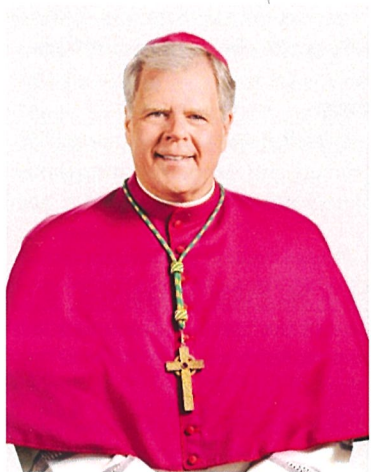




Enter through the Holy Doors with Most Reverend Gerard Bergie

October 16 - 24, 2025



Dear Pilgrims of Hope:

His Excellency Bishop Gerard Bergie extends an invitation to join him on pilgrimage to Rome and to enter through the Holy Doors of St. Peter's Basilica, the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran and the Basilica of St. Mary Major during the 2025 Jubilee Year.

This Spiritual Journey starts on October 16th with a Toronto flight to Rome and coach to Assisi where we honour and pray at the tomb of Blessed Carlo Acutis. The tour continues with a full day tour in Assisi. On the way to San Giovanni Rotondo (Shrine of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina) we stop in Lanciano (Eucharistic Miracle of Jesus.) Via the Montecassino monastery, we reach Rome, enter through the Holy Doors and receive a Papal Blessing. The return flight is scheduled for October 24.

Reservations are accepted on a first come, first served basis, until the max. of 42 passengers has been reached. Please complete the attached booking form. For more information contact Ineke Brinkman, Travel Advisor for Direct Travel and Organizer of Pilgrimage Tours since 1993 at ibrinkman@dt.com or call Ineke at 905.988.1313.

Itinerary:

DAY 1: THU, - October 16, 2025 Toronto

Departure at 9:40 pm; non-stop Air Transat flight, inflight meal services.

Day 2: FRI, - October 17 Rome - arrival – Assisi

D

Upon arrival in Rome at 12:15 pm local time, we will be greeted by driver and coach and transferred to Assisi. We start with honouring and prayers at the tomb of Blessed Carlo Acutis (his canonization is scheduled for April 27, 2025) before checking into the hotel in Assisi for dinner and overnight.

DAY 3: SAT, – October 18 Assisi

B-D

After breakfast enjoy a full-day guided tour of Assisi. Visit the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels where St. Francis spent most of his life. Here we visit the Chapel, Porziuncola, the rose bush, and the cave where he retired for prayer. We travel up to the quaint hilltop, birthplace of St Francis that still retains something of the atmosphere of the early 1200s, the period when St. Francis began his ministry. We also visit St. Francis's huge 13th-century Basilica built over his crypt containing many of the saint's possessions and a series of frescoes depicting his life. Continue to the Church of St. Clare to see the saint's incorrupt body. The foundress of the Order of Poor Clares followed the teachings of St. Francis by living a life of poverty and humility. We may kneel before the San Damiano Cross from which Jesus spoke to St. Francis asking him to rebuild His church. Dinner and overnight in Assisi.

DAY 4: SUN, – October 19 Assisi - Lanciano – San Giovanni Rotondo

B – D

After breakfast we continue to San Giovanni Rotondo. On the way, we stop in Lanciano for a visit of the Eucharistic Miracle of Jesus in a special Monstrance in the Tabernacle. After lunch we continue to San Giovanni Rotondo for a late afternoon arrival. Check-in the hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 5: MON, – October 20 San Giovanni Rotondo

B - D

With our local guide we visit the Padre Pio's tomb and cell, the old church where he received the stigmata, his confessional, and the new Church of Santa Maria Delle Grazie. After lunch time we continue to St. Michel's grotto. Dinner and overnight.

DAY 6: TUE, – October 21 San Giovanni Rotondo – Montecassino – Rome

B - D

After breakfast, transfer to Rome via Montecassino. With our local guide we visit the beautiful Abbey of Montecassino, the first house of the Benedictine Order, which is up to this day a working monastery and pilgrimage site. Montecassino is known for the devastating battle near the end of the World War II in which the Abbey was completely destroyed. It has since been rebuilt. Transfer to Rome for dinner and overnight.

