

A Pilgrimage to ITALY & GREECE



METEORA, GREECE

YOUR HOSTS



JULY 20TH - AUGUST 1ST, 2024

Hello Fellow Travelers,

St. Augustine once said, “The world is a book, and those who do not travel, read only one page.” Fortunately, travel is back in full swing, and we are once again organizing a Pilgrimage trip to sacred sites in Italy and Greece. While we will offer daily Mass and visit places of Catholic and Augustinian significance, we will also visit many secular/historical sites, and of course, have fun with local food, drink, and music! We hope you will consider signing up for the trip with us!

Fr. Bernie Scianna, O.S.A. (773-209-5085) and
Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A. (773-220-4542)

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO TRANSATLANTIC AIRFARE): **\$ 3699**
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$ 899**

*Airfares are available from most U.S. departure cities.
Please call for details.*

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 11 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, including all hotel taxes and service charges
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily and 6 dinners
- AIRFARE:** One way flight from Naples to Athens
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as per the itinerary by private luxury motor coach
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe tour guide throughout and local guides in Rome, Naples, Meteora, Delphi, Athens, Mycenae, and Corinth
- BAGGAGE:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.*

Optional Pre-Tour Extension to SICILY

Departing the US on July 17th and arriving in Palermo, Sicily on the 18th, this pre-trip extension will spend 3 nights in Palermo at a 4 star, centrally located hotel and will include: breakfast daily, 1 dinner on arrival day, a half day sightseeing of Palermo with a local guide (a walking tour), an excursion to Altavilla Milicia (a short distance along the coast from Palermo), a Discover Europe tour guide throughout and a one-way flight from Palermo to Rome on July 21st to join the group.

The cost of this extension will be **\$1399**, per person, double occupancy, single supplement: **\$399**



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SATURDAY, JULY 20. Departure from your chosen US City. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

SUNDAY, JULY 21. Your morning arrival at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport will be greeted for the transfer into our city-center hotel. After checking in there will be time to unpack, relax and find some lunch. The afternoon is free to begin exploring the city and to rest up from the overnight flight. We'll round the day off with Mass at San Agostino Basilica, where the tomb of St. Monica is located before dinner at a local restaurant. Welcome to Rome! **(D) OVERNIGHT: ROME**

MONDAY, JULY 22. We begin at the Vatican Museum as the doors open. Almost 7 kilometres of exhibits fill the Vatican Palace and a local expert guide will shepherd us through—the Sistine Chapel will certainly be a highlight. We will celebrate Mass in Vatican City (location to be determined) and visit our Augustinian Headquarters (across from St. Peter's) for a great view from the rooftop. The rest of the afternoon is free - perhaps a

visit to the Spanish Steps and the Keats-Shelley Memorial House in the Piazza de Spagna, or enjoy the comparative serenity of the Villa Borghese. Your tour guide will be available to help with suggestions and directions. The evening is free to enjoy a traditional Roman restaurant. **(B) OVERNIGHT: ROME**

TUESDAY, JULY 23. Leaving Rome this morning, we head north into the Sabine Hills. Our first stop is the village of Roccaporena, where Saint Rita was born in 1381. We'll visit her birthplace and the house where she lived before driving into nearby Cascia. After checking in to our hotel, there will be free time to have lunch in the village before we visit the basilica and shrine of Saint Rita and celebrate Mass this afternoon. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CASCIA**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24. Driving south through the beautiful countryside of the Alban Hills, we stop at the Shrine of Our Mother of Good Counsel in Genazzano. We'll visit the 13th-century Augustinian church with its miraculous fresco of The Virgin and Child, celebrate Mass and then continue on to Monte Cassino. Monte Cassino is the home of the Benedictine Order, established here by Benedict of Nursia himself in 529 AD. We'll have time here for lunch and to visit the Abbey before continuing south on the Autostrada del Sole to Naples. Dinner is included this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: NAPLES**

THURSDAY, JULY 25. This morning we visit Pompeii for a guided tour of the ancient city, buried by Vesuvius's eruption on August 23, AD 79. We return to Naples for a short sight-seeing tour with a local guide. We'll visit the National Archaeological Museum with its vast array of Roman and Greek treasures and then continue into the city centre to view the triumphal arch entrance of Castel Nuovo, the Palazzo Reale and the Galleria Umberto I, which faces the Teatro San Carlo. Finally, we visit our Augustinian Church, celebrate Mass and enjoy a view of the bay from the balcony. The rest of the evening is free...perhaps for a pizza!. **(B) OVERNIGHT: NAPLES**



FRIDAY, JULY 26. This morning we take an excursion to the island of Capri, one of the legendary beauty spots of the Mediterranean. We'll board a ferry for the 45-minute ride across the Bay of Naples, land at the Marina Grande. Weather and tides permitting, we travel by local boat to the Blue Grotto, a cave bathed in an iridescent blue light. There will be free time to explore Marina Grande and to walk up the cobbled narrow street to Capri, the island's main town. Here there are spectacular views out over the bay towards the mainland and Mount Vesuvius. On our return to Naples, the rest of the afternoon and evening are free. **(B) OVERNIGHT: NAPLES**

SATURDAY, JULY 27. Morning flight direct from Naples to Athens. On arrival, we head north following the Aegean coast. Our first stop will be at the battlefield of Thermopylae. It was here, in 480 BC, that Leonidas and his 300 Spartans held off the massed armies of the Persian Empire long enough for the citizens of Athens to prepare their counter attack. We'll continue this afternoon into the central plain of northern Greece. Our destination is our hotel in the town of Kalambaka. After checking in, we'll have time to freshen up and relax before dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: METEORA**

SUNDAY, JULY 28. We'll begin our day in Meteora with a visit to the Great Meteoron Monastery. This is the largest of the 6 remaining "perched" monasteries of Meteora and dates from the mid-1300s. After a break for lunch in the small town of Kastraki, we'll visit the Holy Trinity Monastery, built in 1475. This is the one that was used as a location in the James Bond film *For Your Eyes Only*. On our return to our hotel the evening is free. **(B) OVERNIGHT: METEORA**

MONDAY, JULY 29. Returning south, we stop in Delphi, site of the shrine of Apollo, the home of the most famous oracle of ancient times. We'll arrive in time to have lunch in the town before taking a guided tour of the ancient archeological site and its fabulous museum. Continuing to Athens, dinner is included this evening on arrival at our hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ATHENS**



TUESDAY, JULY 30. Our day starts with a visit to the Acropolis, the main site of Classical Athens with its temples and museum, and wonderful views over the ancient center of the city. The afternoon is free to take a leisurely lunch and wander through the Plaka, the old part of the city with narrow winding streets bursting with stores and cafes. In the evening why not try dinner at a taverna with live Greek music. **(B) OVERNIGHT: ATHENS**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31. This morning we take a full day excursion south of the city. We cross the Gulf of Corinth on the isthmus, the narrow strip of land, pierced by the Corinth Canal, that connects northern and southern Greece. We are now in the Peloponnese, the area of Greece south of the Gulf of Corinth. Our first stop is to visit the ancient city of Corinth, where we can stand on the very spot where St. Paul was arrested. A short drive

from Corinth brings us to Mycenae, home of Agamemnon and his Lion Gate, a site that was excavated first in 1876 by Schliemann, who found the fabulously rich royal graves here. We return to Athens for our farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ATHENS**

THURSDAY, AUG 01. Morning transfers to the airport for returning flights **(B)**

*Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **L** - lunch, **D** - dinner