



2023 Pilgrimage

to the

SHRINES OF ITALY

ITINERARY:

13SEP [WED] BRUNEI/SINGAPORE/MILAN/ [D]

14SEP

Departure from Brunei for Singapore. Short transit time in Changi airport before boarding your flight to Milan. Early morning arrival. Coach pick up to take you to Milan. Walking tour of Milan Cathedral and possibility of viewing Leonardo Da Vinci's masterpiece – The Lord's Supper in the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie. Photo stop at La Scala Theatre. Lunch then check in to hotel for overnight accommodations.

15SEP [FRI] MILAN/BRESCIA/PADUA [B/D]

Breakfast then travel to Brescia to the Church of St. Angela to pay homage to the incorrupt body of St. Angela Merici. Her body was exhumed in 1930 and was found to be incorrupt. In 1535, in fulfillment of her earlier vision, she founded what would later become the Institute of Saint Ursula (Ursuline Sisters). The Ursuline Order went on to become the oldest teaching order of religious women in the Catholic Church. After this short visit, continue coach journey to Padua. Stop at The Scrovegni Chapel for a guided tour. The chapel is dedicated to Santa Maria della Carità and is famous all over the world for the extraordinary cycle of paintings by Giotto. Then proceed to Basilica of St. Anthony of Padua, one of the largest churches in the world where the relics of St. Anthony are preserved. In 1263, when his body was transferred to this new Basilica, it was found to have disintegrated except for his tongue and vocal cords, both of which are now on display in reliquaries of the Basilica of Saint Anthony. In addition to the relics of Saint Anthony, the Basilica is one of the most beautiful in Italy. Check into hotel for accommodations.

16SEP [SAT] PADUA/VENICE/PRATO [B/D]

Breakfast then early departure for Venice, capital of Italy's Veneto region. The city was built on one of the islands so it has no roads, just canals. Our pilgrimage visits the famous St. Mark's square and Basilica of St. Mark where St. Mark is buried under the altar. We depart Venice and travel to Prato for overnight accommodations and dinner

17SEP [SUN] PRATO/FLORENCE/SIENNA/ASSISI [B/D]

Breakfast and commence journey to Florence, birthplace of the Renaissance. Walking tour in Florence takes us to visit the Sta. Maria Del Fiore, the Duomo [Cathedral] of Florence, the third largest church in the world and the largest church in Europe when it was built in the 15th Century. Visit will also be made to the beautiful Basilica Di Sta Croce, the largest Franciscan church in the world. Both Michelangelo and Galileo are buried in this church. Get back to the coach to continue journey to Sienna. Walking tour of Sienna, birthplace of St. Catherine. First visit the Cathedral of Sienna - simple externally but most impressive inside. Then to the Sanctuary of St. Catherine, her childhood home. The Church of the Crucifix is also here, which houses the miraculous Crucifix

from which, according to tradition, Saint Catherine received her stigmata. Last stop will be at Basilica Di San Domenico to pay homage the relics of St. Catherine, her head and thumb which are enshrined in one of the altars. Depart Tuscany now and coach journey to the province of Perugia into Assisi. Dinner and overnight accommodations.

18SEP
[MON]

ASSISI [B/D]

After breakfast, Visit Santuario della Spogliazione to pay homage to the tomb of Blessed Carlo Acutis. patron of young computer programmers. He was canonized in October 2020. Visit the Basilica of Santa Maria Degli Angeli which houses the Portiuncula, the Chapel that St. Francis built and where he lived. It was also from here that he started the Franciscan Order. It also houses the Chapel of Transito, where St Francis died and also the thornless rose garden. Then coach drive to the hills of Assisi for a walking tour of this hometown and birthplace of St. Francis. We start by visiting the Basilica of St Claire, the soulmate of St. Francis and founder of the Order of Saint Claire or more commonly called the Poor Claires. St. Claire's incorrupt body now covered in wax can be seen in the crypt of the basilica together with some of her clothing and her beautiful hair which is encased in a glass reliquary. The Basilica also houses the original crucifix which spoke to St. Francis at San Damiano. Continue walk through the town to the Basilica of St. Francis. This is a very impressive Basilica which has 2 levels. The lower Basilica houses the tomb of St. Francis and the upper Basilica has magnificent frescoes lining the walls. One of this is a painting of an actual image of St. Francis. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

19SEP
[TUE]

ASSISI/CASCIA/OSIMO/LORETO [B/D]

Breakfast then coach travel to Cascia, home of St. Rita - patron saint of impossible causes. Visit the Basilica of St. Rita which houses her incorrupt body. We will also see the Crucifix from which she received the Stigmata as well as her cell where she spent the rest of her life. In the lower level of the Basilica we will also see the relics of a Eucharistic Miracle that took place in Siena in 1330. A priest in Siena took a consecrated host and stuck it in his breviary rather than a pyx. When he opened the breviary and he discovered the host was bleeding and that the pages inside were stained with blood. The pages were preserved and numerous tests were performed confirming that it was indeed human blood. From Cascia, proceed by coach to Osimo. home of St. Joseph of Cupertino - patron saint of air traveler and poor students. St. Joseph has been known to levitate and had many visions of God. We will visit his tomb is in the crypt of the Convent Basilica of St. Joseph of Cupertino. Gilded angels hold aloft a glass sarcophagus with the saint's body dressed as a friar and we can also see the rooms where he lived. From Osimo, a short drive brings us to Loreto, one of the holiest and most visited pilgrimage site in Italy. We visit the Sanctuary of Loreto or House of Loreto, believed to be the site of the Annunciation of The Blessed Virgin Mary. Tradition says that the house was transported by angels from Nazareth to Loreto for safety as the Holy Land was besieged. This Holy House is encased in marble in the middle of the Basilica. Dinner then check into hotel for overnight stay.

