Day 1, Monday, March 25, 2019

Meals: Dinner
Arrival to Venice

Day 2 — Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Meals: Breakfast
We’ll start our tour with a Greek church that, in addition to many holy relics, contains an exquisite exhibit of late Byzantine and post-Byzantine art. St. Mark’s Cathedral was built in the distinctive Byzantine style in the mid-11th century to store the relics of St. Mark, brought by the Venetians from Alexandria. The Cathedral is of exceptional beauty and has a magnificent collection of Byzantine treasures that came to Venice, for the most part, after that tragedy of the sack of Constantinople by the Crusaders in 1204. After lunch we will continue to the island of Torchello with its exquisite Byzantine
basilica, the origins of which date back to the early 12th century. Our last stop of the day will be at the Basilica of St. Maria and Donato, on the island of Murano, known for its Medieval mosaics and the cosmatesque floors of exceptional beauty. **Overnight in Venice.**

**Day 3 — Wednesday, March 27, 2019**

**Meals: Breakfast and Dinner**

After breakfast, we will have a pleasant transfer to Ravenna. Despite the fact that it has not been the capital or a prominent city for almost thousand years, this present day sleepy Italian coast along the Adriatic shore conquers your imagination with images from the past. Its splendid basilicas with the most luxurious mosaics earned it the name of the mosaic capital of the world. No picture, photograph, exhibit, or story will ever do justice to what we are about to see today. Several basilicas, baptisteries, and a splendid tomb will reveal to you the images of the glorious art and religious devotion of the Ancient Christian Empire. **Overnight in Assisi/area**

**Day 4 — Thursday, March 28, 2019**

**Meals: Breakfast and Dinner**

In the morning, we will drive to the Umbrian city of Assisi. Its foremost importance is due to the shrine of St. Francis, one of the most famous and beloved Western saints of all times. The basilica built in his honor contains frescoes from the 13th century. In the afternoon, we will visit a small chapel of San Salvatore in Campello sul Clitunno, of the Lombard provenance and the churches of the hilltop city of Spoleto, famed for its artistic wonders. **Overnight in Spoleto/area**

**Day 5 — Friday, March 29, 2019**

**Meals: Breakfast and Dinner**

Today will be dedicated to the study of the Romanesque art. Our first visit will be to the of the Abbey of San Pietro in Valle, known for its cycle of Romanesque frescoes, after that we will visit Basilica of San’Elia Abbey. Built in or around the year 1000, its fantastic altar area still contains original frescoes that draw close parallels to Ancient Byzantine Art. Church of Ceri castle, a special pilgrim site on its own, houses some of the earliest Romanesque frescoes, similar in style and execution to those in the church of San Clemente in Rome. **Overnight in Rome**
Day 6 — Saturday, March 30, 2019

Meals: Breakfast

Rome is often compared to a museum under the open sky. And in that museum, there is myriad of jewels for every interest and taste. The Collection of the Sacred Art in the Eternal city is simply phenomenal. Of greatest interest to us are monuments where early Christian art has been preserved until the present day. During our first day, we plan to visit Basilica of San Giovanni e Paolo, with the ruins of the frescoes houses underneath beautiful edifice. These remains are unique as they show very transition from the pagan to Christian Art, from there on to the Basilica of San Clemente, that consists of several different historical layers and to the chapel of Quatro Coronati, perhaps the most representative monument of the Romanesque Art in Rome. Later in the day, we will visit Cathedral of Santa Maria Maggiore, with two neighboring churches of Santa Prassede and Santa Pudenziana. Overnight in Rome.

Day 7 — Sunday, March 31, 2019

Meals: Breakfast

This morning you could use to rest and refresh or to attend a Mass or Liturgy in one of the many churches; quite reflection, visit to a holy site or to a museum. In the afternoon we will visit few early Christian sites: the Catacombs of Priscilla, with multiple Paleo-Christian images, Mausoleo di Santa Costanza and Chiesa di Santa Agnese, with early mosaics in the apses and massive Basilica of San Paolo fuori le mura. Overnight in Rome.

Day 8 — Monday, April 1, 2019

Meals: Breakfast

All the churches we visit today will continue the main theme of our first day in Rome. We will visit some of the oldest and most important [for us and our study tour] monuments of Rome, among them: Basilicas of Santa Sabina and SS. Cosmos and Damian (If the access will be granted: recently opened after the restoration the church of Santa Maria Antiqua in the Roman Forum). All of these monuments are World famous monuments for their antiquity and artistic value. Just before lunch, we will visit Catacombs of San Pietro and Marcellino. Second part of the day will be dedicated to the exploration of some of the later Medieval monuments such as churches of Santa Maria and Santa Cecilia in Trastavere, and some other monuments known for the expression of human faith, love, and devotion captured in splendid art that witnesses to such for a Millenia. Overnight in Rome/area.
Day 9 — Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will visit three very special sites, located East and South of the Eternal City. Our first stop will be at the church of St. Sylvester in Tivoli, with the altar apse covered with well-preserved Romanesque murals from the 12th century; from here we will proceed to the remote location of Bominaco, to visit San Pellegrino Oratory, with the interior covered with Medieval frescoes as a jeweled box. Last stop of the day will be in the Village of Fossa, to visit the church of Santa Maria ad Cryptas, one of the most important art monument in the Abruzzo region. Overnight in Anagni/area.

