



Walking Pilgrimage to Rome on the Via Francigena

Catholic Charities of California invites you to join a seven day walking pilgrimage to Rome:

2017

- June 3-10, 2017 – *Full*
- September 14-21, 2017

2018

- June 3-10, 2018
- September 14-21, 2018

The Via Francigena is not well known. This trip is a rare opportunity to experience this ancient and beautiful pilgrimage while also giving your support to programs that help the poor. If this pilgrimage is not on your bucket list, it should be!

For more information, or to make a reservation for this pilgrimage, contact Melissa at Pilgrim@CatholicCharitiesCA.org or telephone (916) 706-1539.

The Via Francigena

Toward the end of the first millennium and the beginning of the second, pilgrimage gained increasing importance. The holy places of Christianity were Jerusalem, Rome and Santiago de Compostela. The Via Francigena—the road from France—became the central hub of pilgrimages, also known as the great ways of faith. The Via Francigena pilgrimage began at the Canterbury Cathedral in England, crossing France, Switzerland and Italy ending at Saint Peter’s Cathedral in Rome.

Pilgrims, traders, merchants, scholars and other travelers used the Via Francigena. On a normal day up to 3,000 people walked the route. Pilgrims usually travelled in large groups and walked about 8 hours a day. Inns, canonries, and monasteries served pilgrims along the way. Over time, pilgrimages lost popularity and alternative routes replaced the Via Francigena.

In 990, Archbishop Sigeric the Serious walked the Via Francigena to St. Peter's to collect his cloak of office from the Pope. He recorded his journey in detail. These diaries were found in the 1980s and pieced together by academics. As a result, the ancient route was reconstructed and in 1985 pilgrims walked it again for the first time in hundreds of years. The Italian government has since invested in its reconstruction for use by pilgrims. It is a beautiful walk with transformative powers.

Highlights of Trip

- ✓ Walk the final leg of the Via Francigena into Rome.
- ✓ Stay at quality accommodations; rooms with a private bath where possible
- ✓ Walk through rural Lazio and pass through many hill top villages, Etruscan and Roman remains, papal palaces, and thermal pools.
- ✓ Enjoy the famous Est! Est!! Est!!! wine in Montefiascone.
- ✓ Explore Viterbo, the best preserved medieval town in the Lazio region.
- ✓ Bathe in the thermal pools of Bagnaccio.
- ✓ Discover the Roman amphitheater in Sutri.
- ✓ Enjoy many fabulous churches.
- ✓ Walk by rivers, streams and waterfalls and the valley of Sorbo, home to wild horses.
- ✓ Walk into Rome through Insugherata and Mount Mario parks, with panoramic views of Rome.
- ✓ Receive a passport to get stamped along the way and the opportunity to receive an official Testimonium from the Vatican verifying you have walked the Via Francigena.

Itinerary

June 3rd – Arrive Montefiascone

Montefiascone can be reached by taking a train to Viterbo (via Roma Trastevere Station) and a bus or train from Viterbo.

Enjoy striking views over Lake Bolsena and the Cimini Mountains. View hand-painted frescoes in San Flaviano and the Fortress of the Popes.

Dinner hosted by Catholic Charities of California, including Est! Est!! Est!!!, the famous local wine.

June 4th - Walk to Viterbo

Start: Rocca dei Papi, Montefiascone,

End: Piazza del Plebiscito, Viterbo



Total length: 11.6 miles
Difficulty by foot: Easy
Notes: Bring bathing suit

The first section of the route is spectacular! Pilgrims will walk along the Via Cassia, said to be the best preserved section of paved Roman roads north of Rome. The walk includes wonderful views of Montefiascone, Viterbo, and Lake Bolsena. There will be an opportunity to relax at the thermal baths of Bagnaccio, a series of pools of hot water.

Arrive in Viterbo, the best preserved medieval town in Lazio, the intermittent Papal seat for 24 years in the late 13th Century and subsequently a Papal summer home. In Viterbo, visit the historical center and San Pellegrino district.

June 5th – Walk to Vetralla

Start: Piazza del Plebiscito, Viterbo,
End: Duoma, Vetralla
Total length: 11.37 miles
Difficulty by foot: Challenging

Close to Viterbo are the Roman ruins of Ponte Camillario and Etruscan catacombs. The walk today is among fields and woods. You will pass Lak Vico. At the entrance to Vetralla are the ruins of the Pieve of Saint Maria di Forcassi.

June 6th – Walk to Sutri

Start: Duomo, Vetralla
End: Anfiteatro Romano
Total length: 14.7 miles
Difficulty by foot: Moderate

Leaving Vetralla, walk along a beautiful wooden track before reaching the Church of Madonna di Loreto. From there you will pass hazelnut trees and some oaks before arriving at the ruins of an old monastery. The walk continues to the pretty village of Capranica. Sutri has an ancient Roman amphitheater and charming historical center. View amazing frescoes at the Church of Santa Maria del Parto.

June 7th - Walk to Campagnano di Roma

Start: Anfiteatro Romano, Sutri
End: Chiesa del Gonfalone, Campagnano di Roma
Total length: 16.8 miles
Difficulty by foot: Moderate

The first section of the route moves across fields until Monterosi and then through more fields. Eventually pilgrims reach the Monte Gelato waterfalls, a nice park for a rest. Further along, arrive at Veio Park, and walk along a panoramic excavated street leading into Campagnano.

June 8th – Walk to La Storta

Start: Chiesa del Gonfalone, Campagnano
End: Chiesa Parrocchiale, La Storta
Total length: 15.16 miles



Difficulty by foot: Moderate

Leaving Campagnano pilgrims can admire the enchanting views of Latium countryside. Today's walk will bring pilgrims to the Church of Madonna del Sorbo. Pilgrims will also pass the Etruscan ruins at Veii. Formello has a pleasant historical center at the Palazzo.

June 9th – Walk to Roma

Start: Chiesa Parrocchiale, La Storta

End: Piazza San Pietro, Roma

Total length: 10.69 miles

Difficulty by foot: Easy

Pilgrims will walk through the outskirts of Rome. At times there will be a lot of traffic. The highlight of today's walk will be the amazing views of Rome on Monte Mario. The walk ends at Piazza San Pietro.

Dinner hosted by Catholic Charities of California.

June 10th – Roma

Today pilgrims can take an optional tour and go to the Pilgrim's office to receive a Testimonium.

Trip Price:

- **\$1,800** Double Occupancy
- **\$2,000** Single Occupancy

What's Included

- ✓ Catholic Charities of California Hosted Dinners in Montefiascone and Rome
- ✓ 7 nights of lodging; all rooms with a private bath
- ✓ Luggage transfers
- ✓ Some meals
- ✓ Maps and detailed Itinerary
- ✓ A contribution to Catholic Charities of California

Add Ons

- ✓ Extra nights of lodging
- ✓ Organize a group of 12 pilgrims (11+ organizer) and the organizer cost will be waived or everyone can enjoy a discount.