20SEP
[WED]

LORETO/MANOPELLO/LANCIANO/SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO [B/D]

After breakfast, continue coach journey along the east coast of Italy. Stop at the small town of Manoppello. Visit the Basilica of the Holy Face where the reported Veil of Veronica is enshrined. Tradition states that this is the veil that Veronica used to wipe the face of Jesus during his agony of carrying the cross. The veil has a positive image of a man and can be visibly seen. It has been positively matched to the negative image of the face in the Holy Shroud of Turin. Continue on to Lanciano, another place of Eucharistic miracle. In the 8th century, a monk who doubted the

presence of the Lord in the Eucharist saw the host turn into flesh and wine into blood during mass. The blood type was studied as type AB, same as the blood stain in the Holy Shroud of Turin. This Eucharistic Miracle is known to be the greatest miracle in the Catholic church. The miracle is enshrined in glass in the sanctuary of the Church of San Francesco which we will visit. Proceed to San Giovanni Rotondo, one of the most popular pilgrimage sites in Italy as this is where Padre Pio spent most of his life and service. Dinner and overnight.

21SEP
[THU]

SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO [B/D]

After breakfast, your full day is free to spend in the Shrine of Padre Pio - visit his Incorrupt body, do the stations of the cross, visit Our Lady of Grace Church which houses the original confessional of Padre Pio and the altar where he celebrated mass during his time.

22SEP
[FRI]

SAN GIOVANI ROTONDO/MONTE ST ANGELO/ROME [B/D]

After breakfast, depart for short drive to Monte Sant'Angelo - St. Michael's Cave where St. Michael the Archangel appeared in year 490. We will visit the Sanctuary of Monte St Angelo which was built on the cave where he appeared and has since then become known as the Celestial Basilica. St Michael ordered the Bishop to enter the cave, telling him that it was not necessary **for** him to consecrate the cave since he, Saint Michael, had already done it. Thus it is the only building of worship in the Catholic Church that has not been consecrated by man making it one of the holiest places in Catholic pilgrimages. Saint Michael's Cave is one of the seven sacred sites along an imaginary line stretching from Ireland to Israel, known as "The Sword of Saint Michael". Drive on to Rome for dinner and accommodations.

23SEP
[SAT]

ROME [B/L]

Breakfast then a full day visiting the important pilgrim churches.;

- Basilica of St. Peter's Basilica - Visit the Tomb of St. Peter, Pope Benedict and other popes
- Basilica of St. John Lateran - Mother of all Churches in the world and seat of the Bishop of Rome - Pope Francis himself
- Basilica of Sta Croce - relics of the cross and the crown of thorns
- Basilica of Sta Maria Maggiore - relic of the Holy Manger from Bethlehem
- Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls - tomb and chains of St. Paul
- Church of St Paul in Tres Fontane - Jail of St. Paul and site of his martyrdom

Dinner then return to hotel for accommodations

24SEP
[SUN]

ROME/SUBIACO/ROME [B/L]

After breakfast, a short coach travel to Subiaco for our visit to the beautiful Monastery of St Benedict , set like a gem in the rocky wall of Monte Taleo. The Sanctuary of the Sacro Speco has for almost a thousand years kept one of the most significant places of Benedictine spirituality: the cave where, at the beginning of the sixth century, the very young St Benedict from Norcia lived as a hermit. A walking tour around the monastery will also show us beautiful frescoes with one particularly precious - the oldest existing portrait of St. Francis of Assisi , one of notable saints who made a pilgrimage to the Holy Cave. After lunch, visit will also be made to the Monastery of St. Scholastica. Return to Rome for accommodations.

25SEP
[MON]

ROME [B]

Breakfast. Whole day is free for your own private activities.

26SEP
[TUE]
27SEP
[WED]

ROME/SINGAPORE/BRUNEI [B]

After breakfast. Transfer to airport for your flight back to Brunei via Singapore

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DATE	FLIGHT	ROUTE	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
13SEP	SQ181	BRUNEI/SINGAPORE	1545H	1755H
14SEP	SQ356	SINGAPORE/MILAN	2330H	0610H
26SEP	SQ365	ROME/SINGAPORE	1200H	0600H
27SEP	SQ148	SINGAPORE/BRUNEI	1235H	1445H

TOUR COST INCLUSIONS

- 1] Return economy class airfare on Singapore Airlines
- 2] Airline taxes , fuel surcharge and terminal fees
- 3] Twin Share accommodations at 3-4 star hotels in following cities:

CITY	PROPOSED HOTEL	NO. OF NIGHTS
MILAN	Holiday Inn Milan Nord	1
PADUA	Crowne Plaza Padova	1
PRATO	Charme Hotel	1
ASSISI	Grand Hotel Assisi	2
LORETO	San Francesco Hotel	1
SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO	Hotel Parco Delle Rose	2
ROME	Hotel Cicerone	4

- 4] Hotel taxes, Service Charge, City tax
- 5] Meals as indicated in itinerary
- 6] English speaking guide where tours have been arranged
- 7] Exclusive use of air conditioned long distance coach
- 8] Tips to drivers, meeting guides and tour guides
- 9] Entrance fees and use of whisper system where required

TOUR COST EXCLUSIONS

- 1] Travel Insurance
- 2] Visa and other travel documentation fees
- 3] Porterage at hotel and airports
- 4] Extra drinks/beverage during meals