

FRANCISCAN PILGRIMAGE

DATES: APRIL 25 TO MAY 16, 2025 (21 nights)

Day 1: Friday April 25

Arrive Venice and transfer to Casa Cardinal Piazza.

Dinner provided

O'night Casa Cardinal Piazza

Day 2: Saturday April 26

Visit Isola del Deserto and Burano. Lunch on Burano at own cost. Visit to nearby Torcello, the island with ancient mosaics before return to Madonna dell'Orto or San Marco.

Dinner provided

O'night Casa Cardinal Piazza

Day 3: Sunday April 27

Free day to explore Venice

Own dinner arrangements

O'night Casa Cardinal Piazza

Day 4: Monday April 28

Transfer to Tronchetto and train station.

Train to Florence.

Met by coach and taken for panoramic tour including to Piazzale Michelangelo, then transfer to accommodation

Free time and own dinner arrangements

O'night Sanctuary Firenze

Day 5: Tuesday April 29

Full day in Florence. Guided visits to the Duomo, Uffizi and Accademia (statue of David)

Own dinner arrangements

O'night Sanctuary Firenze

Day 6: Wednesday April 30

Check out of Sanctuary Firenze and travel by coach to La Verna

Day visit to La Verna where St Francis received the Stigmata, leaving after the 3pm procession (by 4pm)

O'night Passignano sul Trasimeno with dinner included

Day 7: Thursday May 1

Day visit with ferry crossing to Isola Maggiore where Francis spent Lent 1211, returning by ferry mid-afternoon.

Continue by coach to Assisi and transfer to St Anthony's Guesthouse, run by the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement.

Own dinner arrangements

O'night St Anthony's

Day 8: Friday May 2 – Day 14 Thursday May 8

Visits within Assisi will be arranged by Jenny and John. These will include a guided visit to the Basilica of San Francesco, and visits to San Damiano, the Basilica of Santa Chiara, the Carceri Sanctuary on Mt Subasio, Rivotorto, Santa Maria degli Angeli and other important sites in Assisi. Pilgrims will have many options for reflective time and service attendance, particularly Vespers at San Damiano and Santa Chiara, and Sunday Eucharist at St Leonard's Anglican Chaplaincy. There may also be a half day Franciscan retreat with Archbishop David. Own dinner arrangements each night.

O'night each night at St Anthony's

Day 15: Friday May 9

Return day trip by coach from Assisi to Gubbio where Francis tamed the wolf.

Own dinner arrangements

O'night at St Anthony's

Day 16: Saturday May 10

Check out of St Anthony's

Coach to Rieti Valley. Late morning visit to Poggio Bustone sanctuary where Francis finalised the Rule of the Friars Minor.

Lunch in Rieti township at own cost.

Afternoon visit to La Foresta sanctuary where the miracle of the grapes occurred.

Dinner and overnight Hotel Serena Rieti

Day 17: Sunday May 11

Morning visit to Fonte Colombo sanctuary where Francis was cared for in his illness. Lunch in Rieti township at own cost. Afternoon visit to Greccio sanctuary where Francis created a living nativity scene, the first of its kind.

Dinner and o'night Hotel Serena Rieti

Day 18: Monday May 12

Check out of Hotel Serena.

Travel by coach to Monasterio San Benedetto Subiaco where St Benedict lived for three years in a cave.

Lunch in Subiaco township.

Travel by coach to St John Lateran in Rome where Francis visited the Pope, and the seat of the Bishop of Rome.

Travel by coach to Domus Internationalis Paulus VI

Dinner and o'night at Domus

Day 19: Tuesday May 13

Morning orientation walk in old Rome, possibly finishing with attendance at lunchtime Eucharist at the Anglican Centre in Rome.

Free afternoon to explore. Jenny and John available to guide/advise.

Own dinner arrangements

O'night Domus

Day 20: Wednesday May 14

Attend Papal audience in St Peter's Square.

Afternoon opportunity for pilgrims to visit the Vatican Museums, St Peter's Basilica and Dome.

Dinner and o'night at Domus

Day 21: Thursday May 15

Walking tour to Trastevere via the Jewish Quarter, visits to Church of the Modern Martyrs and the Sanctuary of San Francesco a Ripa, lunch at Gli Amici, visit to St Egidio community, own dinner arrangements, and 8.30pm Vespers at Santa Maria in Trastevere.

O'night Domus

Day 22: Friday May 16

Pilgrimage concludes

Check out of the Domus