

Southwark Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi

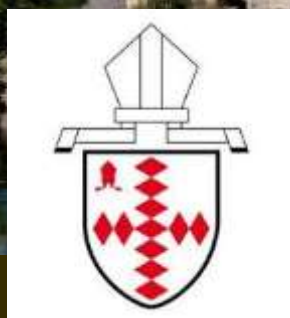


McCabe
PILGRIMAGES



8 days | 2nd - 9th March 2026

This Ecumenical Pilgrimage for the Diocese of Southwark and the Archdiocese of Southwark will be led by:
Bishop Christopher Chessun, the Bishop of Southwark
Bishop Paul Hendricks, Auxiliary Bishop for the Kent Area of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark
The Very Revd Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark
Canon Michael Branch, Dean of St George's Cathedral, Southwark





Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi

2– 9 March 2026

'After I have been to Jerusalem, I must also see Rome' (Paul, Acts 19:21).

This comprehensive programme of sightseeing offers the opportunity to take part in this great celebration of faith. During a jubilee, the opening of the Holy Doors is one of the main rituals symbolising the offering of an “extraordinary path” toward salvation. We walk through the Holy Doors of the four papal basilicas of Rome before heading to Assisi, the medieval town home of St Francis, set amidst the peace and tranquillity of the Umbrian countryside. Our visits include the twin Basilica of St Francis, the church of St Clare, Santa Maria degli Angeli, the peaceful Hermitage, which was a place of retreat and meditation for Francis as well as San Damiano where St Francis received the message from the Crucifix to repair God’s church and where, later, St Clare founded her community.

We invite you to join us on this pilgrimage which promises to be a spiritually enriching experience.

TOUR INFORMATION

The price for this 8 day tour is £2,150 per person based on sharing a double or twin-bedded room and includes all excursions and most expenses. A number of single rooms are available for a supplement from £360.

This tour includes:

- Four nights in Rome
- Three nights in Assisi
- Return flights from a London Airport to Rome Fiumicino with baggage allowance
- All breakfasts, dinners
- One lunch
- Transportation in air-conditioned vehicles
- English-speaking tour manager and licenced local guides
- Entrance fees to archaeological sites and museums as per the itinerary
- Personal audio guiding system
- Gratuities which will be disbursed locally on your behalf

Flights from regional airports can be arranged at a supplement subject to availability, you can also book this tour without flights. For more information please call McCabe and ask for details.

Payments

A non refundable deposit of £500 per person will be taken at the time of the booking with the balance due twelve weeks prior to departure.

Travel insurance

Travel insurance is essential. We require all travellers to have adequate cancellation and medical coverage for their journey. We are partnered with Holiday Extras who offer a comprehensive policy as well as yearly policies that also cover short breaks and UK overnight stays. See the back page for more details

Special Requests

Any special requirements, such as dietary needs, mobility requests, and any other requests should be advised at the time of booking.

Late bookings

Please note that for bookings made within 12 weeks of departure, the price may increase due to the fluctuating cost of flights. If this arises, we will always discuss this with you before processing your booking.

Final travel documents

These will be emailed to you two weeks before departure.

Mobility

This tour and its excursions are designed for those who are able to travel independently, or with the support of a companion who can assist during the trip. We recommend that participants feel comfortable with physical activity and are able to manage longer travel days, which may include early starts and extended periods on the road. We encourage you to consider your personal health and comfort when planning and we are happy to help if you have any specific concerns or questions about this tour.

TO MAKE A RESERVATION

To book your place on this Pilgrimage, please scan the QR code or [click here to book online](#) or contact McCabe by phone or email. You can arrange payment of your non-refundable deposit by bank transfer or card. To view our booking conditions, please visit our website:
<https://www.mccabe-travel.co.uk/booking-conditions/>

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OUR PILGRIMAGE

Monday 2 March | TO ROME

Meet your fellow pilgrims at the London Airport and check-in for your direct morning flight to Rome. On arrival meet your local Tour Manager and check-in at the Pinewood Hotel for a four-night stay. Dinner at the hotel.

Tuesday | CLASSICAL ROME

Today start your tour at the Colosseum set beside the Palatine Hill, the Via Sacra the Roman Forum and Arch of Titus. Stop for an included lunch in a local restaurant. Continue through the Medieval Quarter to explore sites such as the magnificent Piazza Navona, built on the site where the Stadium of Domitian (86 AD) once stood, with its three ornate fountains. Also see the Pantheon, the best-preserved ancient building in the city, this former Roman temple is a marvel of architectural harmony and proportion. After, visit the Basilica of San Giorgio in Velabro where according to history, the Roman story began. Then finally, visit the Basilica of Santa Sabina the oldest ecclesiastical basilica in Rome that preserves its original colonnaded rectangular plan with apse and architectural style. At the hotel we have a dinner together.

Wednesday | The Early Christians

Drive part of the Via Appia Antica, one of the most famous ancient roads. It was built in 312 B.C. by Appius Claudius Caecus. In its entirety it spanned 350 miles (563kms) stretching from the Roman Forum to modern day Brindisi. It allowed trade and access to the east, specifically Greece and is the route Peter and Paul would have taken to enter Rome. Then visit The Catacombs of Domitilla, the underground cemetery developed between the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. A semi-underground basilica built at the end of the fourth century during the pontificate of Pope Damasus. After free time for lunch (at own cost) drive back to Rome passing the Church of Domine Quo Vadis to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, marking the spot where Paul was buried. Finally, visit the of Saint John in Lateran (San Giovanni in Laterano) is defined as "the mother of all churches in the world." You will visit the museum, which collects precious liturgical furnishings, sculptures, and ornaments. Eucharist followed by Dinner at the hotel.

