



# Monastery Stays' Classic Italy Tour

**Experience a true slice of Italian life**  
**Fully escorted, small group travel**  
**with the trusted expertise of Monastery Stays**

**Rome, Assisi, Florence & Venice**

**10 nights | 11 days – €2,995 per person**

**Quality, all inclusions, no hidden extras**

From the **grandeur of Ancient Rome** & grace of a Papal gathering in St. Peter's Square, to the **serenity of Assisi** & onto the **hilltops of Tuscany**, immerse yourself in **Renaissance Florence** & then wonder at the **enchantment of Venice**.

Monastery Stays takes you on a **fully escorted, small group tour** (maximum 20 people) for **10 nights / 11 days**, through the classic heart of Italy.

**Lodging in unique Monastery Stays guest houses, dining experiences & local tips** on where to find the best gelati! **Expert guided sightseeing**, including 'whisper headsets', your own **time at leisure** & touring in **fully equipped modern coaches** are all a part of this **carefully crafted & value for money tour**.



## Rome

Welcome to the Eternal City  
The Pope, Piazzas & Ancient Rome  
Vatican Museums, Basilica's & Catacombs

## Assisi

Explore the hilltop home of St. Francis  
Perugia, Vineyards & Olive Groves

## Florence

Monte Oliveto & Tuscan Vistas  
Renaissance Florence

## Venice

Gallerie! Frecciarossa! Canali!  
Marco Polo, Doges & Bridges  
Murano the Glass Island  
A dopo e Buon Viaggio!

## Includes:

**Fully escorted** – tour director, guides, entrances & whisper headsets

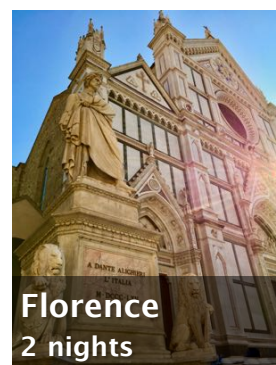
**11 Days | 10 Nights** Rome–Venice  
See **Detailed Itinerary**

European **breakfast, lunch** (except on day 1,4 & 7, 8, 11), & **dinner** daily

**Deposit** on booking €250.00

**Balance** payable 90-days before tour

**Book your tour online at: [www.monasterystays.com](http://www.monasterystays.com)**





# Monastery Stays' Classic Italy Tour

## Detailed Itinerary

### DAY 1: Welcome to the Eternal City

**B: X L: X D: ✓ T:** Transfers additional per your requirement  
Benvenuto a Roma! You will be welcomed on arrival into the airport or the central train station<sup>†</sup> & by a driver for your private transfer to your first Monastery Stay in Rome.

At the guest house in Rome you will be met by your Tour Director who will be guiding you through this true slice of Italian life, the sights & flavours of your Classic Italy Tour with Monastery Stays.

Check into your room, relax or explore the surrounding streets for an espresso & lunch if you wish, before embarking on your discovery of the historical centre of Rome – the streets, piazzas & monuments that provide the backdrop to the dramatic rise & fall of the Roman Empire.

Admire the genius of Bernini & Borromini in one of the most spectacular piazzas in Rome – Piazza Navona. Wonder at the intriguing architectural mysteries of the largest unsupported concrete dome ever built, that is the Pantheon.

Relive the Emperor Trajan's victory over the Dacians, visit the extraordinary Fontana di Trevi (don't forget to throw your coin!) & finish off the day at the iconic Spanish Steps.

Finish off your first day getting to know your travel companions over your first delicious Italian dinner & a vino!

### DAY 2: The Pope, Piazzas & Ancient Rome

**B: ✓ L: ✓ D: ✓**

This morning you are off to the smallest country in the world, Vatican City! Take in the grandeur & join the excitement of the gathering in St. Peter's Square for the Angelus, Papal Blessing at noon.

Enjoy a light lunch at a local restaurant, before having the afternoon at your leisure to explore Rome – go back to that street you liked from yesterday's walking tour or discover something new!

