

## **CHRISTIAN PATHWAYS IN FRANCE AND ITALY**

**Tour will be escorted by Fr Chris Hanlon, PP St Columba's, Wilston Q.**

- Day 1 Sat 31 May **BRISBANE** Depart: 1445 Singapore Airlines SQ 236  
**SINGAPORE** Arrive: 2045  
Depart: 2335 Singapore Airlines SQ 334
- Day 2 Sun 01 Jun **PARIS** Arrive: 0655  
Upon arrival we shall be met and transferred to our central hotel. As we will arrive before the normal check-in time for Paris hotels it will be possible to attend a local Mass and the energetic may wish to embark on the short walk to the Eiffel Tour. The afternoon is at leisure until we meet for dinner at a local restaurant. **(D)**  
**STAY: Hotel Campanile Tour Eiffel (or similar)**
- Day 3 Mon 02 Jun **PARIS**  
After breakfast this morning we shall set off on a city sightseeing tour, visiting Notre Dame and Sacre Coeur. There will be a stop at the Eiffel Tour and a comprehensive tour of all the major sights. The afternoon will be at leisure to explore or shop. Paris abounds in galleries and museums and this afternoon is an ideal opportunity for visits. (Optional tours/excursions will be offered) **(B)**
- Day 4 Tue 03 Jun **PARIS**  
Today has been left totally free for private sightseeing and exploring. (Optional tours/excursions will be offered, including a visit to Versailles) This evening we have planned a romantic cruise on the Seine enjoying the Paris lights. Dinner, with drinks, is included **(B, D)**
- Day 5 Wed 04 Jun **PARIS / DIJON**  
Set off this morning on our journey into the French heartland, with the first stop at **Fontainebleau**, the first royal residence which was erected in the 12<sup>th</sup> century - a favourite residence of Napoleon 1. The small town of **Sens** with the Cathedral of St Etienne is our next stop. Begun before 1140 it is the oldest of the great Gothic cathedrals and the exquisite stained glass windows show biblical scenes. Continue on to the hilltop village of **Vezelay** with the famous pilgrimage church, the Basilica of St Madeleine which was an important meeting place for pilgrims on route to Santiago de Compostella. We then visit the **Abbey de Fontenay**, founded by St Bernard in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century which is the oldest Cistercian monastery in France. **(B, D)**  
**STAY: Hotel Ibis, Dijon Centre (or similar)**
- Day 6 Thu 05 Jun **DIJON / Le PUY-en-VELAY**  
Another full day of sightseeing. We will have a tour of the city of Dijon, the capital of Burgundy before setting out for the centre of the world famous Ecumenical Community of **Taize**, famous for its modern religious musical traditions. (Further details about this visit will be included.) Our next stop will be **Cluny**. The ancient Abbey de Cluny (now in ruins) was once the most powerful monastic foundation in Europe. Founded in 910 by William, Duke of Aquitaine, within 200 years Cluny had become the head of a major reforming order with monasteries all over Europe. Its Abbots were considered as powerful as Monarchs or Popes and four of them are venerated as Saints. Continue south-west to the fascinating town of Le Puy-en-Velay for overnight **(B, D)**  
**STAY: Monastery – Grand Seminaire St Georges (or similar)**
- Day 7 Fri 06 Jun **Le PUY-en-VELAY / ARLES**  
This was the rallying point of one of the four official routes to Compostella – the Pilgrims' way to the Shrine of St James the Great at Compostella. The Bishop of Le Puy, Goteschalk, made one of the first pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostella in 962AD and built the Chapelle St Michel d' Aiguilhe on his return. Other notable sights are the Cathedral de Notre-Dame with its famous Black Madonna and the colossal red statue of the Notre-Dame-de-France on the pinnacle of the Rocher Corneille which was erected from the 213 cannons captured at Sebastopol in 1860. There will also be time for a short visit to **Nimes** before completing our day's journey at Arles (Provence). **(B, D)**  
**STAY: Hotel Acacias (or similar)**

