



TEKTON MINISTRIES

Encounter Christ on a Catholic Pilgrimage

WITNESS THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

YOU'RE INVITED ON A PILGRIMAGE TO THE
SAINTS AND SHRINES OF

ITALY

November 13 - 22, 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, November 13 *Depart U.S.A.*

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

● Day 2 - Tuesday, November 14 *Arrive Rome / Santa Croce*

Upon arrival in the "Eternal City", we will be met at the airport by our local tour manager who will be with us for the duration of our pilgrimage in Italy. We will then proceed to Santa Croce in Gerusalemme where we get a little piece of Jerusalem thanks to Constantine's mother, St. Helena. She brought relics of the True Cross and the inscription part of the cross that stated Jesus was King of the Jews. At one time, soil from Jerusalem covered the Basilica's floor, so it truly was part of the Holy Land. After venerating these relics of Our Lord's crucifixion, we check-in at our hotel with the remainder of the day free for personal exploration or relaxation. (D, Mass) *Overnight Rome*



● Day 3 - Wednesday, November 15 *Rome: Papal Audience, Catacombs*

Join thousands of pilgrims from around the world to be with the Holy Father at his Papal Audience at St. Peter's Basilica. Always subject to the Holy Father's schedule, this unique event lets us listen to the Holy Father's words and receive his blessing in person. In the afternoon, we journey into the lives of the martyrs as we visit the Catacombs. Here Christians celebrated the Mass in secret and buried the martyrs, including several popes. The remainder of

the day will be free for personal activities. (B, D, Mass) *Overnight Rome*

● Day 4 - Thursday, November 16 *Rome: St Peter's Basilica, Vatican Museum, Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain*

Our day today is filled with wonder and awe as we steep ourselves in the beauty of St. Peter's Basilica that takes us to Michelangelo's Pieta statue made of marble that almost seems fluid. A quick stop to rub the foot of St. Peter's statue like thousands of pilgrims before us, takes us to pray at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel renovated by St. John Paul II. Afterwards, we walk through the Vatican Museums which house artifacts from the around the world and Eucharistic art to prepare ourselves for the greatest masterpiece yet: The Sistine Chapel. Painted by Michelangelo, it is the most famous ceiling in the world under which popes are chosen to lead the faithful. One is always looking up at the masterwork of art that explains the theology of God. Later this afternoon, we visit the Spanish Steps, a favorite people watching site in Rome and throw a coin into the Trevi Fountain with hopes to return to this glorious city. The rest of the day is free for shopping and additional sightseeing. (B, D, Mass) *Overnight Rome*

**** *Optional: Climb up to the cupola of St. Peter's for a breathtaking view of Vatican City and Rome.*



● Day 5 - Friday, November 17 *Rome: Free day*

Today is free for personal activities.

Free Day... Go on your own! Have fun exploring for the day.

- Sign up for a city tour – there are various options you can find online that do something unique like guided tours in museums, a food tour of Rome including a cooking class, etc.
- Take a daytrip to Ostia Antica. A short train ride west to the coast and you'll be able to explore the most elaborate and well-preserved ruins from ancient Rome. A very unique experience.
- Visit historical/cultural sites of Rome for those who wish to make a day of it doing this.

There are countless options...

Overnight Rome

● Day 6 - Saturday, November 18 *Rome: St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, Scala Santa*

Our morning begins at St. Paul Outside the Walls, the great church built by Constantine over the tomb of St. Paul, and the first of the 4

major basilicas we will visit today. We will then proceed to St. Peter's Square where we will see the Pope Francis give a short speech followed by praying the Angelus and ending with a blessing for all those gathered. This afternoon, we pray up the Scala Santa, or Holy Stairs, traditionally by climbing them on our knees because they are so sacred. Christ walked on these 28 marble stairs at the home of Pontius Pilate to be condemned to death. For those who cannot climb the stairs on their knees there are other stairs available for walking up that also lead to the chapel at the top. Our prayerful experience continues with a visit to St. John Lateran, the Mother Church of the Roman Catholic faithful and the oldest basilica in Europe. Following this, 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. This evening we end our time in Rome with a farewell to Rome dinner. (B, D, Mass) *Overnight Rome*



St. John Lateran

spoke to St. Francis from the crucifix, then 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 that spoke to St. Francis, 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 back into Assisi for the evening. (B, D, Mass) *Overnight Assisi*

• **Day 9 - Tuesday, November 21**
Assisi / Cascia / Greccio / Rieti

This morning we will depart Assisi and journey south, stopping in Cascia to visit the Shrine of St. Rita and venerate the Eucharistic Miracle of Cascia. We then proceed to the medieval town of Greccio. 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. Continue on to nearby Rieti for our last night in Italy. (B, D, Mass) *Overnight Rieti*

• **Day 10 - Wednesday, November 22**
Rieti / Rome / U.S.A.

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

• **Day 7 - Sunday, November 19**
Rome / Orvieto / Assisi

Depart Rome this morning and drive north to Orvieto, a walled town high on a hill that holds one of the greatest Eucharistic Miracles in its cathedral. In nearby Bolsena, 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. See the steps of the Papal summer residence where Pope Urban IV held up the blood-stained corporal and announced his intention to institute the Feast of Corpus Christi. After venerating the sacred Eucharistic miracle, we will continue our drive through the beautiful Umbrian countryside to Assisi, a town which welcomes us in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare, and our home for the next two nights. Upon arrival we will proceed to our hotel for check-in and dinner. (B, D, Mass) *Overnight Assisi*

• **Day 8 - Monday, November 20**
Assisi: San Damiano, Basilica of St. Francis, Carceri Hermitage

This morning we will visit St. Mary of the Angels Basilica, the site of the beloved Porziuncola the tiny chapel rebuilt by St. Francis and his fellow friars after Francis took the commandment from the Lord to "rebuild my church" literally, and where St. Clare began her life as a nun. On our tour of Assisi, we will witness where the power of the Eucharist turned away an army. The invading Saracen army 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 and saw the advancing army flee in terror establishing "The Miracle of the Eucharist of Assisi." Also in the convent, we will visit the chapel where Jesus

B=Breakfast D=Dinner



ITALY PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

REGISTER ONLINE AT
TektonMinistries.org

PRICE PER PERSON

Double occupancy with base airfare \$3,495.00

Current airline taxes/fuel surcharges \$447.80

(subject to change until final ticketing)

ESTIMATED COST \$3,942.80

Gratuities to guide, driver, hotel/restaurant staff \$120.00

(estimated/pre-collected with final invoice)

OPTIONS:

- For a single room: add \$663
- Land-only option: \$3,153 *(no flights or gratuities included)*

Final Payment Due

August 2023

BASE RATE INCLUDES:

- Daily Mass at holy sites
- Roundtrip economy airfare from Boston on Delta Airlines/KLM
- 8 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)
- Professional tour manager from arrival until departure

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 16 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 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 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 \$447.80 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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