

# St. Francis of Assisi Pilgrimage



Includes Florence, Rome and Assisi  
With the  
Wrightsville UMC

Register by  
2/15/23 &  
SAVE \$100

October 23 - November 1, 2023

\$4255\* from Raleigh, NC

**DAY 1 and 2** Begin your journey with an overnight flight to Rome, Italy, where upon arrival you will be greeted by our escort. Board the air conditioned coach for a comfortable drive to Florence.

**Day 3** See the **Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore** with its magnificent **dome, Bell Tower and Baptistry**. The **Baptistry** has golden doors designed by Ghiberti representing scenes from the Life and Passion of Christ. Visit the **Museum of the Duomo** to see Donatello's sculpture of *Magdalene* and the **Accademia** to see Michelangelo's famous statue of *David*. Enjoy time on your own in the afternoon.

**DAY 4** Travel to **La Verna**, high atop Mount Penna in the Tuscan Apennines. Amidst the striking views, feel the peace of this isolated place where St. Francis received the stigmata. Continue on to Assisi for three nights.

**DAY 5** Enjoy a full day outside the walls exploring where Francis began his ministry. Visit the Church of **San Damiano**, where Claire lived and where Francis received his vision to "rebuild the church." Visit **Eremo Delle Carceri**, a monastery in the dense woodlands on the side of **Monte Subasio**. It was here on the slope of the mountain in caves where Francis and his followers established their first home to which he returned often during his lifetime to pray and meditate. Continue to **Santa Maria degli Angeli**, the Baroque church which was built over the **Porziuncola**, the little chapel restored by St. Francis. It is here in a spartan cell that St. Francis died. Visit **Rivotorto**, where Francis and his 12 companions put in to practice the principles of the Rule. It was the first Franciscan Community where they lived in extreme poverty, satisfying themselves with bread, turnips and fruits.

**DAY 6** Begin the day by visiting the **Basilica di San Francesco**, which contains one of the most imposing series of frescoes, 28 scenes from the life of St. Francis by Giotto, and the crypt where the remains of St. Francis rest. Visit the Church of **Santa Chiara**, dedicated to St. Clare, who was one of the earliest and most fervent of Francis' followers. See the **Cappella del Crocifisso**, the cross that spoke to St. Francis and led him to a life of piety. Enjoy a free afternoon in **Assisi**.

**DAY 7** After Worship at the Basilica journey to **Rome** as Francis did in the spring of 1209. Travel along the "**Highway of the Sun**" and visit **Greccio** to see the **Greccio Monastery**, where St. Francis celebrated Christmas in 1223 by placing a manger and live animals

before the altar which started the custom of making crèches or manger scenes at Christmas. See the **Chapel of the Crib**.

**DAY 8** Begin the day in the ruins of ancient Rome. See Palatine Hill, the Arch of Titus and the Arch of Constantine. Walk through the **Roman Forum** and visit the **Roman Colosseum**. Enjoy time on your own in the afternoon.

**DAY 9** Travel the short distance to the **Vatican State**, an entire European state comprising only 109 acres, ruled by the Pope, and having its own postage stamps, coinage, anthem and flag. Within the boundaries of the **Vatican** stands **St. Peter's Basilica**, built on the site where St. Peter was buried after he had been martyred in **Nero's Circus**. The first chapel on the right as you enter **St. Peter's** contains the *Pieta*, the moving and powerful masterpiece carved by Michelangelo. Visit the **Sistine Chapel** and marvel at the beauty created by Michelangelo on its ceiling. This afternoon visit the **Catacombs**, the ancient Christian Burial. Visit **St. Paul's outside the Walls**. Join the group for a "**farewell to Rome**" dinner.



**DAY 10** Our journey ends with a morning flight to the United States.

*You will see all of the above sites during your Journey. Flexibility in the itinerary may be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances, such as airline, hotel schedules, local conditions.*

## Your Assisi Pilgrimage Includes:

- ◆ Round trip airfare from Raleigh, NC
- ◆ Superior Tourist Class Hotels
- ◆ Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
- ◆ Guided Sightseeing
- ◆ Breakfast and Dinner Daily (except 2 dinners)
- ◆ Entrance Fees
- ◆ Services of *ACTS*

**The Highest Quality at the Best Value**

# Alpha Christian TourS, Inc.

621 Macon Place Raleigh, NC 27609 Alphatours@gmail.com www.Alphatours.com

Passenger 1 \_\_\_\_\_

As It Appears On Your Passport

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Dr., Bro., Rev., Fr. If different than above

