



*The Padre Pio Foundation of America
presents an 11 Day Pilgrimage to Italy
“In the footsteps of Saint Francis and Saint Pio”*

Spiritual Director

Father David Beaumont

September 16—26, 2019

YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:

- Round trip air from JFK Airport -Taxes included
- First Class 3 and 4 Star Hotels
- Breakfast and Dinner Daily
- Air-conditioned motor coach
- English speaking guide
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- Porterage of one piece of luggage at hotels
- All taxes and service charges
- Daily Mass and Rosary

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Mass at the Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi
- Visit the Tombs of Saint Francis and Saint Clare
- Visit Pietrelcina home town of Padre Pio
- Visit the Monastery of LaVerna
- Visit Saint Michael’s Cave
- Visit the Basilica of Santa Maria delle Grazie
- Visit of the Tomb of Padre Pio in the Church of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina
- Mass at Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza
- Attend festivities for Padre Pio’s Feast Day celebration
- Papal Audience (provided the Holy Father is in residence) and visit to Saint Peter’s Basilica
- Panorama of Rome

Pilgrimage Price: Double/Triple per person: \$ 3,599.00 Single Supplement: \$ 750.00

Final bill will reflect tips for driver and guide



Padre Pio Foundation of America Pilgrimage

September 16–26, 2019

Mon, Sep 16th: New York/Rome—Meet our group at JFK to travel together to Rome.

Tue, Sep 17th: Assisi

Morning arrival in Rome and transfer to Assisi. Upon arrival, we visit the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli where we see the Porziuncola (the little church St. Francis built). After our visit we check into our beautiful 4 Star hotel.



Wed, Sep 18th: Assisi

We start our day with Mass at San Damiano.* After Mass we have time to visit the Chapels and the rooms where Saint Clare's nuns lived. After our visit, we go to the upper city to visit the Basilicas of Saint Francis and Saint Clare (where we will find the original San Damiano Cross). We will see the Tombs of these two Saints. We have free time for lunch, on our own, and shopping before our return to the hotel.



San Damiano

*When the image of Christ in the crucifix at San Damiano miraculously spoke these words to Saint Francis, "Go repair my Church, which as you see is falling completely in ruin," he was awakened to new sense of his work. At first he concentrated on the physical repairing of the church buildings of San Damiano and nearby. He took those words he heard literally. But he then realized that those words were meant for him to repair and heal "the church" and his greatest contribution to the healing and repair of the Church was the founding of the Franciscan Order, which began with the followers that Christ began to send to him shortly after the vision.

Thu, Sep 19th: Assisi/La Verna/Assisi

Morning departure to La Verna where we will celebrate Mass in the small, chapel built on the site where Saint Francis received the stigmata. Because of the importance of this place in the life of Saint Francis, La Verna was and still is an important pilgrimage site for Franciscans and followers of Saint Francis.

La Verna Sanctuary is perched in an amazing setting in the forest on a high rocky promontory, visible from a distance. The sanctuary sits on the site where Saint Francis received the stigmata. It's now a monastic complex that includes the monastery, church, museum, chapels, and the cave that was his cell. From the sanctuary there are fantastic views of the valleys below.

The story is that the first time Saint Francis came here, a multitude of birds welcomed him at the foothills shaking their wings to show their bliss and joy. Francesco told his friends that it was a sign of God's gratification: "Our Lord Jesus Christ likes this and wants us to live in such solitary place." La Verna became one of the hermitages where he liked to spend extended periods of retreat.



La Verna

After Mass and our visit, we will have a wonderful lunch at a nearby restaurant where the owners will prepare an authentic Italian lunch for us. Then there will be free time to shop in the Sanctuary's gift shops. We return to Assisi in the late afternoon.

Fri, Sep 20th: Assisi/Gubbio/Assisi

Today we go to Gubbio and visit the Church of Saint Francis in this well-preserved medieval town that was built around 1255.

This church was built by the residents of Gubbio on the lands of the ancient Spadalunga family. It was this family that in 1206-1207 is said to have taken in and clothed Saint Francis after he abandoned his family home and renounced his wealth. It was here that the saint wore a habit for the first time, which was to become the outfit of the Franciscans.

Giacomello Spadalunga of Gubbio, met Francis in the prison of Perugia, after the defeat of Collestrada. The building of this great church and convent dedicated to Francis began just a few years after his death and was strongly desired by the city of Gubbio, which took him in and adopted him. The story is that St. Francis made peace with a wolf that was bothering the people of Gubbio. According to the story, after Francis tamed the wolf, the wolf lived peacefully with the people of Gubbio for two years until he died of old age.

