

**\$50 Early Booking
Discount if Reserved
by
July 12, 2023**

In the Footsteps of St. Francis

March 4-15, 2024 - 12 Days

\$4699 from Miami

For Information and Reservations, Contact Unitours, Inc.

Telephone: 800-777-7432 – Email: inbox@unitours.com

Monday, March 4 - DAY 1 – DEPART

USA – Today, we depart from Miami to connect with our overnight flight to Venice aboard a wide-bodied jet. We enjoy in-flight movies, dinner, and breakfast aloft.

Tuesday, March 5 - DAY 2 - VENICE –

This morning, we arrive in Venice (or Milan depending on flight arrangements), where we are greeted by our Unitours Tour Manager as we board our motor coach toward Venice, the *Queen of the Cities*, and to our hotel in the nearby Mestre area for our “welcome” dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Wednesday, March 6 - DAY 3 - VENICE

- Venice, the glories that Venice has attracted Byron, Goethe, Wagner, Shakespeare and now - you! Today, following Mass in one of her beautiful churches, time is spent walking the sights of Venice: the splendid Piazza San Marco and the incredibly rich Byzantine Basilica of San Marco. We marvel at the intricate network of elegant squares lined with stately Renaissance villas and palaces. This afternoon, following a break for lunch on our own, we are free for shopping, personal adventure, or an optional romantic gondola ride through the inner canals of Venice. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Thursday, March 7 - DAY 4 - VENICE/ TUSCANY/MONTECATINI -

This morning we depart Venice for our journey to Florence. On our scenic drive through this beautiful countryside, we stop at Padua, including Mass and a tour of the Basilica of St. Anthony to view the largest bronze work of Donatello. We stop for lunch on our own along the way as we continue to Florence’s delightful nearby spa town of Montecatini Terme, whose streets invite us to stroll after dinner at our hotel.

Friday, March 8 - DAY 5 - FLORENCE

– Today, we drive to Florence, where our

first stop will be “Piazzale Michelangelo” for the best panoramic view of this spectacular city one could ask for. We proceed with a tour of the Academia Gallery, where we view one of Michelangelo’s most famous works, “David” (OR MEDICI). We continue with the celebration of Mass and a visit to the Duomo (also known as the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore), in the heart of the city and the fourth largest in the world! There we admire the cupola by Brunelleschi, completed in 1240, its campanile by Giotto. Once outside we view the Baptistry’s with its incomparable bronze doors by Ghiberti. We break for a leisurely lunch on our own at one of the many trattorias that dot the riverfront area, along Florence’s Arno River. We continue our tour of Florence with the Piazza della Signoria, dominated by the Palazzo Vecchio and its iconic embattlement crowned tower. Across from the Palace, we visit the Loggia dei Lanzi with the statues of the Perseus by Cellini; Giambologna’s the “Rape of the Sabines” and “Hercules.” The rest of our day is free for personal exploring, and shopping in this fascinating city on our own before we return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Saturday, March 9 - DAY 6 - FLORENCE -

This morning, we return to Florence to spend more time in this beautiful city and visit the beautiful Basilica of Santa Croce. Among the most famous Italians interred here, lie Galileo, Rossini, Michelangelo, and Machiavelli. Following a break for lunch on our own, we enjoy some free time for shopping or personal adventure in any of the many art museums or taking a walk along the Arno River admiring the enchanting Ponte Vecchio. This evening, our dinner location will be one

“Have questions about this pilgrimage? Ask us! Go to www.Unitours.com/questions.”



of the restaurants of this enchanting city. After our included dinner, we return at our hotel for overnight.

Sunday, March 10 - DAY 7 –

MONTECATINI /SIENA/ASSISI – Today, we journey through the Italian countryside arriving in the magnificent city of Siena. We celebrate Mass at the Dominican Church commemorating St. Catherine; we walk to the famous Piazza del Campo. This shell shaped square is the dramatic setting for the annual Palio bareback horserace. The piazza's focal point is the Palazzo Pubblico, the public palace, which dates to 1250AD. We continue uphill to visit the monumental Cathedral dedicated to the Virgin Mary. We enjoy some free time for lunch on our own and browse the local shops. In the afternoon, we continue south through Umbria to the hilltop village of Assisi, the home of St. Francis. Our first stop is in the lower town for a visit to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, and the Portiuncula, Francis' Church of the Little Portion. We thank St. Francis for two of his most notable gifts to humanity, the *Nativity Scene*, and the *Stations of the Cross*. We proceed to the upper village for dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Monday, March 11 - DAY 8 - ASSISI -

