

A pilgrimage of hope

Journey with *Arkansas Catholic* for the Holy Year on an 11-day pilgrimage to Italy. Father Mauricio Carrasco, director of spiritual formation for the House of Formation, will be our spiritual director. Join pilgrims from all over the world in Rome for the Jubilee Year to walk through the Holy Doors and receive a plenary indulgence.

Details and registration form inside.

Experience Rome, Florence, Milan, Turin and Siena

September 17-27, 2025

\$4,448 per person, double occupancy (airfare not included in price). Includes daily Mass, lodging, breakfasts and dinners, entrance fees to scheduled sites • Lunches, beverages, tips and insurance not included • \$1,250 single room supplement • A \$600 deposit is required at the time of registration. Airfare will be added approximately 300 days before departure. • Final payment is due by July 8, 2025.

Early bird discount \$100 per person if you book by Aug. 15, 2024

SO MUCH TO SEE, LEARN, EXPERIENCE • Miracle of the Eucharist in Orvieto • Holy places that are key to St. Benedict, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Peter, St. Paul and more • Major basilicas in Rome • Mass at Basilica of St. Peter • Sistine Chapel • Piazza Navona • Weekly audience with Pope Francis • Tombs of St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II •

For more information or to reserve your place, contact Kathy Primm at Sue Smith Vacations, (501) 771-0987 or kathy@suesmithvacations.com or visit suesmithvacations.com



"Milan Cathedral, Italy" by Joe Hunt /Flickr



"Florence, Basilica of Saint Mary of the Flower" by Sino Q



"Italy-Monte Cassino" by Dennis Jarvis/Flickr



"Vault of the St. Peter Basilica Rome Italy" by MAMJODH/Flickr

YOUR DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, Little Rock

Depart Little Rock on an international overnight flight to Milan. Dinner and breakfast are served on board.

Thursday, September 18, Milan

Arrive in Milan Airport and be met by our representative. Our local guide will take us on a tour of Milan, including seeing Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper" (*if tickets are available*) and La Scala opera house (outside) and learn the history behind each of the sights. Marvel at the scale and beauty of Milan cathedral and learn of its long history. Arrive at the hotel for dinner and overnight in Milan.

Friday, September 19, Milan/Turin/Genova (Genoa)

After breakfast, we depart for Turin. Have a guided tour in the old city center and visit the Shrine of Turin. Time for lunch will be provided before continuing to Genova in the early afternoon. Dinner and overnight in Genova (Genoa).

Saturday, September 20, Genova/Pisa/Florence

Today after breakfast we will depart for Pisa to see some of the most picturesque scenery. We will visit The Leaning Tower and the cathedral of Pisa, two of the world's best-known sights. Continue to Florence. The best reason to come to Florence is to immerse ourselves in a truly astounding collection of Renaissance art and architecture. Dinner and overnight in Florence.

Sunday, September 21, Florence

After breakfast, we will enjoy of full-day guided tour of the city, including Piazzale (Plaza) Michelangelo to admire wonderful panoramic views of Florence. Next, we will take a walking tour of the Cathedral Santa Maria del Fiore (exterior) in the old city center, including Giotto's bell tower (outside), the Baptistery with its bronze doors and the famous cupola by Brunelleschi. A short walk brings us to the Accademia Gallery, which houses the statue of David by Michelangelo (visit included). We will also stop at the Central market where we will have some free time for lunch and shopping. Next, we'll visit the Franciscan Church of Santa Croce (exterior). A short walk through the heart of Florence brings us to the famous Piazza Signoria, where we can see the imposing Palazzo Vecchio (exterior) and the beautiful Loggia dei Lanzi. The last visit today is in Uffizi Gallery, the most visited and famous museum in Florence. Dinner and overnight in Florence.

