



Join us on a pilgrimage to **Italy**

Includes shuttle to and from ORD Airport
\$3999 Cash/Check Discount Price

12 DAYS: February 1- 12, 2024

Roundtrip from O'Hare International Airport (ORD)

Under the Spiritual Direction of
Fr. Eric Berns

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Florence
- San Gimignano
- Siena
- Arezzo
- Orvieto
- Assisi

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Siena

Siena, the birthplace of Saint Catherine, is a visual and spiritual masterpiece. Beginning with its cathedral striped in white and black marble, Siena astounds visitors with architectural and artistic wonders. Home to the purest spoken Italian, Siena is a city that feels like a collection of neighborhoods (“contrade”), each offering its own delights.



Orvieto

Orvieto is a city set on a hill that cannot be hidden! Rising dramatically above the plain in southwest Umbria on a volcanic plateau, its Etruscan origins are evident. The crown jewel of Orvieto is its magnificent cathedral, built following a Eucharistic miracle in the Middle Ages.



Assisi

Assisi is forever filled with the peacefulness of its favorite saint, Francis, who here heard the Lord’s call to “rebuild my Church.” Medieval stone buildings at every glance are as lovely as the hand-painted ceramic crafts offered along the streets that lead to the basilic named for its saint.



Arezzo

Arezzo is lyrically captured in Roberto Benigni’s 1997 film *Life is Beautiful*. Fifteenth-century frescoes by Piero della Francesca grace the vaulted ceilings of the hilltop cathedral and nearby St. Francis Basilica. The imposing Medicean Fortress offers sweeping views of the city resting almost a thousand feet above sea level. The old saying is “Arezzo would be enough to make the glory of Italy.”



Florence

Florence is famous for its iconic Duomo (cathedral), the Ponte Vecchio bridge with its medieval shops, and museums containing some of the world’s most famous sculptures, paintings, and names like Michelangelo.



Day by Day Itinerary

Day 1: Thursday, February 1st: Depart U.S. for Florence or Pisa

Day 2: Friday, February 2nd: Enjoy the breath-taking panoramic view of Florence from Piazzale Michelangelo before withdrawing to the calm beauty of nearby Siena. Afternoon walking tours of the historic center led by Fr. Eric and John McHugh, both having learned Italian in Siena.

Overnight: Siena (Dinner*)

Day 3: Saturday, February 3rd: Day trip to quaint San Gimignano, known for its skyline of many towers. Group Mass at the Duomo di San Gimignano before enjoying lunch (included) in this town known for saffron, pecorino cheese, and Vernaccia di San Gimignano white wine. Return to Siena to enjoy an evening stroll and dinner on your own.

Overnight: Siena (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 4: Sunday, February 4th: Group Mass celebrated by Fr. Berns at Duomo in Siena Oratory of San Bernardino, followed by guided tour of Siena's gothic cathedral.

Overnight: Siena (Breakfast)

Day 5: Monday, February 5th: Transfer to Orvieto, where Father Eric will lead you up the street where shops sell the coveted truffle mushrooms, arriving at the famous cathedral with its jaw-dropping mosaic façade. Noon Mass in The Chapel of the Corporal. Enjoy lunch on your own, or grab a quick sandwich before an afternoon of shopping.

Overnight: Orvieto (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 6: Tuesday, February 6th: Day trip to nearby Civita di Bagnoreggio, described by the poet Fillipo Paparazzi as "an island bravely poised in the middle of the air, on the top of a truncated cone above the immense abyss." After entering the city by the pedestrian bridge, we will have Noon Mass at the church known as Chiesa di

San Donato. Afternoon return to Orvieto for group dinner and overnight.

Overnight: Orvieto (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 7: Wednesday, February 7th: After breakfast, enjoy a guided historic tour of Etruscan origins of Orvieto, going back more than two thousand years! Afternoon transfer to blessed Assisi, where we will settle into the hotel before a group dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Assisi (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 8: Thursday, February 8th: A guided tour of Assisi will enlighten us on the legacy of Saints Francis and Clare as we make our way to the cathedral where doves nest each year in the hands of the statue of Saint Francis. Father Eric will offer Mass in one of Assisi's churches. Photograph winding stone stairways before evening dinner.

Overnight: Assisi (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 9: Friday, February 9th: Visit the burial place of Blessed Carlo Acutis, the 15-year-old boy who died in 2006 after spreading by internet his compilation of Eucharistic miracles. He loved St. Francis and asked to be buried in Assisi. After Mass offered by Father Eric, optional winery tour outside Assisi. Transfer to Arezzo.

Overnight: Arezzo (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 10: Saturday, February 10th: Guided tour of Arezzo. Group Mass at noon.

