

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND, ASSISI & ROME

4TH - 21ST
MAY 2027

TOUR HOST
FR ANTHONI
SELVARAJ OFM

19
DAYS

PACKAGE PRICE: AUD\$ 11,290*

PER PERSON (TWIN SHARE)

OPTIONAL
SINGLE ROOM
SUPPLEMENT:

AUD\$ 3,150

FULLY
ESCORTED

*Price based on group of at least 20 pilgrims. Subject to change. Conditions apply. There are only a limited number of single rooms available.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



St. Francis embraced the biblical call to live as "pilgrims and strangers." The friars' itinerant lives reflect their spirituality, living without possessions and trusting in God's providence.

In this spirit, I invite you to participate in the 2027 parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Assisi, and Rome. This journey offers an opportunity to deepen your faith and cultivate a greater appreciation for Franciscan spirituality. Through liturgy, prayer, reflection, and fellowship with other pilgrims, you may gain new insights into Christian life and spirituality, as well as a deeper understanding of the significance of belonging to a faith community.

Pilgrimage fosters community, encourages trust in God, and reveals the ways in which God acts unexpectedly. Although we may begin as strangers, the journey unites us and teaches us to let go, remain present, and trust in God's ongoing work. The life of St. Francis exemplifies the transformative power of the Gospel. I hope this pilgrimage will deepen your understanding of Gospel life through the examples of Francis and Clare, inviting us to reflect on and nurture our interior lives.



NEXT STEPS

1. Register your interest and obtain a Booking Form from Fr Anthoni or Olive Tree Travel or [CLICK HERE](#)
2. To secure your place, a deposit of AUD\$1000 per person is required by 27th November 2026 (unless sold out prior)
3. Final balance will be required by early March 2027



DAY 1 MONDAY, 3RD MAY - DEPART SYDNEY

Board your flight for the start of your journey to Tel Aviv, with complimentary meals and beverages served on board.

DAY 2 TUESDAY, 4TH MAY - ARRIVE TEL AVIV

On arrival in Tel Aviv, you will be met and transferred to your hotel in Tel Aviv. Mass location will depend on arrival time. (D) Overnight Tel Aviv

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY - JAFFA, NEOT KEDUMIM

Drive through modern Tel Aviv, the economic & cultural hub of the country and onto ancient Jaffa. It was here that St Peter raised Tabitha from the dead and stayed with Simon the Tanner (Acts 10-:5) which was a sign that Christianity was meant for all peoples. Celebrate Mass at the Church of St Peter in Jaffa. Then we visit the Neot Kedumim Biblical Landscape Reserve a unique endeavor which re-creates the physical setting of the Bible. Continue to Galilee. (B, D) Overnight Galilee

DAY 4 THURSDAY, 6TH MAY - NAZARETH, CANA, MUKHRAKA

Theme: The Annunciation Drive to Nazareth, the site of Mary's home and the town where Jesus lived as a child. At Nazareth, celebrate Mass in the Basilica of the Annunciation, and visit the Byzantine Church of St. Joseph and Mary's Well. Visit the convent of the Sisters of Nazareth where one of the nuns will give a tour of the fascinating excavations discovered there. In the afternoon visit Cana, where Jesus performed His first miracle at the request of His mother [John 2:1-11]. There visit the Franciscan chapel where those who wish to can perform the renewal of their wedding vows. In the afternoon visit Mukhraka; the Monastery here commemorates Elijah confronting the prophets of Baal. In Haifa visit Stella Maris, a Carmelite Monastery with the Madonna of Mt Carmel then return to Tiberias. (B, D) Overnight Galilee

DAY 5 FRIDAY, 7TH MAY - SEA OF GALILEE

Theme: The Ministry of Christ in the Galilee The day starts at the Mount of Beatitudes, scene of Jesus' great Sermon on the Mount. Then to Tabgha where Jesus fed the crowd of 5,000 and onto the site known as "Peter's Primacy". Here, after His resurrection, Jesus met with His disciples and told Peter to "feed my lambs; feed my sheep." [John 21:9]. A short drive away is Capernaum, from where Jesus launched his Ministry; see the synagogue which dates to the time of Jesus and the church built over the site of Peter's home. Celebrate Mass in this special place. End the day with a Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Dinner and overnight at your hotel. (B, D) Overnight Galilee