Meet up with your travel companions to exchange your afternoon's adventures over dinner.

### DAY 3: Vatican Museums, Basilica's & Catacombs

**B: ✓ L: ✓ D: ✓**

This morning we return to the Vatican for an expertly guided tour of the vast Vatican Museum, including the Sistine Chapel to view the wonderful ceiling painted by Michelangelo in the 15th century, finishing in St. Peter's Basilica – our first of the Major or Papal Basilicas of Rome.

After lunch at a local restaurant we take our coach to visit some of the other amazing Major or Papal Basilicas of Rome; explore inside the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore with its impressive mosaics then walk down the tree-lined Via Merulana to the Basilica of San Giovanni in Laterano with its ornate facade, it is the Cathedral of the Bishop of Rome (The Pope!) & so is the superior of the basilicas (it is also the oldest dating back to 324 AD).

Back on the coach to the Catacombs of Domitilla for an underground tour viewing just a small selection of the 17 kms of tunnels & tombs.

Dinner with your travel companions to enjoy our last night in the Eternal City.

### DAY 4: Explore the hilltop home of St. Francis

**B: ✓ L: X D: ✓**

After an early breakfast we farewell our guest house in Rome & beat the queues to explore inside of the Colosseum & The Forum to discover the sheer scale & significance of the Roman Empire.

Immersed in history & wonder, we are then back onboard our luxury coach & heading north on the 'Autostrada del Sole' to the enchanting medieval hilltop town of Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis & St. Clare.

You can get lunch at a service stop en route, or once in Assisi as we make our way to our afternoon walking tour.

Our local experienced guide will take you around the sights & delights of this UNESCO World Heritage city – visiting the 13th century Basilica of St. Francis, the Roman Temple of Minerva, the magnificent Roman columned facade has behind it the 16th century Church of Santa Maria sopra Minerva, finishing at the Roman Forum & Archaeological Museum.

Take in the stunning views & look out for the delights of Umbrian cuisine along the way.

Dinner tonight is in-house at the monastery – a lovely home cooked meal & chance to reminisce on all the Roman history you have experienced today!

### DAY 5: Perugia, Vineyards & Olive Groves

**B: ✓ L: ✓ D: ✓**

A cultural & culinary day, it is a short hop this morning to Perugia & up the 'mini-metro' to this wonderful Umbrian hilltop town where we have a walking tour of the fascinating & beautifully presented historic centre, taking in the vistas over the postcard landscapes below.

We will finish our passeggiata in Perugia with a visit to a great panini shop for a traditional sandwich lunch before heading back down the hill on the 'mini-metro'.

We will make our way back to Assisi via a local vineyard for a tasting of local wine, olive oil & chance to take that magnificent photo looking back up to Assisi!

You'll have the remainder of the day to relax &/or explore Assisi, followed by dinner at a great local restaurant overlooking St Francis Basilica lit up at night.

### DAY 6: Monte Oliveto & Tuscan Vistas

**B: ✓ L: ✓ D: ✓**

We farewell Assisi after breakfast & take in the majestic views of the Umbrian & Tuscan countryside, vineyards, olive groves & farms en route to the Abbazia di Monte Oliveto Maggiore.

The picturesque hilltop Abbey is surrounded by forest & it's self-producing farm. We will meet the Benedictine Monks & tour their famous frescoed Great Cloister, before a stop in the Farmacia & Cantina to sample the produce from the farm of the Abbey, along with the Monk's own wine & famous herbal digestif liqueur & then a delicious Tuscan lunch in the restaurant set in the ancient tower archway to the monastery.

We will then make our way into the heart of the terracotta roof tops to meet the wonderfully welcoming Sisters at your home in Firenze.

With an afternoon at your leisure, you can wander the cobblestone streets & myriad of shops with everything from paper to leather goods & artisanal products galore, or find a spot on a piazza to take in the serenity under a Tuscan sun...

We'll enjoy 'la passeggiata' & walk to dinner at a great Tuscan restaurant.

