



**SALT + LIGHT
JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
PILGRIMAGE TO ROME AND ASSISI
CANONIZATION OF BLESSED MOTHER TERESA OF
CALCUTTA**

Tue. Aug. 30 – Thu. Sep. 08, 2016

\$2,990.00 PLUS AIR TAXES
PER PERSON / DOUBLE

Rome • Assisi • Rome

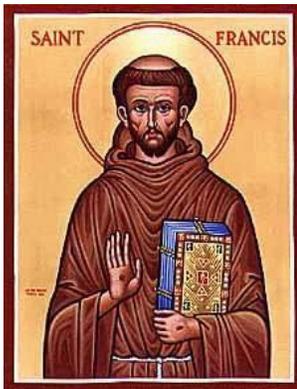


Your 10 Day Itinerary

Day 1 – Tue. Aug. 30

Meet at Toronto Airport for departure to Rome. Enjoy complimentary meals and beverage service during the overnight direct flight.

Depart Toronto



Day 2 – Wed. Aug. 31

Rome / Assisi

On arrival to Rome, we board our waiting coach and make our way north to the beautiful Umbrian town of **Assisi**, known as the birthplace of **St. Francis and St. Clare**. With its sacred shrines, and rich tradition of culture, Assisi has been a pilgrimage destination for centuries. On arrival, we will have mass in one of the many churches, followed by a gentle walk through Assisi “the green heart of Italy”. As we get oriented to the historic town, we become acquainted with the beauty of Assisi’s cobblestone lanes, flowering balconies and medieval architecture. After check in to our hotel, we will have our first delicious Italian dinner. The rest of the day is ours to continue our exploration of this quaint town before retiring for the evening. (D) Overnight S. Maria Degli Angeli – Hotel Los Angeles (or similar) - 3 nights

Day 3 – Thu. Sep. 01

Assisi

Assisi, set amid Umbria's rolling hills, is best known as the **birthplace of St. Francis of Assisi** — patron saint of Italy, founder of the Franciscan order, and one of the most popular Catholic saints in history. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis was inspired by this beloved Saint. A humble man himself, Pope Francis has identified with a life rejecting luxuries for simplicity and humility. The exceptionally well-preserved town of Assisi, with its Roman ruins, winding medieval streets and sacred shrines, has been a major Catholic pilgrimage destination for centuries and is today one of the most popular tourist destinations in Italy. We begin our day with Holy Mass at the **Basilica of St. Francis**, followed by a guided tour visiting the **major sites associated with St. Francis and St. Clare**. Kneel before the crucifix from which Jesus spoke to St. Francis asking him to rebuild his church and focus on the life of St. Francis as depicted in Giotto's frescoes in the Basilica.



On our walking tour, we visit **St. Mary Major Church**, the site where 800 years ago, St. Francis renounced his family inheritance, disrobing in the presence of his father and the bishop. We then go to **Chiesa Nuova**, a seventeenth-century, Renaissance-style church. With its high dome and frescoes, this church was built on the grounds where St. Francis was born. Next, we will visit **San Damiano**, the church where St. Francis heard God's call and where St. Clare created her religious community. We also visit the **Basilica of St. Clare** a 13th-century church that houses the incorrupt relics of St. Clare, friend and protégé of St. Francis as well as the miraculous "San Damiano" crucifix that spoke to Francis. (B, D)

Day 4 – Fri. Sep. 02 Assisi / Eremo delle Carceri / Assisi

The morning, we taxi up the winding road to the **Eremo delle Carceri** located in the caves on the densely wooded slope of Monte Subasio just outside the walls of Assisi. St. Francis first began coming to this beautiful place in the forest in 1205. He often returned here during his life to pray and contemplate. The peacefully isolated church and monastery retain the tranquil air loved by St. Francis. The tour through the site is a delightful circuit that involves ducking through tiny medieval doorways and squeezing down narrow stone stairways. We take time here for private reflections. Later in the afternoon, we continue to **Rivotorto**, a stream at the foot of Mount Subasio where St. Francis and his followers lived in an abandoned hovel. We will then travel to village of **Santa Maria degli Angeli**, to visit the Porziuncola and the **Church of St. Mary of the Angels**, headquarters of St. Francis and his brothers, and the place to which St. Clare ran away from her family to embrace her call to serve God. Nearby is the site of Francis' death. We return to our hotel for



dinner and overnight. (B, D)