This morning, we begin with a short walk to the Basilica of St. Francesco for Mass. After our visit of the Basilica and the tomb of St. Francis, we begin our walking tour of the village with a visit to the Church of St. Clare “the little plant of Blessed Francis” as she loved to call herself, where we view the San Damiano crucifix that spoke to St. Francis. Kneeling before it, Francis composed the following prayer, which many consider to be among the oldest of his writings: “*All Highest, Glorious God, cast your light into the darkness of my heart. Give me right faith, firm hope, perfect charity, and profound humility, with wisdom and perception, O Lord, so that I may do what is truly your most holy will. Amen.*” A Eucharistic miracle is attributed to St. Clare which is worth noting. In 1240AD, a band of Saracen soldiers were attacking Assisi and had reached the cloistered convent of a now sickly St. Clare. In fear that the soldiers would harm

her sisters, she prayed in front of the Blessed Sacrament for protection. Tradition tells us that Our Lord assured her His protections and when she held the monstrance in front of the soldiers, they fled! This afternoon, following a break for lunch on our own, we can enjoy this picturesque hillside village at our own pace. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Tuesday, March 12 - DAY 9 – ASSISI/

ROME – Today, we depart Assisi and drive south to Rome. We enjoy some time for lunch on our own before starting our guided tour of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. This huge, imposing Basilica, second only to St. Peter's and one of the largest churches in the Christian world, contains an unusual gallery of papal portraits: 265 tablets portraying the popes of the past. We conclude our day with the visit of the Holy Stairs and Basilica of St. John Lateran. We proceed to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Wednesday, March 13 - DAY 10 - ROME -

This morning, we make our way to St. Peter's for an audience with Pope Francis, if he is in residence. This afternoon, following a stop for lunch on our own, we tour the Basilica of St. Mary Major and the Church of St. Peter in Chains to view Michelangelo's most celebrated sculpture, the “Moses.” We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, March 14 - DAY 11 - ROME –

Today, we return to Vatican City where we celebrate Mass below St. Peters. Afterwards, we view the treasures of the Vatican Museum. We marvel at Michelangelo's restored frescoes in the Sistine Chapel and the wonders of St. Peter's, including the famous Bernini altar columns, one Bernini engraved his own Rosary on, and one is rumored to contain the spear of St. Longinus, the roman centurion who pierced the side of our Savior, and was healed by the blood and water that flowed from it! This afternoon, following a break for lunch on our own, we are free to further enjoy this fascinating city. This evening we enjoy our “farewell” dinner with entertainment at a typical local restaurant. We return to the hotel and overnight.

Friday, March 15 - DAY 12 –

ROME/DEPART FOR USA – This morning, we make our way home with memories of a lifetime.

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In the Footsteps of St. Francis AZ0304GS

Mail to: Unitours, Inc. 10 Midland Ave. #202. Port Chester, NY 10573

Please reserve ___ seats on this In the Footsteps of St. Mark Pilgrimage - March 4-15, 2024.

Enclosed please find deposit of \$500 per person (Payable to Unitours, Inc.)

PLEASE ENCLOSE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (Passport MUST be valid until September 15, 2024, or later.)

Name(s) as appears on passport) _____

My Roommate: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip _____

Telephone: _____

Day _____ Evening _____

Email address: _____

Charge my deposit to ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Amex ___ Discover

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

I understand that certain charges such as air taxes, fuel surcharges and rates of exchange can affect the final cost and I agree to pay such costs should adjustments be necessary. _____

Signature _____

TOTAL TOUR PRICE: The tour price is based on airfare, cruise, land rates and rates of exchange in effect May 9, 2023. All rates are subject to change without prior notice. Should the rates go up or down, an adjustment would be made prior to departure. Refunds CANNOT be granted for any accommodations, services or events that are not used nor if you deviate from the tour. If fewer than 30 pilgrims participate a price adjustment may be necessary.

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: A valid passport is required. At the time of printing, U.S. citizens holding valid passports DO NOT REQUIRE visas or immunization for the country or countries being visited. Passport MUST be valid until **September 15, 2024**, or later. Citizens of countries other than U.S. - please contact the consulate of the country or countries being visited to determine visa requirements.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: International flight reservations are being held on Iberia Airlines. No stopovers are permitted. Any changes after ticket is issued carries a mandatory charge of \$200. Once the tickets are issued, they are NON-REFUNDABLE. Additional non-recoverable airline penalties of up to \$200 may be assessed for cancellations received within 90 days of departure.

