



GEMS OF ITALY

Day: 1

Location: ARRIVE ROME

Description: Upon arrival at the Rome International Airport, we will be welcomed and check in to the hotel. Overnight stay in Rome (D). After breakfast, we journey through the eternal city, Rome to visit Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine, Circus Maximus, Palatine Hill and many more. Later in the afternoon proceed to a walking tour from Navona Square and see the Pantheon and Trevi Fountain. Overnight stay in Rome

Day: 2

Location: ROME

Description: We begin our day after celebration of Holy Mass at St. Peters Basilica, continue to visit Vatican Museum- Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel, Raphael's Rooms and the Tapestries Gallery. In the afternoon visit the Catacombs of St. Callixtus, Chiesa Del Domine Quo Vadis, and Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, St. John Lateran and 'Scala Santa'. Overnight stay in Rome

Day: 3

Location: ROME

Description: This morning attend an audience with Pope to experience the awe and wonder which occurs at the Papal Audience that reaching out to pilgrims and visitors from the far reaches of the world. In the afternoon we farewell to Rome to arrive in Rotondo, home town of St. Padre Pio's for overnight stay. Overnight stay in Rotonda

Day: 4

Location: MONTE SANT' ANGELO - SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

Description: We journey to a town called Monte Sant' Angelo to visit and celebrate Holy Mass at the Shrine of St Michael the Archangel, where the Archangel made four separate appearances, making the sanctuary one of the popular Christian sites visited by thousands of pilgrims every year. In the afternoon we visit Padre Pio's tomb and cell; the old church where he received the stigmata; his confessional; and the new Church of Santa Maria Delle Grazie. Also visit the Padre Pio's most famous charitable work, the Home for the Relief of Suffering. Overnight stay in Rotunda

Day: 5

Location: LANCIANO - LORETTO

Description: This morning we depart Rotondo for Lanciano, to witness the living flesh of Jesus in a special Monstrance and Tabernacle. Lanciano is famous for being the site of the first Eucharistic Miracle which took place in the church of St. Legontian in the 8th Century. This miracle has been preserved and can be seen in the church today. We continue our journey to Loreto, home to the House of the Holy Family, which was carried by angels from Nazareth to Loreto as it was about to be destroyed by Holy Land invaders. The Holy House of Nazareth, where the Annunciation to Our Lady was made is now located here inside the Basilica of the Holy House. Overnight stay in Loreto.

Day: 6

Location: CASCIA - ASSISI

Description: We farewell to Loreto to visit Roccaporena, the birthplace of St. Rita, the patron saint for hopeless causes. Visit the sanctuary built on the fringes of the village that portrays the humble piety of the saint. Continue onto Cascia to visit and celebrate Holy Mass in the Basilica of St. Rita, the original holy monastery of St. Rita, where she lived for 40 years as an Augustinian nun. Upon arrival in Assisi we continue with a walking tour of town, including the Church of San Rufino, the Basilica of St. Clare, where her incorrupt body lies in tranquillity. We will carry on to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, here we view the Porziuncola, the tiny church contained inside the Basilica and cross of San Damiano, Rocca Maggiore, and finally Oratorio Di San Francesco Piccolino. Overnight stay in Bethlehem.

Day: 7

Location: ASSISI

Description: After breakfast we visit St. Francis' Basilica, where we celebrate Mass at the Tomb of St. Francis. The rest of the day is free for Adoration, Confessions, Reflections and a time of private devotions. Overnight stay in Assisi.

Day: 8

Location: PADUA

Description: This morning we journey to Padua to visit The Basilica of St. Anthony, patron saint of lost things is honoured. Following the celebration of Holy Mass we begin our sightseeing tour including one of the oldest universities in Italy, the Tomb of St. Anthony and we have an opportunity to see several of his relics. We will pass by Pratto Della Valle to see the Basilica of Santa Giustina. Overnight stay in Padua.

Day: 9

Location: VENICE

Description: We begin our day visiting Venice, for some of the greatest wonders you will ever see: St. Mark's Square, The Golden Basilica of San Marco, the Bridge of Sighs and have a visit to Doges' Palace. After the tour you will have some free time to explore Venice on your own and shopping. Overnight stay in Milan.

Day: 10

Location: MILAN

Description: After breakfast we visit Milan's beautiful Cathedral, the "Duomo". Celebrate Mass at the nearby Basilica of St. Ambrose, where St. Ambrose baptized St. Augustine and where the saint's relics can be seen. Continue on to visit the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie to see the "Last Supper", the famous fresco painted by Leonardo da Vinci. Later in the afternoon we proceed our journey to Turin for an overnight stay. Overnight stay in Turin.

Day: 11

Location: TURIN

Description: This morning we journey to Turin, to visit the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist and venerate the Holy Shroud of Turin, splendid Palazzo Reale and Turin's ancient Roman ruins such as the remains of the Roman walls, the Palatina Portal and the Roman Theatre. We continue to visit and celebrate Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary Help of Christians, was built by St. John Bosco, founder of the Salesian congregation. Later in the evening journey through beautiful Tuscany to arrive Pisa. Overnight stay in Pisa.

Day: 12

Location: PISA - FLORENCE

Description: We begin our day visiting the Square of Miracles, where the Cathedral that was built

almost 1,000 years ago and the cathedral's bell tower – better known as the Leaning Tower of Pisa and baptistery. We carry on with a tour of Florence, which begins with Ponte Vecchio bridge, Santa Maria Novella, the Santa Croce where many nobles are buried such as Michelangelo, Galileo, and Machiavelli; the beautiful Piazza Signoria, the Palazzo Vecchio, Piazza del Duomo and its cathedral with the Giotto Campanille, and the magnificent East Door of the Baptistry known as the “Gate of Paradise”. Overnight stay in Florence.

Day: 13

Location: FLORENCE

Description: This morning we celebrate Holy Mass at the church of St. Ambrose in Florence where, in the Chapel of the Miracle, a monstrance holds living blood coagulated and incarnated. Relax rest of the day reflect on our pilgrimage or spend time in shopping. Overnight stay in Rome.

Day: 14

Location: DEPART ITALY

Description: After breakfast, we check out from the hotel and then transfer to Rome International Airport for our return flight.