

# Final Travel Documents



## Peter's Way Tours Inc.

500 North Broadway – Suite 221 • Jericho, NY 11753  
516-605-1551 • 800-225-7662 • fax: 516-605-1555

### St Stephen Church Choir

LED BY:

Chris Westfall, Director of Music  
Mary Lou Danahar, Coordinator

Majestic Italy

November 22 – December 1, 2011

TOUR MANAGERS:

Elisabeth

**Congratulations!** You are on your way to a life changing spiritual journey with friends, family, and members of your parish community.

This journey is designed to bring you closer to your faith and experience the amazing cities, churches, historical sites, and landmarks that you have always dreamt of visiting!

We, at Peter's Way Tours, have enjoyed working with you and hope you return home with memories that will last a lifetime. We hope to have the opportunity to service you again on a future pilgrimage.

Emilie Gustaffsen

*Group Manager*

[emilie@petersway.com](mailto:emilie@petersway.com)

516-605-1551 x10

### Enclosed please find the following:

Travel Details

Hotel List

Daily Itinerary

Final Invoice

Travel Wallet

Airline Ticket

Name Badge

Luggage Tags

Neck Wallet

Customs Brochure



# Preparation for Departure

## **PACKING:**

Be sure to pack light with casual clothes that can be layered. Be sure to bring a current adaptor and a converter for any electrical items, such as cell phone chargers, etc. Your local Radio Shack (or similar) can direct you to purchase the appropriate items for the country you are visiting.

## **PASSPORT AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:**

It is a good idea to make copies of important documents in case of theft or loss. The most important pages of your passport and any credit cards you take with you should be copied and kept separately. Carry a duplicate with you and leave one copy with someone at home along with a copy of the hotel accommodation information. All passports must be valid for at least six months after your return date or you will be denied boarding at the airport. Non U.S. Citizens are reminded to contact our office regarding visa requirements.

## **BAGGAGE:**

It is always a good idea to drop an identification tag, with your name and address on it, inside your suitcase as well as attaching one to the outside of your suitcase. Please make sure to carry your valid passport and any medication you may require with you (**DO NOT PACK THESE ITEMS**).

Please carry no more than one medium suitcase (62" L+W+H, 50 lbs.) for check-in, and one carry-on piece of luggage (45" L+W+H, 20 lbs.). The entire group is traveling on one bus and an excess of luggage may cause delays. The buses in Italy are not able to accommodate any luggage in excess of these guidelines.

Due to recent world events and rising fuel costs, airlines have been changing their baggage policies frequently. Please check with Delta Airlines directly at 1-800-221-1212 or [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com) before departure to ensure there have been no changes to their policy since the printing of this letter. There may be restrictions to your carry-on luggage and/or sizes/weight of your bags. Although the airlines may allow two checked bags, we only permit one due to bus space. Please also visit [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) for updated security measures and what items you can and cannot bring on board the plane.

## **DAY OF DEPARTURE AND AIRPORT CHECK-IN:**

We ask that you arrive at the **Delta Airlines ticket counter at Tampa International Airport** for check-in **at least three hours prior to your scheduled departure**. Please present your passport and e-ticket receipt at the ticket counter for check-in.

Upon check-in, if you are a member of the Delta Airlines frequent flyer program, please be sure to supply the agent with your frequent flyer number in order to receive appropriate credit. Be sure to keep your boarding pass stubs until you have received documentation of the mileage credit from the airline. We are unable to guarantee mileage credit.

Please check your luggage straight through to **Rome**. We encourage you to wear the name badges provided when you are traveling with your group so that you are easily recognized.

If you have specific questions regarding mileage partners, updated security measures, airplane configuration, baggage restrictions, etc., please contact your airline directly for their current policies. Many airlines have scaled back their food service. Outbound overnight international flights generally offer dinner and breakfast; return flights usually include lunch and snack offerings. Some meal service may be limited, so we recommend that you pack healthy snacks in your carry-on bag on travel days. Keep in mind that certain food items, such as fruit, will not be permitted through customs. Please refer to the enclosed "Know Before You Go" customs booklet for any questions pertaining to customs allowances.

