

OCTOBER 11 - 22, 2025

CUSTOM TRAVELS *through Italy*

with Cheree Scardina & Helen Johnson



For information or to make a reservation, contact:
Cheree Scardina | House of Travel
225-757-5549 | cheree@houseoftavel.org

HOUSE  TRAVEL

Welcome to a journey that promises to be both deeply enriching and profoundly serene. Unlike conventional tours that focus on well-trodden paths, our itinerary will guide you through the tranquil beauty of Italy's countryside, where the essence of the land and faith intertwine. Our carefully curated itinerary will include visits to hidden gems that highlight the profound impact of Catholic faith throughout the region. Each stop is selected to encourage reflection and spiritual growth, allowing you to experience Italy not just as a destination, but as a living, breathing testament to centuries of devotion and tradition.

ITINERARY

October 11:

Depart USA

October 12:

Upon arrival at Fiumicino Airport (FCO), Rome, you will be greeted by your guide and transferred to Lanciano, a quaint town known for its historical significance in Catholicism. Check in at the hotel and take some time to relax after your journey. In the evening, gather with your fellow travelers for a group welcome dinner at the hotel, where you can start getting acquainted and discuss the upcoming pilgrimage. (D)

October 13:

After a refreshing breakfast at the hotel, embark on a guided tour of the Sanctuary of the Eucharistic Miracle in Lanciano. This sacred site holds great importance as it commemorates the miraculous transformation of bread and wine into actual flesh and blood during the 8th century. Explore the sanctuary's chapel, which houses the relics, and learn about the history and significance of this miracle in the Catholic faith. After the tour, you'll have free time to wander around Lanciano, a charming town with narrow cobblestone streets and historic buildings. In the evening, enjoy a delicious dinner at a local restaurant, savoring authentic Italian cuisine. (B, D)

October 14:

Today, you'll take a day trip to Loreto, another significant pilgrimage destination in Italy. After breakfast at the hotel, travel to Loreto, known for the Basilica della Santa Casa (Basilica of the Holy House). According to tradition, this basilica houses the home where the Virgin Mary lived and received the Annunciation. Explore the basilica and marvel at the beauty of the Holy House, a site of deep devotion for Catholics worldwide. After lunch at a local café in Loreto, you'll have time to further explore the town before returning to Lanciano. Dinner will be served at the hotel, allowing for relaxation and reflection on the day's experiences. (B, D)

October 15:

Early in the morning, depart Lanciano and journey to Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis of Assisi, one of the most beloved saints in Catholic history. Upon arrival, check in at the hotel and take some time to settle in. In the afternoon, visit the Basilica of St. Francis, a UNESCO World Heritage site that houses the tomb of St. Francis. Admire the stunning frescoes by Giotto and other Renaissance artists that depict scenes from the life of St. Francis. The basilica's Lower Church contains the saint's tomb and is a place of deep spiritual significance. Dinner tonight will be on your own, allowing for personal exploration and dining in one of Assisi's local restaurants. (B)

October 16:

Begin your day with a hearty breakfast at the hotel before visiting the Basilica di Santa Maria degli Angeli, located just outside Assisi. This basilica is significant because it houses the Porziuncola, a small chapel where St. Francis founded the Franciscan Order. Experience the serene atmosphere and reflect on the life and teachings of St. Francis. Later in the day, visit the Church of San Damiano, where St. Francis received his divine calling and wrote the Canticle of the Sun. Enjoy some free time for personal reflection before gathering for a farm-to-table style dinner, showcasing the delicious flavors of Umbrian cuisine. Overnight stay in Assisi. (B, D)

October 17:

Depart Assisi early in the morning for Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance. Upon arrival, embark on a guided tour of the Florence Cathedral (Duomo) and the Baptistery, marveling at the architectural wonders and artistic masterpieces they house. After your tour, enjoy lunch at a local café in Florence, indulging in Tuscan specialties. In the afternoon, continue your journey to Lucca, a charming town known for its intact Renaissance-era city walls. Check in at the hotel upon arrival and unwind. Dinner will be served at the hotel, providing a chance to relax and discuss the day's highlights. (B, D)



October 18:

Start the day with a delicious breakfast at the hotel. Enjoy the morning exploring Lucca at your leisure. Take a leisurely stroll along the city walls or visit attractions such as the Cathedral of St. Martin and the Guinigi Tower with its iconic rooftop garden. In the afternoon, participate in a group cooking class where you'll learn to prepare traditional Italian dishes. Enjoy the fruits of your labor for lunch and spend the rest of the afternoon as you wish, whether relaxing at the hotel or exploring more of Lucca's hidden gems. Dinner tonight is on your own, offering the opportunity to discover local trattorias or cafes. (B)

October 19:

After breakfast at the hotel, embark on a day trip to Cinque Terre, a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its picturesque villages and stunning coastal scenery. Explore the colorful villages of Monterosso al Mare, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola, and Riomaggiore, each offering its own unique charm. Take a boat tour along the coast to admire the rugged cliffs and turquoise waters of the Ligurian Sea. Enjoy lunch at a café in one of the villages, savoring fresh seafood and regional specialties. Return to Lucca in the evening and dine at the hotel, sharing stories of your day's adventures. (B, D)

October 20:

After breakfast at the hotel, depart for a day trip to Siena, a medieval city known for its Gothic architecture and the famous Palio horse race. En route, stop in San Gimignano, a hilltop town famous for its medieval towers offering panoramic countryside views. Enjoy a lunch and wine-tasting tour at a local winery, sampling fine Tuscan wines paired with delicious regional cuisine. Return to Lucca in the evening and experience a unique dining experience in a local home, where you'll savor traditional dishes and immerse yourself in the warmth of Italian hospitality. (B, D)

October 21:

Bid farewell to Lucca as you depart for Milan after breakfast at the hotel. Upon arrival in Milan, visit the Basilica di Santa Croce and the Basilica di Sant' Ambrogio, two of the city's most important religious landmarks. Reflect on their historical and spiritual significance before enjoying some free time for shopping in Milan's renowned fashion district. In the evening, gather for a farewell dinner, celebrating the conclusion of your journey through Italy and the friendships made along the way. (B, D)

October 22:

Today you will depart for home. Enjoy your final breakfast at the hotel before departing for Milan International Airport. For those returning to the USA, bid farewell to Italy with cherished memories of your Catholic pilgrimage. (B)

B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner

Starting at

\$6,698* from New Orleans

YOUR ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICE INCLUDES:

- Basic Tour & Guided Sightseeing, Round-trip International Airfare
- Additional baggage & optional fees may apply; see fine print for details
- Fuel Surcharges and Government Taxes (Subject to change)
- Admin. Fees, Entrance Fees, Hotel Gratuities & Program Fees,
- Meals as listed in the Itinerary, Deluxe Motorcoaches,
- First-Class Hotels & much more! *See back for pricing details



TRAVEL REGISTRATION FORM

Please mail completed form with payment and passport copy to:

Cheree Scardina | House of Travel
P.O. Box 675 - New Roads, LA 70760
225-757-5549 | cheree@houseoftravel.org

Departure City: New Orleans Departure Date: 10/11/25 (S)

First, Middle & Last Name must be submitted as it appears on your passport:

Guest 1: First Name: (Name Tag:) Middle Name: Last Name: Title: Street Address: P.O. Box: City: State: Zip Code: Phone: Alt. Phone: Email: Birth Date: State of Birth: Sex: Dietary Restrictions: Emergency Contact: Phone: How did you learn about this tour?

Guest 2: First Name: (Name Tag:) Middle Name: Last Name: Title: Street Address: P.O. Box: City: State: Zip Code: Phone: Alt. Phone: Email: Birth Date: State of Birth: Sex: Dietary Restrictions: Emergency Contact: Phone: How did you learn about this tour?

Roommate(s):

If No Roommate: Try to Match Me Single Room (availability limited - \$850)

Important Information Regarding Travel Protection Plan: Guest 1: Guest 2: 1 Travel Protection coverage cannot be added after you have paid in full. 2 Premium is based on TOTAL cost of trip and is non-refundable. 3 Coverage begins when your premium payment is received (separate from deposit & clearly designated as your travel protection premium). 4 Premium must be paid in full no later than 06/28/25.

