

FULL ITINERARY
Shroud of Turin and Oberammergau
10 Days May. 14-23, 2010

Day 01 Fri May 14 Depart USA D

Depart USA city to Rome, Italy. Prepare to experience a "Journey of a Lifetime."

Day 02 Sat. May 15 Rome D

Arrival in **Rome** "The Eternal City," Cradle of western civilization, the heart of Catholicism and the seat of the Papacy. Meet your Tour Manager and continue with your private deluxe motorcoach for a panorama city tour including the Coliseum, Piazza Venezia, St. Paul Outside the Walls, the Roman Forum, and other historical masterpieces. Dinner at our hotel.

Day 03 Sun. May 16 Rome BD

Morning visit of **St. Peter's Basilica** with **Michelangelo's Pieta**. Participation in the sacred Scavi, excavation below the basilica housing the original grave of St. Peter, based on Vatican permission. Return to St. Peter's Square to attend the **Papal Blessing** at 12:00 noon After lunch (on own) continue with your tour of the major **Basilicas** of Santa Maria Maggiore, St. John Lateran, Santa Scala (stairs Jesus walked up to meet Pontius Pilate and **Santa Maria del Carmelo** – celebrate Mass with Fr. Paul. Dinner at our hotel.

Day 04 Mon. May 17 Rome - Assisi BD

Morning guided tour of the **Vatican Museum**, Tapestry Halls, Galleries overflowing with art treasures; the most beautiful of which is the overwhelming **Sistine Chapel** – seat of the Conclave for the election of the Pope and Michelangelo's masterpiece. Afterwards continue to **Assisi**, the peace-filled enchanting town of Saint Francis surrounded by its ancient walls and slopes of **Mount Subasio** with its colorful pink stone, narrow streets and flower-decked balconies. Enjoy lunch (on own) in Piazza Communial prior to visiting the upper and lower **Basilica of S. Francesco** with masterpieces by Giotto and Cimabue. View the cycle of **Giotto's frescos with the twenty-eight episodes from the "life of St. Francis."** Visit the **Basilica of St. Clare** housing her incorrupt body and original **cross of San Damiano** that spoke to Francis telling him to "build my church." Continue to the lower part of Assisi to visit the **Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli** housing the **Porziuncola** (little church that St. Francis built), the thorn less rose bush and the ever present **doves** at the cave where St. Francis retired for prayers. Late afternoon arrival in **Montecatini-Terme**, a charming, quaint city just outside Florence for dinner and overnight.

Day 05 Tue. May 18 Florence – Turin BD

Early morning departure for **Florence** the "Cradle of the Renaissance". City tour includes the (Duomo), **Cathedral of S. Maria del Fiore**, with its immense cupola by Brunelleschi, the Bell Tower by Giotto, the "Doors of Paradise" by Ghiberti. and the Academy of Fine Arts featuring **Michelangelo's** original "David." Continue with your private deluxe motorcoach to Turin (**Torino**). Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Day 06 Wed. May 19 Turin (Torino) BD

Enjoy your guided tour of **Torino**, with an atmosphere of graceful elegance in this ancient capitol of **Savoia** featuring the **Piazza Castello** dating back to the 13th century, **Piazza Reale** with the Royal Palace, & the 17th century City Hall. One of the cities greatest treasures is within Turin's Cathedral, the **Duomo di San Giovanni**, which was built in the 15th century. Within, one finds the world famous **Shroud of Turin**, a treasure brought from Chambéry by Emanuele Filiberto I in 1587. It is believed to have been in the Savoy family since 1453, when they bought it from the decedents of a knight who was known to have had it as early as 1356. The shroud bears an image of a crucified man, believe to be **Jesus of Nazareth**. In 1958, Pope Pius XII approved the image in association with the Roman Catholic devotion to the **Holy Face of Jesus**. Remainder of the day at leisure to spend time in prayer and/or relax and enjoy this lovely town. Dinner at hotel

Day 07 Thur. May 20 Turin (Torino) BD

Very special visit to the "**Museo della Sindone**" hosted by the *Brotherhood of the Holy Shroud*.

Located in the crypt of the Church of S.S.Sudario de Torino, this museum provides historical, scientific, devotional and artistic information.

Remainder of day at leisure in Torino. Perhaps

visit Via Milano with designer stores, classy outside cafés and local eateries. You may be interested to visit Turin's two cultural museums, the superb **Museo Egizio** featuring the "largest collection of Egyptian Treasures outside of Cairo" and also the **Galleria Sabauda** in the same building which contains the royal art collections amassed by the House of Savoy over the centuries. Dinner and overnight Torino.

Day 08 Fri. May 21 Torino - Seefeld BD

Morning departure via **Milano** to **Lago di Garda** (Lake Garda) for lunch stop (on own) in the beautiful village of Lazise. Continue along the Eastern shore of the Lake passing Riva, Trento, Bolzano, crossing the **Brenner Pass** into **Austria** to **Seefeld** for dinner and overnight.

Day 09 Sat. May 22 Oberammergau BLD

Morning transfer to the village of **Oberammergau** to explore and shop until lunch time. Long noted for their vow to perform the **Passion of Christ** every 10 yrs, they are also noted for being **world class wood carvers**. You will have the opportunity to shop for the most beautiful statues, crucifixes, wall hangings and mementos that can only be acquired here in this quaint village. Afterwards attend the sensitively presented performance of the **Passion Play** depicting the life of Christ. The Passion Play has been performed **every 10 years since 1634 by local villagers**, with roles often handed down from generation to generation within families. Lunch and dinner in Oberammergau area. After this touching performance, return to our hotel in nearby Seefeld.

Day 10 Sun. May 23 Seefeld - Munich B

Early morning transfer to Munich Airport for our flight home with peace, love and joy in our hearts