Birth Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Passenger 2 \_\_\_\_\_

As It Appears On Your Passport

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Dr., Bro., Rev., Fr. If different than above

Birth Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate \_\_\_\_\_

Assign single room+ \_\_\_\_\_ Assign a roommate+ \_\_\_\_\_

Travel Host: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure City: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Register Me For:

IT102323RDU

\_\_\_\_\_ Basic Program \$4255\* from Raleigh, NC

Or contact the ACTS office to travel from a city near you

**Please make a copy of the front page of your passport and send it to our office with this registration form. NOTE: All correspondence including airline tickets is done by Email.**

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**For Office Use**

Deposit & Check#: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

**AGREEMENT:** Registration constitutes acceptance of this agreement by the passenger.

**PAYMENT:** A \$500 per person deposit is required for registration. Registrations postmarked by February 15, 2023 will receive \$100 Early Registration Savings off final invoice.

Full payment is due 130 days before departure. Full payment must accompany registrations inside 130 days of departure. Registrations made less than 35 days before departure require a \$100 Late Registration Fee. Late payments will be charged a \$50 late fee. In an effort to maintain lower costs credit cards are not accepted. Canceled checks serve as receipt of payment. Travel Insurance is recommended and information will be provided upon registration.

**AIRLINES:** Air transportation will be provided using economy class aboard IAATA and ARC carriers with APEX or SUPER APEX non-refundable, unchangeable tickets for groups of 10 or more with the same itinerary. Flight times are subject to change by the airlines without advance notice. Alpha Christian TourS, Inc. accepts no responsibility for airline delays and will not reimburse any expenses caused by such delays. Air Tickets cannot be changed or refunded after being purchased. ACTS reserves the right to add a surcharge if the dollar declines by more than 5% against the Euro based on exchange rates in effect on 12/22.

**CANCELLATION FEES:** Up to 130 days before departure ~ \$100 and any airline penalties. Thereafter, you will be charged a single room fee if your cancellation forces your roommate into a single room plus any airline penalties and the following charges apply: 129 - 100 days ~ \$350. 99 - 65 days ~ 35% of total trip cost. 64 - 36 days ~ 50% of total trip cost. 35 days to departure ~ 100% trip cost. No refund for any service not used. Travel Insurance is recommended.

**\*NOT INCLUDED IN THE BASIC PRICE:** (1) Love Offering for the Driver and Guides [suggestion of \$10-\$15/day] (2) Baggage charge, lunches, beverages at meals, laundry, passports, 2 dinners (Florence/Rome), personal items are not included. ACTS reserves the right to add fuel surcharges imposed by the airline.

**+ACCOMMODATIONS:** Hotel rooms are based upon double occupancy. ACTS will provide single rooms at an additional charge of \$200 per night if available. Upon request, ACTS will attempt to assign (but cannot guarantee) a roommate. If itinerary changes necessitate extra nights there will be an additional charge (Single ~ \$450, Double ~ \$400). Single rooms are often smaller than double rooms. Limited number of single rooms are available.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Travel Insurance is available and recommended. More information will be provided upon registration.

**FIT FOR TRAVEL:** Most foreign countries do not conform to the USA Disabilities Act standard. Passengers registering for the trip accept responsibility for being in good health and able to walk on the tour. Many of the sites are not accessible to the physically challenged, who may find the tour limiting in their experiences. ACTS assumes no responsibility for a passenger's inability to fully participate in the tour.

**DEVIATIONS:** Deviations must be submitted with registration and are subject to a \$150.00 /person fee. Transfers for deviating passengers are not included.

**NOTICE:** Except where otherwise stated ACTS works only as agent for the relevant supplier in securing hotels, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall ACTS be liable for failure by any such supplier to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. ACTS assumes no liability for injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may occur by reason of any negligent or willful act or omission of any suppliers of service. ACTS does not own or operate any of the suppliers of services to your tour. Similarly without limiting the foregoing, passenger agrees to hold ACTS harmless for any defect in any vehicle, plane, boat, bus, car, van or other vehicle, act of war or insurrection, terrorist activity, revolt or other civil uprising, military action, strikes or labor unrest or any Act of God or for any other act of any third party. North Carolina law will be applicable to any dispute which arises out of or concerns this brochure or your tour.

**Contact Leader with questions or for more info:**  
**Donna Pinckney:** donna@wrightsvilleumc.org/910-256-4471  
or email the ACTS Office (alphatours@gmail.com)