



In the Footsteps of Saint Francis

Assisi, San Giovanni Rotondo & Rome



Join the Parish of St. Francis by the Sea on a pilgrimage in honor of its patron: four nights in the hill town where Saint Francis heard the call to rebuild the Church, the mountain of the stigmata at La Verna, the Eucharistic miracle of Lanciano, the tomb of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, and Rome for an audience with the Holy Father, with an optional three night extension.

SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 7, 2027 · EXTENSION TO OCTOBER 10

DEPARTING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 · RETURNING OCTOBER 7, OR OCTOBER 10 WITH THE EXTENSION

\$3,890 PER PERSON

LAND ONLY · ROME EXTENSION \$1,290 · GROUP AIRFARE QUOTED SEPARATELY

REGISTER EARLY · SPACE IS LIMITED

10

DAYS DOOR TO DOOR

8

HOTEL NIGHTS

+3

ROME EXTENSION

Daily

HOLY MASS ARRANGED

THE VISION

The Way of Saint Francis

Our parish bears the name of Saint Francis of Assisi, and this pilgrimage brings its people home to him. We give Assisi the time it deserves: four nights in the town itself, so that after the day visitors leave, the group prays at his tomb and wakes to the bells of the basilica. From Assisi we climb to La Verna, mountain of the stigmata, then travel through Lanciano, site of the Church's most celebrated Eucharistic miracle, to the tomb of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina.

The pilgrimage ends where the Church begins: a Wednesday audience with the Holy Father in St. Peter's Square and an afternoon in St. Peter's Basilica. For those who wish to stay, a three night Rome extension opens the great basilicas, the catacombs, and the centro storico, with generous free time each day for prayer and the pleasures of Rome itself.



ASSISI

The Basilica of Saint Francis

Four nights beside the tomb of our patron, with Mass in the basilica, the Giotto frescoes, San Damiano, and the Portiuncula.



TUSCANY

La Verna, Mountain of the Stigmata

A day on the wooded cliff where Saint Francis received the wounds of Christ in 1224, with Mass at the Chapel of the Stigmata.



SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

Two nights in the town of Padre Pio: his confessional, the crucifix of the stigmata, his tomb, and the cave of Saint Michael the Archangel.



ROME

The Papal Audience

A Wednesday morning with the Holy Father in St. Peter's Square, then St. Peter's Basilica at the tomb of the Apostle.

DAY BY DAY

The Itinerary

Daily Mass is the heart of our pilgrimage and will be arranged at the most fitting sacred sites along our route. Breakfast and dinner are included daily, from our welcome dinner on arrival through breakfast on the day of departure, with lunches on your own. Sites, order, and timings are subject to refinement as the program is finalized.

DAY 1 Departure from Charlotte

TUE · SEPT 28, 2027

Our pilgrimage begins as we depart Charlotte on our overnight flight to Rome, with dinner and breakfast served on board. We travel with the intentions of the whole parish of St. Francis by the Sea.

OVERNIGHT: FLIGHT TO ROME

DAY 2 Arrival, Orvieto & the Road to Assisi

WED · SEPT 29, 2027

FEAST OF THE HOLY ARCHANGELS

We land in Rome on the Feast of the Archangels and drive north to the hill town of Orvieto, whose golden Duomo enshrines the Corporal of Bolsena, the Eucharistic miracle that gave the Church the feast of Corpus Christi. After veneration and time in the old town, we continue into Umbria and arrive in Assisi. In the evening we gather with our chaplain and fellow pilgrims: welcome to Italy!

OVERNIGHT: FOUR-STAR HOTEL, ASSISI

DAY 3 Assisi: The Basilica & San Damiano

THU · SEPT 30, 2027

We begin with Holy Mass at the Basilica of Saint Francis and time in prayer at the tomb of the saint, surrounded by Giotto's frescoes of his life. In the afternoon we walk down to San Damiano, the little church where the crucifix spoke to Francis, "rebuild my Church," and where Saint Clare of Assisi lived and died. We return by way of Santa Maria Maggiore, where the tomb of Saint Carlo Acutis is venerated, and the Basilica of Saint Clare, where that same crucifix hangs today.

