



FRANCISCAN
MISSION ASSOCIATES

St. Francis of Assisi 800th Jubilee Pilgrimage

April 14 - 23, 2026 - 10 days

Assisi - La Verna - Fonte Colombo -
Greccio - Rome

\$5,999 from New York - JFK



Featuring
a Papal Audience with
Pope Leo XIV
(schedule permitting)

To book online:
<https://bit.ly/FMA-Italy>

For Info and Reservations, contact:

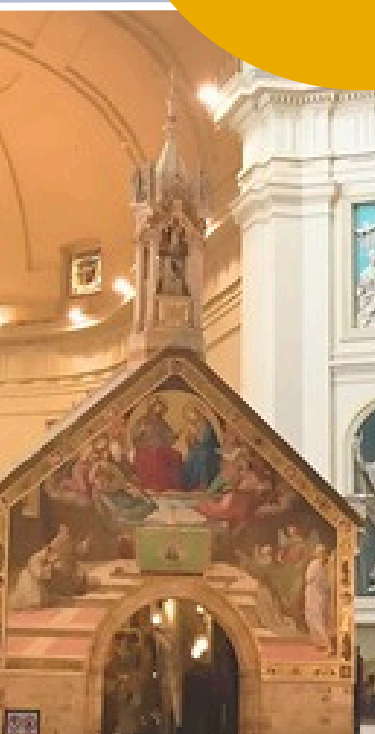
Pilgrimage Department

Franciscan Mission Associates

PO Box 598, Mount Vernon NY 10551

Telephone: 914-664-5604

Email: admin@franciscanmissionassoc.org



Space is limited. To reserve your place, a \$500 deposit is due by
New Year's Day, January 1, 2026, with full payment due by March 1, 2026.

TO BOOK ONLINE,
CLICK HERE OR SCAN:



Dear Friends,

Throughout the years, the Church has been known for being “ever ancient, ever new.” We keep the beliefs and traditions that are most precious and true, while always adapting to the culture of the time. It was like this even in the time of St. Francis.

Franciscan Mission Associates is pleased to invite you on a pilgrimage to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the death of our Father, St. Francis. After 800 years, the spirit of St. Francis still lives among so many who follow his way of life.

The pilgrimage will take us to Assisi, where St. Francis lived, and will include visits to places that were important to his ministry. We will visit Greccio, where Francis developed the first Christmas creche, La Verna, where he received the stigmata, and places around the city that were significant in his life and the life of the Franciscan Order. We will also have the opportunity to visit Rome and attend an audience with Pope Leo. We believe that you will be as excited about the itinerary as we are.

Pilgrimage is one of the great traditions of our Catholic faith. To visit and pray in important places serves to build our spiritual lives. We hope that you will consider joining us on this journey to celebrate such a meaningful anniversary. May God bless you.

Franciscan Mission Associates

Franciscan Mission Associates - St. Francis of Assisi 800th Jubilee Pilgrimage
April 14-23, 2026 – 10 Days – \$5,999 from New York-JFK

Mail to: **Pilgrimage Department, Franciscan Mission Associates, 274 W Lincoln Ave, PO Box 598, Mt Vernon, NY 10551**

Please reserve _____ seat(s) on this trip. Enclosed please find deposit of \$500 per person, payable to UNITOURS, INC. Please enclose a copy of your passport (must be valid until **October 23, 2026** or later).

Name (as on passport) _____ Nickname for nametag _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact Name, Address and Phone _____

☐ I will share a double room with my traveling companion (name): _____

☐ Please assign me a roommate (if available): _____

☐ I prefer a single room (**\$879**, availability limited) _____

☐ Apply \$50 discount if booked by March 3, 2025 _____

Charge my deposit to: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmericanExpress ☐ Discover
Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

I understand that certain charges such as air taxes, fuel surcharges and rates of exchange can affect the final cost and I agree to pay such costs should adjustments be necessary. I have read and understand the deposit and cancellation fees. **Signature:** _____

To purchase optional travel insurance, please see www.Unitours.com/travelInsurance for details and to purchase coverage.

ITINERARY

Tuesday, April 14. Day 1 – USA/ROME. Today we depart JFK airport in New York for our direct overnight flight to Rome. We will enjoy in-flight entertainment, dinner and breakfast in the air.

Wednesday, April 15. Day 2 – ROME/ASSISI. Upon arrival in Rome, our Unitours Manager will greet us, and we'll begin our journey through Italy's countryside to Assisi in Umbria. Our first stop will be the Chiesa Nuova, a 17th-century church built on the believed site of St. Francis' family home. After Mass, we'll head to our hotel for a welcome dinner and overnight in Assisi.

