



# 2025 ACU Staff Pilgrimage

## Rome: Jubilee of Education

**Wednesday 22 October - Wednesday 5 November 2025**

**15 Days / 12 Nights • Assisi (3 nights) • Florence (2 nights) •  
Siena (1 night) • Rome - Jubilee of Education (6 nights)**



Every 25 years, the Church proclaims a Holy Year, a special gift of grace and mercy for all God's people. The Jubilee of Education pilgrimage is an invitation to our staff to step into this grace and join the faithful from around the world for a unique encounter with the Holy Father. On a pilgrimage inspired by many holy men and women of Italy, encounter the pathways of some of the Church's greatest saints, from St Francis and Clare in Assisi to St Peter and Paul in Rome, and join with others from around the world to cross the threshold of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica and receive the Jubilee blessing and spend time in the Eternal City celebrating the Jubilee Year.





**Meal Code:** (B) = Breakfast (D) = Dinner

# Itinerary

## DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER - DEPART FOR ITALY

## DAY 2: THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER - ARRIVE ASSISI

On arrival at Rome airport, we board our coach and drive north through scenic Umbrian countryside to the pilgrimage centre of Assisi, where St Francis tended the poor and sick and founded the Franciscan Order.

*Assisi overnight (BD)*

## DAY 3: FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER - ASSISI

This morning we awake to the sound of chapel bells, cobblestone footsteps and the tangible spirit of St Francis preserved within the medieval walls of this holy town.

Our day begins with Mass and a guided exploration of the buzzing **Basilica of St Francis** which occupies the entire western end of the upper town. Construction began in 1228, just two years after the death of Francis and was finally completed in 1250. The Upper Basilica houses the famous fresco cycle of the life of

St Francis, historically attributed to Giotto. Wander through the marvels of the Upper Basilica before our tour descends to the crypt of the Lower Basilica where Francis was laid in 1230 and where we will take some time to seek the intercession of his spiritual legend.

We then walk to the Church of **Santa Maria Maggiore - Sanctuary of the Spogliazione**, where we are blessed with the opportunity to visit and pray at the tomb of **Blessed Carlo Acutis** – a young Catholic from Italy with a passionate devotion to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and an aptitude for computer programming. From the ages of 12 to 14, he designed a website cataloguing Eucharistic miracles that have occurred around the world, which he launched in 2005. He died of leukemia a year later at the age of 15, offering his suffering for the pope and for the Church.

Our final stop today is the **Basilica of St Clare**. Housed in this church is the famous relocated **Holy Crucifix** from which God spoke to Francis “Go and repair my Church which as you see is in ruins”. An opportunity presents itself before dinner to attend **Vespers** and listen to the angelic voices of the Poor Clare nuns.

*Assisi overnight (BD)*

## DAY 4: SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER - ASSISI

This morning, we will visit the **Basilica of St Mary of the Angels** down on the plains where St Francis spent most of his life. Here we will celebrate Mass and see the **Portiuncula** (meaning ‘small portion of land’) where St Francis returned for prayer, the thornless rose bush, and the chapel where he died in 1226. On Palm Sunday 1211, Francis received in this church Clare of Assisi and dedicated her to the Lord.

Next, it's onto the **Church of San Damiano** and the actual chapel where it all began when the voice of Christ spoke to Francis in the year 1205 (some may prefer to approach by foot down the hillside path in the spirit of St Francis). Adjacent to the chapel we find the first monastery of the **Order of St Clare** where Clare built her community in close friendship with Francis.

Our day concludes with a visit to the **Hermitage** (Eremo delle Carceri), an oasis of peace and tranquility in the woods built on the site of a simple cave where St Francis often withdrew to spend many hours in prayer. The cave and the Chapel of Our Lady are preserved in the Hermitage grounds.

*Assisi overnight (BD)*

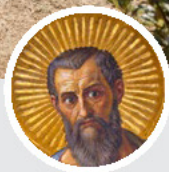




St John Paul II



St Peter



St Paul



St Francis



St Clare



Bl Carlo Acutis



St Catherine



#### DAY 5: SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER - ASSISI TO FLORENCE

Today, we set out for Florence, a city celebrated as the cradle of the Renaissance and home to countless masterpieces of art and architecture.

