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THE BEST OF ITALY PILGRIMAGE

Fr. Luis Valerio Romero

May 25 - June 4, 2025

Early Bird Price - Valid until February 4, 2025:

\$4,600* per person in a shared room if paid by check, Zelle, or bank transfer

\$4,750 per person in a shared room if paid by credit card

*All prices presuppose 18 paying pilgrims, the minimum for the pilgrimage to go forward. Progressively larger numbers of pilgrims will decrease the price. The pilgrimage webpage has details.

Standard Price - As of February 5, 2025:

\$4,750 per person in a shared room if paid by check, Zelle, or bank transfer

\$4,900 per person in a shared room if paid by credit card

Deadline for sign up and final payment April 21, 2025

\$500 deposit required to register

Send checks to Peregrino, PO Box 212, 25 Tesler Rd., Lake Zurich, IL 60047. Please do not send checks via certified mail. First Class postage is sufficient. **\$900 supplement for a single room.**

Single rooms are not guaranteed and should be requested as soon as possible. Triples and quads are available. Credit Card payments can be made on our website.

Questions? travel@myperegrinotour.com or call 872-227-0988. Hablamos Español - llámanos a mándanos un correo. See the Questions & Answer below for more specific information.

Itinerary

Day 1: Sunday, May 25, 2025:

Depart U.S. on flight from Chicago O'Hare to Rome Fiumicino Airport. The flight will depart in the late afternoon or evening U.S. central time, and either be direct or have a brief layover.

Day 2: Monday, May 26:

Arrive in the morning hours. Meet the private coach bus and head directly to the charming hill town of Assisi. The group will tour Santa Maria degli Angeli in the new town, and then go to upper Assisi for a group lunch, and tours of the church of Saint Clare, the sublime Basilica of Saint Francis, and the many small roads and piazzas that make Assisi a one-of-a-kind pilgrimage site. Overnight in Assisi.

Day 3: Tuesday, May 27:

Breakfast at the hotel. After a morning in Assisi, take the coach bus to Rome, the eternal city, arriving in the early afternoon. Drop off luggage at the hotel and head to the Basilica of St. Mary Major. Your guide will provide a detailed tour of this ancient Basilica. The group will then walk to the nearby ancient minor Basilica of St. Prassede to see some of the oldest mosaics in Rome. The group will then walk to the Church of Saint Peter in Chains to see Michelangelo's sculpture of Moses and the very chains which tradition says held St. Peter bound in Rome. A group dinner will follow near the Colosseum. After a full day of sightseeing, head back to the hotel. The evening will be free with dinner on your own.

Day 4: Wednesday, May 28:

Breakfast at the hotel. Walk to St. Peter's Basilica for Mass and the papal audience with Pope Francis. After the audience, your private guide will lead you through the Vatican museums to see the Sistine Chapel and the many treasures of one of the world's great museums. Group lunch near the museums afterward. In the afternoon there will be a walking tour of the streets of Rome's historic quarter to see Piazza Navona, the Church of San Luigi Francese and its paintings by Caravaggio, and the Pantheon. In the evening return to the hotel for dinner on your own and for needed rest.

Day 5: Thursday, May 29:

Breakfast at the hotel. Go on a guided tour of some of the most significant and beautiful sites and churches in the heart of Rome: San Ignazio, Il Gesù, where St. Ignatius of Loyola is buried, San Andrea della Valle, San Lorenzo in Damaso, Chiesa Nuova, where the body of St. Philip Neri lies in peace in a glass coffin, and other sites. Group lunch in central Rome. The tour will end in the charming Trastevere neighborhood of Rome with a visit to the Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere. Group dinner in Trastevere.

Day 6: Friday, May 30:

Breakfast at the hotel. Leave by 9 a.m on the private coach for San Giovanni Rotondo, the burial place of St. Pio of Pietrelcina - Padre Pio. We may stop along the route to visit Monte Casino, the

immense Benedictine monastery where St. Benedict and St. Scholastica are buried. The monastery's commanding views of the valleys below are unforgettable. Arrive in San Giovanni in the afternoon and have free time for prayer devotions before a group dinner.

Day 7: Saturday, May 31:

Breakfast at the hotel. Today will be dedicated to quiet prayer, the rosary, stations of the cross, devotions, and a deeper understanding of the Franciscan charism and the life of St. Pio of Pietrelcina. We will spend the entire day in San Giovanni Rotondo drinking in the atmosphere of this holy place and its famous holy man.

Day 8: Sunday, June 1:

Breakfast at the hotel. After morning Mass in San Giovanni we'll depart via private coach for the long drive to the watery wonderland of Venice. Group lunch along the way. Upon arrival in Venice around 5 p.m. we will go on a walking tour to get acquainted with the area around our hotel.

Day 9: Monday, June 2:

Breakfast at the hotel. There is endless beauty to drink in along the canals of charming Venice, one of the world's most unique cities. We will tour St. Mark's Cathedral, the Doge's Palace, and the city's most beautiful churches. There will be time in the late afternoon and evening for shopping. Group dinner in Venice.

Day 10: Tuesday, June 3:

On the last day of our pilgrimage we'll continue touring Venice's canals and hidden streets. There are palaces and shrines and stores aplenty to satisfy the interests of any pilgrim. The group will depart for Rome via private coach in the early afternoon and arrive at the hotel near Rome's airport in the evening.

Day 11: Wednesday, June 4: DEPARTURE:

Breakfast at the hotel. Check-in and departure for your flight to the U.S.A, arriving in Chicago in the afternoon or early evening.