After our visit, we will enjoy a classic Italian wine tasting.



St. Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio

Sat, Sep 21st: Assisi/San Giovanni Rotondo

Upon arrival we check in at our hotel.

Sun, Sep 22nd: San Giovanni Rotondo



Today we visit the Basilica of Santa Maria delle Grazie and the Chapel of the old Church where Padre Pio celebrated Mass. We have Mass followed by a visit of the English Office for a talk on Padre Pio and a blessing with Padre Pio's relics.

Next we visit the new Church of St. Pio of Pietrelcina. We will walk down the beautiful mosaic hallway depicting the lives of Saint Francis and Saint Pio. It will lead us to the crypt where you will see Padre Pio's Tomb. The Crypt is designed with intricate mosaics of the life of Christ.

After our visit, the remainder of the day is free for time to pray and visit this town built around the love for Padre Pio.

Note that tonight the festivities begin in celebration of Padre Pio's Feast Day. The rosary and prayers begin around 8PM and at midnight, Padre Pio's Feast Day Mass begins.

Mon, Sep 23rd: Padre Pio's Feast Day

Today is the feast day of Padre Pio. This morning, we will be graciously received at La Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, Padre Pio's hospital. We will celebrate Mass in the quaint, little chapel where Padre Pio celebrated Mass followed by a tour of the hospital with a special visit to the small museum within the hospital. *This visit is often one of the highlights of our trip according to past pilgrims.*

After lunch, on our own, we depart to Mount Sant' Angelo where we visit the famous St. Michael's Cave where St. Michael the Archangel appeared. Padre Pio often sent people there when they came to visit him.

As you enter the cave, you will know it is a very special and sacred place.



*The history of this Shrine to St. Michael dates as far back as the late 300's, when St. Michael appeared to a Catholic bishop on this mountain that contained an opening to a cave. But first, he appeared to the landowner of this mountain as a "beautiful bull" that ended up causing the man to chase after it and desire to kill it. Upon attempting to shoot the beast with an arrow, the arrow mysteriously turned back on the man and hit him in the foot. Being frightened, the landowner went to the bishop. After the bishop prayed and did penance to discern what exactly was the cause of this event, St. Michael appeared and told him that this land was sacred ground and that this particular man had offended him. He said: "I am the Archangel

Michael and am always in the presence of God. The cave is sacred for me, I have chosen it. I, myself, am its watchful custodian. There, where the rock opens wide, the sins of men can be forgiven. What is asked for here in prayer will be granted. Therefore, go to the mountain and dedicate the grotto to the Christian religion.” You can see here by this story that St. Michael did not hesitate to show his disapproval of the man tramping on “his property” by hitting him in the foot with an arrow! The poor man thought this bull would be a fine specimen to add to his other herds – what was wrong with that?

Despite this vision of St Michael, this rather hardhearted bishop did not immediately take St. Michael seriously. It took more proof to win the bishop’s heart. In 492, this bishop was asking for a victory over the enemies of the region. St Michael appeared to him after three days of prayer and penance. St. Michael promised a victory which the complete extermination of his enemies. Then, in 493, the bishop finally desired to obey St Michael’s request and consecrate this ground and grotto to him “but the Archangel appeared to him again and announced that he himself had already consecrated the grotto. The grotto, itself, is the only place of worship not consecrated by human hands and over the centuries has received the title of “Celestial Basilica”.

So you see that St. Michael was not about to wait around for this defiant bishop – he had gone ahead and consecrated the ground himself.



Saint Michael’s Cave

Tue, Sep 24th: San Giovanni Rotondo/Pietrelcina/Rome

Morning departure to Padre Pio’s hometown of Pietrelcina. We will be greeted by the staff of Our Lady of the Angels, Santa Maria degli Angeli, the parish church where Padre Pio celebrated Mass as a young priest. We will continue through this tiny village so that we can visit Padre Pio’s family home and the small church where he was baptized. This is also the church where Padre Pio consecrated himself to Jesus at a young age.



Piana Romana

From here we can see the Forgione family farm in nearby Piana Romano and we will travel there next as this is where Padre Pio received the invisible stigmata in 1910. A chapel was constructed around the tree he was praying under when he received this unique and special gift.

After our visit, we continue on our journey to Rome.



Santa Anna Church

Wed, Sep 25th: Papal Audience

This morning we go to St. Peter's Square for the Papal Audience and tour of Saint Peter’s Basilica. In the afternoon we will have a panoramic tour of Rome with a stop at the Trevi Fountain so you can throw a coin into the fountain to ensure you come back to Rome. And in the evening, we join together for our last dinner together.

Thu, Sep 26th: New York

Depart for the USA



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