On arrival we make our way to the **Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore - Duomo**, to celebrate Mass. The Cathedral's magnificent dome was created by Brunelleschi. Across the way are Ghiberti's celebrated bronze doors to the **Baptistry**, so lovely that they are commonly known as 'The Gates of Paradise'.

In the afternoon we visit the **Academy of Fine Arts** containing many treasures, including **Michelangelo's statue of David**.

*Florence overnight (BD)*

#### DAY 6: MONDAY 27 OCTOBER - FLORENCE

We begin our day with **Mass at the Church of Santa Croce**, a historic landmark and final resting place of notable figures such as Michelangelo, Galileo, and Machiavelli. Following this, we embark on a **guided walking tour** of Florence, exploring iconic sites including **Piazza della Signoria**, **Palazzo Vecchio**, and the charming **Ponte Vecchio**, among others.

This afternoon, you'll have the freedom to enjoy some leisure time – whether to rest, browse the vibrant streetside markets, or further explore Florence at your own pace.

*Florence overnight (BD)*

#### DAY 7: TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER - FLORENCE TO SIENA

Departing Florence today, we make a special stop on the outskirts of the city at the **Piazzale Michelangelo**, a renowned vantage point. From this hilltop, we'll take in the **most breathtaking panoramic view of Florence**, a scene that captures the city's timeless beauty and charm.

We then travel to one of Italy's loveliest medieval cities, **Siena**, birthplace of **Saint Catherine**. Upon arrival we will visit the medieval **Cathedral of Siena** (1263), dedicated to Holy Mary of the Assumption. We also visit **St Dominic's Basilica** and view the incorrupt head of St Catherine, the mystical bride of Christ.

After Mass we will walk through the narrow lanes to the Basilica of St Francis where we will view the Eucharistic miracle of the incorrupt hosts that occurred in 1730, defying all scientific testing. Continue on and stroll the Piazza del Campo, one of

Italy's finest Squares.

*Siena overnight (BD)*

#### DAY 8: WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER - SIENA TO ROME

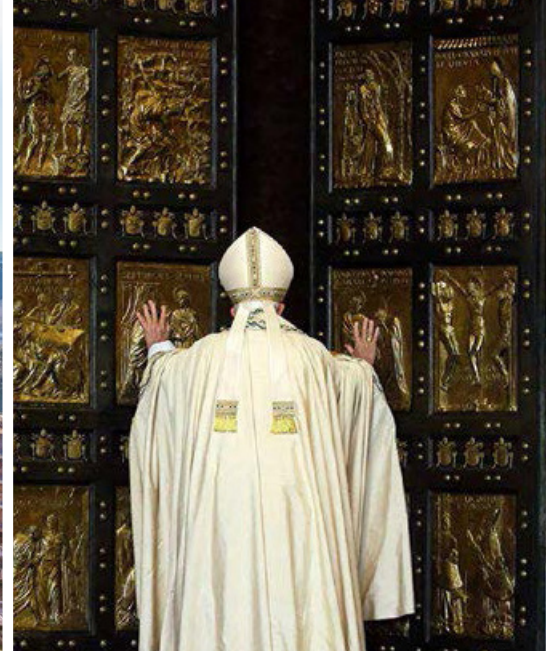
This morning, we bid farewell to **Siena** and set out for **Rome**, the Eternal City, steeped in the rich traditions of our Church.

Upon reaching the outskirts of Rome, we stop to visit the majestic **Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls**, originally consecrated in 324. This magnificent basilica, housing the **tomb of St Paul** beneath the Papal Altar, will be the sacred setting for our Mass today.

Our journey continues with a visit to the impressive **Basilica of St Mary Major**, renowned for its exquisite mosaics and deep spiritual significance. We then conclude our day at the historic **Basilica of St John in Lateran**, the first papal residence and the repository of sacred relics of **St Peter and St Paul**.

