

Join Fr. Francisco Ramirez OFM, Cap. on a Pilgrimage to

Grand Italy

Rome - Papal Audience - Assisi - Perugia - Venice - Florence



September
2-19, 2024



Starting from
\$5799
Per Person

Book Now at [HolyLandTC.com](https://www.HolyLandTC.com)

Day by Day Itinerary

September 2 Day 1: Depart USA: Flights to Rome: Today we board our overnight flights to Rome with snacks and beverages served aloft.

September 3 Day 2: Arrive Rome: We arrive in Rome and are greeted by our Holy Land Travel Center Representative. We then transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight. Time permitting, we have mass at Basilica of San Paul Outside the walls before.
Overnight: Rome

September 4 Day 3: Papal Audience: Today we are up early for the General Audience with Pope Francis at St. Peter's Square! This afternoon, we take a guided tour of two of the major churches in Rome including the 1600-year-old St. Mary Major, and St. John Lateran, the Cathedral of Rome. In the evening, we end our night with a walking tour of Rome, featuring a stroll to the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, a Christian church since the 7th century, and Piazza Navona.
Overnight: Rome (Breakfast, Dinner)

September 5 Day 4: St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican & Sistine Chapel: Continue to the Vatican Museums for a visit. Here we will see art masterpieces of the famous Michelangelo, Bernini - from antiquity to Renaissance. Visit the Sistine Chapel with the magnificent fresco of The Last Judgment and many more halls and rooms filled with Christian art, history and inheritance of all civilization. Today is also our visit to the heart of Vatican State, St. Peter's Basilica, and underground burial stones with the tomb of St. Peter, and Square dedicated to same Saint. After some free time in the late afternoon for shopping we continue to our hotel for dinner and overnight.
Overnight: Rome (Breakfast, Dinner)

September 6 Day 5: Tivoli/ Castel Gandolfo: After breakfast we drive to visit Villa D'Este a UNESCO world heritage site, where our guide will tell us about the history and development of the villa, considered one of the most enchanting sites of the late Italian Renaissance. In the late afternoon we will drive to Castel Gandolfo. Time at leisure to explore the charming little town where the Papal Residence is the dominant attraction. We will enjoy a restaurant farewell dinner before returning to the hotel for the night.
Overnight: Rome (Breakfast, Dinner)

September 7 Day 6: Montecassino: Today we transfer to Montecassino to visit the famous Abbey of Montecassino, a Benedictine monastery that was founded in the 6th century and see its impressive collection of art and manuscripts. We then transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight.
Overnight: Montecassino (Breakfast, Dinner)

September 8 Day 7: Pompeii: This morning we leave Montecassino on our way to San Giovanni Rotondo. Along the way we stop in Pompeii, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. Afterwards, we continue to San Giovanni Rotondo for our dinner and overnight.
Overnight: San Giovanni Rotondo (Breakfast, Dinner)

September 9 Day 8: San Giovanni Rotondo: after Mass at the tomb of St. Padre Pio, tour the sanctuary and see the old church and the crucifix he was praying in front of when he received the stigmata for the second time in 1918. See the confessional where Padre Pio spent innumerable hours with multitudes of pilgrims, view the Gargano Peninsula and the Grotto of St. Michael the Archangel. Six different Popes, St. Francis and at least four other saints have knelt in prayer at this grotto, seeking the protection of St. Michael the Archangel. Afterwards, enjoy the panoramic view of the ocean before continuing to Lanciano for dinner and overnight.
Overnight: Lanciano (Breakfast, Dinner)

September 10 Day 9: Loreto/ Assisi: Today we will visit the Church of St. Longinus where you see the Eucharistic Miracle and celebrate Mass. We then begin driving to the Marian shrine of Loreto to visit the Holy House of Nazareth and the beautiful Madonna of Loreto. More than 50 popes have made a pilgrimage to the house transported by angels to this hill in central Italy in 1294. Tradition has it that this is the house in which Mary first prayed the Magnificat, in which Jesus grew to manhood, and in which the Holy Family lived. We continue to Assisi, the hometown of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals and the environment, and the founder of the Franciscan Order. St. Francis of Assisi is the first person recorded who received the stigmata. Continue to our hotel in Assisi for dinner and overnight.
Overnight: Assisi (Breakfast, Dinner)