Fr. Luis Valerio Romero
Best of Italy Pilgrimage 2025

Questions and Answers

What does the cost include? Round trip economy flight Chicago - Rome, all airline taxes and fuel surcharges, transfer to and from airport to hotels, bus throughout per itinerary; clean, private bath, 3 star hotel rooms; all museum entrance fees; audio headsets throughout tour; all professional guides; all breakfasts; five lunches; and five dinners.

What does the cost *not* include? City occupancy taxes levied per person (not per room) per night for hotel stays. In Rome and Venice these taxes will total 5-7 Euros per person per night. The tax must be paid before hotel departure by each guest, along with any incidental hotel costs such as laundry service or room service. Also not covered: meals not specified in the itinerary, taxis, tips for your guides, and the carrying of luggage from the airport baggage claim area to the bus, and to and from the bus to the hotel. We recommend bringing about \$100 for taxis and always sharing taxi rides.

What is the cancellation policy? All cancellations must be made by e-mail by the same person(s) who registered for the trip. The following penalties are applicable if you cancel:

From date of reservation until payment deadline, \$500 is non-refundable, but transferable to a person replacing the person cancelling, for the same tour and dates.

As of April 21, 2025 100% of the tour price is non-refundable and non-transferable per person.

Is there a registration form? There is no registration form. Peregrino tries to make registration as easy as possible. To register for the pilgrimage send an e-mail to travel@myperegrinotour.com with the name, address, phone, and e-mail for each pilgrim who would like to go. Please indicate the parents or legal guardians of minor travelers. You will be officially notified of your registration via e-mail the day your check is deposited or your credit card payment clears. After sending your check, please allow one week for us to confirm your registration via e-mail.

Do I need a passport? Yes, you will need a passport to travel to Italy. Passports are required for everyone, even children and infants. The expiration date of the passport must be beyond six months after the date of re-entry into the U.S. A scan of the ID page of your passport must be received by e-mail at travel@myperegrinotour.com or a copy must be sent via mail to Peregrino prior to the final payment deadline. The copy of the passport and its information will be shared with no one. All documentary or digital traces of the copy of the passport will be destroyed at the conclusion of the tour.

Do I need to obtain a visa? U.S. citizens do not need a visa to enter Italy for fewer than 90 days. Non-U.S. citizens must verify with an Italian consulate if they need a visa to enter Italy, and with U.S. State Department regarding their ability to re-enter the U.S.

Is there any chance the trip would be cancelled? In the remote possibility that the trip is cancelled, the entire cost of the trip will be reimbursed. An extraordinary event such as an airline strike, weather event, act of God, or international incident will not necessarily cause the trip to be cancelled. Trip insurance would provide total protection against such unlikely eventualities.

I'd like to go, but I don't have a roommate to share the cost. What can I do? You can either pay the single occupancy supplement of \$900 or be willing to be assigned a roommate if one is available. That will depend, of course, on the number of solo travelers of the same sex, but Peregrino will keep track of who needs roommates and coordinate as needed. If a roommate is available but is refused, the traveler will be required to pay the single supplement. And if there is an odd number of pilgrims and no roommate can be found for a single traveler, the single supplement must be paid, with the latest registrant being obligated to purchase a single room. If non-spouses or non-family members would like to share a room with another pilgrim, they must each communicate such to Peregrino in an email.

What about travel insurance? Peregrino Tours does not offer travel insurance. But for the protection of our pilgrims, we recommend they purchase travel insurance. Information is readily available online and some recommendations are linked on our website. These recommendations are not an endorsement of any company but only the result of prior traveler's experiences.

Why would I want travel insurance? Insurance is a good idea for those who have an unpredictable medical condition and for those who have a family member whose ill health, or even death, may preclude going on the pilgrimage. Travel insurance must normally be purchased shortly after registering for the trip. It normally cannot be purchased close to the date of departure, or it may be priced exorbitantly.

Can I use airline miles or points? Peregrino prefers that all pilgrims fly together both to and from their destination and arrive at, and leave from, their hotel together. Based on experience, we do not allow pilgrims to be part of our pilgrimages if they travel apart from the group.

Can I upgrade my plane seating or otherwise arrange to sit with family and friends? Peregrino organizes its tour pricing based on economy seating. Any desire for economy plus, business or first class, aisle seats, or other upgrades must be communicated to Peregrino via e-mail by the individual traveler. All costs related to upgrades or special seating must be paid in full *before* the upgrade will be implemented by Peregrino. We also try to accommodate friends and family who request to sit together on flights. But plane seating is ultimately a decision for each airline and airlines are not always transparent about how seating is apportioned.

Where can I exchange U.S. dollars for Eurodollars? Talk to your local bank to see if they offer that service. Otherwise you can change money at O'Hare airport or in Rome. ATM machines in Italy also accept Visa and Mastercard credit cards and dispense Eurodollars. To use a credit card at an ATM in Italy will require a PIN. Almost all American banks charge a fixed fee for foreign ATM withdrawals and/or a percentage of the amount withdrawn. ATM's in Italy will normally not accept debit cards from American regional banks. Credit cards are accepted everywhere in Italy. You will not need to exchange much cash.

What about travelers with special needs? Any pilgrim with special needs or dietary restrictions must inform Peregrino at the time of registration. There will be considerable walking on the tour so being able to stand for long periods and to walk long distances is presumed upon registering. A physically capable companion must accompany travelers who need assistance. Coach buses are not equipped with ramps, so all travelers must be able to mount steps into a bus. European buildings are also less handicap accessible than American buildings. Taking the occasional taxi can greatly alleviate a day's number of steps.

Can anyone go on the trip? Although this will be a Catholic focused pilgrimage, non-Catholics are welcome to come. Minors are welcome provided they travel with family.

What if I have more questions? Most questions about this pilgrimage can be answered by your group leader or by consulting this information sheet. You can also contact us at travel@myperegrinotour.com or at 872-227-0988.