Thursday, April 16. Day 3 – ASSISI. This morning, we'll visit the historic Church of San Damiano, where St. Francis heard the call to "rebuild my Church." After Mass, we'll have lunch on our own before visiting the Cathedral of San Rufino to see St. Francis' baptismal font and renew our own vows. We'll end the day with dinner and an overnight stay in Assisi."

Friday, April 17. Day 4 – ASSISI. Today begins with a walking tour, followed by a visit to the Hermitage of the Carceri, where St. Francis and the Friars retreated to pray in solitude. We'll celebrate Mass here, with a view of St. Francis' grotto. After lunch on our own, we'll continue to the Basilica of St. Clare to see the original San Damiano cross. The afternoon is free to explore Assisi, shop, or relax before returning to our hotel for dinner and an overnight stay.

Saturday, April 18. Day 5 – ASSISI. We'll start the day in the valley at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels to visit the Portiuncula, St. Francis' chapel, where we'll celebrate Mass and tour the complex. Then, we'll head to Rocca Maggiore, the medieval fort above Assisi. After a lunch break, enjoy a free afternoon to explore Assisi before dinner and an overnight stay at our hotel.

Sunday, April 19. Day 6 – ASSISI/GRECCIO/FONTE COLOMBO/ASSISI. Today, we'll journey through vineyards to the cliffside Monastery at Greccio, where St. Francis began the Christmas creche tradition in 1223. We'll visit the Chapel of the Cribs, adorned with frescoes by Giotto's school, and see his cell and an ancient portrait of the saint. After Mass and a group lunch (included) overlooking the valley, we'll proceed to Fonte Colombo Monastery. Here, St. Francis underwent an eye procedure and, in the grotto, dictated the Franciscan Rule after a forty-day fast. We'll see the 12th-century Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene with frescoes and St. Francis' Tau Cross, along with the grotto and tree where he received a vision of Jesus. We'll return to Assisi for dinner on our own and an overnight stay.

Monday, April 20. Day 7 – ASSISI/LA VERNA/ASSISI. This morning, we journey to La Verna through stunning countryside to the Shrine of La Verna, founded by St. Francis in 1214. Overlooking chalk cliffs and surrounded by ancient pine and beech trees, this is where St. Francis received the stigmata, the wounds of Jesus, on September 17, 1224. We'll celebrate Mass in the basilica, either in the Chapel of the Stigmata or Santa Maria degli Angeli, and admire Della Robbia's terracotta works depicting the Annunciation and Nativity. A group lunch is included, followed by the spiritually moving 3:00 pm procession. We'll return to our hotel for dinner and an overnight stay.

Tuesday, April 21. Day 8 – ASSISI/ROME. Our day begins with early Mass at the tomb of St. Francis in his basilica, followed by a guided tour of the Upper and Lower Basilicas, featuring Giotto's original frescoes. After lunch on our own, we'll head to Rome, where a drive-by city orientation awaits before we check into our hotel. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Wednesday, April 22. Day 9 – ROME/PAPAL AUDIENCE. This morning, we'll head to St. Peter's Square for Pope Leo's Wednesday audience, if he is in residence. After lunch on our own, we'll celebrate our final pilgrimage Mass at San Francesco a Ripa in Trastevere, where St. Francis once stayed. Our last visit is to the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the Pope's Cathedral, where St. Francis received oral approval of the Franciscan Rule from Pope Innocent III. We'll end the day with a festive farewell dinner and a twilight tour of Rome, arranged with our tour director. Overnight at our hotel.

Thursday, April 23. Day 10 – ROME/RETURN TO USA. This morning, we head to the airport for our return flight home, filled with lifelong memories and a deeper appreciation for the inspiring example of St. Francis.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS



TOTAL TOUR PRICE: The tour price is based on airfare, cruise, land rates and rates of exchange in effect June 18, 2024. All rates are subject to change without prior notice. Should the rates go up or down, an adjustment would be made prior to departure. Refunds CANNOT be granted for any accommodations, services or events that are not used nor if you deviate from the tour. If fewer than 35 pilgrims participate a price adjustment may be necessary.

LAND ONLY RATE: For travelers opting for the Land Only package, the rate is \$4,794. It is the responsibility of the traveler to coordinate their flight arrangements with the advertised flight schedule of the pilgrimage. Travelers arriving earlier than the group may be required to wait at the airport. Travelers arriving later will need to arrange their own transportation to the hotel.

