

Journey Together

ITALY: RELIGIOUS ART, CULTURE & CUISINE

October 27 – November 7, 2025

ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
MAHTOMEDI, MINNESOTA

HOSTED BY PASTOR MIKE CARLSON

Itinerary

Day 1: Monday, October 27 – Minneapolis-St. Paul Departure

Depart on overnight flight for Florence, Italy. **(Inflight meals)**

Day 2: Tuesday, October 28 – Florence Arrival

Arrive at the Aeroporto di Firenze and meet Italian tour manager, Mr. Lorenzo Tarzia, and an awaiting private motorcoach. Along the way to Florence's historic center, stop at Piazza Michelangelo for a memorable panoramic view of the city. Arrive at the **Hotel Pitti Palace al Ponte Vecchio**, if rooms are not ready before 3:00 p.m., store baggage until check-in time. Lunch on your own. Group dinner this evening at the hotel or local restaurant within walking distance of the hotel. **(Inflight meals, D)**

Day 3: Wednesday, October 29 – Florence

Begin a memorable discovery of Florence exploring the city's highlights with a local guide on a walking tour (four hours) passing the Cathedral of St. Maria del Fiore, Giotto's Bell Tower and the Baptistry of St. John with the Gates of Paradise doors, and inside visit of the Duomo ending with a visit to the **Accademia**, home of Michelangelo's masterpiece, *David*. Afternoon free with lunch on your own and time for independent exploration. Perhaps visit the famous **Ponte Vecchio** (the Old Bridge), or the **Uffizi Gallery*** on own. This evening is free for dinner on your own. **(B)**
**For those interested in visiting the Uffizi Gallery on their own, an advanced reservation is highly recommended. Tickets can be purchased online at www.uffizi.it/en/tickets.*

Day 4: Thursday, October 30 – Florence/Assisi

After breakfast, check out from the hotel, then depart by private touring coach for a visit to the peaceful setting of the **Florence American Cemetery**, the final resting place of over 4,000 American soldiers from WWII. Awe at the beauty of the countryside with the drive into the region of Umbria. Stop in either Sienna or San Gimignano for lunch on your own. Continue to the sacred hilltop town of Assisi, where St. Francis was born in 1182, lived most of his life and established the Franciscan Order. Arrive at the parking area for the Upper Town of Assisi and walk (with carry-on baggage) to the **Hotel Giotto**. This evening, enjoy a group dinner at the hotel's *Restaurant L'Estasi*. **(B,D)**

Day 5: Friday, October 31 – Assisi

Discover Assisi on a locally guided walking tour (three hours) including Santa Chiara's Church and highlighting a visit to the Basilica of St. Francis, visiting both the upper and lower church. Be inspired by this magnificent structure and learn the story of Francis of Assisi as told in the fresco art throughout the church. Continue the tour with a visit to the historic city center including Piazza del Comune. The remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure to explore Assisi with lunch and dinner on your own. **(B)**

Day 6: Saturday, November 1 – Assisi/Sorrento

After breakfast, check out and depart for a day's drive (approx. seven hours) to Sorrento with rest stops and lunch break. Perched on a hilltop above Cassino, visit the beautiful Montecassino Abbey. The abbey was founded in the 6th century and during WWII was the location of a tragic battle which almost completely destroyed it, but after the war was rebuilt to its original plans. Most of the drive this afternoon is close to the ancient Roman Appian Way. Wedged on a ledge under the mountains and over the Mediterranean, arrive at **Central Hotel** in Sorrento later this evening (approx. 7:00 p.m.), for a three-night stay and group dinner. **(B,D)**

Day 7: Sunday, November 2 – Sorrento

This morning, meet a shuttle bus and transfer to [La Masseria Farm](#) (subject to availability), for a guided tour of the seasonal crops, including honey hives, and lemon and olive groves. Enjoy explanations about production, history of the farm, hands-on demonstrations of traditional farming techniques followed by a visit to the ancient family wine cellar and old oil mill. Enjoy a tasting of the farm's homemade products including a Limoncello making/demo followed by lunch. Transfer by shuttle bus back to hotel in Sorrento for the remainder of the day at leisure with dinner on your own. **(B,L)**

Day 8: Monday, November 3 – Sorrento/Amalfi Coast Excursion

Depart for a full-day excursion (12 hours) to the Amalfi Coast. View the stunning scenery of hill towns hugging the sea in private 8-seater minivans.* Depart Sorrento and stop in Ravello for free time and continue to Tramonti for an early light lunch and wine tasting served with local cold cuts, cheese and other products at a local farm (visit to [Tenuta San Francesco](#) vineyard and wine cellar included, subject to availability). Arrive in the town of Amalfi for independent exploration and shopping. On return to Sorrento, briefly stop at a viewpoint to admire the picturesque town of Positano. Evening free in Sorrento with dinner on your own. **(B,L)**

**Regulations do not allow larger coaches to stop along the coast. The tour manager will ride in one of the vehicles. No local guides.*

Day 9: Tuesday, November 4 – Sorrento/Pompeii/Rome

After breakfast, check out and depart to the archaeological site of Pompeii where a local guide hosts a two-hour walking tour of the amazing ruins of a Roman town both destroyed and preserved by the explosive eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD. Enjoy a casual pizza lunch outside the ruins at [La Gare Pompeii](#) or similar. The remainder of the day is a three-hour drive to Rome. Upon arrival check in at the **Bettoja Hotel Mediterraneo** with time to get settled in for a three-night stay. Group dinner at a local restaurant within walking distance. **(B,L,D)**