Monday, September 22, Florence/Siena/Orvieto/Rome

In the morning we head for beautiful Siena, located in the central Italian region of Tuscany. Siena, whose historic center was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995, is the birthplace of St. Catherine. We visit the Piazza del Campo, the cathedral, the Basilica of St. Francis, which contains the miraculous consecrated hosts still intact since 1730, and the Basilica of San Domenico, where we view the incorrupt head of St. Catherine. Next we stop in Orvieto to see the Cathedral (Duomo), where in 1263 a eucharistic miracle

IMPORTANT NOTE to read and understand

(Signature required on registration form)

Pilgrimages, by their nature, are about a journey. You can expect to walk 3-7 miles daily to participate in all Masses and sightseeing. On rare occasions, walking distance could be 10-12 miles. In historic towns, many streets are uneven, made of cobblestone or not paved.

You can also expect that you will have to go up and down stairs to get on and off the bus and ascend and descend hills to get into churches, hotels and religious sites.

In addition, it is very unlikely we will stay at hotels with porters to help you with suitcases. You will be responsible for carrying your bags from the bus to your hotel room and back.

While we want everyone interested to join us, we want to be clear about what you could expect. If you have physical limitations, please prayerfully consider whether joining us would be the best pilgrimage experience for you or your companion(s).

occurred. A priest had difficulty believing that Christ was present in the consecrated host. While celebrating Mass, blood flowed from the host and trickled down his hands onto the corporal. Because of this miracle, Pope Paul VI declared the feast of Corpus Christi. We will have some time for lunch on our own. Continue our drive to "The Eternal City" Rome for dinner and overnight.

Tuesday, September 23, Rome

We start the day by attending an early morning Mass at St. Peter Basilica (subject to availability). After Mass we will have a tour of the basilica, passing through the holy doors. We will then visit the Vatican Museums filled with awe-inspiring art treasures, relics and the Sistine Chapel with Michelangelo's breathtaking frescoes and the mural of the Last Judgment. After lunch, continue our tour of "Christian Rome," visiting two of the major basilicas: St. Mary Major, one of the oldest churches in Rome dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, which contains a relic from the manger of the Infant Jesus; the former residence of the popes prior to their return to Rome in 1377, which contains relics of both Peter and Paul under the main altar. In this church, St. Francis persuaded Pope Innocent III to give him permission to begin the Franciscan order. Across the square are the Holy Stairs said to be the stairs Jesus walked up when he was condemned to death. Many pilgrims walk these steps on their knees. The next stop is the Basilica of the Holy Cross (*Santa Croce in Gerusalemme*), which houses some of the relics of the Passion of Jesus. Inside this church we can see three pieces of the true cross, two thorns and a nail and a full-size replica of the Shroud of Turin. When this minor basilica was built around 325 A.D., its floor was built with soil from Jerusalem. We also visit the basilicas St. John Lateran, cathedral of the city of Rome, and St. Paul Outside the Walls, built over the burial place of St. Paul. We will pass through
(Continued on next page)

A Pilgrimage of Hope in Italy • September 17-27, 2025

(Continued from previous page)

the holy doors of the other papal basilicas. Dinner and overnight in Rome.

Wednesday, September 24, Rome/Montecassino/Rome

We get up early to visit Vatican City for the weekly papal audience (based on Pope Francis' availability. A scheduled audience can be canceled without notice). We will continue 90 miles east to the spectacular Abbey of Monte Cassino, founded by St. Benedict in 529, patron saint of Europe and the founder of western monasticism. The abbey was rebuilt after the epic World War II battle of 1944 and still dominates the surrounding countryside from its mountaintop. We will have a guided visit on arrival. A museum displays examples of medieval monastic art while the basilica is richly decorated with mosaics. We come as pilgrims to pray before the relics of St. Benedict and his sister, St. Scholastica. After our descent, we journey back to Rome. Dinner and overnight in Rome.



Thursday, September 25, Rome

After breakfast, we will enjoy a full-day "Ancient Rome" tour. The highlights include the Circus Maximus; the Arch of Constantine; the Colosseum built in 72 A.D. where the gladiators met in mortal combat; the Roman Forum, the political and economic center of Rome during the Republic; The Pantheon; the Capitoline Hill; Piazza Navona; Piazza Spagna with its famous Spanish Steps and the Trevi Fountains. Dinner and overnight in Rome.

