

0925 Experience Italy with Fr Bob Hutmacher

Sep 14 - Sep 14, 2025

Sunday, September 14

FR BOB GROUP – ITINERARY

Day 1: Sep 14 - Depart USA

- Depart from your home airport on an overnight flight to Italy (Rome).

Day 2: Sep 15 - Arrive in Rome and travel to Assisi

- Upon arrival at Rome's Fiumicino Airport, head straight to Assisi, the beautiful medieval town nestled in the Umbrian hills.
- Explore St. Clare's Tomb: Visit the Basilica of St. Clare, where the tomb of St. Clare (Santa Chiara) is located. Experience the peaceful atmosphere and learn about her life as the founder of the Poor Clares.
- Afternoon at leisure to stroll around the town, admire the narrow streets, stone houses, and panoramic views of the Umbrian countryside.
- Overnight in Assisi.

Day 3: Sep 16 - Assisi

- Morning Mass at the Tomb of St. Francis: Begin your day Mass in the Basilica of St. Francis, at the tomb of St. Francis (pre-arranged by Fr. Bob).
- After Mass, visit the Rocca Maggiore, a 12th-century castle offering stunning views over Assisi and the surrounding valley.
- Visit the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli, home to the tiny Porziuncola chapel, a place closely associated with St. Francis. Rest of the afternoon at leisure.
- Overnight in Assisi.

Day 4: Sep 17 - Perugia

- Depart at 09:00 for Perugia.
- Enjoy a guided tour through the historical center, including stops at Piazza IV Novembre, Fontana Maggiore, and the Etruscan Arch. Visit San Lorenzo Cathedral and take in the artistic beauty of Perugino's frescoes.
- After lunch, take some time to explore Perugia on your own; you can visit a chocolate shop, as the city is famous for its Perugina chocolates.
- Dinner in Perugia followed by a concert (arranged by Fr Bob). Return to Assisi for dinner and overnight.

Day 5: Sep 18 - Assisi

- Morning Mass at the Porziuncola: Begin the day with Mass at 8:00 am in the Porziuncola Chapel, located inside the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli. This small yet sacred space is where St. Francis received his calling.
- After Mass you will visit Eremo delle Carceri (St. Francis' Hermitage).
- Afternoon at leisure for more touring.
- Overnight in Assisi.

Day 6: Sep 19 - Full-day in Christian Rome

- Depart early for a full day dedicated to exploring Christian Rome. Visit significant sites like:
 - o St. Peter's Basilica, where you can marvel at Michelangelo's masterpiece.

- o Basilica of St. John Lateran: The cathedral of Rome and the official ecclesiastical seat of the Pope.
- o Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls: The burial place of St. Paul.
- o Basilica of St Mary Major, renowned for its architectural beauty, rich history, and significance in the Catholic Church.
- o Scala Sancta: The Holy Stairs that Jesus is said to have climbed during his trial.
- Return in Assisi for dinner and overnight.

Day 7: Sep 20 - Visit Baldetti Winery & Florence

- Head to Baldetti Winery for a tour and wine tasting (arranged by Fr. Bob). Enjoy a delightful lunch paired with their local wines, which are characteristic of the Tuscan countryside.
- Florence: Continue to Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance. Stroll around Piazza della Signoria, admire Il Duomo and Giotto's Campanile and explore Ponte Vecchio.
- Departure to Bologna for dinner and overnight.

Day 8: Sep 21 - Bologna Cooking Class

- Cooking Class in Bologna: Spend the morning taking a cooking class in Bologna, known as Italy's food capital. Learn to make traditional Bolognese dishes such as tagliatelle al ragù and tortellini.
- In the afternoon, stroll through the city's famous porticoes, visit Piazza Maggiore, San Petronio Basilica, and enjoy some of the finest Italian cuisine in local restaurants.
- Dinner at outside good restaurant. Overnight in Bologna.

Day 9: Sep 22 - Modena & Parma, Travel to Lake Orta

- Departure to Lake Orta. Stop in Modena to visit the birthplace of balsamic vinegar.
- Continue to Parma. Visit the romanica and beautiful Cathedral. If you have a little extra time, consider visiting a local shop to taste Parmigiano Reggiano and Prosciutto di Parma.
- Overnight in Lake Orta.

Day 10: Sep 23 - Lake Orta

- Relax and Explore Lake Orta: Spend the day enjoying the peaceful surroundings of Lake Orta. Take a boat ride (optional) to Isola San Giulio, a small and peaceful island in the middle of Lake Orta. Visit the Basilica di San Giulio a Romanesque church dedicated to Saint Julius and the Monastery of the Benedictine Sisters.
- Overnight in Lake Orta area.

Day 11: Sep 24 - Lake Maggiore

- Transfer to Lake Maggiore. Take a boat tour, visiting the stunning Borromean Islands known for their beautiful gardens, palaces and historic villas, including;
 - o Isola Bella: Famous for its magnificent palace and terraced gardens.
 - o Isola Madre: Known for its botanical gardens.
 - o Isola dei Pescatori: A quaint fishing village where you can stop for lunch.
- Overnight in Lake Orta area.

Day 12: Sep 25 - Milan

- Spend your day in Milan, starting with a visit to Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper (subjected to availability). Visit the Duomo di Milano, one of the largest and most intricate Gothic cathedrals in the world, and stroll through the historic Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II for some shopping or a coffee in one of its elegant cafés.
- Enjoy a farewell dinner with your group in Milan.
- Overnight in Milan.

Day 13: Sep 26 - Return Flight

- Depart for the USA.