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: A valid passport is required. At the time of printing, U.S. citizens holding valid passports. Passport MUST be valid until October 23, 2026, or later. Citizens of countries other than U.S. - please contact the consulate of the country or countries being visited to determine visa requirements.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: International flight reservations are being held on ITA Airways. No stopovers are permitted. Any changes after ticket is issued carries a mandatory charge of \$200. Once the tickets are issued, they are NON-TRANSFERABLE AND NON-REFUNDABLE. Requests to change a ticket once issued incurs a reissue fee of \$200 plus any fare differential will apply. Cancellation of air seat within 90 days of departure incurs a \$200 penalty.

DOMESTIC AIRFARE: For those who make domestic air arrangements to the originating city of this tour, your tour host and Unitours strongly recommend the purchase of tickets that can be changed without heavy fees and penalties as international flight schedules are always subject to change.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: Specially selected hotels based on twin occupancy with private bath. Single Room supplement of \$879 will be charged where requested and available. If you do not have a roommate and Unitours is unable to arrange one, you will be billed for the single room supplement. All singles are subject to availability.

MEALS: Breakfast and Table D' Hote dinners are provided daily except where noted in the itinerary. An extra charge will be made when coffee, tea or other beverages are not included in the menu of the day with the dinner meal.

TIPS AND TAXES: Tips and taxes normally appearing on hotel and restaurant bills as service are included, as are all government and local taxes on hotels and meals, portage of one suitcase per person. International departure taxes of \$115 plus current fuel surcharges of \$340 are included (subject to change). TIPS TO TOUR MANAGER/GUIDES, DRIVERS OR DINING ROOMS STAFF OF \$101 ARE NOT INCLUDED. One average sized suitcase not exceeding 50 lbs total weight and 62 linear inches (height plus width plus depth) is permitted throughout the trip.

NOT INCLUDED: Expenses and items not specifically mentioned in this brochure are NOT covered, including but not limited to: passport and visa fees, meals not listed and items of a personal nature such as laundry, wines, liquors, mineral waters, after dinner coffee or tea, sightseeing or services other than those specifically mentioned, tips and taxes mentioned above, excess baggage and insurance, etc

DEPOSITS AND CANCELLATIONS: A deposit of \$500 is required to secure reservations. Any balance is to be paid in full no later than 60 days before departure of tour. Final payments received by Unitours after 45 days before departure must include a \$25 late payment fee. (This does not apply for new reservations made within 45 days of departure.) Reservations made within 60 days of departure must include full payment. Amex, Discover, Visa and MasterCard are accepted with signed reservation form. Final payments will be applied to same credit card on final payment due date. Cancellations made from time of reservation to within 61 days prior to departure - - \$400 administration fee (charged to deposit) plus any air penalties noted above. In the event of a cancellation from 60 to 31 days prior to departure - - \$400 administration fee plus up to 50% of the land cost, plus any air penalties noted above. No refund for cancellations received within 30 days of departure. All cancellation and refund claims must be in writing to Unitours, Inc.

BANK FEE: A fee of \$50 will be charged for any check that is returned to us for insufficient or unavailable funds.

DEVIATIONS: A service charge of \$50 pp will be applied for any deviations made in tour, where possible, PLUS any additional air or land charges incurred.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Optional Travel Insurance is strongly recommended for the trip. See Unitours.com/travelInsurance for details and purchase coverage.

LAND ARRANGEMENTS: The tour operator reserves the right to change the itinerary due to unforeseen emergencies.

PHOTO RELEASE: Permission is granted to FMA to use photos and/or videos taken on this trip in which individuals may appear. These images may be used in print or online publications, presentations, websites, and social media platforms. All claims for compensation or damages related to the use of these images are waived.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Unitours, Inc., the organizer, and their representatives act only as agents for the tour members in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, sightseeing, restaurants or any other services in connection with the itinerary. They will exercise reasonable care in making such arrangements, however, they do not assume any liability whatsoever, for any injury, damage, loss, accident or delay to person or property because of any acts of war or terrorism, any act of default of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, company or person rendering any of the services included in the tours. The tickets, coupons, tariffs, rules or contracts currently in use by any carrier, hotel, restaurant or other contractor rendering services shall constitute the sole contract between such contractor and the tour member. Unitours Inc., or the organizer, accept no responsibility for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather or any other cause beyond their personal control. No carrier shall be responsible for any act, omission or events during the time passengers are not on board its own conveyance. The right is reserved to cancel or change itineraries or substitute services without notice and to decline to accept or retain any passenger at any time. In view of statutory or contractual limitations that may apply to personal injury or property damage losses the purchase of accident and baggage insurance is strongly recommended.

ERRORS: In case of printing, typographical errors, computer errors, verbal or human billing errors, we reserve the right to invoice or re-invoice participants with corrected billing.