OVERNIGHT: FOUR-STAR HOTEL, ASSISI

DAY 4 The Portiuncula, the Hermitage & the Vineyards

FRI · OCT 1, 2027

This morning we descend to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, built over the Portiuncula, the chapel Saint Francis rebuilt with his own hands and where he died, then climb Mount Subasio to the Eremo delle Carceri, the hermitage caves of the first brothers. The afternoon offers a choice: free time in Assisi for prayer, shopping, or rest, or an optional excursion into the Umbrian wine country for a tasting with lunch among the vineyards.

OVERNIGHT: FOUR-STAR HOTEL, ASSISI

DAY 5 La Verna, Mountain of the Stigmata

SAT · OCT 2, 2027

A full day pilgrimage into the Tuscan Apennines to La Verna, the mountain given to Saint Francis of Assisi for prayer and penance, where in September 1224 he received the stigmata, the wounds of Christ. We celebrate Holy Mass at the sanctuary and visit the Chapel of the Stigmata, the Sasso Spicco where Francis slept on stone, and the Della Robbia ceramics of the basilica, with time for silence in the forest he loved.

OVERNIGHT: FOUR-STAR HOTEL, ASSISI

THE ITINERARY · CONTINUED

DAY 6 Lanciano & the Road South

SUN · OCT 3, 2027

Departing Assisi after breakfast, we cross the Apennines to Lanciano, where in the eighth century a doubting monk saw the host become flesh and the wine become blood at the words of consecration. The miraculous Flesh and Blood remain exposed for veneration, and we celebrate Sunday Mass in this church of the Eucharistic Miracle. We continue south along the Adriatic to San Giovanni Rotondo, home of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina.

OVERNIGHT: FOUR-STAR HOTEL, SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

DAY 7 Padre Pio & the Cave of Saint Michael

MON · OCT 4, 2027

FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

On the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi we celebrate Holy Mass in San Giovanni Rotondo, where his spiritual son Saint Pio of Pietrelcina bore the stigmata for fifty years. We pray at the tomb of Padre Pio, visit the old Church of Our Lady of Grace with his confessional and the crucifix before which he received the wounds, and see the hospital he founded. In the afternoon we drive up the Gargano to Monte Sant'Angelo, the grotto sanctuary of Saint Michael the Archangel, a pilgrimage destination for fifteen centuries. Dinner in San Giovanni Rotondo.

OVERNIGHT: FOUR-STAR HOTEL, SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

DAY 8 Monte Cassino & the Road to Rome

TUE · OCT 5, 2027

After a final morning prayer with Padre Pio we board our coach for the drive across Italy to Rome. At the group's preference, and at no additional cost, we can break the journey at Monte Cassino, the mountaintop abbey where Saint Benedict of Nursia wrote his Rule and where he and his sister Saint Scholastica lie buried. We arrive in Rome in the late afternoon, and the evening is deliberately simple: check-in, rest, and dinner together near the hotel. Tomorrow belongs to the Holy Father.

OVERNIGHT: FOUR-STAR HOTEL, ROME

DAY 9 The Papal Audience & St. Peter's

WED · OCT 6, 2027

The morning every pilgrim waits for: we take our seats in St. Peter's Square for the Wednesday General Audience with the Holy Father. After lunch on your own near the Vatican, we enter St. Peter's Basilica itself: the tomb of Saint Peter the Apostle beneath the high altar, Michelangelo's Pietà, and the church built over the bones of the fisherman. Group dinner this evening.

OVERNIGHT: FOUR-STAR HOTEL, ROME

DAY 10 Farewell, or Rome Continues

THU · OCT 7, 2027

Pilgrims on the base program transfer to the airport after breakfast for return flights to Charlotte. For those on the Rome extension, the morning opens the great basilicas: St. John Lateran, cathedral of Rome, the Holy Stairs, and St. Mary Major with the Salus Populi Romani. The afternoon is free, and in the evening we walk the centro storico as Romans do: the Pantheon, Piazza Navona, the Trevi Fountain, and gelato along the way.