DAY 6 SATURDAY, 8TH MAY - MT. TABOR & CAESAREA, JERUSALEM

Theme: The Transfiguration Today, after breakfast, start the day with a drive to Mount Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration, with time to reflect on Christ's Humanity and Divinity. Mass here will be at the Basilica here designed to represent 3 tents. Then head for Caesarea, once the ancient capital of the Roman province. Here you view the impressive archaeological remains of the Roman and Byzantine city that once dominated the region. It was at Caesarea that Peter came to understand that the Good News was not for Jews only, but for the whole world. Here he baptized the Roman Centurion, Cornelius, and his family. It was from Caesarea that Paul set sail for Rome, an event that eventually brought Christianity to the World. End the day in Jerusalem. (B, D) Overnight Jerusalem

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DAY 7 SUNDAY, 9TH MAY - EIN KAREM, HERODIUM & BETHLEHEM

Theme: The Visitation and Nativity A short drive takes us to the village of Ein Karem, birthplace of John the Baptist, to visit the church that commemorates his memory. Pray the Mystery of the Rosary on the walk up the hill to the Church of the Visitation. Visit Herodium the fortress where Herod is buried and from where you see a stunning view over a landscape full of Biblical history. Drive to Bethlehem to see the cave at the Shepherds' Field. The caves have soot marks of the fires that shepherds lit to keep warm while watching over their flocks. Proceed to Bethlehem, beginning at Manger Square which stands in front of one of the oldest of Christian churches, the Church of the Nativity. Enter the Church and down to the Grotto of the Nativity which marks the spot of Jesus' birth. Beneath the Altar, there is a silver star with the Latin inscription: HIC DE VIRGINE MARIA JESUS CHRISTUS NATUS (Here Jesus Christ was born to the Virgin Mary.). After Mass return to the hotel in Jerusalem. (B, D) Overnight Jerusalem

DAY 8 MONDAY 10TH MAY - MASADA, QUMRAN/ DEAD SEA / JORDAN RIVER

Theme: Early Years in Jerusalem & the Wilderness. Drive through the Judean Wilderness where Jesus spent 40 days fasting to Masada, the fortress where the Jewish rebels preferred to die than be taken by the Romans as slaves. Stop at Jericho, the world's oldest continuously inhabited city, to view the Mt of Temptation and see an example of a Sycamore Tree. Visit the Baptismal site at the Jordan River then to Qumran to visit the remains of the Essene community which produced the Dead Sea Scrolls. There is time for a swim in the Dead Sea before returning to the hotel. (B, D) Overnight Jerusalem

DAY 9 TUESDAY, 11TH MAY - MT. OF OLIVES, GETHSEMANE MT. ZION

Theme: Palm Sunday and the Agony in the Garden From the Mount of Olives, take in the panoramic view of Jerusalem. Then to the Pater Noster shrine, where Jesus taught His disciples the Pater Noster — The Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:1-4). Walking down the Palm Sunday Road stop at the beautiful little church, Dominus Flevit - "The Lord wept." It was here that Jesus wept over Jerusalem [Luke 19:41]. At Gethsemane reflect on Jesus' final night. The Garden contains trees, the roots of which go back to the time of Jesus. Visit the Church of All Nations to pray at the "Rock of Agony," a section of bedrock identified as the place where Jesus prayed alone in the garden on the night of His arrest. From there, take the route through the Kidron Valley along which Jesus was taken as a prisoner to the house of the High Priest Caiaphas where He was interrogated and imprisoned. Now called Peter in Gallicantu ("crowing rooster"), this beautiful Church also commemorates Peter's Denial of Christ, his repentance and then being forgiven by Jesus. Here we celebrate Mass. After Mass go up to Mt. Zion to visit the Upper Room, commemorating the Last Supper. Nearby is the Benedictine Church of the Dormition. (B, D) Overnight Jerusalem

DAY 10 WEDNESDAY, 12TH MAY - TEMPLE MODEL, WESTERN WALL, JEWISH QUARTER

Theme: Jesus' Ministry in Jerusalem Begin the day with a visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum. Then to the Israel Museum to see the Second Temple scale model for an overview of Jerusalem as it was at the time of Jesus. At the steps of the Southern Wall of the Temple Mount ponder the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, the finding of Jesus at the Temple and the healing of the blind man at the Temple. Visit the Western Wall of the Temple Mount and the fascinating Tunnels. Then walk to see the Church of St Anne and the Pool of Bethesda, where Jesus healed the crippled man. (B, D) Overnight Jerusalem