- Day 8 Sat 07 Jun **ARLES / AIGUES-MORTES / AVIGNON/ ARLES \*\*\*\***  
Arles is another famous Roman City situated on the River Rhone. Its main sights are the Roman Amphitheatre, the Roman Theatre and the famous church Eglise St Trophime. Arles has interesting links to the early days of the Church in Brisbane!. \*\*\*\*Local area sightseeing may include Avignon and the spectacular Palace of the Popes, and /or Aigues-Mortes, a perfectly preserved walled city dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Overnight in Arles **(B, D)**
- Day 9 Sun 08 Jun **ARLES / IMPERIA**  
Travel on to the beautiful village of **Gordes**, perched atop a hill. The **Abbey of Senanque**, one of the finest Cistercian monasteries in France is our next stop. If there is time we shall also visit the Romanesque Abbey of Thoronet. This afternoon we shall stop in **Monaco** and there will be time to visit the Cathedral and the Casino and take a stroll through the Palace Gardens before crossing the boarder into Italy and finishing our journey today in the resort town of Imperia. **(B, D)**  
**STAY: To be advised**
- Day 10 Mon 09 Jun **IMPERIA**  
This is a rest day. You are free to relax, have a swim, or for the more energetic the surrounding towns offer an amazing example of Mediaeval, and even earlier, Christian architecture. Local trains and buses will take you to the pretty resort town of **Diano Marina** with the nearby village of **Cervo**, perched atop a cliff overlooking the Mediterranean. Here, the forecourt of the impressive baroque church of St John the Baptist is often the venue for chamber orchestra performances. A short train ride will take you to **Albenga** with its three 13<sup>th</sup> century towers clustered around the cathedral of St Michael. There is the amazing 5<sup>th</sup> century baptistery with a ten-sided exterior, yet octagonal interior – still in use today. Great opportunities for individual sightseeing and exploring. **(B, D)**
- Day 11 Tue 10 Jun **IMPERIA / FLORENCE**  
We have a long journey ahead today, travelling along the coastal route, skirting many Riviera resort towns en route to **Pisa**. Here we shall see the Leaning Tower, Duomo and Baptistry, splendid examples of 12-13<sup>th</sup> century architecture. We should arrive into Florence in the late afternoon. **(B, D)**  
**STAY: Hotel Ascot (or similar)**
- Day 12 Wed 11 Jun **FLORENCE**  
The wonders of Florence are legendary and our sightseeing this morning will include the Duomo and the Ponte Vecchio with its exquisite jewellery shops. We shall see the Pitti Palace, the Church of Santa Maria Novella and will include a visit to the Galleria dell'Accademia wherein is housed the works of leading Renaissance artists, including Michelangelo's *David*. The rest of the day is at leisure. **(B, D)**
- Day 13 Thu 12 Jun **FLORENCE / SIENA / SAN GIMIGNANO / FLORENCE**  
A day of touring is planned for today. After driving through the magnificent Tuscan countryside we arrive in **Sienna**, now a World Heritage listed city. Its maze of narrow streets and alleys fan out from the impressive Piazza del Campo, one of Europe's greatest mediaeval squares. The Romanesque-Gothic Duomo dating from 1136 is truly spectacular architecturally, and is the home to many sculptural masterpieces and a fine inlaid marble floor. This afternoon we visit the delightful **San Gimignano** with its 13 famous towers. During the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries this town was on the main pilgrim route to Rome from the north, and it is rich in art, churches and good shopping. Return to Florence for overnight. **(B, D)**
- Day 14 Fri 13 Jun **FLORENCE / ASSISI**  
Sightseeing today reflects the importance of St Francis in the early Church. **Gubbio** dates back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC and boasts many impressive mediaeval churches and palaces. **Perugia** is another treasure on today's itinerary. It's most extravagantly decorated church, St Peter's is located beyond the old city walls. It dates from the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Our journey ends today in Assisi **(B, D)**  
**STAY: Hotel Fontebella (or similar).**  
**Monastery accommodation possible, depending on numbers on our tour**
- Day 15 Sat 14 Jun **ASSISI / ROME**  
Our walking sightseeing this morning will include the Basilica of St Francis, which houses his tomb, the Basilica of St Chiara, where she is buried, and the delightful town that is Assisi with its winding streets, geranium-hung balconies and fountains. We shall also visit the magnificent S. Maria delle Angelli church which is located below the hill-top town. En route to Rome we will visit yet another Franciscan town, **Orvieto**. This town is perched high on a plateau and the beautiful frescoed façade

of its Duomo is impressive. This church took 300 years to complete. There may be time to visit Orvieto's Etruscan necropolis which dates from the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. **(B, D)**

**STAY: Hotel Fiamma (or similar)**

Day 16 Sun 15 Jun

**ROME**

Today we have Rome! This morning's tour starts with a leisurely walk through Classical Rome, the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, Trajan's Column, Piazza Navona and finally arriving in St Peter's Square for the midday Papal Blessing. Our sightseeing this afternoon will focus on Christian Rome and will include S. Maria Maggiore, St John in Lateran, Appian Way and the Catacombs. **(B, D)**

Day 17 Mon 16 Jun

**ROME**

Our final day in the holy city has been left free. There will be a range of optional tours available or you may decide to explore on your own. Farewell dinner this evening. **(B, D)**

