

ITINERARY

Tour organizers: **Cultural Connections Ltd**

In association with: Tom Mannion Travel T.A. 0178 IATA, ITAA



Cultural Connections Ltd
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Enniskillen Parish Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi

Staying in the heart of Rome

Visiting the principal holy places of the Eternal City

Attendance at a Papal event in St Peter's Square

May 26th – June 2nd 2016 - **€995** (p.p.s.)

DAY 1: Thursday - ARRIVAL

Afternoon check in at Dublin Airport. Depart for Rome with Aer Lingus on three hour flight to Rome. Transfer to our hotel in the city centre.

Day 2: Friday – CATACOMBS, ST JOHN LATERAN, NIGHT TOUR After breakfast, tour of the Catacombs of St Callixtus and celebration of Mass. These ancient tunnels were the earliest burial grounds of the Christian community in Rome. Return to the area of the hotel. Free time for lunch and rest. At 4pm we will visit the Basilica of St. John Lateran (the first Christian Basilica and the Cathedral of Rome) where we will have a tour. At 6pm depart for a night tour with four course dinner (music and drinks included). The tour will take in the Circus Maximus, Colosseum, St Peter's, Piazza Venezia, and more. We will disembark in Piazza Venezia and climb Capitol Hill for stunning views of the Roman Forum.

Day 3: Saturday – ST PETER'S BASILICA, BAROQUE SQUARES OF ROME

A morning tour of St Peter's Basilica. We will see the tombs of St Peter, St John Paul II, St John XXIII and many others. After our tour, the coach will drop us along the Tiber. We will visit the Pantheon, Rome's best preserved ancient temple, now a church. Free time for lunch in the area. After lunch call to the tomb of St Catherine of Siena in Santa Maria Sopra Minerva. Visit Piazza Navona and Santa Maria dell' Anima where Irish Martyr Conor O'Devaney was consecrated Bishop in the 1600s. Free evening.

Day 4: Sunday – ST MARY MAJOR, ST. ISIDORE'S, TREVI, COLOSSEUM

Morning Mass in St Mary Major's Basilica, the principal Marian church in Rome. Tour of the Irish Franciscan house of St. Isidore and its historic chapel with many Irish associations. A walk in the area of the Spanish Steps. Free time for lunch in the area of the Trevi Fountain. Continue to the Colosseum, where we will have a tour from the outside. Free evening. An optional walking tour with dinner can be organised for those interested.

Day 5: Monday – A DAY IN THE ROMAN CASTLETOWNS

Today we will visit the beautiful towns in the Alban Hills just to the south of Rome. These include Castelgandolfo and Frascati. We will also visit Lake Albano which sits in the crater of an extinct volcano. Return to the hotel in the mid-afternoon. Rest of the evening free.

Day 6: Tuesday – ST PAUL'S, THE ABBEY OF THE THREE FOUNTAINS

After breakfast we will visit St Paul's Outside the Walls and pay our respects at the tomb of the Apostle to the Gentiles. Tour of the Basilica and Mass. We will see the sarcophagus of St Paul excavated in 2008. Opportunity for lunch in the Basilica café. Afterwards we will visit the atmospheric Abbey of the Three Fountains where St Paul was executed during the persecution of Nero. This Abbey is run by the Cistercians. After dinner, walking tour in the area of the Italian parliament buildings.

Day 7: Wednesday – PAPAL AUDIENCE, ASSISI

After breakfast check out. Load coach with luggage and then make our way to St Peter's for audience with the Holy Father (depends on his health/schedule and cannot be guaranteed). After the audience continue to Assisi in Umbria. Lunch along the way. Check in at our 3 star hotel in Assisi. In the afternoon visit the Basilica of St Francis with its frescoes by Giotto. The tomb of St Francis is in the crypt. Mass. Dinner in hotel.

Day 8: Thursday – PORZIUNCOLA, TRANSFER TO AIRPORT

Morning visit to the basilica of St Clare containing the tomb of the saint and the cross that spoke to St Francis. Free time for lunch and shopping in the picturesque centre of Assisi. Mass in the Porziuncola, the first permanent home of the Franciscan community and the place where St Francis died. Transfer to Rome airport for flight home (check in at 6pm).

Included in the price:

- Return flight (Dub-Rome-Dub).
- 6 nights accommodation B and B in 3 star hotel in Rome
- 1 night accommodation in 4 star hotel in Assisi with dinner
- 1 four course dinner in Rome with musical entertainment (drinks included)
- Full time accompaniment by a Cultural Connections tour leader.
- Coaching for all the excursions mentioned on the itinerary
- Guided tours of all places visited and all taxes (governmental and local).

NOT Included:

- Entrance fee to Catacombs (€8) and travel insurance.
- Single supplement of €280

HOW TO BOOK:

1. Fill out your booking form having read our **Terms & Conditions**.
2. Submit the deposit of €350 **made out to Tom Mannion Travel** and booking form to: **Cultural Connections Ltd. Newtown, Rahan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.**