



Walking in the Footsteps of St. Francis: Annecy, Padua, & Assisi

11 Days | Summer 2026

The experience of a lifetime is waiting for you. Every detail from the cities you'll stay in to the cultural discoveries you'll make have been customized by your teacher for your group. Take a look at your personal itinerary for a sneak peek of what's in store.

Included on tour



Round-trip flights on major carriers; full-time Tour Director; project-based learning program, EF's personalized learning experience; hotels with private bathrooms; breakfast and dinner daily unless otherwise specified.

Sightseeing: Assisi; Eremo delle Carceri, Chiesa San Damiano and La Rocca Maggiore; Ancient Rome; Catacombs; Vatican

Entrances: Basilica of Visitation; Turin Cathedral; Basilica San Antonio; Scrovegni Chapel; Padua University tour; Basilica, Assisi; Chiesa Nuova; Duomo di San Rufino; Basilica di Santa Chiara; Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels; Church of San Damiano; Eremo delle Carceri; Visit the La Verna Sanctuary; Colosseum; Roman Forum; Catacombs, Rome; St. Paul Outside the Walls; Cooking class, Rome; St. Peter's Basilica; Sistine Chapel

Overnights: Annecy region (2); Padua region (1); Assisi (3); Rome (3)



Your Itinerary

Day 1: Fly to Switzerland

Board your overnight flight to Geneva!

Day 2: Geneva | Annecy region

Arrive in Geneva and travel to the Annecy region

Touch down in the city of Geneva, where you will be met by your Tour Director. From here, travel on to the area of picture-perfect Annecy, a town of cobblestone streets and flower boxes.

Day 3: Annecy region

Visit the Basilica of Visitation

Located just on the outskirts of the Crete du Maure Forest, construction of the Basilica of Visitation was started in 1909 and completed in 1930. The Visitation Order in Annecy, however, was founded in the early 1600s by Francois de Sales and Jeanne de Chantal.

Walking tour of the Old Town

With your Tour Director, take a stroll through Annecy's Old Town and see some of the sites of St. Francis de Sales.

Lake Annecy Cruise

Enjoy a cruise on the ice-blue lake for which Annecy is famous. Relax, while your guide points out different sites along the shore.

Exploration time in Annecy

Walk around the "Venice of the Alps." Explore the Vieille Annecy and see the canals that cut through it. The great philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau lived here during the eighteenth century.

Day 4: Annecy region | Padua region

Travel via Turin to Padua

Visit the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist (*time permitting*)

Travel to Turin, Italy, to visit the famous Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. Inside this beautiful cathedral is the Shroud of Turin, a piece of cloth from Medieval times that appears to have the image of Jesus sown into its fabric. The Cathedral is also home to a replica of Da Vinci's The Last Supper.

Arrive in Padua

With a population of just over 200,000, this university town has recently become an economic and communications center for the surrounding area.

Day 5: Padua region | Assisi

Visit St. Anthony's Basilica

Visit the 13th century St. Anthony's Basilica, in which the saint is interred. Marvel at the richly frescoed interior as well as the many works of art by Donatello for which this church is known.

Visit Scrovegni Chapel

Your excursion will first take you to the world-famous Cappella degli Scrovegni, inside which you will see some of Giotto's geometrically perfect frescoes. They depict different scenes involved in the life of Christ and are considered among his many masterpieces. The chapel itself was funded and constructed by the Scrovegni family, who hoped the dedication of the chapel would save their souls, as many wealthy medieval families did. (*Please note this visit is subject to availability*)

Visit the University of Padua (*time permitting*)

Founded in 1222, the University of Padua is one of Italy's great centers of learning. If you were a physics student here during Galileo's time, he would have been your professor! On your guided tour of the Palazzo Bo, visit the Anatomical Theatre, the Great Hall and the Room of Medicine. (*Please note: when university events are scheduled, access to all rooms may not be possible.*)

Travel to Assisi

Travel into Umbria and the Vale of Spoleto to the hilltop town of Assisi, home to the stunning Basilica of St. Francis. Surrounded by breathtaking countryside and rich in local produce, this is one of the most endearing parts of Italy.

Day 6: Assisi

Guided sightseeing of Assisi

Today you will explore Assisi, a picturesque walled hill-town in the Umbrian region and birthplace of St. Francis one of Italy's patron saints.

Visit the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi

Dominating the Assisi skyline, the Basilica is actually two churches juxtaposed upon one another. Despite extensive damage by two earthquakes in the late 1990s, much of the church has been restored. Inside is the tomb of St Francis as well as frescoes depicting his life.

Visit the Chiesa Nuova

Built on what is believed to be the site that St. Francis was born, Chiesa Nuova was constructed in 1615 under the order of Antonio de Trejo.

