

Italy Pilgrimage - 11 nights / 12 days

Day 01 – ARRIVAL AT ROME - COLOSSEUM

Arrive at Rome – the capital city of Italy. Upon arrival, enjoy guided tour to the archeological area of Rome with the Colosseum - the largest amphitheater in Rome was erected by Vespasian in the early years of his reign (69-79 AD) in the valley between Palatine, Esquiline and Celio, in the area that had previously been occupied by the artificial lake of the "Domus Aurea" by Nero. Next to the Colosseum, see the Roman Forum. In ancient times the forum was a swampy area. Only from the end of the seventh century BC, after the reclamation of the valley, did the Roman Forum begin to take shape, destined to remain the center of public life for over a millennium. Later attend Mass in a local church.

Overnight accommodation in Rome.

Meals: Breakfast



Day 02 – ROME – ASSISI – LA PORZIUNCOLA AND THE BASILICA OF SAN FRANCESCO

Depart for Assisi, known all over the world as the city of peace: this denomination is due to the message of peace and brotherhood that the history of San Francesco has linked forever to the place. Upon arrival, visit the Basilica di Santa Maria degli Angeli, probably built in the 4th century and subsequently passed under the ownership of the Benedictine monks, takes its name from the area called Portiuncula, which literally indicates the small portion of land on which it stood. Continue the tour and visit Basilica of San Francesco. The Basilica is made up of two superimposed churches, the upper Basilica and the lower Basilica, which are grandiose in both internal decorations. The Basilica of San Francesco is the sacred place par excellence of Assisi, since here the friars of Assisi keep the remains of San Francesco. Since 2000 it has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Later attend Mass in the Basilica.

Overnight accommodation in Assisi.

Meals: Breakfast



Day 03 – ASSISI – FLORENCE BASILICA SANTA MARIA DEL FIORE

Proceed to Florence. Upon arrival, enjoy guided tour of the city which includes visit to complex of Santa Maria del Fiore, made up of monuments gathered today all under the auspices of a single large widespread museum consisting of the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Brunelleschi's Dome, Giotto's Bell Tower, the Baptistery of San Giovanni, the Crypt of Santa Reparata and the Opera Museum of the Duomo. After the visit, mass in a Florentine church.

Overnight accommodation in Florence.

Meals: Breakfast



Day 04 – FLORENCE – PADOVA AND THE BASILICA OF SANT'ANTONIO

Today depart for Padova. Visit the Pontifical Basilica of St. Antonio, which the Padovans call Il Santo, is the main monument in Padua and one of the greatest masterpieces of art in the world. Recognized by the Holy See as an international sanctuary, it is also one of the most famous and popular places of worship of Christianity. Attend the Mass in the Basilica. Continue the tour with visit to the famous Cappella degli Scrovegni. The chapel dedicated to Santa Maria della Carità, frescoed between 1303 and 1305 by Giotto on behalf of Enrico degli Scrovegni is one of the greatest masterpieces of Western art. The narration completely covers the walls with the stories of the Virgin and Christ, while the grandiose Universal Judgment is painted on the counter-façade, with which the story of human salvation ends.

Overnight accommodation in Padova.

Meals: Breakfast



Day 05 – PADOVA – VENICE – PADOVA

Proceed to Venice. Upon arrival take Vaporetto water bus ride to Venice Island and the Gondola ride in the famous canals of Venice, followed by a visit to glass blowing factory. Enjoy the walking tour of Venice, see the Bridge of Sighs – an enclosed limestone bridge in baroque style which passes over the Rio di Palazzo, and connects the New Prison to the interrogation rooms in the Doge's Palace, Doge's Palace - a palace built in Venetian Gothic style and was the residence of the Doge of Venice, Bell Tower, St. Mark's Square and St. Mark's Basilica. Attend the Mass in a church.

Overnight accommodation in Padova.