September 11 Day 10: Assisi: Basilica of St. Francis: In Assisi, we will visit the Basilica of St. Francis, the upper Basilica with Giotto's frescoes representing the life of St. Francis, then the lower Basilica and the Tomb of St. Francis. We then proceed to the Basilica of St. Clare for a tour. After lunch, we will transfer to the Convent of San Damiano, where St. Francis received his call to rebuild the Church and where St. Clare lived and died. Here we celebrate Mass before returning to Assisi.
Overnight: Assisi (Breakfast, Dinner)

September 12 Day 11: Perugia: Today we drive to Perugia. Upon our arrival, we embark on a guided orientation tour of the city highlighting Piazza IV Novembre, Perugia's Main Square, Palazzo dei Priori, the Fontana Maggiore, Arco Etrusco and the Cathedral where Mary's wedding ring is. Twice a year the ring is brought out, including today September 12th. Travel back to Assisi for dinner and overnight.
Overnight: Assisi (Breakfast, Dinner)

September 13 Day 12: Assisi/ Florence/ Siena: This morning we depart Assisi to visit the medieval town of Siena in Tuscany. We visit the Basilica of San Domenico, where the incorrupt head and finger of St. Catherine lies, and to explore the center and the Piazza del Campo on our own. We then continue to our hotel in Florence for the next two nights.
Overnight: Florence (Breakfast, Dinner)

September 14 Day 13: Florence: San Lorenzo Market: Today we have a full-day tour of the Renaissance city of Florence, starting from the Academy Gallery, home to Michelangelo's "David". Free time during lunch to explore the famous San Lorenzo market. In the afternoon, we will explore the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, with its great representation of Tuscan Gothic Architecture, like the giant dome of the church, designed by Brunelleschi. We will see Giotto's Bell Tower, a 14th century masterpiece that rises to a height of 292 feet and the Baptistery of San Giovanni, with East Door which is called the Gates of Paradise. The doors took artist Ghiberti 27 years to complete. Then we will visit Michelangelo's parish church, Santa Croce, where Dante is buried. Here we celebrate Mass before returning to our hotel for dinner and overnight.
Overnight: Florence (Breakfast, Dinner)

September 15 Day 14: Florence - Pisa - Venice: With an early morning start we depart Florence and go towards Pisa. Once in Pisa, we will head straight to the iconic Leaning Tower of Pisa, where we will take the obligatory tourist photos. Free time in Piazza dei Miracoli and free time for lunch we will transfer to Venice, our home for the next two nights.
Overnight: Venice (Breakfast, Dinner)

September 16 Day 15: Full day in Venice. St. Mark's Square, Free Afternoon: After Breakfast, we take our private boat to San Marc's Square and explore Venice, nicknamed "la Serenissima". We begin with a guided walking tour of St. Mark's Square, one of the largest open spaces in Venice. We visit two of its landmark buildings, the Basilica of San Marco and the Bridge of Sighs. We enjoy a free afternoon to explore on our own, sightsee, shop or take a gondola ride with music on one of Venice's scenic canals. Dinner will be at leisure tonight.
Overnight: Mestre (Breakfast)

September 17 Day 16: Padua: Verona, Cathedral of St. Anthony: This morning we depart Venice and continue to Padua, where we will visit the famous Cathedral of St. Anthony, guarded by Donatello's "Gattamelata". We will also visit the Basilica of Saint Giustina, the second most important pilgrimage site in Padua after St. Anthony's. Here, the tomb of Luke the Evangelist is housed. We continue to Milan where time permitting we visit the Duomo to celebrate Mass and take a panoramic tour before transferring to our hotel in Milan for dinner and overnight.
Overnight: Mestre (Breakfast, Dinner)

September 18 Day 17: Return Flights Home: Today we board our return flights home with memories and keepsakes that will last a lifetime.



PRICING

BASE PRICE PER PERSON

\$5799.00*

Double occupancy with base airfare

*Discount cash/check price

OPTIONS

- For a single room*: add \$1099

*Subject to availability

- Travel Insurance: Visit www.holylandtc.com/travel-protection for more information.