\$300 DEPOSIT PER PERSON REQUIRED WITH REGISTRATION FINAL PAYMENT DUE 06/28/25

via check # via credit card (circle): VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMEX Card Number: Exp. Date: Name on Card: CVN:

PASSENGER AGREEMENT

By signing and submitting the registration form, I/we certify that I/we have read Passenger Agreement, Program Conditions, and Statements of Responsibility of the brochure, understand its content, and agree to its terms including but not limited to the potential for price increases that may apply before payment in full has been received as set forth in the Program Conditions and Statements of Responsibility of the brochure and potential price increases after payment in full has been received due to government imposed taxes and fees.

Guest 1 Signature:

Guest 2 Signature:

Tour: X125 Date: 101125 Code: S ID: 40367 V.002 09/05/24

Travel Protection Plan - Premium Rates

For a full description of the plan, go to: www.tripmate.com/wpF427E

Table with 5 columns: Trip Cost, Plan Cost, Trip Cost, Plan Cost, Trip Cost, Plan Cost, Trip Cost, Plan Cost. Rows show various trip cost ranges and their corresponding plan costs.

Table with 2 columns: Schedule of Coverages, Maximum Benefit. Rows include Part A (Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Missed Connection, Trip Delay), Medical Expense / Emergency Evacuation, and Accidental Death & Dismemberment / Baggage and Personal Effects / Baggage Delay.

Additional Cancellation Protection: When you purchase this Travel Protection Plan at or before the final payment due date for Your Trip, you also receive the Educational Travel Services Pre-Departure Cancellation Waiver Benefit that allows you to cancel your Educational Travel Services travel arrangements up to the day of departure for any reason (excludes no shows and those not permitted boarding). With this Educational Travel Services Cancellation Waiver, your non-refundable land cancellation penalties will be refunded in Educational Travel Services travel certificates. Certain travel programs are not eligible for this benefit, such as cruise and land programs listed and detailed on the Educational Travel Services website (www.etsours.com). Premiums must be paid in addition to initial or second deposit prior to the final payment for coverage to be in effect.

Part A - Non-insurance Cancellation Waiver is provided by Educational Travel Services. Part B - Travel Protection Benefits are provided by United States Fire Insurance Company and serviced by Trip Mate. In MN and NY, a different cancellation waiver is available. Available for purchase separately in NY.

Conditions and Limitations

The Travel Protection Plan is only available for citizens or residents of the United States of America. The Travel Protection Plan is unavailable for residents of NY. This advertisement contains highlights of the plans developed by Trip Mate, a Generali Global Assistance & Insurance Services brand, which include travel insurance coverages underwritten by United States Fire Insurance Company. Principal Office located in Morrisstown, New Jersey, under form series T7000 et al, T210 et al and TP-401 et al, and non-insurance Travel Assistance Services provided by Generali Global Assistance and FootprintID and a non-insurance Cancellation Fee Waiver provided by Educational Travel Services, Inc. The terms of insurance coverages in the plans may vary by jurisdiction and not all insurance coverages are available in all jurisdictions. Insurance coverages in these plans are subject to terms, limitations and exclusions including an exclusion for pre-existing medical conditions. In most states, your travel retailer is not a licensed insurance producer/agent, and is not qualified or authorized to answer technical questions about the terms, conditions, coverages and conditions of the insurance offered or to evaluate the adequacy of your existing insurance coverage. Your travel retailer may be compensated for the purchase of a plan and may provide general information about the plans offered, including a description of the coverage and price. The purchase of travel insurance is not required in order to purchase any other product or service from your travel retailer. CA DOI toll free number is 800-527-4357. The cost of your plan is for the entire plan, which consists of both insurance and non-insurance components. Individuals looking to obtain additional information regarding the features and pricing of each travel plan component, please contact Trip Mate, a Generali Global Assistance & Insurance Services brand; P.O. Box 627, Hazlewood, MO 63042; 1-833-297-2265; assistance@tripmate.com. We are licensed in all states. While Trip Mate markets the travel insurance in these plans on behalf of USF, non-insurance components of the plans were added to the plans by Trip Mate, and Trip Mate does not receive compensation from USF for providing the non-insurance components of the plans.

