

FRANCISCAN ITALY 2009
Hosted by Brother Daniel, Minister General SSF

Day 1 Fri 18 Sep
BRISBANE

Depart on the mid-afternoon flight on Singapore Airlines, travelling via Singapore and arriving in Milan early morning on Day 2.

Day 2 Sat 19 Sep
MILAN / LODI / SIRMIONE

Upon arrival you will be met by your local guide and commence the short journey to the picturesque town of Lodi where there will be a short stop to view the mediaeval church of San Francesco. Then it is on to Sirmione, which is nestled on southern end of beautiful Lake Garda. Time to unwind and relax. (D)

Day 3 Sun 20 Sep
SIRMIONE / VERONA / PADUA

After breakfast this morning we begin our tour, with our first stop at Verona. We shall have a short tour of the city sights, including Juliet's balcony, and then it is on to Padua for our overnight stay. The most famous of the Paduan churches is the Basilica di Sant'Antonio da Padova, locally simply known as "Il Santo". The bones of the saint rest in a chapel richly ornamented with carved marbles. (B, D)

Day 4 Mon 21 Sep
PADUA / VENICE / PADUA

This morning we drive to Mestre for a full day of sightseeing in Venice. We take a private water taxi to the fabulous San Marco Square and our sightseeing will include the basilica, the Doges Palace and the Bridge of Sighs. A gondola ride will also be on the agenda. Time this afternoon for independent sightseeing, exploring or shopping. Don't forget to take a map! A private water taxi will take us back to Mestre at 5.30pm to board our coach back to Padua. (B, D)

Day 5 Tue 22 Sep
PADUA / VENICE / PADUA

Today has been left free. You may like to join an optional tour to the Murano Glass Factory, undertake a walking tour of the city, or explore independently. An evening activity will also be on offer. (B, D)

Day 6 Wed 23 Sep
PADUA / RAVENNA

Travel south to Ravenna. A full day of sightseeing will include the Basilica S. Apollinare in Classe, the Mausoleo Galla Placidia, the Mausoleo di Teodorico and the churches of St Vitale and St Francis (B, D)

Day 7 Thu 24 Sep
RAVENNA / GUBBIO / LA VERNA

Our first stop today is Gubbio, famous in the life of St Francis as the site of his encounter with the Wolf. The town is noted for its mediaeval ramparts, Ducal Palace and the beauty of the local ceramics. Continue on to La Verna for overnight for our stay at the Sanctuary (B, D)

Day 8 Fri 25 Sep
LA VERNA / ASSISI

After a restful morning at the monastery, we set out for Assisi after lunch. The rest of the day is at leisure until we meet for dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 9 Sat 26 Sep
ASSISI

After breakfast we plan a walking tour of the town. We visit the Church of St Chiara and the Magnificent Basilica of St Francis, containing the celebrated Giotto frescoes. We shall also visit the imposing Church of S. Maria delle Angeli located on the plain below the hilltop town. Afternoon is at leisure (B, D)

Day 10 Sun 27 Sep
ASSISI

Attend Eucharist at the Anglican Franciscan Church of St Leonard. Time to meet the local parishioners afterwards. Afternoon at leisure for last minute exploring or shopping. (B, D)

Day 11 Mon 28 Sep
ASSISI / ORVIETO / SPOLETO / ROME

We visit Orvieto, famous for its beautiful cathedral, then travel via Spoleto, renowned as an artistic, drama and music festival site, en route to Rome. (B, D)

Day 12 Tue 29 Sep

ROME

A full day of sightseeing is on our agenda today. First of all we do a walking tour of Classical Rome, visiting the Trevi Fountain, the incredible Pantheon, the Column of Marcus Aurelius and the Piazza Navona. After lunch at a local restaurant we continue on by coach past the impressive Victor Emmanuel monument on the Piazza Venezia to the serenity of the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls. We visit the ancient Forum, see the Circus Maximus and the ruins of the Colosseum. (B, L)

Day 13 Wed 30 Sep

ROME

A full day at leisure in this wonderful city. We have an opportunity to visit the Anglican Centre this morning. Transport has been arranged to/from the Centre for those who would like to visit. (B)

Day 14 Thu 01 Oct

ROME / FLORENCE

Travel north to Florence, the artistic high point of our tour. After settling in to our accommodation we set out to explore the city. We will visit the Piazza del Duomo where you can admire the Cathedral and bell tower by Giotto. We will also stop at Piazzale Michelangelo for a panoramic view of the city. (B, D)

Day 15 Fri 02 Oct

FLORENCE

This morning we have been invited to visit the American Episcopal Church of St James. Afterwards there will be free time and you may care to visit either the Uffizi or Accademia, both establishments overflowing with fabulous artworks. Perhaps you may prefer to visit the Fra Angelico paintings at the Monastery of San Domenico at Fiesole. (B)

