



# Tekton Ministries

*"Serving God's people on their journey of faith"*

*Pilgrimage to*

ITALY

*October 16<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

# ✧ PILGRIMAGE ITINERARY ✧

Assisi



## ✧ Day 1 – Oct. 16: Depart U.S.A.

Our pilgrimage begins as we depart on our overnight flight to Rome. Meals and refreshments will be served aloft.

## ✧ Day 2 – Oct. 17: Rome / Siena

After landing in Rome we will be met at the airport by our local tour manager. Then drive north to Siena where a Eucharistic miracle has been taking place since August 14, 1730 when thieves broke into the Church of St. Francis and stole the ciborium containing consecrated hosts. Three days later, the hosts were discovered in a collection box that was emitting a bright light, and since then have been free from decomposition, remaining fresh and sweet smelling for almost 300 years. On the 17th of each month the consecrated hosts are brought out for public veneration and Eucharistic Adoration which we will attend upon arrival if possible. We will celebrate Mass followed by some time for prayer. Overnight in Siena.

Tuscany



## ✧ Day 3 – Oct. 18: Siena

Our first stop this morning will be St. Dominic Church, St. Catherine of Siena's parish church where she would go into ecstasy – which is where we will celebrate Mass today. Adjacent to the church is her home, where we will see the cell where she fasted and prayed. Then we'll stroll the ancient Gothic streets which converge on the Piazza del Campo, one of the most beautiful squares in the world where we will stop for lunch. The remainder of the day will be free for exploring the city and personal prayer.

## ✧ Day 4 – Oct. 19: Siena / Assisi

Today we transition from Siena to the peaceful home of our patron, St. Francis. On the journey, we will

Basilica of St. Francis



- stop in Cortona to celebrate Mass at the shrine of St. Margaret, TOSF who is preserved in a silver casket in the basilica of Santa Margherita, which bears her name. After some free time in this little Tuscan town, we will retreat to Assisi and begin following directly in the footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare.

## ✧ Day 5 – Oct. 20: Assisi

- Early this morning we will shuttle up Monte Subasio to L'Eremo delle Carceri (the Carceri Hermitage), Francis's favorite retreat. There are many caves here where the Saint and his followers came to for seclusion and prayer. Later in the day we will enjoy a tour of Assisi including visits to the Convent of San Damiano where the miracle of the Eucharist of 1211 took place, the Basilica of St. Clare, and the Basilica of St. Francis where we will celebrate Mass at the tomb of St. Francis.

Rome - St. Peter's Basilica



## ✧ Day 6 – Oct. 21: Assisi / La Verna / Assisi

- This morning we depart for La Verna, stopping first at the little convent of Monte Casale, where St. Francis and his brothers worshipped. In La Verna we will visit the Sanctuary of San Francesco, a site of constant pilgrimage over the centuries and a religious center known all over the world. Monte de La Verna was given by Count Orlando Cattani to St. Francis of Assisi in 1213 A.D. There he founded a small hermitage community and in 1224 he received from Christ the final seal of the stigmata. For the next decade, Francis himself would spend part of the year in quiet meditation in caves and huts on the mountaintop. Today, the sanctuary stands as a unique spiritual site. Surrounded by the beauty of Tuscany it is a reminder of the ancient relationship between our quest for God and nature. We visit the Stigmata Chapel as well as

Sasso Spicco, the great overhanging rock under which Francis delighted to pray, and the beautiful Chapel of the Birds. After some time for prayer and reflection we return to Assisi for dinner and the evening.

#### ✠ Day 7 – Oct. 22: Assisi / Rome

Today we depart Assisi for our final destination – Rome. En route we will make a stop in Foligno to visit the shrines of St. Angela, TOSF and St. James of the Marches, OFM. St. Angela, a famed medieval mystic, was recently canonized by Pope Francis in 2013. Our second stop will be in the medieval town of Greccio for Mass. Set on a beautiful mountaintop, Greccio is known for its connection with St. Francis of Assisi as the birthplace of the Christmas crèche. On Christmas



Night 1223, St. Francis led shepherds to the top of a nearby hill where they gathered together in a stable sheltering an ox and a donkey. According to legend, the Baby Jesus miraculously appeared in the manger. On this spot the Franciscan convent of Greccio was built, and the Chapel of the Crib was erected in 1228, the year St. Francis was canonized. We continue our journey to Rome, which will be our home for the next four nights.