Friday, September 26, Rome

After breakfast, we have a full day at leisure on our own (bus will be not available for pilgrims). Farewell dinner and overnight in Rome.

Saturday, September 27, Rome/Little Rock

We enjoy our last breakfast at the hotel, check-out and transfer to Fiumicino Airport for departure. We arrive home the same day, taking with us many memories and blessings to last us a lifetime.

To reserve your place, please complete this form and mail with deposit and a copy of the photo page of your passport to the Sue Smith Vacations address at the bottom of the form.

Please reserve my space. Enclosed is my payment for A Pilgrimage of Hope in Italy (September 17-27, 2025) - BN: 87207

Prices per person, based on double occupancy. Single rooms available at an additional charge.

PASSENGER #1 NAME: _____ *Clearly print name as it appears on passport: (Last, First, Middle)*

Rooming With: _____ Single Room? (Limited availability, additional \$1,129): Yes ___ No ___

PASSENGER #1 Passport No.: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Gender: _____ Date of Birth: _____

PASSENGER #2 NAME (if same household as Passenger 1): _____ *Clearly print name as it appears on passport: (Last, First, Middle)*

PASSENGER #2 Passport No.: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Gender: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Cell Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact Information: Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____ Relationship: _____

_____ \$1,219 per person reservation deposit with applicable optional insurance.

_____ \$600 per person reservation deposit (if insurance is declined). Initial deposit is non-refundable.

_____ I am paying my deposit with a check made payable to Sue Smith Vacations. Amount \$ _____

_____ I am paying my deposit with a credit/debit card.

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____ * Security Code _____ Amount \$ _____

*(We accept: Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover.) (*3 or 4 digit number on back of Card) 3% processing fee will be added to your payment*

Name that appears on credit card: _____

Cardholder signature: _____

Allergies/health issues we should be aware of: _____

I have read the important note at the top of page 2. My signature attests that I understand the physical requirements of a pilgrimage and accept the terms and conditions (page 4) of the trip.

Signature of passenger #1: _____ Date: _____

Signature of passenger #2: _____ Date: _____

Make check payable and mail to Sue Smith Vacations • 3806 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, North Little Rock, AR 72116 • Office: (501) 771-0987

A Pilgrimage of Hope in Italy • September 17-27, 2025

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Tour Prices: All prices in this brochure are based on land rates and exchange rates in effect at the time of printing and on group rates of 40 passengers per bus. Tours may depart with less than the required number of passengers, at the discretion of Group IST, LLC (doing business and referred to herein as “Regina Tours”), but an additional charge may apply. Passengers will be advised about such surcharges 60 days before departure. All prices are subject to change without notice prior to departure due to major currency fluctuations and/or unforeseen economic circumstances.

Reservations, Deposits and Final Payments: Please complete the Participant Agreement, with full names as they appear on passports, and mail it to us with the required per-person deposit. Deposit of \$600 is required to hold your spot on the tour. A second deposit of \$800 is due by October 18, 2024, a third deposit of \$800 is due by January 18, 2025, and a fourth deposit of \$800 is due by April 18, 2025. The final balance is due by July 8, 2025. If final payment is received after July 8, 2025, a late fee will be assessed in the amount of \$50 per late payment. All payments made by check should be made payable to Sue Smith Vacations (referred to herein as SSV). Credit card payments will be subject to a 3% processing fee.

Late Reservations: If a booking is made within 60 days of departure, full payment is due at the time of booking. There will be a \$50 late processing fee applicable plus cost of any express or overnight mail services.

Travel Documents: A valid passport (valid for six months after the return date of the trip) is required to travel. Visa is required for U.S. passport holders traveling to some destinations; please contact our office for details. All non-U.S. citizens must contact the appropriate consular office for entry visa requirements pertaining to their trip. In addition non-U.S. citizens are responsible for complying with requirements for re-entry into the U.S. SSV/Regina Tours assumes no responsibility for procurement of passport or visas. Obtaining and carrying these documents is the sole responsibility of passengers. SSV/Regina Tours will not be responsible for any delays, damages and/or losses, including missed portions of your trip due to improper travel documentation.