Day 16 Sat 03 Oct

FLORENCE / SIENA / SAN GIMIGNANO / FLORENCE

A day of magnificent sightseeing is ahead of us as we drive through the Chianti countryside to Siena, a World Heritage listed city. Here a local guide will take us on a walking tour of this mediaeval city and we will visit the imposing Cathedral and the Piazza del Campo. After lunch we drive to San Gimignano, a tiny city perched on a hilltop that is famous for its numerous towers, frescoes and art treasures. Free time to explore before we return to Florence. (B, L, D)

Day 17 Sun 04 Oct

FLORENCE / PISA / LA SPEZIA

Our first stop today will be Pisa to view the Tower, Baptistery and Cathedral. Then we continue our journey to La Spezia, the entrance to the famous Cinque Terre. (B, D)

Day 18 Mon 05 Oct

LA SPEZIA

A day at leisure to explore this magic region. Are you energetic enough to talk the famous cliff-top walk to all five walks, or perhaps the alternative ferry transport may be your preferred method for sightseeing? (B, D)

Day 19 Tue 06 Oct

LA SPEZIA / GENOA / LECCO

Travel north today, via S. Margherita where we shall stop for lunch, and then via Genoa to our destination at Lecco on Lake Como. Rest of the day is at leisure. (B, D)

Day 20 Wed 07 Oct

LECCO / MILAN / LECCO

Our sightseeing this morning will include the magnificent Duomo, the nearby Galleria for some very up-market shopping, La Scala Theatre and Museum, the Arch of Peace and the Monumental Cemetery will also be featured. We have also requested permission to visit the Church of S. Maria delle Grazie to view Da Vinci's *Last Supper* (approval pending). Remainder of the day is free for last minute shopping or exploring until we meet for our farewell dinner. (B, D)

Day 21 Thu 08 Oct

LECCO / MILAN / SINGAPORE

We have a late morning transfer to the airport for our return flight to Australia. (Stopover is available in Singapore on the return journey if desired.)

Day 22 Fri 09 Oct

Arrive in Brisbane this evening.

TOUR COST: Land Only: **AUD 7240** (share twin throughout)
Land/International airfares: **AUD 8985** (share twin throughout)

INCLUSIONS:

- **Accommodation** – hotels are mainly locally graded 3/4* with private facilities. (Tour based on share twin accommodation. Supplement is payable for passengers requiring single rooms of which there are limited numbers available.
- **Meals** – breakfasts (Continental) throughout. Additional meals will be provided as detailed above: **L = Lunch, D = Dinner.**
- **Entrances** – we have arranged for pre-payment of entrances as follows:
 - Venice – Doges Palace, Gondola ride
 - Ravenna – All churches listed in itinerary
 - Siena – Duomo
 - Milan – Last Supper
- **Touring** – in air-conditioned coach or mini-bus (depending on group size) with driver and English speaking guide. This is a private tour.
- **Airfares** – Australia/Milan/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 may be available – we are happy to provide details of additional costs required.

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\$500+ should be allowed to cover these taxes – this is an approximation only.
- **Tips** – to driver and guide, and anywhere else you have received good service.
- **Insurance** – Travel Insurance is extremely important. You are at liberty to arrange this through your own insurance provider. However, Travelmarket, in association with Canterbury Tours, will be happy to arrange this on your behalf.
- **Passport and visa fees.** Passengers must be in possession of a valid passport with a minimum of three months validity remaining after the end of the tour. No visa required for entry to Italy for Australian passport holders.
- **Drinks** with meals
- **Items of a personal nature** – this goes without saying!

ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS:

The following supplements are available if required, and if available:

- Single Supplement: **AUD 880 - Please Note: limited single rooms are available and are on application as the numbers available are limited by local legislation. An additional surcharge may be payable if the group limit on single rooms has been reached at the time of your booking.**

OPTIONAL SIGHTSEEING:

Additional sightseeing tours, during this tour, will be available as follows:

- Day tour to Pompei ex Rome
- Catacombs tour in Rome
- Tour of Vatican Museum in Rome
- Half day tour to Murano glassworks in Venice
- Theatre performance in Venice (depending on availability)

ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Travelmarket, in association with Canterbury Tours, 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, and you may return from alternative European cities, subject to availability.

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 Athens and extensions to the Greek Islands 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 Friday 10 July 2009. After that date all unused accommodation will be released to the overseas suppliers, and late applications to join the tour will be possible only upon request and 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, or over ancient stoney sites – please consider your individual capabilities in this regard. The tour is not rushed and will be conducted to please all passengers if possible. For your convenience we have limited the number of one-night only stops to Sirmione, Ravenna and La Verna. 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.