Thursday | The Vatican City

The Vatican Museum is home to a collection of roughly 70,000 works, including some of the most prominent Roman sculptures and Renaissance paintings amassed by the Catholic Church and the papacy over the centuries. Of these, only 20,000 are on display. To accommodate such a large number of artworks, the Vatican City has created 54 galleries that have come to be known as the Vatican Museums which includes the Sistine Chapel.

After free time for lunch, we take a guided tour of St. Peter's Basilica. Consecrated in 1626 several renowned architects designed the temple, highlighting the works of Bramante, Michelangelo and Carlo Maderno. Study extremely impressive pieces of art, including St. Peter's Baldachin, a large bronze baldachin designed by Bernini, The Pietà, a sculpture by Michelangelo and the statue of St Peter on his throne. St. Peter has his right foot worn down due to the touches of the devoted. You will also see the tombs of several popes including John Paul II. Eucharist together followed by Dinner at the hotel.

Friday | Santa Maria degli Angeli

Journey through the hills of Umbria towards Assisi. On arrival stop in the large piazza dominated by the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli. The church was designed by the architect Galeazzo Alessi in collaboration with Vignola. A gold statue of the Madonna stands out against the sky on the top of the church. After free time for lunch, continue to Assisi and in the mid-afternoon check-in to the Hotel Castello for a three-night stay. The remainder of the afternoon is free to relax or wander and enjoy the architecture and views. Dinner in the hotel.

Saturday | Assisi - St. Francis Basilica, Old Town and Basilica of St Clare

We will have a Eucharist together then a guided tour of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. Divided into two parts: one is known as the "lower church", built in the rock on one side of Mount Subasio between 1228 and 1230, and the other as the "upper church", built above it between 1230 and 1253, in the Gothic style. The two churches, united under the same name of "basilica", have been

listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites since 2000. The body of St. Francis was secretly transferred to the crypt in 1230 and was so well hidden that it was only rediscovered in 1818. After free time for lunch, we take a walking tour of the Old Town including the New Church (Chiesa Nuova), built on the site of St Francis' house. After, continue to the basilica of St Clare is built in the second half of the 13th century. Three large flying buttresses characterize the construction. The interior is simple and bare. A flight of steps leads down to the Crypt, which contains the mortal remains of St. Clare. The chapel of the Crucifix contains the famous Byzantine crucifix (12th century), which, according to the tradition, is supposed to have spoken to St Francis in the church of St Damian. Dinner in the hotel.

Sunday | The Eremo Delle Carceri & San Damiano

Journey above Assisi to the architectural complex called "Hermitage of Carceri" developed around a grotto in which Saint Francis of Assisi used to retreat in order to pray. The Hermitage of Carceri is a place of memory, kept alive by the Franciscan friars who still live there; and a place of witness, as well, permeated with spirituality. After, continue to San Damiano, a church with a monastery built in the 12th century and was where Saint Clare built her community. They do permit worship here and we will pause at this spot for reflection. Free time for lunch and to explore the Old Town of Assisi, its wonderful architecture, hillside views as well as soaking in its unique atmosphere. We will have a Eucharist together followed by Dinner in the hotel.

Monday 9 March | HOME

We depart for Rome Fiumicino Airport after breakfast. Our return British Airways flight departs Rome in the afternoon and arrives into London in the early evening

Please note the itinerary may be subject to change due to local conditions and flights can also be subject to alteration.

There will be some walking on this pilgrimage, these historic sights are best explored on foot. Please call the McCabe office for advice if you are at all concerned.

GENERAL INFORMATION



About McCabe Pilgrimages

Our pilgrimage is organised by McCabe Travel, one of the UK's market leaders in pilgrimages and faith-based tours. McCabe has been arranging journeys of faith, culture and spirituality for over 40 years with an unwavering focus on attention to detail and service. With a deep understanding of the unique needs and aspirations of Christian travellers, McCabe strives to make every trip a memorable and meaningful experience.



The McCabe Educational Trust

The McCabe Educational Trust is an independent registered charity which was set up in 1991 to support Christian communities. To date the Trust has distributed more than £4 million in grants. The Trust raises money by inviting all our travellers to make an optional £20 donation at the time of booking. All money given in this way is given in full to the projects the Trust supports. This scheme is voluntary and confidential with nobody put under any pressure to participate.

Passports, visas and health

Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months beyond the end of this pilgrimage. If you need a new passport apply early as there can be considerable backlogs at the passport offices. Visas are not required for British or other EEC passport holders. No inoculations are required. We do, however, advise you to consult your doctor regarding your own personal requirements.

Holiday Insurance

Ensuring that your holidays are appropriately protected is one of our main priorities. That's why we have partnered with Holiday Extras so you can get a travel insurance quote to protect you before and whilst you are travelling.

Holiday Extras Cover Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and has been independently rated 5-stars by Defaqto. For more information or to obtain a quote, please go to their website (<https://www.holidayextras.com/travel-insurance>) or call them on 0800 083 3551 to speak to a friendly advisor.



Please quote AG628 when you call for a 10% discount.

AITO Quality Statement

McCabe Pilgrimages is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. The Association represents Britain's leading independent tour operators and encourages high standards of quality and service. McCabe abides by the Association's Code of Conduct and adheres to the AITO Quality Charter which can be viewed on www.aito.co.uk. Visit the website to find out more about the Association or call 020 8744 9280.

Financial Security

All monies paid are fully protected through McCabe's membership of the ABTOT bonding scheme for bookings without flights and bookings with flights are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. The McCabe ATOL number is 2920.



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