



PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. FRANCIS AND ST. CLARE
April 16-26, 2024

FAQs

ABOUT TRAVEL:

What time should I arrive on the first day of the pilgrimage?

The pilgrimage will begin at 4:00 PM on April 16 at Casa Ospitalita in Assisi. You may arrive earlier to settle into your room if you would like. If you would like Shalem to pick you up at Rome's Fiumicino Airport (FCO), please book a flight that arrives by 11am on April 16 to ensure that you have time to get through customs, get your luggage, and arrive at the van/bus meeting point by 11:50 AM. If your flight is delayed or canceled and you are unable to arrive at the meeting point by 11:50 AM, text one of the leaders and we will support you in getting to Assisi by train. We are unable to hold the van/bus past noon. Some pilgrims plan to arrive a day early in order to avoid complications caused by flight delays and cancellations.

Where and when do we meet for the shuttle to Assisi?

If you will be taking the complimentary shuttle to Assisi, you should meet the group in the Fiumicino Airport, just outside of airport security at a section marked Meeting Place 1. One of the pilgrimage leaders will be holding a sign that says "Shalem Assisi." Please be there by 11:50am so that the bus/van can begin boarding on time for the noon departure.

I'm unable to ride the complimentary shuttle; how would you recommend I get from Rome to the convent?

You can purchase a train ticket from Rome's Fiumicino Airport to Assisi ahead of time through [ItaliaRail](#) or [the Rail Planner app](#), or you can buy your train ticket after arriving. Getting through immigration and customs at the airport can sometimes take an hour or more, so be sure to allow enough time to get to your train if you purchase a ticket in advance. Either way, you must validate your train ticket at the machines on the train platform before boarding the train or you could get a hefty fine when the conductor comes through the train to collect tickets.

If you purchase your ticket online, most routes will take you to the main train station in Rome (Termini) and then out to Assisi. If you buy your ticket at the airport, you may be able

to bypass the main train station in Rome. From the Assisi train station, you can take a cab ride or city bus to the convent where we will be staying.

ABOUT THE CONVENT:

What is the address and contact information for Casa Ospitalita?

Suore Francescane Missionarie di Assisi
Via S. Francesco 13, b
06081 Assisi (PG) Italia

Tel: 075.812267

(This is the emergency number to give family and friends to reach you in Italy.)

E-mail : casamaria.assisi@yahoo.it

Website:

<http://www.hospites.it/Objects/Servizio.asp?ID=2&offset=469&ModType=603&StrID=477>

Does the convent have WiFi access?

The convent has WiFi throughout, although it can be weak at times. Stronger WiFi can be found at a nearby café.

Does the convent have a washing machine and dryer?

No, the convent does not have a laundry facility.

Does the convent have hair dryers?

Yes, the convent has hair dryers.

GENERAL:

How physically active will we be?

We will be walking each day. Assisi is quite hilly, so you need to be comfortable walking up and down hills. You should be in relatively good health. Bring sturdy walking shoes. On the day when we go to St. Francis's mountain retreat, we will provide a van for those who would prefer to ride rather than hike.

What is the easiest way to access money while in Italy?

The best way to access cash in Italy is to use ATM's. Travelers' checks are less convenient because they must be cashed through banks, and bank hours are irregular.

Please note: Your bank may want to know the dates you will be in Italy, so that they know it is you using your ATM card, and not someone else.

Can I use my mobile phone in Italy?

If you want to use a mobile phone while in Italy, you should check with your service provider to arrange a plan that works in Italy.

What should I wear?

Dress is casual, although pilgrims are asked to not wear shorts at sacred sites. Sleeveless tops are also discouraged unless covered by a shawl. Bring supportive walking shoes.

Average weather conditions can be found through [Trip Advisor](#).

What should I bring?

We suggest bringing a good quality travel adapter compatible with voltage in Italy so you will be able to use your electronic devices. In the past, pilgrims have had good luck with this adapter: <https://www.ceptics.com/products/italy-travel-adapter-type-l-dual-usb-ctu-12a>. Pilgrims should also bring their own face cloths (wash cloths), if needed, because the convent does not supply them.

Feel free to bring a musical instrument, art supplies, a journal, and/or anything else that nurtures your soul. Our pilgrimage will have a contemplative pace: we will have reflective time at the convent where we are staying, time to visit sites, and individual time for you to use as you wish.

How else can I prepare?

Please bring any medical information you would like doctors to know in case of emergency.

Pilgrims interested in learning Italian might consider using the Mango Library Edition app from Mango Languages (free for patrons at participating libraries). Contact [Mango Languages](#) or your local public library for help.

I need to spend a night in Rome before or after the pilgrimage; can you recommend a hotel?

Although we can't personally vouch for these accommodations, pilgrims have stayed at the following places in the past:

Hilton Garden Inn Rome Airport (offers free shuttle)

Hilton Rome Airport Hotel

Hotel Italia

The Westin Excelsior Rome

Rome Marriott Park Hotel

Casa Santa Lucia Filippini

Mecenate Palace Hotel

Bed and Breakfast Letterario

Gioberti Art Hotel

Hotel Portoghesi Roma

EXE International Palace

I would like to take the shuttle from Assisi to Rome. Where is the drop-off location?

The shuttle will stop at Rome's Fiumicino Airport. If you are looking for a hotel that is conveniently located, the Hilton Rome Airport Hotel is connected to the airport and is an easy walk. Also, the Hilton Garden Inn Rome Airport offers a free shuttle service to the airport.

If you have booked accommodations elsewhere, please check with your hotel for transportation options to their location.