

ASSISI – TYPICAL PROGRAM

Ten night stay at St. Anthony's Guesthouse in Assisi (nine full days)

This is the outline of the places that we plan to visit during the pilgrimage. Details of each place and how it fits into the story of Francis of Assisi can be found in the book On the Road with Francis of Assisi by Linda Bird Franke. This is an outline only; the actual program will be adjusted to fit local schedules and opening times etc.

DAY ONE

Gather at St. Anthony's Guest House:
10, Via Alessi G., Assisi, PG 06081, Italy
Tel: 075 81 25 42

DAY TWO

Mainly be taken up with orientation and a walking tour of Assisi itself taking in:

San Rufino (the font where Francis was baptized)
Piazza Del Comune - the Temple of Minerva
Oratorio Piccolino – and the other possible birthplaces.
Chiesa Nuova – (built over the house where the Bernadone family lived).
Palazzo Vescovile Site of Francis' showdown with his father.
Santa Maria Maggiore (old cathedral)
Basilica di S. Francesco - upper church frescoes, lower church tomb, reliquary.

Somewhere we'll stop for lunch along the way.

Then make our way back to Basilica di S. Chiara, with the option of also hiking up to La Rocca (the castle above the town of Assisi for the view.

DAY THREE

San Damiano and Santa Maria Degli Angeli – possibly walking from one to the other.

[Hours of San Damiano: 10 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. and 2 – 6 p.m.]

Possibly 7pm Vespers at San Damiano (either on this day or another day).

DAY FOUR

Foligno - where Francis sold the scarlet cloth

Spoletto - where he had the dream on his way to take part in Walter de Brienn's campaign; also note to Brother Leo in the Cathedral there.

Montelucio Hermitage. This is a particularly beautiful location, and there is a restaurant right next door which would make a good location for lunch.

DAY FIVE

Lake Trasimeno – Isola Maggiore (reached by ferry), where Francis reputedly spent the 40 days of Lent in 1211 in the company of a rabbit.

Collestrada (scene of the battle between Perugia and Assisi and capture of Francis in 1202 - there is a shopping mall there now – will look into whether there is more suitable as a place to visit relating to this event.

Perugia - the scene of Francis' captivity in the jail below the tourist information centre. Plus shopping, of course (very un-franciscan!)

DAY SIX

Gubbio - where Francis went to after the showdown with his father at the bishop's palace, and after his time at the Abbey of Vallingegno, also the scene of the wolf story - La Vittorina.

There is also a hiking trail from Assisi to Gubbio and we could possibly walk along part of this.

DAY SEVEN

Morning: Eremo delle Carceri - some people may choose to hike up, others go by minibus.

Possibly an open air Eucharist here at the hermitage, or in a chapel.

Packed lunch.

DAY EIGHT

The Rieti Valley - possibly the hermitage where Francis wrote the Rule of 1223.

Greccio - scene of the Christmas tableau.

Fonte Colombo

DAY NINE

Visit to La Verna hermitage in Tuscany

In the evening we will have a final Eucharist together at the Guesthouse, and our own "Last Supper" in a local restaurant.