

SAMPAGUITA TRAVEL BUREAU PRESENTS

Spiritual Highlights of Italy

9 DAY TOUR FROM ROME to ROME: MAY 20 – 29, 2023

with **Fr. Venerando Sabacan** and **Fr. Cornelio Esguerra Jr.**

Papal Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi

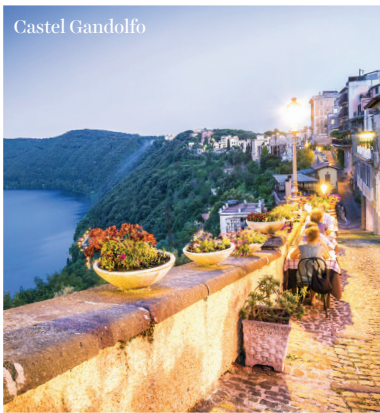


Make a dream of a **FAITH-BASED VACATION** a reality—join **Fr. Vener** and **Fr. Nel** on an inspirational journey to renew your faith, affirm your beliefs and reflect upon centuries of religious history.

Celebrate the feast of St. Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo!



Spiritual Highlights of Italy



On this inspirational tour, you'll have the opportunity to visit the Catholic icons of Rome, such as the four major Basilicas, the Scala Sancta and the Papal summer residence of Castel Gandolfo, attend the Papal Audience, learn about some of Italy's beloved Saints, and attend Mass. Learn about St. Pio of Pietrelcina, a modern-day saint; visit the Shrine of Monte Sant'Angelo, gather in prayer at the Sanctuary of the Eucharistic Miracle in Lanciano, reflect in the Holy House of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Loreto; and admire the timeless beauty of the Basilicas of St. Francis and St. Clare in Assisi. Italy is a must for Catholic travellers and art lovers.

DETAILED ITINERARY: MAY 20 - 29, 2023

May 20, 2023: Depart Canada

May 21, 2023 | Tour Day 1: Arrive in Rome, Italy

Welcome to Italy! Check into your hotel, with rest of the day free to explore on your own. This afternoon, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers, and prepare for your upcoming spiritual journey. Later this evening, a welcome dinner awaits at your hotel. (D)

Tour Day 2: Rome

This morning, attend the Papal Audience (*subject to availability*) for the chance to see the Pope and receive the Papal Blessing.

Later, with a Local Guide, visit St. Paul Outside the Walls, burial place of St. Paul the Apostle, St John Lateran Basilica and St. Mary Major Basilica, the Rome's four major Papal basilicas. Experience the Scala Sancta (Holy Stairs), transported from Jerusalem to Rome around 326 AD by St. Helena, Emperor Constantine's mother. These 28 marble steps are traditionally ascended in a kneeling position with a prayer recital dedicated to Jesus Christ. Then, visit the impressive St. Mary Major Basilica and attend Mass. (B)

Tour Day 3: Rome. Excursion to Castel Gandolfo

A different, quite unique experience is offered today. We will take an included excursion to Castel Gandolfo, a quaint village in the hills outside Rome, to visit the Papal summer residence and its manicured gardens with a Local Guide. This is a unique chance to see the rooms that have been occupied by many Popes over the centuries. Enjoy the opportunity to reflect and meditate in the garden's quiet and relaxing surroundings. In the afternoon, take advantage of time at leisure in Rome or join the optional excursion to the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, world famous for Michelangelo's impressive fresco of The Last Judgment. (B)

> *Today's Distance: 50 mi / 80 km*



Father Pio statue,
Pietrelcina



View of Cascia,
Umbria



Loreto Basilica,
Loreto

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San Giovanni Rotondo

Michael the Archangel appeared in 490, 492, and 1656. Tonight, attend the candlelight procession in San Giovanni Rotondo. (B, D)

> *Today's Distance: 43 mi / 70 km*

Tour Day 6: San Giovanni Rotondo–Lanciano–Loreto–Assisi Area

Visit St. Francis Church in Lanciano, home of the Sanctuary of the Eucharistic Miracle, and attend morning Mass. Continue to the famous Marian Sanctuary of Loreto for a guided visit including the Holy House, where, according to tradition, angels transported the house of the blessed Virgin Mary. Arrive at the hilltop village of Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis and St. Clare. (B, D)

> *Today's Distance: 298 mi / 480 km*

Tour Day 7: Assisi

Today, learn more about St. Francis, patron saint of animals and the environment. Attend early morning Mass at St. Francis Basilica, famous for its 14th-century Giotto frescoes depicting the life of St. Francis. Meet your Local Guide and visit the Upper and Lower Basilicas of St. Francis and the Basilica of St. Clare, founder of the Order of Poor Clares. Next, stop at the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli, situated at the foot of Assisi's hills and protecting the Porziuncola, where St. Francis is said to have founded the Order of Friars Minor in 1209, and the Cappella del Transito, where the saint died in 1226. (B)