#### ✠ Day 8 – Oct. 23: Rome

We begin our day with visits to three major basilicas in Rome: St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. Mary Major, and St. John Lateran. After Mass, we will walk across the street and visit the Holy Stairs. In the afternoon, we will explore our Franciscan heritage at the tucked-away Capuchin Church of the Immaculate Conception where the shrine of St. Crispin, OFM rests. Crispin, a shoemaker, became famous for many healings as a result of his prayers. His body, in a remarkable state of preservation, rests under a side altar. In the evenings you will have free time where you can visit on your own the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon (now St. Mary & the Martyrs Church), Piazza Navona with Bernini's famous fountains, and Campo de' Fiori (one of the more colorful street markets in Rome).

#### ✠ Day 9 – Oct. 24: Rome

We'll spend all of today at the Vatican, beginning our day with Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, followed by a tour including the Pieta and the Adoration Chapel, which our Holy Father, St Pope John Paul II, opened in 1981. There will also be time to explore the Vatican Museum, including the Sistine Chapel with its breathtaking frescoes painted by Michelangelo.

#### ✠ Day 10 – Oct. 25: Rome

This morning we will experience a highlight of our Roman stay, attendance at the Papal Audience at St. Peter's (subject to the Holy Father's schedule and only on Wednesdays). Join thousands of pilgrims from throughout the world to listen to Pope Francis and receive his blessing. In the afternoon, we will visit the St. Callixtus Catacombs where we will celebrate Mass. After Mass the remainder of the day will be free to explore this wonderful city for one final day. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

#### ✠ Day 11 – Oct. 26: Rome / U.S.A.

Today marks the end of our profound spiritual journey as you board your flight for the trip home.



Rome - Spanish Steps

### Pilgrimage Price:

**\$3,270.00**

*per person/double occupancy*

*For a single occupancy please add \$647.00*

*For land only, please subtract: \$585.00*

#### These rates include:

- ✠ Arrangements for daily Mass
- ✠ Roundtrip economy class airfare from St. Louis on Delta Airlines
- ✠ 9 nights accommodation
- ✠ All municipal hotel taxes as currently levied, VAT tax (22%), parking fees, road tolls and other taxes as currently levied
- ✠ Breakfast and dinner daily
- ✠ Farewell dinner at a local restaurant on day 10
- ✠ Professional tour manager from arrival until departure
- ✠ Comprehensive sightseeing with professional local guides
- ✠ All entrance fees as per itinerary
- ✠ Land transportation by private deluxe motor coach
- ✠ Arrival and departure transfers for group flights only
- ✠ Portage of one piece of luggage at airports and hotels
- ✠ Whisper headsets from arrival until departure

#### These rates do not include:

- ✠ Airline taxes/fuel surcharges (currently \$322.26 per person, but subject to change until the time of ticketing)
- ✠ Gratuities to tour manager, local guides, drivers, and hotel/restaurant staff
- ✠ Lunches, drinks with meals, extras at hotels and any expenses of a personal nature

*Departures from other airports available upon request.*

**Register Online at:**

[www.tektonministries.org](http://www.tektonministries.org)

*For more information, please contact:*



## **Tekton Ministries**

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**Reservations and Payment:** Tekton Ministries requires a deposit of \$300.00 per person at the time of booking. This deposit forms a part of your final payment which is due 75 days prior to departure. Reservations made within 74 days of departure must be accompanied by payment in full. Payments made by credit card will incur a convenience fee. Any reservations received within 45 days of departure will incur a late booking fee of \$100.00 per person. This pilgrimage is based upon a minimum of 22 total pilgrims. Surcharges may be assessed for a smaller group size.

**Cancellations:** All cancellations must be in writing. The following per person cancellation charges will apply in addition to any airline penalties or any charges incurred by our suppliers: If canceled 91 days or more prior to departure, a \$75.00 administrative fee will be charged. If canceled 90 - 31 days prior to departure, \$150.00 will be charged. If canceled 30 - 15 days prior to departure, \$450.00 will be charged. If canceled 14 - 7 days prior to departure \$700.00 will be charged. No refunds will be made within 6 days of departure. In addition, once the airline tickets have been issued, 100% of the airfare is non-refundable unless you have been advised otherwise at the time of your booking.

