



Pilgrimage to Italy

Register by
October 1st
& Save \$100

Includes Venice, Florence, Capri, Sorrento, Assisi, Padua & Rome

Led by

Biblical Storyteller, Tracy Radosevic

May 14 - 25, 2018

\$4695* from Columbus, OH

(Space is limited at this price)



Day 1 Departure flight from USA to Rome.

Day 2 Upon landing in the morning, enjoy a scenic drive to the beautiful Sorrento coast for two relaxing nights.

Day 3 Capri - Visit the legendary and idyllic Isle of Capri, once the summer home of Roman Emperors. After exploring this enchanting island delight in a drive along the romantic Amalfi coast before heading back to Sorrento.

Day 4 Pompeii - Travel past the Roman Hills to the Bay of Naples, and visit the archeological treasures of Pompeii, the Roman city both destroyed and preserved by an eruption of Mt. Vesuvius nearly 2,000 years ago. This afternoon arrive in Rome, the Eternal City with an orientation tour on the way to your hotel.

Day 5 Imperial Rome - Enter the heart of Ancient Rome including a visit to the Colosseum and a walk through the Roman Forum. See the Mamertime Prison where Peter and Paul were imprisoned.

Day 6 Christian Rome - Visit the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel and St Peter's Cathedral. After a visit to one of the Catacombs enjoy a free afternoon in Rome or join an optional walking tour from the Piazza de Spagna to the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon and the Piazza Navona.

Day 7 and 8 Assisi - Travel to the Umbria region of Italy. Walk in the medieval town of Assisi with time to visit the amazing 13th century Basilica of St. Francis with its impressive fresco paintings by Giotto. Continue to Florence, capital of Italy's Tuscany region and home to many masterpieces of Renaissance art and architecture.

Day 9 Florence -Begin the day with a visit to the Galleria dell'Accademia. This gallery houses paintings by Florentine artists spanning 13th to 16th centuries, but its main draw is Michelangelo's *David*, carved from a single block of marble when the artist was only 29. See the Duomo, with its pink, white and green marble façade, and Brunelleschi's famous dome. Enjoy a free afternoon with time to stop at the Ponte Vecchio (Old Bridge), the famous 14th-century bridge, lined with gold and silversmiths.

Day 10 Padua - Traverse to Northern Italy's Veneto region. Discover the beauty of Padua and the beautiful Basilica of St. Anthony. This afternoon we continue to Venice for two nights.

Day 11 Venice - Enjoy the day in Venice with a visit to Doge's Palace. The afternoon is free for exploration and maybe a Gondola ride!

Day 12 Departure transfer to Venice Airport.

You will see all of the above sites during your Journey. Flexibility in the itinerary may be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances, such as airline, hotel schedules, local conditions.

Your Italy Pilgrimage Includes:

- ◆ Round trip airfare from Columbus, OH
- ◆ Superior Tourist Class Hotels
- ◆ Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
- ◆ Guided Sightseeing
- ◆ Breakfast and Dinner Daily
- ◆ Entrance Fees
- ◆ Services of ACTS

The Highest Quality at the Best Value

Alpha Christian TourS, Inc.

621 Macon Place Raleigh, NC 27609 919 783-8714 fax 919 783-8747 alphetours@gmail.com www.Alphetours.com

Passenger 1 _____ As It Appears On Your Passport Title _____ Name on Badge _____ Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Dr., Bro., Rev., Fr. If different than above Birth Date ____/____/____ Sex _____	Travel Host: _____ Departure Date: _____ Departure City: _____
Passenger 2 _____ As It Appears On Your Passport Title _____ Name on Badge _____ Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Dr., Bro., Rev., Fr. If different than above Birth Date ____/____/____ Sex _____	Please Register Me For: _____ IT/051418 _____ Basic Program \$4695* from Columbus, OH <i>(Or contact the ACTS office to travel from a city near you)</i>
Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone (____) _____ Work(____) _____ E-Mail Address: _____ Roommate _____ Smoking? _____ Assign single room+ _____ Assign a roommate+ _____	Please make a copy of the front page of your passport and send it to our office with your registration form and deposit. Emergency Contact: _____ Contact Telephone: _____ For Office Use Deposit & Check#: _____ Date Received: _____

AGREEMENT: Registration constitutes acceptance of this agreement by the passengers.

PAYMENT: A \$350 per person deposit is required for registration. **Registrations postmarked by October 1, 2017 will receive \$100 Early Registration Savings on the final invoice.** Full payment is due 130 days before departure. Full payment must accompany registrations inside 130 days of departure. Registrations made less than 35 days before departure require a \$75 Late Registration Fee. Late payments will be charged a \$50 late fee. In an effort to maintain lower costs credit cards are not accepted. Canceled checks serve as receipt of payment. Travel Insurance is recommended and information will be provided upon registration.

AIRLINES: Air transportation will be provided using economy class aboard IAATA and ARC carriers with APEX or SUPER APEX non-refundable, unchangeable tickets for groups of 10 or more with the same itinerary. Flight times are subject to change by the airlines without advance notice. *Alpha Christian TourS, Inc.* accepts no responsibility for airline delays and will not reimburse any expenses caused by such delays. Airline tickets cannot be changed or refunded after being purchased. ACTS reserves the right to add a surcharge if the dollar declines by more than 5% against the Euro based on foreign exchange rates in effect on June 2017.