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DAY 11 THURSDAY, 13TH MAY - VIA DOLOROSA, HOLY SEPULCHRE, EMMAUS

Theme: The Way of the Cross, The Crucifixion, The Resurrection This morning we start the Via Dolorosa (The Way of the Cross) at the Antonia Fortress, where Jesus was condemned to death by Pontius Pilate. From there He was taken through the city to be crucified. The Stations of the Cross lead, through the markets of the Old City to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Here is the site of Calvary and the Tomb of Christ. Attend High Mass at the Tomb of Christ in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. In the afternoon visit Abou Ghosh, probably site of Emmaus, where Jesus appeared to the two Disciples after the Resurrection. Here visit the lovely Crusader church and meditate in the beautiful gardens tended by the nuns. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D) Overnight Jerusalem

DAY 12 FRIDAY, 14TH MAY - FLY TO ROME, ASSISI

Transfer to airport for your flight to Rome... Arrival at Rome FCO Airport. Transfer to Assisi. Dinner and overnight in the hotel. (B,D) Overnight Assisi

DAY 13 SATURDAY, 15TH MAY - ASSISI

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit of Assisi where we'll visit (with local guide) this beautiful medieval city, including the Basilicas of St. Clare and St. Francis (with the Tomb of the Saint) and the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore with the tomb of the Saint Carlo Acutis. We'll also see the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli (where "Portiuncola" is located). In the afternoon we will visit (with local guide) Eremo delle Carceri and the Church of San Damiano (taxi ride included). Dinner and overnight in the hotel. (B,D) Overnight Assisi

DAY 14 SUNDAY, 16TH MAY - ASSISI / LA VERNA / ASSISI (120KM+120KM)

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure for La Verna to freely visit (with accompanying guide) the Sanctuary of La Verna, the place where St. Francis received the stigmata with the presence of Serafim. In a deep forest, pilgrims go to experience the beauty that St. Francis and his companions shared at this sacred place. Free time. Back to Assisi for dinner and overnight. (B, D) Overnight Assisi

DAY 15 MONDAY, 17TH MAY - ASSISI / RIVOTORTO / GRECCIO / FONTE COLOMBO / ROME (5KM+90KM+20KM+90KM)

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning we will travel to Rivotorto, where we will visit the Sanctuary. Then, on to Greccio where we will visit the Sanctuary of Greccio and the Church of St. Michael Arcangel. We will continue our day, travelling to Rieti, where the Sanctuary of Fonte Colombo is located. Free visit and time for prayer. At the end of our visits, we will travel to Rome. Dinner and overnight in the hotel. (B,D) Overnight Rome

DAY 16 TUESDAY, 18TH MAY - ROME

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, we will visit St. Peter's Square and Basilica (with local guide) to see the crypt with the tombs of the Saints and of the Popes. Continue to the Vatican Museums ending in the Sistine Chapel. This afternoon, we will visit the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls. Dinner and overnight in the hotel. (B,D) Overnight Rome

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DAY 17 WEDNESDAY, 19TH MAY – ROME

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning, there is the opportunity to attend the Papal Audience for those who'd like to. In the afternoon, we will visit the Basilica of Santa Maria in Aracoeli and then the Papal Basilicas of St. Mary Major's and St. John Lateran's, with the Holy Stairs. Dinner and overnight in the hotel. (B,D)

DAY 18 THURSDAY, 20TH MAY - DEPART ROME

Breakfast at the hotel. At the appropriate time transfer to Rome FCO airport to catch the return flight.

DAY 19 FRIDAY, 21ST MAY - ARRIVE HOME

Arrive back to Sydney today with wonderful memories of your Pilgrimage.

****Itinerary subject to change****

PILGRIMAGE INCLUSIONS:

- Emirates economy class airfares from Sydney to Tel Aviv and Rome to Sydney
- Economy class one way flight from Tel Aviv to Rome with El Al Israel Airlines
- 16 nights in hotel accommodation in shared twin rooms (10 nights in Israel and 6 nights in Italy).
- Vatican Museums Guided entrance fees
- Porterage (where available), tips & gratuities throughout
- Breakfasts and Dinners daily (all meals at hotels unless otherwise specified and lunches while out touring).
- Transport by deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- All guiding, entrance fees and transport as per the itinerary and outlined below.
- Whisperer Headsets

PRICE EXCLUDES

- Israel ITA Visa which is organised online and is currently 25 shekels which is approximately AUD\$12.
- Drinks with meals
- Personal payments
- Lunches
- The services that are not mentioned in "Inclusions"
- Travel insurance

ACCOMMODATION (OR SIMILAR):

Dan Panorama	Tel Aviv	1 night
Caesar Hotel	Tiberias	3 nights
Grand Court	Jerusalem	6 nights
Assisi	Domus Laetitia	3 nights
Rome	Bonus Pastor	3 nights

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3. Final balance will be required by early March 2027

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