### DAY 7: Renaissance Florence

**B: ✓ L: X D: ✓**

Today is immersed in historic Florence with a local experienced guide. The city centre is a UNESCO World Heritage site & it's not difficult to see why once you start exploring its cobblestone streets & piazzas. A medieval centre of trade, birthplace of the Renaissance & modern-day cultural wonder, Florence will leave you in awe.

You will take in the story & legacy of the famous & influential Medici family, the Santa Croce Church with it's marvellous facade & the resting places of Michelangelo & Galileo, before circling back to Piazza Duomo, Giotto's Bell Tower, the & the beautiful bronze Baptistery Gates, by which time you might be ready for an afternoon aperitif or a gelato!

The afternoon is at your leisure... you may like to find a spot for a long lunch to simply relax, pondering your favourite Botticelli, da Vinci or Raphael, &/or continue your own exploration of the

delights of Florence – perhaps wander the Boboli Gardens taking in Palazzo Pitti, or walk up to Piazzale Michelangelo for a photo over the rooftops of Florence.

We'll again enjoy 'la passeggiata' & walk to dinner at a great Tuscan restaurant.

### DAY 8: Gallerie! Frecciarossa! Canali!

**B: ✓ L: X D: ✓**

After breakfast, we farewell the Sisters & you have a stroll through the heart of Florence (your bags will be transferred) to soak up the morning atmosphere en route to visit two of the most famous galleries in Florence if not the world!

Starting at the Uffizi – you'll be guided through one of the world's greatest collections of art, especially of the Renaissance, an amazing legacy of the famous Medici family. Then onto the Galleria dell'Accademia to view the famous statue of David by Michelangelo amongst other treasures.

It is then off to the grand, Santa Maria Novella Train Station. You can get yourself lunch at any of the great cafes on the forecourt, before boarding the Frecciarossa for the First Class, high speed scenic train ride, direct to the Grand Canal in Venice!

Our guest house is located in the historic & authentic district of Cannaregio. We transfer from the station by boat with your luggage, so you will arrive ready to take on the maze of bridges & canals that is the magical city of Venice.

We will walk to dinner, taking in the unique sights of this wonderful city on the water along the way.

### DAY 9: Marco Polo, Doges & Bridges

**B: ✓ L: ✓ D: ✓**

We take a morning walking tour of the historic centre of Venice in & around Piazza San Marco.

Stops to view Rialto Bridge, the oldest of the four bridges spanning the Grand Canal, St. Mark's Square, Marco Polo's House, Campo San Luca & the Bridge of Sighs before we go inside the Doge's Palace & St. Mark's Basilica to view the amazing mosaics as well as the Treasury – a huge collection of precious artefacts made from gold, silver, precious metals & stones.

The afternoon is yours to explore – maybe a lunch on the side of a canal, a gondola ride, or a wander around the world-famous Biennale...

We will reconvene for dinner in Cannaregio where we can all share our Venetian highlights.

### DAY 10: Murano the Glass Island

**B: ✓ L: ✓ D: ✓**

This morning we take a Vaporetto (water bus) across the Venice lagoon to the island of Murano, renowned for its tradition of glass blowing. Watch artisans at their craft & find that something special to take home as a memory.

After taking in the sights of Venice from the water on our return, your last afternoon in this unique city is at your leisure – maybe an afternoon recital, a spot of shopping for a Carnevale mask, or a gelato from the famous Venchi Chocolate store..?

In the evening we will toast the last night of our Classic Italian Tour over dinner amongst the beauty of La Serenissima.

### DAY 11: A dopo e Buon Viaggio!

**B: ✓ L: X D: X T:** Transfers additional per your requirement

All good things come to an end & after breakfast we will farewell each other & our last Monastery Stay in Venice for our onward travels<sup>†</sup>.

If you are not quite ready to leave, then we can book additional nights for you at Monastery Stays across Italy or Austria (it's a beautiful bus/train transfer to Salzburg!)

### NOTES

Itinerary & inclusions are subject to the Tour Terms & Conditions at: [monasterystays.com/?a=tours](http://monasterystays.com/?a=tours)