CANCELLATION FEES: 100% of tour cost is refundable by the Optional Travel Insurance Program, provided the premium has been paid and the reason for cancellation is insurable. The following cancellation fees apply to those who do not take Travel Insurance. Up to 130 days before departure ~ \$75 and any airline penalties. Thereafter, you will be charged a single room fee if your cancellation forces your roommate into a single room plus any airline penalties and the following charges apply: 129 - 100 days ~ \$350. 99 - 65 days ~ 35% of total trip cost. 64 - 36 days ~ 50% of total trip cost. 35 days to departure ~ 100% trip cost. No refund for any service not used. Travel Insurance is recommended.

***NOT INCLUDED IN THE BASIC PRICE:**(1) Love Offering for the Driver and Guide, (2) Baggage charge, lunches, beverages at meals, laundry, passports, personal items are not included. ACTS reserves the right to add fuel surcharges imposed by the airline.

+ACCOMMODATIONS: Hotel rooms are based upon double occupancy. ACTS will provide single rooms at an additional charge of \$125 per night if available. Upon request, ACTS will attempt to assign (but cannot guarantee) a roommate. If itinerary changes necessitate extra nights there will be an additional charge (Single ~ \$200, Double ~ \$100). Single rooms are often smaller than double rooms.

FIT FOR TRAVEL: Most foreign countries do not conform to the USA Disabilities Act standard. Passengers registering for the trip accept responsibility for being in good health and able to walk on the tour. Many of the sites are not accessible to the physically challenged, who may find the tour limiting in their experiences. ACTS assumes no responsibility for a passenger's inability to fully participate in the tour.

DEVIATIONS: Deviations must be submitted in writing at the time of registration and are subject to a \$100.00 /person assessment fee. Transfers for deviating passengers are not included.

NOTICE: Except where otherwise stated ACTS works only as agent for the relevant supplier in securing hotels, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall ACTS be liable for failure by any such supplier to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. ACTS assumes no liability for injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may occur by reason of any negligent or willful act or omission of any suppliers of service. ACTS does not own or operate any of the suppliers of services to your tour. Similarly without limiting the foregoing, passenger agrees to hold ACTS harmless for any defect in any vehicle, plane, boat, bus, car, van or other vehicle, act of war or insurrection, terrorist activity, revolt or other civil uprising, military action, strikes or labor unrest or any Act of God or for any other act of any third party. North Carolina law will be applicable to any dispute which arises out of/or concerns this brochure or your tour.



TRACY RADOSEVIC (www.tracyrad.com) is an internationally-acclaimed freelance storyteller who has traveled all over the United States and several foreign countries performing, teaching, preaching, and leading retreats. A longtime member of the Network of Biblical Storytellers (www.nbsint.org), she served as editor of their bi-monthly newsletter, *The Biblical Storyteller*, for eight years and is now the dean of their Academy for Biblical Storytelling. Tracy has a Master's Degree in Religious Education from Duke Divinity School, an M.A. in Storytelling from East Tennessee State University, and a Doctor of Ministry in "Spirituality for Transforming Community" from Wesley Theological Seminary where, along with the Ecumenical Institute of Theology in Baltimore, she is now an adjunct professor.

Storytelling is a conversation. This might come as a surprise to people who only see it basically as a one-way street: the teller performing/giving to a receiving-only audience. But the audience is crucial because, unlike most theatre, they help co-create the story by giving feedback to the teller, even if it's nonverbal, and the teller (the good ones, anyway!) tweak how they continue to perform and what they give based on that feedback. That's why the same story is never the same story—the audience and how they're reacting is always fluid, changing, in the moment. It's what I call Story with a capital S.

Now take that one step further. Imagine this conversation happening not in a vacuum, devoid of other sights and sounds (and smells and tastes and temperatures and environments and ...), but in the midst of a cornucopia of other sensory stimuli. Would all of that add to the conversation and impact the overall performative experience? You bet!

Now imagine a spiritual pilgrimage intentionally designed to make the most of this sort of conversational interplay between teller, audience and a whole host of stimulating environmental factors. Well, that's exactly what's planned for May 2018!

I've led storytelling pilgrimages to the Holy Land and Greece/Turkey that were profoundly impacted by the history, architecture, and archeology of those places, not to mention all the sensory realities listed above. Italy, too, has a colorful history, majestic architecture and revealing archeology ... but it also has a global reputation for its visual art, some of the most famous in the world. Imagine beginning a multisensory conversation, or entering into what artist and theologian Catherine Kapikian calls "participatory aesthetics," in such a place.

What might it be like, for instance, to "have a conversation" with the performed stories of David **and** Michelangelo's *David*? Or the story of Creation from Genesis **and** the Sistine Chapel? Or Christ's Passion **and** the haunting *Crucifixion* in Assisi's Basilica of St. Francis? Speaking of which, visits to places in and around cities like Assisi provide chances to hear tales about saints, like Francis and Claire, and time spent in Rome offers opportunities to experience stories of early Christian communities, not to mention the last chapter of Paul's life. Add to all this the delicious food and wine, gorgeous scenery and overall Italian zest for life and you've got **quite** a conversation piece! In fact, that's not just Story with a capital S, it's ***STORY!***

Won't you consider joining the conversation?

~ Dr. Tracy Radosevic, professor and biblical storyteller

When art and art-making become embedded in the religious community, work side-by-side, look at each other face-to-face, and listen to each other, each helps the other do its work. Without the arts, theological proclamation is truncated.

~ Catherine Kapikian, *Art in Service of the Sacred*