PROGRAM CONDITIONS

INCLUDED IN PRICE:

Round-trip international airfare • Deluxe motorcoaches • 1st class hotels • Guided sightseeing • Entrance fees to sites visited (as listed in itinerary) • Meals as listed in the itinerary • Hotel gratuities • Program fees • Administrative Fee • Fuel surcharges • Government Taxes \$98 (Increases in government tax and fees are subject to change)

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

Optional sightseeing as listed in the brochure • Tips for guide (\$6/day) & driver (\$3/day) • Miscellaneous fees i.e. individual transfers; passports, laundry, lunches, beverages & baggage fees • Visas for non-US citizens • Visas and Transfers for all ground only passengers • Optional Travel Protection Program (see premium schedule)

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Price is per person based on double occupancy. When available, single rooms are often smaller than doubles. While we will try to match roommates, we cannot guarantee a roommate will be available. Roommates may be assigned as late as 30 days prior to departure and, if one is not available or you request a single room, the following charges apply: \$850 during the basic tour.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

Table with 3 columns: Deposit, Payment Amount, Due Date. Rows include Registration Deposit (\$300), Final Payment (Full payment), and Travel Protection Premium Amount.

REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED after June 28, 2025:

We welcome registrations after 06/28/25. Registrations received between 06/29/25-07/13/25 will incur a fee starting at \$100 per person. Registrations received between 07/14/25-07/28/25 will incur a fee starting at \$200 per person. Registrations received between 07/29/25-08/12/25 will incur a fee starting at \$400 per person. Registrations received 08/13/25 or later will incur an additional fee based on air availability. Additional fees will be advised upon registration.

CANCELLATION FEES:

100% of Cancellation Fees are covered by the optional Travel Protection Program, provided premium has been paid and reason for cancellation is coverable. Those who do not take travel protection should be aware of the following per-person cancellation penalties: From day of registration to 105 days prior to departure, you will be charged the \$100 non-refundable cancellation fee plus any airline fees. Additionally, thereafter, you will be charged any airline penalties and a single room supplement if your cancellation forces your roommate into a single plus the following per-person charges: 104-60 days = \$400; 59-45 days = \$600; 44-31 days = 40% of total cost; 30 days to day of departure = 100% of total cost. Submit cancellation in writing. On or after day of departure, there will be no refund for any services not used.

STATEMENTS OF RESPONSIBILITY

We do not accept responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air schedules, hotel overbookings, other hotel related problems or causes, and/or travel supplier cancellations or postponements. Travel suppliers include all tour operators, cruise lines, airlines, hotels, bus companies, entertainment venues, and any other travel supplier used to operate the tour. All such losses or expenses will be the responsibility of the passenger. We reserve the right to make adjustments to the itinerary as deemed desirable by us, and we reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure. If a tour is canceled beyond the control of us, we will provide a refund or a future travel credit to be used two years from the date of issuance for the value of all funds paid by the passenger less nonrefundable travel supplier prepaid deposits, travel supplier change fees, nonrefundable travel protection premiums, and a \$150 administration fee.

FIT TO TRAVEL STATEMENT:

Passengers registering for the tour accept the responsibility for being in good health and able to walk and travel on the tour. Because many of the sites are not accessible to the physically challenged and space limitations on tour buses, wheelchairs and scooters cannot be accommodated. Those needing oxygen or other ambulatory assistance will find the tour extremely limiting in their experiences. Persons using C-pap machines requiring distilled water will need to inform us ahead of time, so we can work with local operators to prepare as it is not always available. We reserve the right to refuse or revoke travel to anyone who is, in our sole judgment, incapable of group travel without causing undue demands upon the staff or other tour participants. Accessible rooms/cabins are limited and subject to confirmation after receiving the passenger's written request. If you have questions, please contact us for more details.

PASSPORT INFORMATION:

Passport information must be submitted to our office no later than 06/28/25. Failure to provide your passport information to our office by this date may result in change fees or denial of travel. Discrepancies in information may result in change fees, delays in receiving travel documents for your trip, or denial of travel. Any fees incurred due to discrepancies are the responsibility of the passenger. Passports must be valid for at least 6 months after the return date.

PRICE INCREASES:

All prices quoted in this brochure are subject to change prior to payment in full due to currency fluctuations, fuel surcharge increases, government taxes and fees increases or unforeseen circumstances. In addition, you may be subject to a price increase after payment in full has been received due to potential government imposed taxes and fees.