Visit the Duomo di San Rufino

Visit this 13th-century church where St. Francis and St. Clare were baptized.

Visit the Basilica di Santa Chiara

This Basilica honors Saint Clare, one of the first followers of St. Francis and the founder of the Order of Poor Ladies. This order was instituted to organize those women who chose to embrace monastic life in the Franciscan vision.

Visit the Santa Maria degli Angeli

St. Mary's of the Angels Basilica is located at the base of Assisi's main hill. The basilica was built between the years 1569 and 1679, and it was here that St. Francis initially began the Franciscan movement when he renounced the world and vowed to live in poverty.

Visit the Church of San Damiano

The Church of San Damiano is a 12th century church and monastery located just outside of Assisi. It is said that Saint Francis had an encounter with Christ in this dilapidated building back in the year 1205.

Visit Eremo delle Carceri

Located just a few kilometers north of Assisi, Eremo delle Carceri is a small hermitage to which Saint Francis came to pray in the early 13th century.

Day 7: Assisi

Group Leader-arranged Mass

Your Group Leader will arrange a Mass for you to attend this morning.

Visit the La Verna Sanctuary

Journey out into the Tuscan countryside to visit the Franciscan Sanctuary of La Verna. Located about two hours north of Assisi, this hermitage is one of the most important sites to the followers of St. Francis of Assisi, as this is where he received the Stigmata.

Day 8: Assisi | Rome

Travel via Greccio to Rome

This morning, you'll stop in the charming hillside town of Greccio. Take some free time to explore the village. You'll also visit the Sanctuary of Greccio. It was here where St. Francis was said to have created the very first Bethlehem Nativity Scene, on Christmas Eve in 1223. (*Please note: this stop is time permitting.*)

Arrive in Rome

Welcome to Rome, the Eternal City. The city is an incredible mix of archaeological gems, Roman genius, Renaissance art and religious treasure.

Guided sightseeing of Ancient Rome

Your guided sightseeing of Ancient Rome takes you through the impressive architectural ruins of the Roman Forum, once the heart political and civilian life in the Roman Empire. You will also visit the Colosseum, where battle reenactments, animal hunts, theater performances, and gladiators once battled other warriors and beasts for their lives in front of 50,000+ spectators from all over the Empire. (*Please note: Entry to the Colosseum is pending availability due to limited group reservations.*)

Your Itinerary

Day 9: Rome

Guided excursion to the Roman Catacombs

Journey back into the 11th century on this half-day excursion to Rome's outlying catacombs. Tombs were dug into the walls in a series of underground passageways, primarily as a response to overcrowding and land shortages. Visit the burial chambers of popes and saints and explore some of the earliest signs of Christian worship. Then head to the Church of San Paolo Fuori le Mura (St. Paul Outside the Walls), the second largest church in Rome, after St. Peter's Basilica.

Exploration time in Rome

Enjoy time to make your own explorations of Rome. You may wish to sit on the grassy banks of the Circus Maximus and imagine what it was like to watch chariot races there or find a café and watch the noise and bustle of this fascinating city go by.

Cooking class

is your chance to become a real Italian chef! Learn the basics of the regional specialties, as a local professional chef guides you through the process. You'll start by making two kinds of pasta from scratch (anything from ravioli to cannelloni). Next, the focus turns to the sauces. Don't worry if your skills in the kitchen are lacking. When you're done cooking you'll be treated to a three-course dinner prepared by the chef's team!

Day 10: Rome

Group Leader-arranged Papal Audience

Take time to make your own explorations of Vatican City. Your Group Leader will arrange for you to join worshipers from across the globe as you attend the weekly Papal Audience in St. Peter's square.

Guided sightseeing of Vatican City

One of the world's largest domes is located in the world's smallest country. See both during your guided visit of Vatican City. Your expert local guide will bring you through the Vatican Museum, where elaborate galleries packed with one artistic masterpiece after another lead you directly to the Sistine Chapel and its famous fresco ceiling. Then, enter St. Peter's Basilica under the watchful eyes of the brightly dressed Swiss Guard. Inside, admire Michelangelo's Pietà and try to find the artist's signature (it is the only sculpture he ever signed). *(Please note: Due to limited group reservations, entrance to the Vatican Museum is pending confirmation. If entrance cannot be arranged, an alternative tour will be provided.)*

Day 11: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport for your return flight

Your Tour Director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

Itinerary is subject to change

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My daughter has gained such an amazing view of the world and history from this experience. She has not stopped talking since I picked her up at the airport. Thank you for all the organization, helpful hints, flexible payment plan, and knowledgeable tour guides.

—CHARLOTTE, PARENT OF TRAVELER



Tour review

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