Monday, March 27**
Rome

This morning we travel a short distance outside of Rome to Subiaco, where we visit Benedict's monastery, built around the Sacro Speco (Holy Cave) where he lived for three years in prayer and seclusion. Here St. Benedict began to codify his Rule, which became the foundation of western monasticism. We will also visit St. Scholastica's Monastery, built by Benedict and his twin sister, Scholastica, originally one of twelve in this area. We will see the cloisters from the 6th and 11th centuries, as well as the medieval church decorated by Cosmati, before returning to Rome for dinner and overnight. (B, D, Mass)

● **Day 9 - Tuesday, March 28**
Rome

Our morning begins at the fourth major basilica of Rome: St. Paul Outside the Walls, the great church built by Constantine over the tomb of St. Paul. After time for prayer and reflection, we journey into the lives of the martyrs as we visit the Catacombs of St. Callixtus. Here Christians celebrated the Mass in secret and buried the martyrs, including several popes. This afternoon, journey to the Church of St. Mary of the Conception of the Capuchins, known for its unusual crypt, the walls of which are covered with the bones of over 4,000 Capuchin friars who died between 1528 and 1870. Marvel at the architectural beauty of the Spanish Steps on the way to the Basilica of Santa Maria del Popolo, located on the famed Piazza del Popolo. This minor basilica boasts works by many notable artists, including Raphael, Bernini, and Caravaggio. Afterwards, enjoy another free evening for dinner and exploration. Perhaps return to the shopping area around the Spanish Steps or wander through the nearby Villa Borghese before returning to your hotel. (B, Mass)

● **Day 10 - Wednesday, March 29**
Rome

This morning, we join thousands of other pilgrims for a Papal Audience at St. Peter's Basilica to hear the Pope's words and receive his blessing – as his schedule allows. Afterwards, journey to Castel Sant'Angelo, also known as the Mausoleum of Hadrian as he is the one who commissioned it as a tomb for himself. This building was later used by popes as a castle, residence, prison, and fortress and is now a museum. This afternoon, enjoy one last walking tour of some of Rome's other famous sites, including the Piazza Navona, with Bernini's lavish fountains, and the Pantheon with its unique dome that inspired Michelangelo. Admire the intricate frescoes and paintings of all the side chapels in the Church of the Gesu. Guarantee another visit to Rome by throwing the traditional coin over your shoulder into the Trevi Fountain. This evening we enjoy our farewell dinner together before retiring for our last night in Rome. (B, D, Mass)

● **Day 11 - Thursday, March 30**
Rome/USA

Today we say "Ciao" to Italia and transfer to the airport for our return flight home, cherishing all the wonderful memories and graces of this pilgrimage. (B, Mass)

B=Breakfast D=Dinner

** Please note that all rates and services are subject to availability and confirmation. We cannot be responsible for any increase in these rates or changes in services or flight and land arrangements in the event that government regulations change due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*



ITALY PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

REGISTER ONLINE AT
TektonMinistries.org

BASE PRICE PER PERSON

Double occupancy with base airfare **\$3,395.00**

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL EXPENSES (applied to final invoice)

Current airline taxes/fuel surcharges **\$521.37**

(subject to change until final ticketing)

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

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST \$4,056.37

OPTIONS:

- For a single room: add \$605
- Land-only option: \$3,028 (no flights or gratuities included)

Final Payment Due

December 2022

BASE RATE INCLUDES:

- Daily Mass at holy sites
- Roundtrip economy airfare from Indianapolis on American Airlines
- 9 nights' accommodations, including taxes and service charges
- Portage 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 as per itinerary (excluding drinks)
- Farewell dinner at a local restaurant in Rome on day 10

Base rates do not include: lunches, drinks with meals, gratuities, COVID-19 testing (if required)

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 90 days prior to departure. Reservations made within 89 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 \$150.00 administrative fee will be charged. If canceled 90 - 31 days prior to departure, \$300.00 will be charged. If canceled 30 - 15 days prior to departure, \$1,000.00 will be charged. No refunds will be made within 14 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 American Airlines. 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 or cancellations made within 120 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 \$521.37 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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