*Rome overnight (B)*





### DAY 9: THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER – ROME: JUBILEE OF THE WORLD OF EDUCATION\*

*The Jubilee Year is a time for the faithful to be renewed in their commitment and to strengthen their relationship with God. It is also a time for Catholics to come together as a community and to celebrate their faith. The 2025 Jubilee Year is sure to be a memorable and meaningful event for pilgrims from around the world, to be blessed and refreshed for the mission that lies before us.*

We start our day with Mass at **St Peter's Basilica**, before coming to the nearby **Vatican Museums**. Wander the spectacular chambers leading to the **Sistine Chapel** to view Michelangelo's masterpieces, including the magnificent fresco of the Last Judgment.

Continue through to the awe-inspiring St Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the world for an informative exploration. Our guided tour will feature among other highlights Michelangelo's stunning **Pietà**, the **tomb of Pope St John Paul II**, the **great Confessional** and the **Crypt** containing the tombs of several Popes. Here we also have the opportunity to walk through the **Holy Door**, also known as the 'Door of Great Pardon', and obtain the special Jubilee Year plenary indulgence. The door's panels portray scenes of man's sin and his redemption through God's mercy.

5:00pm-7:00pm – Jubilee of the World of Education Welcome  
*Rome overnight (B)*

### DAY 10: FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER – ROME: JUBILEE OF THE WORLD OF EDUCATION\*

8:00am-6:00pm – Jubilee rites

10:00am-5:00pm – Spiritual and cultural events throughout the city of Rome  
*Rome overnight (B)*

### DAY 11: SATURDAY 01 NOVEMBER – ROME: JUBILEE OF THE WORLD OF EDUCATION\*

8:00am-6:00pm – Jubilee rites

10:00am-5:00pm – Spiritual and cultural events throughout the city of Rome  
*Rome overnight (B)*

### DAY 12: SUNDAY 02 NOVEMBER – ROME: JUBILEE OF THE WORLD OF EDUCATION\*

10:00am – Mass with the Holy Father  
*Rome overnight (B)*

*\*further details and specific Rome itinerary to be finalised, once the detailed Jubilee of the World of Education program is released.*

### DAY 13: MONDAY 03 NOVEMBER – ROME:

#### DAY AT LEISURE

Our final day in Rome is set aside as a day at leisure to further discover the sights of Rome or find an inspired and quiet place to reflect and pray. Strolling through the streets is like walking through the pages of a history book. Indulge in a gelato or enjoy a coffee while absorbing and admiring the history of this ancient city. Marvel at the Pantheon or visit the Church of St Ignatius with its amazing ceiling painted to look like a dome.

For our final evening of pilgrimage, set out early to the lively **Trastevere** district and firstly visit the lovely Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere, a historic church dating back to the 12th century. We celebrate Mass here and afterwards, we wander on to enjoy an enchanting evening filled with food and traditional music at a typical Italian trattoria, marking our farewell to Rome and our pilgrimage.  
*Rome overnight (B)*

### DAY 14: TUESDAY 04 NOVEMBER – DEPART ROME

Today we bid farewell to the Eternal City as we make our way to the airport for our homebound flights or ongoing travel connections. (B)

### DAY 15: WEDNESDAY 05 NOVEMBER – ARRIVE HOME



PILGRIMAGE DETAILS	
STARTS	Wednesday 22 October 2025
FINISHES	Wednesday 5 November 2025
AIR & LAND COST	AUD \$7985 (Twin Share)*
Single Room	AUD \$865 Supplement
* Cost may vary dependant on a minimum group size.	
INCLUSIONS	
<b>AIRFARES:</b> Return Economy Class airfare from Sydney <b>ACCOMMODATION &amp; MEALS:</b> Based on religious houses and 3-star hotel and hotel accommodation standard • Breakfasts & dinners as per the itinerary <b>TOURING &amp; TRANSPORTATION:</b> Deluxe air-conditioned touring coach • Professional English-speaking Tour Escorts • Professional English-speaking local guides • Sightseeing and entrance fees <b>OTHER:</b> Tipping • Daily Masses • Porterage (where available).	
EXCLUSIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel Insurance</li> <li>• Personal expenses</li> <li>• Passport and visa costs (if applicable)</li> <li>• Other meals not stated</li> <li>• Drinks with meals</li> </ul>	



### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST:

Register your expression of interest by 28 February 2025. A \$500 non-refundable deposit due by Friday 7 March to secure your place.

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