DOMESTIC AIRFARE: For those who make domestic air arrangements to the originating city of this tour, your tour host and Unitours strongly recommend the purchase of tickets that can be changed without heavy fees and penalties as international flight schedules are always subject to change.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: Specially selected hotels based on twin occupancy with private bath. Single Room supplement of \$675 will be charged where requested and available. If you do not have a roommate and Unitours is unable to arrange one, you will be billed for the single room supplement. All singles are subject to availability.

MEALS: Breakfast and Table D' Hote dinners are provided daily except where noted in the itinerary. An extra charge will be made when coffee, tea or other beverages are not included in the menu of the day with the dinner meal.

TIPS AND TAXES: Tips and taxes normally appearing on hotel and restaurant bills as service are included, as are all government and local taxes on hotels and meals, portage of one suitcase per person. International departure taxes of \$133 plus current fuel surcharges of \$400 are included (subject to change). **TIPS TO TOUR MANAGER/GUIDES, DRIVERS OR DINING ROOMS STAFF OF \$118 ARE NOT INCLUDED.** One average sized suitcase not exceeding 50 lbs total weight and 62 linear inches (height plus width plus depth) is permitted throughout the trip.

NOT INCLUDED: Expenses and items not specifically mentioned in this brochure are NOT covered, including but not limited to: passport and visa fees, meals not listed and items of a personal nature such as laundry, wines, liquors, mineral waters, after dinner coffee or tea, sightseeing or services other than those specifically mentioned, tips and taxes mentioned above, excess baggage and insurance, etc.

DEPOSITS AND CANCELLATIONS: A deposit of \$500 is required to secure reservations. Any balance is to be paid in full no later than 60 days before departure of tour. Final payments received at Unitours after 45 days before departure must include a \$25 late payment fee. (This does not apply for new reservations made after 45 days of departure.) Reservations made within 60 days of departure must include full payment. Amex, Discover, Visa and MasterCard are accepted with signed reservation form. Final payments will be applied to same credit card on final payment due date including insurance. Cancellations made from time of reservation to within

61 days prior to departure - \$400 processing charge plus any air penalties noted above. In the event of a cancellation from 60 to 8 days of departure - \$400 processing charge plus up to 50% of the land cost, plus any air penalties noted above. There can be no refund for any services for cancellations received within 7 days of departure. All cancellation and refund claims must be in writing to Unitours, Inc.

BANK FEE: A fee of \$50 will be charged for any check that is returned to us for insufficient or unavailable funds.

DEVIATIONS: A service charge of \$50 pp will be applied for any deviations made in tour, (where possible), PLUS any additional air or land charges incurred.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Optional Travel Insurance is strongly recommended for your trip. See www.Unitours.com/TravelInsurance for full details. Cost of travel insurance for this trip starts at \$245. To cover preexisting conditions, insurance must be purchased with your reservation. (See reservation form). If paying by check, add insurance cost to your deposit. Insurance can also be purchased at the time of your final payment.

LAND ARRANGEMENTS: The tour operator reserves the right to change the itinerary due to unforeseen emergencies.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Unitours, Inc., the organizer, and their representatives act only as agents for the tour members in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, sightseeing, restaurants or any other services in connection with the itinerary. They will exercise reasonable care in making such arrangements, however, they do not assume any liability whatsoever, for any injury, damage, loss, accident or delay to person or property because of any acts of war or terrorism, any act of default of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, company or person rendering any of the services included in the tours. The tickets, coupons, tariffs, rules or contracts currently in use by any carrier, hotel, restaurant or other contractor rendering services shall constitute the sole contract between such contractor and the tour member. Unitours Inc., or the organizer, accept no responsibility for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather or any other cause beyond their personal control. No carrier shall be responsible for any act, omission or events during the time passengers are not on board its own conveyance. The right is reserved to cancel or change itineraries or substitute services without notice and to decline to accept or retain any passenger at any time. In view of statutory or contractual limitations that may apply to personal injury or property damage losses the purchase of accident and baggage insurance is strongly recommended. Optional travel insurance offered by Unitours must be paid with your final payment.

ERRORS: In case of printing, typographical errors, computer errors, verbal or human billing errors, we reserve the right to invoice or re-invoice participants with corrected billing.





Custom Catholic Pilgrimages

Italy

Padua ● Venice ●

Montecatini Terme ● Florence ●

Siena ● Assisi ●

Rome ●

100 km

STEPMAP