### **AIRLINE SEATING:**

The group has been assigned a block of seats. Individual seating requests can be made at time of check-in. The airlines will make all efforts to seat families and traveling companions together. We are unable to guarantee specific seat assignments.

### **ARRIVAL:**

Upon arrival to **Leonardo da Vinci Airport**, you will go through customs. Then you will continue to baggage claim to collect your baggage. Your tour manager, **Elisabeth**, will be waiting for you outside the customs area. You will then proceed to board your private motor coach and be on your way to Florence.

If you have booked a land only package with us and you are able to meet the group coach outside customs before its departure from the airport, you are welcome to take the transfer to the hotel. Please monitor the group's flight on its arrival day, as there may be changes due to weather delays, cancellations, etc. In the event you are unable to meet the group coach outside customs before departure, you will be responsible for arranging your own transfer to meet the group at the hotel. Your transfers from/to the airport are not actually included in the land only package, but as a courtesy, we try to accommodate you when possible. If you have not already done so, please send us a copy of your flight itinerary.

### **HEALTH:**

No immunization vaccinations are required of U.S. Citizens. Bottled water is readily available. It is recommended to all visitors and a good idea to purchase bottled water so that you will have it while touring. Should you begin to feel overtired or under the weather, do not hesitate to take time off. It is better to miss a day than the balance of the tour. If any problem arises, please inform your escort. There will be a fair amount of walking involved throughout your tour.

### **WEATHER:**

In late November, the temperature is expected to range from the high 40's to the low 60's Fahrenheit. We suggest that you pack an umbrella, as there is always the possibility of rain.

### **GRATUITIES:**

It is customary to tip the tour manager and bus driver. Suggested tip amounts are as follows, based on eight days:

Tour Manager / Guide: 4,00 Euro per person, per day

Driver: 2,00 Euro per person, per day

Local guide: 1,50 Euro per person, per day\*

\*You will have a local guide for the following tours: Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> Florence, Nov 25<sup>th</sup> Assisi, Nov 27<sup>th</sup> Ancient Rome, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> Christian Rome, Nov 29<sup>th</sup> Vatican Museum and Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> Tour of the Coliseum.

Your hotel tips (maid service, waiters, porters, etc) are included in your hotel accommodations. However, for excellent service, it would be appreciated if you wanted to provide extra, such as 1,00 Euro after each meal. Tips are preferred in local currency.

### **DRESS CODE:**

The attire for this pilgrimage is casual. Choir members should be robed or dressed uniformly for all performances. Pilgrims should be dressed appropriately for masses. Although men may be accustomed to wearing a sports jacket and women may be accustomed to wearing skirts, please remember that you are on a pilgrimage and comfort should be a priority. Sports jackets and ties are not required. It is not required that women wear skirts, dresses or head coverings. However, it is mandatory that knees and shoulders be covered when visiting churches. This applies to both men and women. You may be denied entry if not dressed appropriately. Comfortable walking shoes are a must.

**FINANCES:**

The preferred currency in Italy is the Euro. It is a good idea to have small bills and coins with you each day. Although donations to churches have been made on behalf of your group, collection baskets are passed during all Masses. You will also need a few Euro's for some of the public restrooms.

It may be a good idea to bring a small calculator in order to avoid confusion when making purchases. The rate changes slightly on a daily basis and can be found in the windows of any bank. Credit cards, especially Visa and MasterCard, are widely accepted.

Your tour manager will provide time to make these transactions upon arrival. However, if you would like to obtain local currency for your destination in advance, we have found that American Express offices offer favorable rates with minimal fees.

It is a good idea to use your ATM card to get money when you're abroad because you generally get a better exchange rate than through a bank or merchant. Please contact your bank for specific information on using your particular card. You can find ATM's worldwide using on the websites of Visa ([www.usa.visa.com](http://www.usa.visa.com)) and MasterCard ([www.mastercard.com](http://www.mastercard.com)). If you intend to use your ATM card, be sure your PIN is a four-digit numerical PIN; many ATM's abroad don't recognize longer PINs and the keypads aren't alphanumeric. Please be sure to inform your bank and credit card companies that you will be traveling overseas.