Meals: Breakfast



Day 06 - PADOVA - LORETO AND THE SANCTUARY OF THE HOLY HOUSE

Transfer to Loreto, commonly known as the seat of the Basilica della Santa Casa, a popular Catholic pilgrimage site. According to tradition, the Santa Casa di Loreto is part of the house of the Virgin, which was built from a cave carved into the rock and from a room in front. The devotional tradition tells that the transport from Nazareth was the work of the angels, but recent researches on an archaeological and philological basis, propose the founded hypothesis that the Holy House was transported in a providential way with a transport by ship, under divine protection. Some indications suggest that the authors of the transport were not the angels of heaven, but a family called Angeli, a noble Byzantine family named Angeli, who saved the materials of the Casa della Madonna from Muslim devastation and had them transported to Loreto. Attend the Mass in the Sanctuary.

Overnight accommodation in Loreto.

Meals: Breakfast



Day 07 - LORETO - LANCIANO AND THE EUCARISTIC MIRACLE CHURCH - SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

Depart for Lanciano, the seat of a Eucharistic miracle that occurred in the eighth century. One day a monk while celebrating Holy Mass was assaulted by doubt about the real presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Having spoken the words of consecration on bread and wine, suddenly, before his eyes he saw the bread turn into Flesh, the wine into Blood. Later, visit the Church of the Miracle and attend mass. Proceed to San Giovanni Rotondo.

Overnight accommodation in San Giovanni Rotondo.

Meals: Breakfast

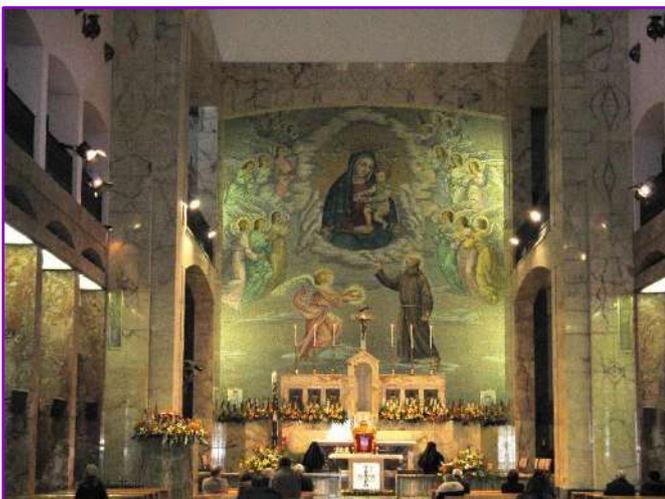


Day 08 - SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO AND THE SANCTUARY OF SANTA MARIA DELLE GRAZIE - NAPLES

Early morning visit to the Sanctuary of Santa Maria Delle Grazie with the adjoining convent is nowadays universally known for being the place where it lived, since 1916, and died Padre Pio of Pietrelcina. Although already from the early 1920s, there has been an ever-increasing number of pilgrims who climb Mount Gargano and that the inadequacy of the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie is evident to everyone to manage this "needy people" (so much so that Padre Pio he will be forced to celebrate outdoors several times), the works for the Sanctuary began only in 1956. The church took shape under the careful direction of the architect Giuseppe Gentile di Boiano and was consecrated on 1 July 1959. Attend the Mass in the Sanctuary. Later drive to Naples.

Overnight accommodation in Naples.

Meals: Breakfast

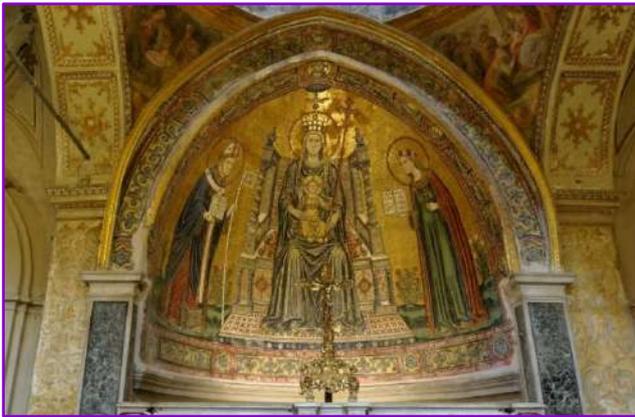


Day 09 - NAPLES - THE VEILED CHRIST - POMPEI AND THE SANCTUARY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY OF THE ROSARY