Day 10: Wednesday, November 5 – Rome

This morning begins the first of two days of discovery in Rome with a local guide on a walking tour of Rome's landmarks include the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon (entrance included). Break for lunch on own. This afternoon, marvel at the beauty of the Basilica of St. Peter and the art treasures in the [Vatican Museums](#), including the Sistine Chapel, Tapestry Gallery and Rooms of Raphael. Evening free for dinner on your own. **(B)**

Day 11: Thursday, November 6 – Rome

Journey along the Via Appia, an ancient road revealing the history of early Christian Rome. Visit the [Santa Domitilla Catacombs](#) for a guided tour hallmarking the Early Christian movement and time for a brief worship (reserved place inside). Continue on a walking tour for an outside view of the Colosseum, built in 70 AD and still in use despite damaging earthquakes and fires. View the ruins of the Roman Forum from Capitoline Hill. Learn about the long-held tradition that Apostles Peter and Paul were imprisoned at Mamertine Prison (entrance included), located at the bottom of Capitoline Hill. Possible meeting with Christuskirche Lutheran Church in Rome. Farewell dinner this evening at a local restaurant. **(B,D)**

Day 12: Friday, November 7 – Rome/Minneapolis-St. Paul Return

Transfer to Rome-Fiumicino International Airport with assistance for return flight to Minneapolis. **(B, inflight meals)**

Note: *The flight schedule for these dates in 2025 is not yet available.*

Included meals: B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner

Itinerary subject to change due to local scheduling and conditions.

Sunrise in Italy in October/early November is approximately 6:45 a.m. and sunset 5:00 p.m.

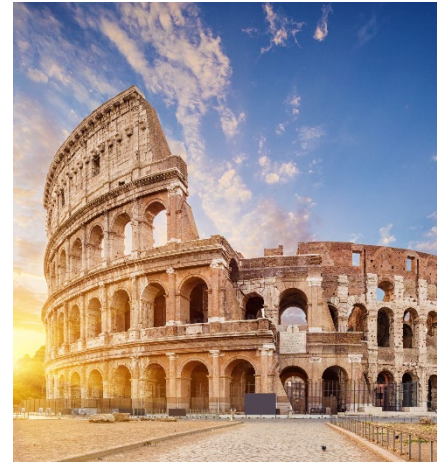
Most days begin around 8:30 a.m. and return to the hotel by 5:30 p.m. except for a couple of longer travel days.



Amalfi Coast



Pompeii



The Colosseum, Rome

Program Estimated Cost

\$6,800 estimated per person from Minneapolis-St. Paul (based on a minimum group size of 32).

Land-only Registration (program cost without airfare) – available on request at time of official registration.

Single Room Supplement \$1,105 (availability is limited).

Program Inclusions arranged by Carousel Travel:

- Round-trip group economy class airfare from Minneapolis-St. Paul to Florence, Italy, returning from Rome (flight schedule/airfare is not confirmed and airfare is estimated).
- 10 nights of accommodations in 4-star hotels as described in itinerary or similar and in shared room occupancy. Single room accommodations limited with availability on request at a supplemental cost.
- Daily buffet breakfast, three lunches and five dinners, a total of 18 meals. The two lunches include tasting local products at an olive/lemon farm with a Limoncello making demonstration near Sorrento and one wine tasting with local food at a vineyard in Tramonti.
- Professional tour manager/guide upon arrival and throughout itinerary. Local guides and site guides for enhanced experience.
- Private touring motorcoach throughout itinerary; private mini-vans in Sorrento/Amalfi Coast.
- Inside visits described in itinerary include fees as required for entry.
- Possible visit to the Lutheran Church in Rome and conversation with the pastor.
- Special visits include Michaelangelo's David at the Accademia in Florence, the Florence American WWII Cemetery, the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, archaeological site of Pompeii, and entrances in Rome to the Basilica of St. Peter and the Vatican Museum, Santa Domitilla Catacombs and Mamertine Prison.
- Gratuities for tour manager, local guides, motorcoach drivers and hotel/wait staff.
- Audio headsets for use on guided tours.
- Basic travel insurance for trip delay, baggage delay, medical evacuation and accident and sickness medical expense (does not include trip cancellation or pre-existing medical conditions coverage). Carousel Travel can assist with additional travel insurance at the time of registration.
- Coordination and operation of customized program itinerary.



To add your name to the interest list and receive further important information including the registration brochure, please contact:

Lisa Weyrauch

office@saintandrews.org or 651-762-9103 to leave a voice message

Registration

Official registration with Carrousel Travel will open on January 30 after flights are confirmed in December. A registration brochure is provided detailing the inclusions, itinerary and terms & conditions including dates for a second deposit and final payment. Those on the interest list will receive via email the registration instructions and the brochure. A deposit of \$1,000 is required to complete registration.

Flights and Airfare

Please note, group airfare contracts do not allow for upgraded class of service/seats on flights. Frequent flyer mileage may not be used for upgrades per the airline contract. The option to register for the land only and arrange your own flights in upgraded seats will be offered at the time of registration.

At the time of registration with Carrousel Travel, it is important to consider supplemental travel insurance for trip cancellation and pre-existing medical conditions. Travel insurance information is available from Carrousel Travel.

Walking and mobility requirements

Tours and site visits in Italy are on foot. Participating requires walking some days up to four miles; walking often one mile at a time at a moderate pace; managing uneven surfaces, steps and inclines without assistance. The itinerary includes many archaeological sites with uneven surfaces and stairs without handrails.

Itinerary is not wheelchair, scooter or walker accessible. Consult with Carrousel Travel or tour host with questions about walking and mobility requirements. Carrousel Travel, in consensus with tour host(s) and destination partner, reserves the right to withdraw or not accept any traveler whose ability to participate in the tour or whose conduct is incompatible with operation of tour or the interests of the entire group.

Travel arrangements by

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