Day 18 Tue 17 Jun

**ROME / AUSTRALIA**

Transfer to the airport for our return flight. **(B)**

**ROME** Depart: 1200 Singapore Airlines SQ365

Day 19 Wed 18 Jun

**SINGAPORE**

Arrive: 0605

Depart: 0955

Singapore Airlines

SQ245

**BRISBANE**

Arrive: 1925

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**INCLUSIONS:**

- **Accommodation** – hotels are tourist class with private facilities. Tour based on share twin accommodation. Supplement is payable for passengers requiring single rooms. Monasteries may not offer private facilities.
- **Monasteries** – as detailed above. Should a monastery advise that they are unable to accommodate the group, Canterbury Tours will endeavour to find an alternative. In the case of this not being possible, the group will be accommodated in hotels.
- **Meals** – breakfasts (Continental) throughout. Additional meals as indicated above – **L = Lunch; D = Dinner**
- **Entrances** – we have arranged for pre-payment of entrances as follows:
  - Fontainebleau - chateau
  - Pisa – Cathedral and Baptistery
  - Florence – Accademia or Uffizi*Further entrances may be included as the itinerary details are confirmed.*
- **Touring** – in air-conditioned coach or mini-bus with driver and English speaking guide. Additionally, local guides will be provided in some locations (as required by Italian and French Tourism legislation). This is a private tour.
- **Airfares** – Australia/ Paris and Rome/Australia economy class airfares with Singapore Airlines. Canterbury Tours reserves the right to change bookings to an alternative carrier if necessary, depending on costs and schedules. Upgrades to Business and/or First Class on one or more sectors may be available – we are happy to provide details of additional costs required.

**PLEASE NOTE: This tour is based on 'Early Bird Airfares' and a minimum of 50% of the tour cost must be paid by 10 February. Late payments will be accepted, but will be based on the normal airfares current at that time. Additional payment approximates \$590 per person additional charge.**

**NOT INCLUDED:**

- **Airline taxes / airport charges.** These taxes change daily and the payment of them is as will prevail on the date of payment. It is expected that an amount of A\$400+ should be allowed to cover these taxes – this is however, an approximation.
- **Tips** – to driver and guide, and anywhere else you have received good service.
- **Insurance** – Travel Insurance is extremely important. Everything Travel, in association with Canterbury Tours, will be happy to arrange this on your behalf. Alternatively, you are at liberty to arrange insurance independently.
- **Passport and visa fees**
- **Items of a personal nature** – this goes without saying!

## **ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS:**

Canterbury Tours is a tour wholesaler and uses the retail services of Travelmarket, Brisbane.

Travelmarket, will be happy to arrange any extensions to your tour. Hotels, touring, flight reservations, car hire, rail travel, cruising etc may be booked at the end of your tour. Your airline ticket is valid for 12 months.

Should you require a stopover on your return journey to Australia, Singapore Airlines offers attractive stopover packages in Singapore for one day or several days.

Additional nights in Rome may be booked to allow for personal sightseeing.

## **IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE:**

While every effort has been made to assess the cost of this tour as a whole, should there be variances to currency exchange rates and/or increases in airline fares, Canterbury Tours reserves the right to impose a surcharge to the quoted cost.

Should the tour numbers not reach the minimum required to obtain the quoted price, the tour may have to be cancelled. In this case a full refund of monies paid would be offered, or alternatively, the group as booked would be offered the option to proceed with the tour at a price to cover the reduced numbers.

## **Deposit**

A deposit of \$500 per person is required to confirm a place on the tour. Please consider Cancellation Insurance at this time, as this deposit is non-refundable except under extreme circumstances.

## **Balance of Payment**

Full payment of the balance of the tour cost will be due and payable by 20 March 2008 – 50% of the tour cost must be paid by 10 February to qualify for Early Bird airfares (see above). After 20 March all unused accommodation will be released to the overseas suppliers, and late applications to join the tour will be possible only upon request and in consultation with the various overseas suppliers and the airline concerned.

## **Airline Schedules**

As the operation of airline schedules is beyond our control, should we be notified of a change to our reserved flights we will immediately advise all passengers and either (a) arrange bookings with an alternative carrier; or (b) make adjustments to the itinerary to accommodate the flight changes.

## **Health**

This tour is not strenuous, though there are days when quite a deal of walking is required, and often on cobblestoned streets – please consider your individual capabilities in this regard. The tour is not rushed and will be conducted to please all passengers if possible. We have only three 'single nights' in a destination (Dijon, Le Puy and Assisi) as all other stops are for two or more nights. We are not planning very early morning starts, though there are days when several hours will of necessity need to be spent in travelling.

If you require any information regarding the performance of sightseeing etc on this tour, we would be happy to clarify.

**Tour Cost: AUD 6780 \* # (share twin)**

Single Supplement AUD 950

Land Only AUD 5290

\* Plus Taxes.

# Price subject to change. Unexpected currency fluctuation, fuel surcharges, increases imposed by overseas suppliers