# Hotel Accommodations

## St. Stephen Church Choir Majestic Italy November 22 – December 1, 2011

### LED BY:

Chris Westfall, Music Director  
Mary Lou Danahar, Coordinator

### TOUR MANAGER:

Elisabeth

Nov. 23-25

**Florence**

#### Grand Hotel Mediterraneo

Lungarno del Tempio, 44  
50121 Fierenze  
Tel: 011-39-06-055-660241  
Fax: 011-39-06-055-679560  
[www.hotelmediterraneo.com](http://www.hotelmediterraneo.com)

Nov. 25-26

**Assisi**

#### Hotel Giotto

Via Fontebella, 41  
06082 Assisi  
Tel: 011-39-075-812209  
Fax: 011-39-075-816479  
[www.hotelgiottoassisi.it](http://www.hotelgiottoassisi.it)

Nov. 26 – Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>

**Rome**

#### Hotel Michelangelo

Via della Stazione di S. Pietro, 14  
00165 Roma  
Tel: 011-39-06-398739  
Fax: 011-39-06-632359  
[www.starhotels.com/hotels/michelangelo](http://www.starhotels.com/hotels/michelangelo)



# Flight Itinerary

## St. Stephen Church Choir Majestic Italy November 22 – December 1, 2011

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DL = Delta Airlines

From	To	Airline Flight #	Departure Date/Time	Arrival Date/Time
Tampa	Atlanta	DL 1991	November 22 – 12:15pm	November 22 – 1:59pm
Atlanta	Rome	DL 240	November 22 – 3:55pm	November 23 – 7:35am
Rome	Atlanta	DL 241	December 1 – 9:40am	December 1 – 3:20pm
Atlanta	Tampa	DL 1028	December 1 – 5:30pm	December 1 – 6:57pm



# Daily Itinerary

## St. Stephen Church Choir Majestic Italy November 22 – December 1, 2011

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### TOUR MANAGER:

Elisabeth

#### Day 1, November 22, Tuesday: Depart for Rome

This afternoon, depart Tampa International Airport on your overseas pilgrimage when the Delta Airlines jet lifts into the evening sky for your overnight flight to Rome via Atlanta.

Complimentary meals and beverages will be served aloft.

(D)

#### Day 2, November 23, Wednesday: Arrive/Rome - Florence

Upon arrival at Rome Airport, proceed through Passport Control, claim your luggage, and your Peter's Way Tours tour manager, Elisabeth, will meet you upon your exit from Customs. Your luggage will be transferred to a comfortable touring bus and soon, you will be on your way north through the gentle Tuscan hills that, for centuries, have inspired Saints, artists and admirers of beauty to the Renaissance city of Florence.

Check-in at your hotel in Florence.

Independent lunch.

Balance of the day at leisure.

Dinner and overnight at Grand Hotel Mediterraneo in Florence.

(B,D)

#### Day 3, November 24, Thursday: AM/Academy of Fine Arts; Highlights of Florence – PM/Leisure

After breakfast, your local guide will be ready to take you to the Accademia, which holds the superb "David" by Michelangelo. Continue to the beautiful Piazza Del Duomo and the delicately patterned green, white and pink Cathedral of Santa Maria Del Fiore, crowned with its magnificent Dome by Brunelleschi; Giotto's Bell Tower; and the Romanesque Baptistery of St. John, with the exquisite bronze doors by Ghiberti, which Michelangelo called the "Gates of Paradise." End your tour at the 13th century Franciscan Church of the Holy Cross, which holds the Tombs of the greatest of Florentine men.

Independent lunch.

This afternoon is free to do as you wish. Perhaps you will visit the Piazza degli Uffizi, flanked by the Uffizi Palace, which houses what may be the most important collection of paintings in the world. Or, maybe you would like to visit the Piazza Della Signoria; the famous shop-lined bridge, Ponte Vecchio; and the adjacent "Straw Market"; or shop for leather, gold or other Florentine souvenirs.

Independent dinner.

Overnight at Grand Hotel Mediterraneo in Florence.