**Travel Documents:** A passport which is valid for 6 months past the date of your return flight home is required of all U. S. citizens. However, U.S. citizens do not require visas for Italy. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please call to find out if you need a visa. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for individual visas or passports.

**Hotels:** Accommodations are based on double occupancy rooms with private facilities. A limited number of single rooms are available at the supplement quoted and should be requested at the time of booking.

**Air Transportation:** Air travel is in economy class on Delta Airlines. Fares are based upon levels in effect at the time of printing and fares and flight schedules are subject to change without notice. Note that any ticketing changes made within 90 days of your departure date will incur airline penalties.

**Baggage:** Each passenger is allowed one checked bag and one carry-on. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen baggage.

**Travel Insurance:** We strongly recommend that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. Registration information will be provided upon receipt of your deposit.

**Not Included:** Passport/visa fees, Airline taxes/fuel surcharges (currently \$322.26 per person, subject to change until time of ticketing), gratuities to tour manager, local guides, drivers, and hotel/restaurant staff, personal travel insurance, laundry, beverages and items not on the regular menu of included meals, excess baggage charges, optional sightseeing and expenses of a personal nature.

**Refunds:** Subject to the foregoing Cancellation Terms, upon cancellation of travel related services, all sums paid to Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours for such services will be promptly returned to the passenger, provided the passenger has not caused such cancellation and is not in violation of any of the terms and conditions previously, clearly and conspicuously disclosed and agreed to by the passenger. This refund provision does not apply where Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours has remitted the payment to another registered seller of travel or a carrier and

they default in providing the agreed-upon transportation or service without providing a refund. In such a situation, Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours agrees to provide passenger with a written statement accompanied by a copy of the bank records establishing the disbursement of the payment, and if disbursed to a seller of travel, proof of their current registration.

**Trust Account Disclosure:** California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. George's International Tours has such a trust account.

**Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"):** George's International Tours is a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"). You, the passenger, may request reimbursement from TCRC if George's International Tours was registered and participating in the TCRC at the time of sale and the passenger is located in California at the time of payment. Please be advised that passengers purchasing from outside of California are not covered by the TCRC. Eligible passengers may file a claim with TCRC if the passenger is owed a refund of more than \$50 for transportation or travel services which George's International Tours failed to forward to a proper provider or if such money was not refunded to you when required. The maximum amount, which may be paid by the TCRC to any one passenger is the total amount paid on behalf of the passenger to George's International Tours, not to exceed \$15,000. A claim must be submitted to the TCRC within six months after the scheduled completion date of the travel. A claim must include sufficient information and documentation to prove your claim and a \$35 processing fee. You must agree to waive your right to other civil remedies against a registered participating Seller of Travel for matters arising out of a sale for which you file a claim with the TCRC, if you were located in California at the time of the sale. You may request a claim form by writing to: Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation, P.O. Box 6001, Larkspur, CA 94977-6001; or by faxing a request to 415-927-7698.

**Responsibility Clause:** Tekton Ministries, George's International Tours and/or their cooperating selling agents and/or their suppliers of services offer these tours for sale only on the express understanding that they themselves do not perform or in any way assume liability for the performance of the individual components, transfers, hotels, flights, car, motorcoaches, etc. of these tours and act only to combine these components into a single unit of sale for the convenience of the general public, and are not responsible therefore, either directly or indirectly, for any loss, accident, or injury which may result from any act, omission, negligence in or responsible for performing or providing these component services. The transportation companies concerned take no responsibility for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not aboard their conveyances. The passenger contract issued by the transportation company shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation company and the passenger. Additional expenses incurred as a result of delay, change of schedules, illness, weather, strikes, hostilities, quarantine, government requisition of hotel space or any other reasons beyond the control of the tour operator or travel agent shall be borne by the passenger. Tour operator reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category if necessary and to alter itineraries. Your deposit certifies that you agree with the above terms and conditions.

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