Final Documents: All documents and tickets are only issued upon receipt of final payment and are sent within three weeks of departure. Documents are not guaranteed if final payment and booking form

are not received on time.

Air from Home City: Air from LIT is not included in the package. All other gateway options are considered on a case-by-case basis. Sue Smith Vacations is providing air travel for the people traveling on Arkansas Catholic’s pilgrimage to Italy in September 2025.

Rooms: Prices are per person, based on two persons sharing a hotel room. A limited number of single rooms are available for an additional charge of \$1,250. Triple rooms are available in many hotels for family or friends traveling together. There are no discounts for triple rooms.

Medical Conditions: While we endeavor to provide the highest level of service to all our passengers, we cannot guarantee special facilities or assistance for disabled passengers and it is your responsibility to arrange for such assistance as required. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance. SSV/Regina Tours is not responsible for any medical conditions that may occur prior, during, or after the tour.

Responsibility: The tour member understands that he or she has no claim against Sue Smith Vacations, Regina Tours, Arkansas Catholic and the Diocese of Little Rock and its affiliates, for any delay or damage to or loss of property or baggage or injury to or death of persons due to any neglect or willful act of a direct air carrier, hotel, bus company, steamship or cruise company, railroad, transportation company or service company of any kind, or any other person or persons rendering any of the services being offered in connections with these tours. Further, SSV and Regina Tours advises that it has no ownership interest whatsoever in any hotel, restaurant, bus company or transportation or service company of any kind outside the USA, nor does it have any employee outside of the USA. You may see the name Kathy Primm or Regina Tours affixed to motor vehicles, on signs around the hotel or elsewhere. This use of our name is purely for reasons of identification and does not denote ownership, supervision or control by Kathy Primm or Regina Tours in any way. Regina Tours, a brand of Group IST, LLC, and its overseas representatives reserve the right without notice to change, amend or cancel any part or all of the tour and to make such changes as may be necessary. Regina Tours acts only as an agent in securing hotels, transportation and other travel services from suppliers, and in no event shall Regina Tours be liable in the event of any failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel services to be provided on the tour.

The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of these conditions. If there is a difference between the conditions of Regina Tours and those published by suppliers, the conditions of suppliers shall apply. Regina Tours reserves the right to substitute hotel of similar quality and reserves the right to vary the sequence of sightseeing and/or to re-route the order of cities. In calculating the cost of the trip, Regina Tours has relied on your consent to these terms and in the absence of this release, the cost of the trip would be higher. A contract is made when your reservation and payment are accepted by SSV. We reserve the right to decline to accept a person or remove a person from a tour, if such person presents a significant risk to the health or safety of himself or the group and the person cannot otherwise be reasonably accommodated.

Cancellation Policy and Refunds: We hope that nothing will prevent you from taking your pilgrimage. However, should you need to cancel, your cancellation must be received in writing, via e-mail, fax or by letter. It will be effective on the date of receipt. SSV and Regina Tours will apply the following cancellation fees per person:

Days Prior to Departure	
90 to 61	\$450
60 to 46	50% of tour cost
45 to 31	75% of tour cost
30 to 1 or no show	No refund

Once the tours commence, there will be no refunds on missed or unused portions of the tour programs. Purchase of Travel Insurance, at the time of deposit, is strongly recommended.

Not Included in the Published Price: Cost of items not listed on each program such as meals, beverages and items of personal nature, excess luggage allowance, laundry, room service, travel insurance, passport and visas costs, expenses for additional sightseeing not specified in the itinerary, any incurred medical costs and replacement of items forgotten or stolen while on the tour, and gratuities (\$190 for tips will be added to your final invoice).

Important: For security reasons Sue Smith Vacations requests a copy of your passport picture page to ensure correct name on reservations.

Purchase of travel insurance, at the time of deposit, is strongly recommended. Travel Insurance, per person, is available starting at \$619 (based on double occupancy/land only, effective June 4, 2024)

To register: visit the website: <https://bit.ly/pilgrimage-of-hope> or scan the QR code.

For more information, contact Kathy Primm at Sue Smith Vacations,
(501) 771-0987 or kathy@suesmithvacations.com.