DAY 7: WED, – October 22 Rome – Papal Audience – Vatican Museums & St. Peter's Basilica

B - D

Early departure to the Vatican. Attend the Papal Audience. With our local guide we then visit the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel. Our tour continues with a visit of the St. Peter's Basilica. In the afternoon we partake in a guided walk to the historical centre and see the Pantheon (outside), an ancient Roman temple with a spectacular domed roof. It's a breathtaking example of Roman engineering. You will see Piazza Navona, a lively square with beautiful fountains and street performers. Make a wish at the Trevi Fountain and enjoy the stunning architecture. Dinner and overnight in Rome.

DAY 8: THU, – October 23 Rome – Roman Basilicas

B - D

After breakfast depart for a guided tour of the three major basilicas of Rome: the Basilica of St. Mary Major, one of the oldest shrines dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and built on the site where the Virgin Mary appeared in a dream of Pope Liberius; the Basilica of St. John in Lateran, the former residence of the popes prior to their return to Rome in 1377; the Holy Stairs, which is believed to be a staircase from Pilate's palace in Jerusalem that Jesus climbed when he was condemned to death and brought to Rome by St. Helena in the 4th century. Time permitting, we may climb these stairs on our knees in memory of Christ's Passion. Afternoon, continue to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls built over his tomb. Next is the Appian Way, the oldest road from Roman times. Continue to the Capitoline Hill, the Colosseum, the Roman Forum and the Arch of Constantine (all outside). Dinner and overnight in Rome.

Day 9: FRI, - October 24 - Rome (FCO) – departure

B

After breakfast departure to the airport for the flight back home, departing Rome at 2:15 pm with a same day arrival in Toronto.

CAD \$4590 p.p. based on double occupancy and a min. of 32 passengers; single supplement: \$865

INCLUDED:

- Celebration of Masses, prayers and services by His Excellency Bishop Gerard Bergie
- Transatlantic Air Transat flights Toronto-Rome-Toronto, economy class, incl. one check-in suitcase
- Airport taxes and fees
- Luxury air-conditioned coach for the duration of the tour
- 4-star hotel accommodation— 2 nights in Assisi; 2 nights in SGR and 3 nights in Rome incl. city taxes
- Daily breakfast and dinner
- Whispers for the sites where mandatory
- Gratuities for driver, local guides, restaurants and hotels
- Services of tour hostess Ineke Brinkman

Entrances into:

- Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel
- St. Francis Basilica in Assisi with local guide
- St. Callixtus Catacombs

Local English-speaking guides:

- Full day tour in Assisi
- Half-day tour in San Giovanni Rotondo
- Full-day Roman Basilicas & Ancient Rome tour
- Half-day Historical centre – Rome

NOT INCLUDED:

- Highly recommended cancellation/interruption and medical out of country insurance; contact Ineke for needs and premium
- Visits and entrances not mentioned in the program
- Meals and beverages not mentioned in the program
- Transfers to/from Toronto airport
- Any items of personal nature

Terms and Conditions:

How to book Make a copy of your passport and mail/deliver with the completed booking form including a \$750 per person non-refundable deposit (cheque made payable to Direct Travel or your credit card authorization) to Ineke Brinkman, 3 Mountainview Drive, St. Catharines, L2T 3H3. The day of receipt confirms your registration. To avoid disappointment and to secure your spot, we recommend you book now. The premium for the optional but highly-recommended insurance is also due at time of booking. Final payment is due no later than Friday, August 1, 2025.

Insurance Direct Travel strongly recommends you purchase insurance, protecting you from financial losses in the event you would need to cancel due to medical reasons to yourself or someone in your immediate family. You will be advised of the premium upon receipt of your registration, as the premium is according to your needs, the duration and price of your package, as well as age.

Cancellations and refunds All cancellations, changes or refund requests must be received in writing and shall be considered in effect as of the date notice is received. Cancellation fees: cancellations are subject to the following cancellation penalties:

Deposit: non-refundable; Cancellation fee for cancelling between date of registration and August 1, 2025: \$750 per person. Cancelling on August 2, 2025 or after: 100% non-refundable. If you need to cancel, Direct Travel will refund all money paid towards the tour less the applicable cancellation fee and the insurance premium.

Pricing All prices are based on November 29, 2024 exchange rates and supplier quotations. In the event that significant changes take place (3% or more) due to circumstances beyond our control, we reserve the right to adjust the prices. Direct Travel requires a min. of 32 people to guarantee departure and price.