Depart for guided tour of Naples which includes the metropolitan cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta - a monumental basilica as well as a cathedral and seat of the archdiocese of the city of Naples. The cathedral includes two other buildings of worship built independently of the cathedral. Visit the basilica of Santa Restituta, which houses the oldest baptistery in the west, that of San Giovanni in Fonte, and the real chapel of the treasure of San Gennaro, which preserves the relics of the patron saint of the city. Continue to discover the precious Neapolitan treasures by visiting the San Severo Chapel where the Veiled Christ is kept, one of the most famous and evocative works in the world. The life-size sculpted marble statue, made by a young Neapolitan artist, Giuseppe Sanmartino, represents Our Lord Jesus Christ dead, covered by a transparent shroud made from the same block as the statue. Later visit the Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin of the Holy Shrine of Pompeii. Attend the Mass in the Sanctuary.

Overnight accommodation in Naples.

Meals: Breakfast

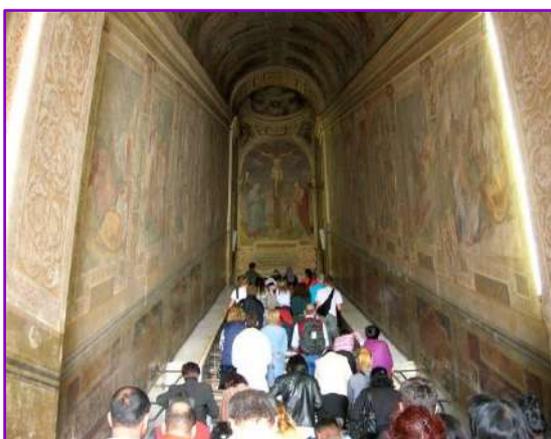


Day 10 – NAPLES - ROME - THE HOLY STEP AND THE BASILICA OF SAINT JOHN IN LATERAN

Proceed to Rome. Upon arrival, visit to Pontifical Shrine of the Holy Step among the best known and most illustrious in the Catholic world. It rises near the Basilica of S. Giovanni in Laterano and houses the precious chapel of the Popes called Sancta Sanctorum, where the image of the SS. Savior. The Scala Santa owes its name to the 28 steps that lead to the chapel and which rise to their knees in veneration for the Passion of Jesus. According to an ancient Christian tradition, the Empress St. Helena in 326 had the Staircase repeatedly ascended by Jesus on the day of his death sentence transported to Rome from the Praetorium of Pilate to Jerusalem. For this reason, it was called Scala Pilati or Scala Sancta. The Basilica of Saint John in Lateran is the mater et caput of all the churches of Rome and the world.

Overnight accommodation in Naples.

Meals: Breakfast



Day 11 - ROME – VATICAN CITY - THE CATACOMBS AND THE BASILICA OF SAINT PAUL OUTSIDE THE WALLS

Morning devoted to the visit of Vatican City. The Vatican Museums are Christian art museums located within the city boundaries of the Vatican City. They display works from the immense collection amassed by popes throughout the centuries including several of the most renowned Roman sculptures and most important masterpieces of Renaissance art in the world. The Sistine Chapel is a chapel in the Apostolic Palace, the official residence of the pope, in Vatican City. Originally known as the Cappella Magna, the chapel takes its name from Pope Sixtus IV, who restored it between 1477 and 1480. The Papal Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican or simply St. Peter's Basilica, is an Italian Renaissance church in Vatican City, the papal enclave within the city of Rome. Later visit Catacombs of San Callisto which is among the largest and most important in Rome. They arose in the middle of the second century and are part of a cemetery complex that occupies an area of 15 hectares of land, with a network of tunnels almost 20 kilometers long, on different floors, and reach a depth of more than 20 meters. In them, dozens of martyrs, 16 popes and many Christians were buried. Attend the Mass in the Catacombs. Further proceed to visit Basilica of Saint Paul outside the Walls. The Basilica of San Paolo, with its imposing Byzantine structure, is the largest patriarchal basilica in Rome after St. Peter's in the Vatican. It arose in the first centuries of Christianity on the place where St. Paul was buried, when in 313 the emperor Constantine promulgated the Edict of Milan, with which he put an end to persecutions against Christians and gave them freedom of worship, favoring the construction of places of prayer. Overnight accommodation in Rome.

Meals: Breakfast



Day 12 – DEPARTURE FROM ROME

Depart for airport to fly back to hometown with unforgettable memories.