Day 5 – Sat. Sep. 03 Assisi / Cascia / Rome

This morning, after breakfast, we depart Assisi for **Cascia**, best known for two main events. First, it is the home of **Saint Rita of Cascia**, one of Catholicism's most revered saints, often referred to as the "Saint of the Impossible". It is also the place where a **Eucharistic Miracle** that took place in Siena, is preserved. We'll visit the **Basilica of St. Rita** where her body rests in a separate chapel as well as her relics including the Crucifix from which she received the Stigmata. We will also see her cell where she spent her life. From here, we continue onward to **Rome**, the Eternal City, which remains one of the most beautiful and interesting cities of the world. We have a "get acquainted" panoramic tour, and after our day filled with the beauty of Italy, we'll check into our hotel and enjoy a tasty dinner. (B, D)

Overnight Rome – Princess Hotel (or similar) - 5 nights



Day 5 – Sun. Sep. 04 Rome / Canonization Ceremony of Blessed Mother Teresa

We have a very early morning departure to Vatican City. Pending more specific plans by the Vatican, we will head over to Saint Peter's Square for the **Canonization of Blessed Mother Teresa**. We walk to Vatican City to **attend Holy Mass and the Canonization Ceremony** celebrated by his Holiness Pope Francis. Following this important event, go to the **Dome of St. Peter's Basilica** for an impressive view of Vatican City. Return to our hotel and remainder of the day is free to explore. (B, D)

Day 6 – Mon. Sep.05 Rome

We begin our day with a visit at the **Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls**, housing the Tomb of St. Paul the Apostle, and one of the 4 Papal Basilicas that have a Holy Door (Porta Sancta). We enter through the Holy Door and celebrate Mass. After Mass, we will have a tour of the basilica. The Holy Doors (Porta Sancta) are normally sealed shut, but during this Jubilee Year of Mercy, they are opened so that pilgrims may enter through those doors to gain the plenary indulgence. We will **enter through the Holy Doors of all four major**



basilicas during our time in Rome. We continue this day exploring the Rome of Catholics with our guide. We will pass through the Holy Doors and visit **The Basilica of St. Mary Major** (Our Lady of the Snows) one of the oldest shrines dedicated to the Blessed Mother, that contains a relic from manger of the infant Jesus; and **The Basilica of St. John Lateran**, known as "Cathedral of Rome and of the World." We will visit **The Sanctuary of the Holy Stairs** (Scala Santa) where we find the very steps that Christ climbed when he appeared before Pontius Pilate. There are 28 marble steps, covered in wood but with slots in the wood so that you can actually see the steps. Return back to our hotel to rest up before dinner. (B, D)

Day 7 – Tue. Sep. 06 Rome

Wake up in the spiritual capital for all Catholics around the world. We start this day at the **Tomb of St. John Paul II**, entering first through St. Peter's Holy Door, known also as "Door of the Great pardon". Following our Mass, we continue with a tour of **St. Peter's Basilica**, built over the tomb of St. Peter, martyred on Vatican Hill, We will visit the **Vatican Museums** to see some of the priceless and irreplaceable art, treasures and relics, the beauty of which reflects a positive joy and hope. We will go on to visit the overwhelming **Sistine Chapel**, one of the most famous art galleries in the western world and the place in which papal elections in conclave are held still to this day. We will delight in the astonishing artistry of Michelangelo's Last Judgement.

Day 8 – Wed. Sep. 07 Rome – Papal Audience & Vatican City

Early this morning, we make our way to **St. Peter's Basilica** to attend the **Papal Audience and Blessing** given by His Holiness Pope Francis (depending on Vatican schedules). Following the audience, we will go on tour to explore some of the **ancient cultural sites** around the city. This promises to be a full and satisfying day that will be followed by our Farewell dinner at a local restaurant before returning to our hotel for a restful night. (B, D)



Day 9 – Thu. Sep 08 Return to Toronto

After breakfast, we depart Rome airport for our same day flight back to Toronto. (B)

It is our intention to operate all tours as described in the itineraries. Local operational situations occasionally force changes to be made and we reserve the right to do so.

Cost of Pilgrimage – 10 Days including travel days

\$2,990.00	- Base on double occupancy
Single	- Very limited, on Request only

Package includes:

- Roundtrip airfare from Toronto with Air Canada
- 8 nights' accommodation in 3* and 4* hotels
- Breakfast and Dinner daily
- Transportation by deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- Local English speaking guide
- Admission fees to sites visited
- Baggage handling at hotel where available
- Daily Mass at unforgettable locations
- Spiritual Leader: Fr. Frank Freitas
- Services of a Professional Escort to take care of all services from beginning to end

Not included: Air taxes and fuel surcharges (approx. \$595.00), gratuities, insurance, meals not specified.