Medieval Assisi

Tour Day 8: Assisi Area–Cascia–Rome

Travel to Cascia this morning, a scenic town located in Umbria and home of St. Rita, the "Patron Saint of Impossible Causes." Visit the Sanctuary and see the Major Basilica, housing the chapel with St. Rita's tomb. Stop in prayer at the Minor Basilica, site of the Eucharistic Miracle, commemorated each year with the Feast of Corpus Christi. Return to Rome for a final overnight stay. (B)

> *Today's Distance: 149 mi / 240 km*

Tour Day 9: Rome

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (B)

Tour Day 4: Rome–Pietrelcina–San Giovanni Rotondo

On your way south, stop in quaint Pietrelcina, to visit the house where the beloved St. Pio was born, before heading towards San Giovanni Rotondo on the east coast, the Saint's home from 1916 until his death in 1968. (B, D)

> *Today's Distance: 258 mi / 415 km*

Tour Day 5: San Giovanni Rotondo. Excursion to Monte Sant'angelo

Attend Mass this morning at Santa Maria delle Grazie (Old Church), then visit St. Pio's friary, including his tomb, cell, confessional, and the Padre Pio Pilgrimage Church (New Church). Afterwards, take a short drive to the nearby Shrine of Monte Sant'Angelo, one of Christendom's most celebrated, where St.



Sampaguita Travel Bureau Presents: **Spiritual Highlights of Italy**

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TOUR DETAILS:

- > DEPARTURE DATE from Canada:
May 20, 2023
- > ARRIVAL DATE in Rome, Italy:
(Tour Day 1): May 21, 2023
- > RETURN DATE from Rome, Italy:
(Tour Day 9): May 29, 2023

PRICE: **\$4,166** CAD per person

Price is based on double room occupancy, including roundtrip airfare from/to Grand Prairie, AB and taxes, airport transfers and gratuities to the Tour Director and Coach Driver.

- > **Non-refundable deposit of \$550 per person** is required at time of booking – **SPACE IS LIMITED!**
- > Trip Cancellation and Medical insurance is extra and due at time of booking / deposit; please inquire for a personal quotation (Canadian residents only).
- > **Single supplement: \$370.**
- > Extra nights in Rome may be booked. Please contact Sampaguita Travel for details.
- > Term & Conditions apply; see tour registration form.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

Payment	Due Date	Amount	Balance
Deposit/ 1 st payment	upon registration	\$550	\$3,616
2 nd payment	Nov 18, 2022	\$1,250	\$2,366
3 rd payment	Jan 13, 2023	\$1,250	\$1,116
Final Payment	Mar 3, 2023	\$1,116	–

Prices include Air from Grand Prairie, AB.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ADVENTURE IS KNOCKING with everything you need for perfectly affordable touring. Cosmos includes hand-selected accommodations, guided sightseeing, and seamless transportation between destinations—with value-minded travellers in mind. Explore with expert Cosmos Tour Directors and Local Guides, complimentary headsets, and private, first-class, air-conditioned motorcoach with free Wi-Fi. Enhance your free time to explore like a local with your CosmosGO mobile app!

MEALS: Buffet breakfasts daily, 4 dinners

HOTELS (AS SPECIFIED OR SIMILAR):

ROME: Club House

Hotel Club House is located in a quiet area behind Rome's Via Aurelia, 100 m from Rome's Cornelia Metro Station and 3 stops away from the Vatican City (2 from the Vatican Museums). All 105 guestrooms boast simple but elegant design furnishings in warm colours and Italian woods and offer air conditioning, free Wi-Fi, and satellite TV. Breakfast is a buffet of fresh cakes and pastries and the in-house bar serves a range of refreshing wines, exotic cocktails, and snacks.

SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO: Parco Delle Rose

This family-run, 205-room hotel boasts a large outdoor area with an Olympic-size swimming pool, a wonderful sun terrace and a room with a grand piano. The in-house restaurant offers both traditional and international cuisine and Free Wi-Fi access is available throughout the property.

ASSISI AREA: Casa Leonori

Casa Leonori is located in Santa Maria degli Angeli, facing the Subasio Hills on which lies the Assisi Basilica. This 60-room hotel is set in its own courtyard and boasts a gourmet restaurant and spacious communal areas. The adjacent courtyard offers a nice alternative to relax with its green and peaceful location. Free Wi-Fi internet access is available throughout the property.

ROME: Pineta Palace

The Hotel Pineta Palace is a 4-star hotel in Rome, located not far from Vatican City.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

SAMPAGUITA TRAVEL BUREAU

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