



SPIRITUAL HIGHLIGHTS OF ITALY

9 DAY TOUR FROM ROME TO ROME

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 celebrate 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 travelers and art lovers.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

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.

Dinner

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.

Breakfast

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.
Breakfast

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.
Breakfast/Dinner

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. Michael the Archangel appeared in 490, 492, and 1656. Tonight, attend the candlelight procession in San Giovanni Rotondo.
Breakfast/Dinner

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.
Breakfast/Dinner

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.
Breakfast

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.
Breakfast

Day 9 ROME

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.
Breakfast

FOR INFORMATION OR RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

Catholic Cruises and Tours
Phone: 860-399-1785 or
Email: Brian@CatholicCruisesandTours.com

Tour Start Date	Tour End Date	Land Price
June 16, 2024	June 24, 2024	\$1999
July 16, 2024	July 24, 2024	\$1799
September 19, 2024	September 27, 2024	\$1999
September 24, 2024	October 2, 2024	\$1999
October 8, 2024	October 16, 2024	\$1999
October 15, 2024	October 23, 2024	\$1899
April 29, 2025	May 7, 2025	\$2129
May 6, 2025	May 14, 2025	\$2129
May 21, 2025	May 29, 2025	\$2199
June 16, 2025	June 24, 2025	\$2199
July 15, 2025	July 23, 2025	\$1979
July 29, 2025	August 6, 2025	\$2139
September 2, 2025	September 10, 2025	\$2129
September 9, 2025	September 17, 2025	\$2129
September 19, 2025	September 27, 2025	\$2199
September 23, 2025	October 1, 2025	\$2199
October 7, 2025	October 15, 2025	\$2199
October 14, 2025	October 22, 2025	\$2089