

ITALY

TAILOR-MADE OPTION



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Day 1

ARRIVE IN ROME

Upon arriving at Rome's airport, we will be greeted by our tour escort and driver. Transfer to our hotel, dinner and overnight in Rome.

Day 2

ROME

Breakfast. This morning, we will start the day exploring the ancient Appian way. Stop to visit the Catacombs and the Basilica of St. Sebastian. Continue for a visit to the Church of Domine Quo Vadis, where we will see the stone with the footprints of Jesus. Our day continues with a walking tour of Imperial Rome, including an exterior visit to the Colosseum and the Roman Forum, as well as the Arches of Constantine and Titus. Celebrate mass. Following Mass, we will visit one of Rome's major basilicas; St. Mary Major. This basilica is one of the oldest shrines dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 3

ROME

Breakfast. Early morning, transfer to St. Peter's Square to join pilgrims from all over the world to attend the weekly Papal audience and blessing. After lunch, continue to visit the Basilica of St. John Lateran. Continue to the Shrine of the Holy Stairs, believed to be those that led to the praetorium of Pontius Pilate in Jerusalem. Later this afternoon, we will visit the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. Celebrate mass. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 4

ROME

Breakfast. We will visit St. Peter's Basilica. Enjoy a guided tour of the Basilica, admiring Michelangelo's Pietà and the tombs of St. Peter and Pope John Paul II. Celebrate mass. Continue to the Vatican Museum and walk through the richly decorated galleries and visit the Sistine Chapel. In the afternoon, visit the most beautiful monuments of the Baroque Rome area, including Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, the Trevi Fountain, and the Spanish Steps. Enjoy some time for shopping before returning to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 5

ROME – SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

Breakfast. Departure to San Giovanni Rotondo. This small town is in southern Italy and is best known for being the home of St. Padre Pio. Upon arrival, we will visit the Sanctuary of St. Padre Pio, which includes the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie. Celebrate Mass. We will also have the opportunity to reflect on the life and miracles of Padre Pio and visit significant places connected to his life and work, including his cell and his tomb. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight.

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Day 6

SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO – ASSISI

Breakfast. This morning, we'll leave San Giovanni Rotondo and make a special visit to St. Michael's Cave (Sanctuary of Monte Sant'Angelo). This ancient pilgrimage site is renowned for its historic significance and the legendary appearances of the Archangel Michael. We'll have the opportunity to explore the cave's remarkable beauty and spiritual atmosphere. Celebrate mass. Following our visit, we'll continue our journey to Assisi. Upon arrival, we'll check into our hotel and enjoy dinner together before spending the night in Assisi.

Day 7

ASSISI

Breakfast. Today, we will enjoy a full day of touring the hometown of St. Francis. We will start the tour at the Sanctuary of San Damiano, where St. Francis received his divine calling. Next, we will visit the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli, home to the Porziuncola, the tiny chapel where St. Francis founded the Franciscan Order. Continue to the Basilica of St. Francis. Celebrate mass. Later this afternoon, visit the Basilica of St. Clare. After our guided tour, you'll have some free time to wander through the charming medieval town of Assisi. Its narrow cobblestone streets and rich historical ambiance provide a perfect setting for exploration and reflection. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight.

Day 8

ASSISI – FLORENCE

Breakfast. We'll leave Assisi and head to Florence. Once we arrive, we'll check into our hotel and embark on a guided walking tour of the city. We'll visit Michelangelo Square for stunning panoramic views of Florence, explore the Duomo (exterior), see the exterior of the Baptistery, and admire the famous Ponte Vecchio. Celebrate mass. In the afternoon, you'll have free time to explore Florence at your own pace. Return to the hotel for dinner and an overnight stay in Florence.

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Day 9

FLORENCE – PADUA – MESTRE

Breakfast. We'll leave Florence and head to Padua, where we'll visit the Basilica of St. Anthony, a renowned pilgrimage site dedicated to one of the Catholic Church's most cherished saints. Celebrate mass. Following our visit, we'll continue our journey to Mestre, which is about an hour away from Padua. Upon arrival, we'll check into our hotel, and you'll have the rest of the afternoon to relax or explore Mestre at your leisure.

Day 10

MESTRE – VENICE

Breakfast. Today, we will travel to Venice by private motorboat. Upon arrival, we will enjoy a guided tour of this enchanting city, including an exterior visit to the Doge's Palace and an exterior visit to St. Mark's Basilica. Celebrate mass. In the afternoon, free time for an optional Gondola ride, or shopping. Then, we will board a private boat back to our bus and drive to our hotel in Mestre. Dinner and overnight

Day 11

RETURN TO USA

Today our pilgrimage comes to an end. We will transfer to the airport for our return flight.



CONTACT US

Lume Pilgrim: +54 9 343 610-3856
Lume Operations: +54 9 3434 29-4339

www.lumepilgrim.com