Overnight: Arezzo (Breakfast)

Day 11: Sunday, February 11th: Transfer to Florence, Closing group banquet.

Overnight: Florence (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 12: Monday, February 12th: Return from Florence to U.S. on later flight.
(Breakfast)

Pilgrimage Details

PRICE PER PERSON

Double occupancy with base airfare
Land Only:
Airfare not included

\$3999.00*
*Discount cash/ check price
\$3099.00*

OPTIONS:

- For a single room: add \$750

FIRST DEPOSIT

\$500

DUE: NOW

FINAL PAYMENT

REMAINING

DUE: DEC 15, 2023

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip airfare from Chicago O'Hare (ORD)
- Meals per itinerary
- All excursions
- 10 nights' accommodation
- Tour guide / Tour escort
- Spiritual Director
- Transportation to and from (ORD) leaving from Sparta, WI

Tour Number: ORD-0201/12D
Holy Land Travel Center: s.hansen@holylandtc.com
Tel. (402) 315-1435

Terms & Conditions

By making any payments (cash, credit card or otherwise) towards any tour constitutes your unconditional acceptance of all the terms and conditions stated in this brochure. Holy Land Travel Center shall be referred to as HLTC within this document.

DOCUMENTS: US citizens require a valid passport. Other nationalities please inquire with the appropriate embassies.

REGISTRATION AND DEPOSIT: Deposit of \$500 per person is required upon registration along with a signed copy of the registration form on or before. Registrations are processed in the order received by HLTC. A second payment of \$1249 is required on or before 180 days prior to departure. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. Late payments are subject to \$50 late fee. HLTC reserves the right to cancel reservations whose payments are 30 days late and to apply applicable cancellation/penalties indicated below. No registrations can be made over the telephone.

INDIVIDUAL CANCELLATION FEES & REFUNDS: Upon cancellation of participation of tour by you, the registrant, for any reason, and only after HLTC receives your signed cancellation, HLTC will then refund your payment for services not received by you, minus applicable cancellation fees per person, according to the following schedule:

In addition to any cancellation fees specific to your tour, the following fees apply.

1. Minimum cancellation fee is \$350 from time of registration up to 180 days prior to the tour's departure date.
2. From 179 to 120 days prior to departure day, the cancellation fee is \$350 + 20% of total price.
3. From 119 days to 60 days prior to departure day, cancellation fee is \$350 + 50% of total price.
4. From 59 days prior to departure day onward, no refund is possible.

TRAVEL PROTECTION: Travel insurance is recommended to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection. If you do not wish to purchase now, the plan can be purchased any time before submitting your final payment. If you chose to purchase outside of the time sensitive period outlined in the plan, you will not be eligible for time sensitive benefits. All plan premiums are non-refundable. To view/download the plan, which provides the full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusion please visit our website: www.holylandtc.com/travel-protection/

MEDICAL CONDITION: We endeavor to provide the highest level of service to all our passengers. Participants who require special assistance must be accompanied by a qualified helper who assumes total responsibility for the participants' well-being. This pilgrimage demands a lot of walking and can be strenuous. HLTC is not responsible for any medical conditions that occur prior to, during, or after the tour.

LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSFERS: By private deluxe motor coach.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Tour prices are per person, based on two persons sharing double or twin-bedded rooms with private bathroom with tub or shower. If one does not sign up with a roommate and is not able to be paired with another traveler, there will be a single supplement charge to the account. Single rooms subject to availability and an additional cost indicated on brochure.

MEALS: Meals in accordance with the itinerary. All beverages are extra.

TIPPING: Unless it is specified in the tour brochure, the price of the tour does not include tips and gratuities. Tipping is recommended to the tour guide and motor coach driver approximately \$6 and \$4 per person, respectively, per day to each. Hotel tips are approximately \$2 per day per person. Tips may be pre-collected before the pilgrimage for your convenience.

AIRLINE TICKETS AND ITINERARY LENGTH: Air transportation to/from your destination will be economy class aboard carriers utilizing non-refundable, non-amenable tickets. Travel from U.S. airports other than those specified on your trip brochure will be priced on an individual basis within 30 days of receipt of registration. Once presented with a price for your individual flight itinerary, you will be expected to pay the full balance of that flight cost regardless of the payment

schedule outlined in your trip brochure or be transferred to "Land Only" status on your registration. "Land Only" travelers are expected to make their own flight arrangements. Preliminary international flight schedules are available 60 days prior to departure and may change before they are finalized. Therefore, if you book the domestic flight on your own, you will be responsible for changing your domestic flights and incurring any change fees that would be generated by this adjustment. We are not responsible for changes and delays in airline schedules and do not reimburse passengers for expenses resulting from such occurrences. Travelers making their own flight arrangements should not purchase non-refundable, non-changeable tickets. We cannot guarantee the most direct routing to your final destination. If flight schedules change such that Holy Land Travel Center is required by the airline to make new flight arrangements that exceed the airfare budget mentioned on your brochure then we reserve the right to charge our travelers the difference in cost. We also reserve the right to lengthen or shorten the itinerary to better account for changes to your flight schedule, and if changes or flight schedules necessitate extra overnights, you will be charged at normal hotel rates. Land Only packages include airport-hotel transfers.