(B)

Day 4, November 25, Friday: Assisi - Visit the Sites of St. Francis

After breakfast, board your comfortable motor coach for an excursion to Assisi, one of the high points of any travel experience. After a two-hour ride, you will see Assisi on a mountaintop—the narrow lanes, Shrines of Saint Francis and overwhelming art dedicated to its young friar - a rich young man who turned to God after an illness and established an order that has grown stronger over the centuries. Visit the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli, a great Basilica built in 1569 and crowned by the magnificent dome designed by Alessi. It encloses the shrine of the “Porziuncula,” or the Little Portion Chapel, around which the first Franciscan community was centered, the place where Clare received the habit from Francis, and the Capella Del Transito, which marks the spot where the Saint died. You will see the statue of Saint Francis in the courtyard, where thornless roses bloom. Continuing, we visit the Basilica of St. Clare, the first and most important heroine of the Franciscan movement, view her remains and see the miraculous Crucifix.

End your tour at the Basilica of St. Francis, where the body of the Saint is buried. Explore the Basilica complex, which is actually composed of two churches built one atop the other. Beneath both churches is the crypt that houses the tomb of St. Francis. The lower Basilica dates from 1228 to 1230, and is richly decorated with beautiful stained-glass windows, and paintings done by some of the most important artists of the 13th and 14th centuries. In the upper Basilica, built from 1230 - 1253, you will marvel at the monumental frescoes painted by Giotto, which depict scenes from the life of the Saint.

Independent lunch.

Check in at your hotel in Assisi.

Balance of the day is at leisure. Perhaps, you will like to visit Piazza Comune, the home of Favorino and Ortolana Schifi (Clare’s parents), Bishop’s Palace in front of which Francis stripped his clothes and gave them to his father, and/or other sites of interest in town.

Dinner and overnight at Hotel Giotto in Assisi.

(B,D)

Day 5, November 26, Saturday: AM/Mass in Assisi; To Rome – PM/Leisure or Holy Mass

After breakfast, **walk to the Basilica of St. Francis to tour the Tomb of the Saint, then continue directly to the Capella della Pace convent for private mass at 9:00am.**

After mass we leave Assisi for the “Eternal City.” History evolving over 2,500 years will be made visible for you by the Roman ruins, 15th century churches, 17th century palaces and 20th century monuments.

Independent lunch followed by limited leisure time.

Check in at your hotel in Rome.

Due to unfortunate changes in the Vatican calendar, Papal Vespers have been canceled.

Optional: Walk to St. Peter’s Basilica to **attend the 5:00 pm scheduled Holy Mass**, or you may choose to have more leisure time.

Dinner and overnight at Hotel Michelangelo in Rome.

(B,D)

Day 6, November 27, Sunday: AM/Tour of Ancient Rome/Coliseum & Forum - PM/Leisure Time - Evening/Solemn Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica

Breakfast at your hotel. This morning, we visit the Church of St. Peter in Chains to see the original chains in which St. Peter was brought captive to Rome and the statue of Moses, one of Michelangelo’s greatest masterpieces. See the Arch of Titus and the Arch of Constantine. Then proceed to the Coliseum for a fascinating explanation of its history and an interior tour. Walk through the ruins of the ancient Forum and continue on to the grandiose white marble monument of King Victor Emmanuel II, often called the “Wedding Cake.” See the Trajan Column and the Market (the ancient Roman equivalent of a department store). End your tour in St. Peter’s Square to attend the noon Papal Blessing.

Independent lunch.

This afternoon is at leisure for browsing, shopping or exploring the sights of Rome. Hearty pilgrims may want to attempt to climb the 330 stairs (or take the elevator) to the top of St. Peter’s for an unparalleled view of Vatican City and Rome.

Late this afternoon, **gather at St. Peter's Basilica for the 5:30 pm Cardinal Mass, at which the St. Stephen Church Choir will be the principal choir.**

Independent dinner.

Overnight at Hotel Michelangelo in Rome.

(B)



Day 7, November 28, Monday: AM/Christian Rome – PM/St. Paul Basilica: Catacombs

After breakfast, begin a tour to the Cathedral of St. John Lateran, the first Christian church to be consecrated. It was founded by the Emperor Constantine in the 4th century and was home to the Popes for many years prior to the present Vatican residence. Just across the street, explore the Holy Stairs (**Scala Sancta**). These are said to be the steps on which Christ walked on His way to Pilate's palace. You can go up on your knees as thousands of pilgrims have done in reverently recalling the sufferings of Christ. Continue to Santa Croce, the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, which houses fragments of the true cross brought to Rome by St. Helena, mother of Constantine.

