

36TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PUERI CANTORES ROME, ITALY

Congress Tour Itinerary #4 (9 nights / 11 days)

Sunday, December 26th, 2010

Depart from the USA via scheduled air service, including full meal, beverage service and in-flight entertainment. The destination is Rome, Italy.

Monday, December 27th Rome

Arrive in Rome. Meet your Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to the hotel via panoramic tour of Rome's highlights, stopping at such sites as Piazza Navona, Trevi Fountain, and Spanish Steps. Evening Welcome Dinner (in individual accommodations) and overnight.



Rome - Popes, Vandals, the Borgias and Napoleon, Garibaldi, Michelangelo and Mussolini and, of course, the ancient Romans themselves all have left their physical and spiritual mark on Rome, but though she keeps the glory of an ancient day about her, she remains a wellspring of creative energy; she really is the Eternal City.

Tuesday, December 28th Rome

Breakfast at the hotel

Take a half-day guided tour of Religious Rome. Visit Vatican City, the home of the Pope and the center of Roman Catholicism, as well as the Vatican Museum (using the whisper system), St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel (featuring Michelangelo's Ceiling Frescos and The Last Judgment).

Lunch on own (paying individually)

Afternoon at leisure; motorcoach and Tour Manager at the group's disposal

6:00pm Opening Ceremonies in Sala Nervi

Dinner in a nearby restaurant



Wednesday, December 29th Rome

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning Mass or Liturgy by Nations (to take place in several churches in Rome)

Lunch on own (paying individually)

6:00pm Participation in Star Concerts (to take place in parish churches)

Dinner in a local restaurant



Thursday, December 30th Rome

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning rehearsal for the closing Mass in Sala Nervi

Possible audience with the Holy Father

Lunch on own (paying individually)

Rehearsal for choirs singing in the Christmas concert

Afternoon Prayer for Peace service in St. Peter's Basilica

Rehearsal for the Gala Concert

Dinner in hotel or a local restaurant

Gala Concert (The Mysteries of the Rosary) in Sta. Maria Maggiore

Return to hotel for overnight



Friday December 31st Rome

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day guided tour of Imperial Rome, including entrance to the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Also view the Pantheon, Baths of Caracalla and Palatine Hill

Evening Christmas Concert in Sala Nervi

New Year's Eve Dinner in a local restaurant

Return to hotel for overnight



Saturday, January 1st, 2011 Rome

Breakfast at the hotel

Sing in morning Pontifical Mass in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican

Afternoon visit to Basilica di San Giovanni in Laterano and Basilica di San Paolo fuori le Mura. Basilica di San Giovanni in Laterano (St. John in Lateran) is the Cathedral of Rome, the mother of all churches in Rome and in the world. Founded by Constantine, during the time of Pope Silvester (314-335) it has been destroyed and rebuilt many times. The current Basilica dates from the 17th century. Basilica di San Paolo fuori le Mura (St. Paul Outside the Walls) was built over the burial place of the Apostle of the Gentiles and consecrated in 324. The building of the first place of worship over St. Paul's tomb has been attributed to the Emperor Constantine. A larger basilica was erected by the Emperors Valentiniano II, Theodosius and Arcadius. Destroyed by fire in 1823, it was rebuilt on the same foundations and consecrated by Pope Pius IX.

Farewell Dinner and overnight



Sunday, January 2nd Rome / Florence

Transfer to Florence. Enjoy a visit to the Galleria dell' Accademia. This gallery house's paintings by Florentine artists spanning the 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.

Florence was once a Roman colony, but began her real development during medieval times and was at her prime during the Renaissance under the reign of the Medicis. Dante, da Vinci, Ghiberti and Michelangelo all were either born or worked extensively in Florence. The preservation of their works and that of others has made Florence the greatest museum of the Renaissance.



Monday January 3rd Florence

Morning visit to the famous Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiori (Il Duomo). The Duomo is well-known for its pink, white and green marble façade, capped by Brunelleschi's famous dome. It is the 4th largest Cathedral in the world. In front of the Duomo is the Baptistery of San Giovanni, one of the oldest buildings in Florence. Afternoon excursion to Assisi. A guided tour of Assisi, one of the most important places of pilgrimage in Italy, includes entrance to the Basilica Di San Francesco, two superimposed churches. Return to Florence for overnight.



Tuesday January 4th Florence / Venice

Transfer to Venice and then to the main island of San Marco via public boat. A morning walking tour includes St. Mark's Square. See the soaring Bell Tower, incredibly rich Basilica of St. Mark and the Palace of the Doges where the powerful and prosperous dukes of Venice ruled their far-flung empire at its height during the 15th century. Time permitting, also visit a glass-blowing factory on one of Venice's many islands. Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

Venice, the "Queen of the Adriatic," is singular among the world's cities. It is built over a sprawling archipelago 2.5 miles from the mainland, encompassing 118 islands separated by around 150 canals. Venice entered its artistic golden age from the 16th to the 18th centuries: many magnificent structure were erected, and painters Giovanni Bellini, Titian, Tintoretto and others gained world renown.



Wednesday January 5th Depart for home

Transfer to Milan's International Airport for return flight to USA. Arrive home in the evening of the same day.