SEAT ASSIGNMENT: THERE IS NO ADVANCE SEAT SELECTION FOR TOUR DEPARTURES. HLTC cannot guarantee specific seats, which are at the discretion of the airline and are pending availability. When HLTC disperses travel packages, you will receive your record locator. You can use this locator to do online seating arrangements, if permitted by the airline.

BAGGAGE: Transatlantic and transpacific flights to and from the USA allow the passenger to bring one (1) checked bag, which may have a maximum weight of 50 lbs., and maximum combined dimensions of 62 inches. Also, one (1) "carry-on" with maximum dimensions of 22" x 14" x 9" is permitted. Luggage on domestic flights will cost extra. Luggage is the passenger's responsibility and that of the airlines. For lost luggage, the passenger is responsible for notifying the airline directly. Check with your carrier regarding carry-on luggage rules and regulations.

PRICES: All prices are based on exchange rates and fares applicable at time of quotation and based on minimum number of paying passengers stated in the brochure and are therefore subject to change if fares change (including fuel surcharges increase), if group does not reach minimum or if exchange rates fluctuate. Minimum number of paying passengers is 30.

NOT INCLUDED: Passport and Visas, meals not mentioned, beverages with meals, extra beyond standard menu, excess baggage, luggage on domestic flights, telephone calls, fuel surcharges increase.

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER: HLTC hereby expressly disclaims any liability for any personal injury, property damage, Loss of baggage, accident, delay or irregularity, any claim for special or consequential damages or any other loss which may be occasioned by the acts and/or omissions, whether negligent, intentional, wrongful or otherwise, of any air carrier, hotel/motel or other lodging operator, railroad operator, bus operator, public transportation, sea carrier, local sightseeing company, tour operator, tour leader or spiritual director, any employees thereof, or any other entity or individual not under the direct supervision and control of HLTC when engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour, or otherwise in connection therewith. HLTC likewise expressly disclaims any responsibility for losses or expenses incurred, or inconvenience caused, due to delay or changes in schedules, defaults, over booking of hotels or airlines, sickness, weather, strikes, quarantines, pandemics, epidemics, acts of terrorism, constructions, war, force majeure or other such events which are beyond HLTC's control. HLTC likewise hereby expressly disclaims any liability for statements, actions or inactions of any intermediary agents such as group administrators, spiritual directors or tour leaders, travel agents or any other intermediary involved with the selling, promotion or operation of its tours. Group administrators, spiritual leaders and tour leaders likewise hereby expressly disclaim any liability for the acts and/or omissions of any of the above entities and/or individuals not directly under their supervision or control. Please be advised that the liability of carriers as well as providers of hotel and lodging accommodations is limited by law and you may thus wish to consider purchasing additional insurance to protect yourself against any losses or injuries suffered as a result of their acts and/or omissions. In all instances, HLTC's liability shall be limited to the amounts paid by you for participation in the tour, and subject to the provisions and cancellation fees as set forth in the 'Brochure Terms and Conditions'. In the event that the tour leader and/or spiritual director named in a brochure or itinerary does not travel with the group, and a substitute is not named to replace such person(s), then HLTC reserves the right to make substitutions of its choosing for such person(s) in the operation of the tour. Tour Cancellation by Operator: On rare occasion, a tour departure may be cancelled due to lack of participation. In the event that HLTC would decide to cancel a departure, a full refund will be issued (not including travel insurance). HLTC is not responsible and does not assume responsibility for any additional costs or any fees relating to the cancellation of air tickets or other arrangements not made through HLTC. Cancellations due to state advisories and/or state warnings, Pandemic, Epidemic, Acts of War, War, Terrorism, Acts of God, Natural Disaster, Force Majeure or any other circumstance outside the control of HLTC, are not the fault of HLTC. Great effort will be made to accommodate passengers on another trip, postponed date or to revise itinerary, however, cancellation for any of these reasons will not be eligible for refund.

Note: While no changes are anticipated, there may be unforeseen occasions when certain alterations become necessary, either due to changes to the airline schedule, government regulations, travel restrictions, or any other reason. Holy Land Travel Center reserves the right to change the itinerary or name alternate dates due to such unforeseen circumstances or emergencies

HOLY LAND TRAVEL CENTER

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