

Ipswich Catholic Parish Italy Pilgrimage Tour

Tour Start Date: 25th September 2020 **DRAFT TWO to be finalized MAY2019**

Proposed Itinerary: IPSITA20 (with some amendments)

(B) – Breakfast (L) – Lunch (D) – Dinner (**SOME EXTRA MEALS ARE TO BE ADDED**)

DAY 1	Fri Sept 25	Arrive Rome	D
On arrival in Rome, meet the coach and tour director and transfer to the hotel. Awe-inspiring attractions from ancient Roman times infuse the city in an old-world charm unparalleled to anywhere else.			
DAY 2	Sat Sept 26	Rome	B
Board the coach for the transfer to the San Sebastiano Catacombs , for a guided tour. The martyred remains of San Sebastian were buried at the site in 350, and a basilica was erected over the grounds to worship the saint in the early 4th century. Since the site was erected, many pilgrims have come to visit and see the relics held at the basilica. The basilica also possesses a set of marble footprints that are attributed to Jesus (???), during his walk to Rome along the Via Appia. In The afternoon, visit the Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Walls and then return to the hotel by coach.			
DAY 3	Sun Sept 27	Rome	B
Board the coach and take a trip back in time with a guided walking tour through the spectacular Roman Forum and be met by the glorious remnants of ancient Roman temples. Continue to the most famous monument to have survived from the classical world, the Colosseum . Built nearly two thousand years ago for the purpose of hosting violent gladiator games, thousands of men and animals fought for their lives in its arena. A few gladiators and warriors found glory, some even found fame and riches but many more died an anonymous death, providing entertainment for eager Roman spectators. Possible lunch at St Isidore's College , visit the Crypt of the nearby church of Our Lady of the Conception of the Capuchins , visit the Basilica of St John Lateran . In the evening, we see the Augustus Light Show , an audio-guided projection light show that takes you back nearly 2,000 years to the formation of the Roman Empire by its first emperor, Augustus. Return to the hotel by coach.			
DAY 4	Mon Sept 28	Rome	B
Today is free to discover Rome at your leisure.			
DAY 5	Tues Sept 29	Rome – Fonte Colombo – Greccio – La Foresta - Assisi	B, D
Board the coach and transfer to Assisi, en-route visit Fonte Colombo, and visit the Sanctuary of Fonte Colombo . This is where St Francis fasted in meditation for 40 days to write his third and last Rule. He came here three years before his death, when he had already completed his inner journey experience. Continue onto Greccio, to see the Shrine of Greccio , known as the Franciscan Bethlehem, the shrine is an imposing architectural compound which clings to the bare rock. Continue onto La Foresta and visit the La Foresta Franciscan Sanctuary . St Francis stayed here in 1225 and it's believed that this is where he composed the Song of Brother Sun.			
DAY 6	Wed Sept 30	Assisi	B
Visit San Damiano, St Clare Church, San Rufino Cathedral, Carceri, the childhood home of St Francis, Church of St Stephen etc.			
DAY 7	Thurs Oct 1	Assisi – La Verna – Gubbio - Assisi	B

Board the coach and transfer to La Verna to visit the La Verna Franciscan Sanctuary . It is believed it was in the remote and peaceful Santuario della Verna, surrounded by breathtaking natural beauty, where St Francis received the stigmata back in 1224. Located in the southern part of Mount Penna, in the Casentino Forest National Park, the Sanctuary is a destination for many pilgrims, and it is home to many chapels and places of prayer and meditation. Visit the town of Gubbio on the return trip to Assisi.			
DAY 8	Fri Oct 2	Assisi	B
Tour of Basilica of St Francis . For the rest of the day, enjoy the day at leisure in Assisi, a superb medieval hill town in the beautiful region of Umbria, immediately captivating, with its narrow lanes, massive gates, stone buildings, and magnificent churches.			
DAY 9	Sat Oct 3	Assisi	B
Enjoy the day free for independent sightseeing. Enjoy weekend celebrations for the feast of St Francis. Transitus Ceremony in the evening, if possible in the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels .			
DAY 10	Sun Oct 4	Assisi	B
Celebrate the Feast of St Francis . The feast commemorates the life of St Francis, who was born in the 12th century and is the Catholic Church's patron saint of animals and the environment. It is a popular day for pets to be "blessed". St Francis, who founded the Catholic Church's Franciscan order, lived in Italy during the late 12th and 13th centuries. He is remembered for his generosity to the poor and his willingness to minister to the lepers. He is remembered for his love for animals and nature.			
DAY 11	Mon Oct 5	Assisi – Siena – Perugia - Assisi	B
Board the coach and visit the town of Siena . Have a brief visit of Perugia on the return trip to Assisi.			
DAY 12	Tues Oct 6	Assisi - Rome	B, D
Board the coach and transfer to the hotel. The day is then free to explore Rome independently.			
DAY 13	Wed Oct 7	Rome	B, D
This morning board the coach and visit the Vatican City to be part of the Papal Audience in St Peter's Square to hear the Pope's weekly message (subject to the Pope's travel schedule). This afternoon enjoy a guided tour of the Vatican City and its museums including The Sistine Chapel and St Peter's Basilica which contain many treasures and masterpieces, including the famous Pietà by Michelangelo. The afternoon is free before being transferred to the La Convento restaurant for a pizza-making course and dinner. Return to the hotel by coach.			
14	Thurs Oct 8	Tour concludes Rome	B
Board the coach and transfer to the airport for the flight back to Brisbane. (Flights: Own arrangements)			