OVERNIGHT (EXTENSION): FOUR-STAR HOTEL, ROME

DAY 11 · EXTENSION The Catacombs & Underground Rome

FRI · OCT 8, 2027

We celebrate Holy Mass in the catacombs on the Appian Way, in the burial galleries of the first Christians, and walk a stretch of the ancient road itself. Returning toward the center, we descend through the Basilica of San Clemente, three layers of the city's Christian story. The group is free from mid-afternoon; a visit to the Scavi excavations beneath St. Peter's, at the tomb of the Apostle, may be requested in advance, subject to Vatican confirmation.

OVERNIGHT (EXTENSION): FOUR-STAR HOTEL, ROME

DAY 12 · EXTENSION St. Paul & the Centro Storico

SAT · OCT 9, 2027

We begin at St. Paul Outside the Walls, the great basilica over the tomb of Saint Paul the Apostle, then take the heart of old Rome by daylight: the Gesù, Sant'Ignazio and its painted false dome, and the Caravaggios of San Luigi dei Francesi, ending at the Pantheon where the group scatters into the streets. The afternoon is free for last purchases and prayers before our farewell dinner in Rome.

OVERNIGHT (EXTENSION): FOUR-STAR HOTEL, ROME

DAY 13 · EXTENSION Departure from Rome

SUN · OCT 10, 2027

After breakfast and hotel check-out, we transfer to the airport for our return flights to Charlotte, having kept the feast of our patron in his own country and stood in the square of Saint Peter the Apostle with the Holy Father and the whole Church.

THE LAND PACKAGE

Pricing & Payment

FLIGHTS ARRANGED BY PROROME

Prices below are land only. ProRome books the group flights from Charlotte under a group air contract, so no pilgrim books air individually. Airfare is quoted once fall 2027 fares open and added to your balance; the schedule is published on the trip webpage.

ROME EXTENSION: ADD **\$1,290** · SINGLE OCCUPANCY: ADD **\$1,190** FOR THE PILGRIMAGE, **\$590** FOR THE EXTENSION

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Price Inclusions

8 nights in four-star hotels (4 Assisi · 2 San Giovanni Rotondo · 2 Rome), double occupancy; the extension adds 3 further Rome nights

ProRome Tour Manager throughout the course of the trip

Professional English-speaking Catholic guides for all visits

Seating for the Wednesday Papal Audience; ProRome will endeavor to coordinate reserved seats, which cannot be confirmed until booking

All tours & entry tickets for the sites listed

Deluxe air-conditioned private coach throughout, including airport transfers

Daily buffet breakfast and daily dinner

Audio guiding system throughout

Organization of daily Holy Mass at sites along the itinerary

All local, city, and state taxes

NOT INCLUDED

Airfare & Extras

International airfare from Charlotte, arranged by ProRome as a group contract, quoted once fall 2027 fares open

Lunches throughout the trip

Beverages at included dinners

Voluntary cash donations to churches hosting Holy Mass, customary, about 2 to 5 euros per church

Trip insurance, available through ProRome and strongly recommended

Gratuities for Tour Manager and driver, suggested 2 to 5 euros per day for each

Any personal expenses

PER PERSON

Payment Schedule

\$300 deposit due with registration

\$1,795 due 180 days before departure

\$1,795 final land balance, due 150 days before departure

Group airfare, once contracted, due 120 days before departure · **single occupancy** surcharge, if desired, due 90 days

More information and registration: www.prorometours.com/italy-2027-stfrancis · registration code **stfrancis**

Prices are in US dollars, per person in double occupancy. Sites, order, and timings are subject to refinement as the pilgrimage is finalized.

ProRome Tours

(434) 953-1112 · info@prorome.com · prorometours.com

ST. FRANCIS BY THE SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH · PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY · FALL 2027