*Available only for travelers with primary residence in USA or Canada

FIRST PAYMENT	\$500.00	DUE: NOW
SECOND PAYMENT	\$1249.00	DUE: APRIL 8, 2024
THIRD PAYMENT	\$1000.00	DUE: JUNE 7, 2024
FINAL PAYMENT	REMAINING	DUE: JULY 22, 2024

BASE PRICE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip airfare from San Antonio (SAT)
- Excursions per itinerary
- 15 Nights accommodation
- Meals per Itinerary
- Professional Catholic tour guides
- Spiritual director
- Gratuities

Tour Coordinator:

Carmen Sanchez

(210) 317-3376

Why Travel with Us?

The Holy Land Travel Center is a family-run business providing pilgrims with an unmatched religious group travel experience. Operated by a husband and wife team from the Qumsieh family, one of the oldest Christian families from the Bethlehem suburb Beit Sahour; the center offers a unique opportunity to be fully immersed in the Christian community of the Holy Land.

The tours are professionally organized to ensure that pilgrims receive the highest quality in travel and lodging. But we pride ourselves most on offering a personalized experience. From the first day you are treated like family, welcomed into the local Christian homes, offered stories of faith by residents, and unfettered access to holy sites.

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. Registrations are processed in the order received by HLTC. Final payment is due 45 days prior to departure. Late payments are subject to a \$50 late fee per week past the due date. 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 written cancellation via email used to register or by US mail., HLTC will then refund your payment for services not received by you, minus applicable cancellation fees per person, according to the following schedule:

- 1) Minimum cancellation fee is \$500 from time of registration up to 120 days prior to the tour's departure date.
- 2) From 119 to 60 days prior to departure day, the cancellation fee is \$500 + 20% of total price.
- 3) From 59 days to 31 days prior to departure day, cancellation fee is \$500 + 50% of total price.
- 3) From 30 days prior to departure day onward, no refund is possible.

PAYMENT: Advertised price is the cash/check discounted price. If paying with a card a processing fee will apply.

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. Coverage takes effect once payment is received. 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 and purchase 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 a private bathroom with tub or shower. In the event that 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 the brochure. Accommodations are subject to change due to upgrade, size of group, etc.

MOBILE APP: Final pilgrimage details will be available through an app before departure. Please be aware that the information on the app is regularly updated and subject to change. HLTC (Holy Land Travel Company) holds no liability for errors or discrepancies in the app's content.

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. 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, we reserve the right to lengthen or shorten the itinerary accordingly, and if changes or flight schedules necessitate extra overnights, you will be charged at normal hotel rates. Land Only packages do not 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, any additional costs for seat selection are your responsibility. If your airline ticket is canceled for any reason, you must directly contact the airline to request a refund for your seat selection. The refund will be processed to your original form of payment, subject to the airline's terms and conditions."

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 8"x12"x20" is permitted. Luggage on domestic flights including Mexico & Canada 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, exit taxes, meals not mentioned, beverages with meals, extra beyond standard menu, excess baggage, luggage on domestic flights, telephone calls, fuel surcharges increase.

VISAS: When and if a visa or visa waiver is required, it is the passenger's responsibility to obtain one. HLTC, owner, agent, or employees cannot be held liable for clients not having proper passports, visa, visa waiver, or other travel documents. Cancellations or changes to schedule due to a lack of appropriate documents will incur usual penalties.

PASSPORTS: Passports are required to travel with Holy Land Travel Center. A Passport Card is not useful for International Air Travel. Attempting to use this instead of a Passport Book will result in a denial of boarding by the airlines and entry by the legal authorities.

Visa for Europe - ETIAS

-Starting in 2025, Americans, Canadians, Australians will need to apply online for travel authorization for Europe.

- This applies to all travelers, and all ages.

- Fee approx. \$9. Per Person

- The program is called ETIAS. Some refer to it as a "visa for Europe". It is not a traditional visa but needs basic details about the traveler and their trip.

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 occasions, a tour departure may be canceled 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.

FORCE MAJEURE: 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 and are subject to cancellation fees as stated above.

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