Reservations, deposits and payment:

- A deposit of \$500.00 plus optional Travel Insurance Premium is due at the time of booking.
- A copy of the information page of your current passport must accompany this completed form.
- Balance is due 90 days prior to departure (Wednesday, June 01, 2016).
- Payment may be made by personal cheque or credit card.
- If a booking is made 90 days or less prior to departure full payment is due. Reservations received after this date are subject to availability and currency fluctuations.
- We recommend strongly that you purchase cancellation insurance

Please call for your personal insurance quote.

Please Contact – Liz Dachuk or Glyn Morgan
Connaissance Travel and Tours
416-291-2676 ext. 239 or 348 / Toll free 877-702-7729 xt 239 or 348
Email: lizdachuk@connaissancetravel.com

Connaissance Travel Terms and Conditions

Cancellations & refunds:

All cancellations must be submitted in writing. Cancellation will be effective upon receipt of official confirmation of reservation.

Cancellation Penalties as follows:

- Cancellations prior to final payment date, \$100.00 administrative fee plus Travel Insurance Premium will be retained.
- 89 – 60 days prior to departure 50% of the total price plus Travel Insurance Premium will be retained.
- 59 – 30 days prior to departure 75% of total price plus Travel Insurance Premium will be retained.
- 29 – 0 days prior to departure 100% of total price plus Travel Insurance Premium will be retained.
- Refunds for unused accommodation and services are limited to the amounts returned by carriers, sightseeing operators and hotels. No refund or adjustment can be made for any portion of journey not used.

Connaissance Travel and Tours reserves the right to cancel a tour if the minimum number of participants is not reached by the deadline. In case of cancellation by Connaissance Travel and Tours, the full amount paid will be reimbursed and this will represent the final settlement.

Good Value and Expectations:

The Ministry of Consumer Relations requires that Ontarians traveling abroad be advised that they may encounter different living standards and practices than those at home.

Insurance:

We strongly recommend that you purchase cancellation insurance to protect you in the event of trip cancellation, protection to your baggage and to cover you against personal accidents, sickness, injury, and medical expenses or bereavement. Please call us for your quote. The insurance premium is non-refundable. It is the client's responsibility to understand the conditions, policies, and exclusions of their insurance policy.

Flight Times:

All flight times are subject to change with or without notice to the traveller. Connaissance Travel and Tours does not accept liability for missed connections or any expenses resulting from an off-schedule, reschedule or late flight.

Flight Connections:

Included air is from and returning to Toronto only. In the event of a change in the flights, with or without notice, we cannot accept responsibility for any special connecting fares which you might purchase, not included in the journey itinerary and cannot be changed without penalty.

Air Deviations:

If you change the group air itinerary to accommodate your situation, and to retain the quoted fare for the deviation, you must reserve and pay at the time of quotation. Please note that a name change is not allowed and will be treated as a cancellation.

No Air Reservations:

Most journeys may be purchased as "land only". The air credit is inclusive of the ground transportation credit and guests are fully responsible to make their own arrangements to meet the group at the first night's hotel. Connaissance Travel and Tours will not be responsible for guests arriving late due to delayed flights or for covering missed journey days, missed accommodation costs, extra costs as a result of any delay, or for costs incurred due to the changes in the Connaissance start/end dates and or location. It is recommended that you purchase tickets without restrictions.

Travel Documentation:

A valid Canadian passport, with a validity of 6 months after your return home, is required for all visits outside Canada. It is the sole responsibility of the traveller to ensure proper and valid documentation. Failure to provide valid documentation may result in denied boarding of the aircraft and cancellation of your flight arrangements without refund. If you are holding a passport other than Canada, please advise us and we will determine if a visa is required for entry into the country/countries you will be visiting.

Baggage Allowance:

One piece of checked luggage and one carry-on bag weighing not more than 10lbs is allowed. Your final documents will indicate the specific regulations of the airline that we will be using.

Liability:

Connaissance Travel and Tours has made the advertised arrangements with various suppliers. Although Connaissance Travel and Tours takes great care in selecting these suppliers, the company accepts no responsibility for Acts of Omissions or Errors by our suppliers or employees. The Company reserves the right to refuse any person as a group member at its own discretion. The Company reserves the right to cancel any or all departures with or without prior notice.