Independent lunch.

Board your comfortable motor coach and soon you will be on your way begin an unusual tour of Rome and her outskirts as you motor past the Tiberina Island, the Aventine Hill, the pyramid of Caius Cestius, and St. Paul's Gate, part of the Aurelian Wall, the ancient city wall. Stop to visit the magnificent Basilica of St. Paul, built by Constantine in the 4<sup>th</sup> century on the site of St. Paul's tomb. After having been totally destroyed by fire in 1823, it was rebuilt on the original basilican plan of early Christian churches. Surrounding the nave are the medallions of each Pope, from Peter to Benedict XVI. Drive along a section of the Old Appian Way, one of the first ancient Roman military roads, which connected Rome to Naples and Brindisi on the Adriatic Coast. You can see the huge slabs that originally paved its length and several surviving patrician tombs that once lined its way, including the massive tomb of Cecilia Metella. Our next stop is the Catacombs, the underground maze of tunnels hollowed out of volcanic rock, where early Christians—persecuted by the Romans—secretly practiced their religious rites and buried their dead.

Independent dinner.

Overnight at Hotel Michelangelo in Rome.

(B)

Day 8, November 29, Tuesday: AM/Tour of the Vatican Museums; Sistine Chapel; St. Peter's Basilica - PM/At Leisure for Shopping and Personal Activities – Evening/Concert for the City of Rome

After breakfast, begin your morning of sightseeing with a visit to one of the great art collections in the world, the Vatican Museums. Walk in the footsteps of the Princes of the Church through the richly decorated galleries. Visit the famous Pinacoteca (Picture Gallery), which houses religious works by Giotto, Raphael, da Vinci, Caravaggio and Rodin, among others. Continue on to the Sistine Chapel, the private chapel of the Popes, where Michelangelo best expressed his genius in monumental frescoes.

Continue to visit the Tomb of St. Peter and that of Venerable John Paul II in the Vatican Crypt, where numerous pontiffs are buried among incredible works of art. End your morning tour in St. Peter's Basilica to see Michelangelo's magnificent "Pieta" and to take in the awesome architecture and the statuary adorning this largest of all Christian churches.

Independent lunch.

This afternoon is your opportunity to explore the sights, sounds and tastes of Rome all on your own! Perhaps you will want to buy religious articles in preparation for the Papal Blessing at the audience on Wednesday. Or you may want to treat yourself to a leisurely multi-course lunch in a quaint trattoria. There are always plenty of churches, museums, piazzas and ancient ruins to explore. This is the time to hit high fashion spots, as well as the local shops and street vendors. Rome is yours!

After an early dinner at you hotel, transfer to the Trevi Fountain to toss in a coin to ensure your "Arrivederci, Roma." **Walk to the Church of St. Ignatius for a 9:00pm formal public concert for the City of Rome, presented by the St. Stephen Church Choir.**

Overnight at Hotel Michelangelo in Rome.

(B,D)

Day 9, November 30, Wednesday: AM/Papal Audience – PM/Leisure Time – Evening/Farewell Dinner at a Roman Restaurant

Breakfast at your hotel. **You will then walk into the heart of Christendom for an audience with Pope Benedict XVI. The St. Stephen Church Choir will sing a selection for him when announced during the English language portion.**

Independent lunch.

Enjoy your afternoon at leisure.

**Your farewell dinner, this evening, will be at Benito Restaurant in Rome.** Experience an atmosphere of hospitality and friendship, and taste the Mediterranean cuisine in a typical Roman setting with wine and music.

Overnight at Hotel Michelangelo in Rome.

(B,D)

Day 10, December 1, Thursday: Return from Rome

Breakfast at your hotel. Then, you will be transferred to Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport for your return flight home. Arrive on the same day. (B)

*\*\* Unexpected circumstances may require alterations to the details outlined on this itinerary. \*\**