Itinerary International travel is, by its very nature, unpredictable. We reserve the right to withdraw all or part of the tour should conditions warrant and to make alterations in the itinerary and/or accommodation, as well as places of worship, as may be found desirable for the convenience of the tour members or proper execution of the tour and/or to meet local conditions at the time of travel. We appreciate your understanding.

Shared and single accommodation Passengers must indicate at the time of booking whether they want to share a hotel room or if they prefer a single room; there are a limited number of single rooms available. Your roommate, if known, should also be indicated. Triple rooms, while not recommended, can usually be arranged in the hotel rooms. Should it not be possible to find a compatible roommate, then the single person must be prepared to pay the single supplement no later than six weeks prior to departure.

Unused tour arrangements Portions of tour arrangements, or any other service or feature of the package, which are not used, are neither refundable nor exchangeable.

Documentation / Vaccination and medical requirements. Visit <https://travel.gc.ca> and <https://JoinSherpa.com> for the ever-changing and most up-to-date travel info. To enter Italy your passport needs to be valid for at least 6 months or more during the duration of your visit.

Tour documents (detailed itinerary, airline ticket, passenger list, hotel information, suggested packing list, etc.) will be mailed and/or handed out three weeks prior to departure.

Responsibility Direct Travel of Ancaster, Ontario acts as an agent for the various companies, owners, and contractors providing means of transportation, accommodation or other services. Direct Travel assumes no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any aircraft, vessel, carriage or other conveyance that is used wholly or in part, in the performance of this duty to the passengers. Neither will Direct Travel be responsible for any act, omission or error, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, or any neglect or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out the purposes for which tickets or coupons have been issued. We assume no responsibility or liability for errors or omissions resulting from acts of God, strikes, weather, quarantines, sickness, government regulations or any loss or expense resulting from the above contingencies. Expenses for said losses shall be borne by the tour members. If the spiritual guide of the tour is unable to lead the group due to unforeseen circumstances, Direct Travel will not be held liable, and will do our best to find a suitable replacement.

For more information: Contact Ineke Brinkman, Direct Travel, ibrinkman@dt.com; 905.988.1313

TICO: 4396230/ 11/29/24/ib

**Booking Form: Pilgrimage Tour with Spiritual Leader:
His Excellency Bishop Gerard Bergie: October 16 – 24, 2025**

Toronto – Rome – Assisi – Lanciano – San Giovanni Rotondo – Montecassino – Rome – Toronto
Enter through the Holy Doors during the Jubilee Year; tour escorted by Ineke Brinkman

Cost: \$4590 per person, based on double occupancy includes flights and taxes. Single supplement: \$ 865

To confirm your participation in the Pilgrimage Tour we kindly ask you to complete this form, and then scan and email it along with a copy of your valid passport to ibrinkman@dt.com or deliver/give to Ineke Brinkman, 3 Mountainview Drive, St. Catharines, ON, L2T 3H3 (905.988.1313). The non-refundable deposit of \$750 per person may be paid by Visa or MasterCard by adding the information at the bottom of this document or by cheque, made payable to Direct Travel. The balance is due no later than August 2, 2025.

Legal name as it appears in passport:

Title	First	Middle	Last	Date of Birth: Y/M/D
1.				
2.				

Address:

Telephone:	Email:
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Do you have a pre-existing medical condition? YES/NO. If yes, provide details:

1.
2.

Do you have special dietary requirements? YES/NO. If yes, provide details:

1.
2.

Emergency Contact:	Relationship:
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Mobile:	Email:
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Room Requirements: Twin/two beds: <input type="radio"/> Double/one bed: <input type="radio"/>	Sharing Room With:
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Would you like to purchase insurance? Cancellation / interruption? YES/NO (circle) Medical out-of-country? YES/NO (circle) A quote will be provided and approval obtained before charging to credit card.

I/we already have proper travel insurance with:	Policy No:
	International Telephone No:

Deviation of Flight Plans: If you wish to leave home before October 16 and/or stay in Europe after October 24, please provide details with desired date(s), city and the need for additional travel arrangements.

Signature:	Date:
1.	
2.	

Payment Details: Visa <input type="radio"/> MasterCard <input type="radio"/> Cheque <input type="radio"/> (payable to Direct Travel) Card No:	Expiry: / /	CVV:	Amount:
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Cardholder's Name:	Signature:
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