AIRLINE ROUTES and TICKETS:

In order to keep prices low, we do not guarantee the most direct routing to your final destination. Once issued, airline tickets cannot be changed or refunded thereafter. Air transportation to/from your destination will be economy class on IATA and ARC carriers utilizing APEX or SUPER APEX non-refundable, non-amendable tickets for groups of 10 or more flying together on entire itinerary. If you choose to depart from a different city than your group or traveling companion, or deviate your flight and/or trip plans, and/or you are taking a pre or post tour, you may fly on a different scheduled flight(s) than the rest of your group. If you make your own air arrangements, you are responsible for booking all needed flights for your travel unless specified otherwise. Contact your travel advisor for further details.

FLIGHT TIMES and SEATING:

All flights are subject to change by the airlines without advance notice. We are not responsible for such changes or delays and do not reimburse expenses resulting from such delays. If you are making your own flight arrangements to the departure city, we recommend you purchase a ticket that can be exchanged without large penalties. There is no advance seat selection for groups on most airlines. Early check-in is necessary to secure seats with travel companions and those with special needs. Due to security measures taken at airports, it is advisable to arrive at the airport three hours prior to departure time. Seating is solely under the control of the airlines. You will receive your flight information 60-30 days prior to departure. Final documents are sent approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

ADDITIONAL AIRLINE FEES:

You will likely incur additional airline checked baggage fees that are not included in the price of the tour. These fees vary by airline and are at the airline's discretion on each segment of the flight itinerary. You may also incur optional fees i.e. food, excess baggage, overweight baggage, items of personal nature, etc.

DEVIATIONS AND AIR UPGRADE REQUESTS:

Deviation and Air Upgrade requests must be submitted in writing and are subject to additional airline fees. Deviations and Air Upgrades are not always possible given the group schedule and time of ticketing. Passengers who are ticketed with air deviations and/or upgrades will likely not fly with the group and will therefore need to provide their own transfers.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this brochure. While we will make every effort to ensure you will see all sites listed in this brochure, the availability of sites, order of sites and/or days and number of days may be altered to accommodate changes in airline, hotel schedules, and local conditions. No changes to the itinerary are effective unless approved in writing and signed by an authorized officer of the tour operator. Except as stated herein, no other person is authorized to cancel, modify or vary the tour arrangements or to make any representation of warranty concerning the tour.

Due to airline schedules, some participants may receive one or two extra leisure days at a nominal per day charge and some extensions may not be available on all departure dates. If itinerary changes necessitate extra overnights, you will be charged \$125 per night; single rooms \$175 per night. Meals for extra nights are not included.

VALIDITY DATES:

This brochure is valid until 03/05/24. Registrations will still be accepted after the validity date.

RELEASE INFORMATION:

Payment of deposit indicates permission for us or our agents to record the registrant's participation and appearance on video tape, audio tape, film, photograph, or any other medium and to use the registrant's name, likeness, voice, comments, submitted documentation, written papers, and/or biographical material without restrictions or limitation for any advertising, marketing, publicity, educational or promotional purpose which we or our agents deem appropriate, unless the registrant or guardian otherwise notifies us in writing prior to departure.

Enrollment in, payment of deposit and/or acceptance of final documents, vouchers, or tickets shall be deemed to be consent to the Passenger Agreement and Program Conditions of the brochure. Prices are based on tariffs in effect as of January 1 of the previous year and are subject to adjustment without notice in the event of any change or currency fluctuation.

Except where otherwise stated, we act only as agent for the relevant supplier in securing hotels, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall we be liable for failure by any such supplier to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. The passenger agrees that we assume no liability for injury, death, damage, loss, theft, accident, delay, any lost or damaged luggage, or irregularity which may occur by reason of any negligent or willful act or omission of any suppliers or service.

We do not own or operate any of the suppliers of services to your tour. Similarly without limiting the foregoing, passenger agrees to hold us harmless for any defect in any vehicle, plane, boat, bus, car, van or other vehicle, act of God or insurrection, terrorist activity, revolt or other civil uprising, military action, strikes or labor unrest or any Act of God or for any other act of any third party.