Day 10 - Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Today, we will leave Eternal city and will head South. Our first stop along the way will be in Anagni. The Crypt of the Cathedral is a true jewel as it contains some of the most beautiful frescoes of the Byzantine/Romanesque art in Italy. Entire crypt is covered with frescoes that reflect a unified iconographical scheme. Our next stop will be at the Sanctuary of Santa Maria del Piano in Ausonia, with the crypt filled with ghostly images of the celestial powers and earthly saints. Our last stop will be in a small village on the outskirts of Naples. Basilica of San Angelo in Formis is considered to be one of the most important monuments in all in Italy, as it is the only monument where frescoes of so-called “Cassino” school survive. At this magnificent site, pictorial art of the Byzantine empire was harmonically executed by the “western hands” of the monastics of Montecasino Abbey. Overnight ferry to Palermo.

Day 11 - Thursday, April 4, 2019

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

This morning we will transfer to Palermo, capital of Normano-Byzantine Art in Italy. Our first visit will be to the Cathedral in Cefalu, built in the early 11th century soon after the Norman Conquest of Sicily. Construction began in 1131, the apse mosaics were finished before 1170. Although the nave was never decorated with mosaics, images in the Presbyterium are among the highest achievements of the Byzantine Craftsmen. A much smaller church, known as Martorana, is situated in the center of Palermo. It was built by the Greek Admiral in Norman service, and reflects Byzantine preference of the commissioner, who spared no expense on adorning church with most splendid mosaics. Overnight in Palermo.
Day 12 - Friday, April 5, 2019

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner
Our last day in Italy will be spent exploring two ecclesiastical monuments that are considered to be climactic in the history of the Byzantine Art. Both Sacred spaces – Capella Palatina and Cathedral of Monreale are adorned with most spectacular mosaics that Medieval have produced and that survive until the present day. Iconic images from these churches are well-known and are in no need of introduction. For us they will be not only our last stop, but also represent the closing chapter of our exploration of the origin and development of the Christian Sacred Art in First Millenia. Overnight in Palermo

Day 13 - Saturday, April 6, 2019

Departure back home
**PRICING AND INCLUSIONS:**

**Price include:**
- Accommodations in "****" hotels along the way*
- All breakfast, some lunches and most dinners [three courses] (total of 21 meals)
- Private bus transportation whenever required
- Group transfers from the airport and from the hotel to the hotel in Venice-Mestre/Palermo
- Private boat for transfers between the islands of the Venetian Lagoon
- Transfer from Naples to Palermo by an overnight ferry [interior cabin, two persons per cabin. Upgrade to the exterior cabin: 25EUR per person and subject to availability]
- All admissions, according to the schedule
- Individual audio system aka “Whisper sets”
- Professional English speaking [local] tour guides
- English speaking guide/escort during the entire tour

**Price does not include:**
- Personal health/accident insurance
- International airfare tickets
- Transportation to and from the airport in Italy if traveling separately from the group
- City taxes, to be collected by the tour leader and paid on spot (Totals ~40EUR).
- Private transfers, additional (optional) tours and tickets to unscheduled show/concerts or museums.
- Some newly introduced fees that may occur in certain places (monasteries or churches)
- Tips to bus drivers and tour guides (Minimal suggested amount per person is $2 per day for bus drivers and $3 for local tour guides. Your generosity will be always greatly appreciated)
- Anything that is not specifically mentioned in “Price includes”

**Financial arrangements:**
$3,350 per person, in double occupancy in a group of 25 participants; Single supplement: $700 extra
Please factor that the final price may fluctuate due to the actual number of participants or due to significant difference in exchange rate of EURO vs. the US dollar at the time of the final payment. In case of need for financial adjustment you’ll be informed right away.
All payments should be made by check to: “Palomnik, LLC” and mailed to 53 Baxter Street, Binghamton, NY 13905. Any returned checks are subject to $25 fee. For payment with a Credit Card; domestic or international bank wires, please contact Fr. Ilya directly.
A deposit of $700 is required when you sign up for the trip. The deposit is non-refundable, unless pilgrimage is cancelled by the organizers due to lack of participation or for some other valid or unforeseen circumstance. To avoid any money loss, emergency/travel cancellation insurance strongly recommended.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** The deadline for signing up for the trip is November 24, 2018. The entire amount is due 61 days prior to departure, January 23, 2018. Failure to pay in full by January 23, 2019 without written notice of explanation may lead to the cancellation of your participation, with no refund of any previously committed funds.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** If you need to cancel after you signed up, please note the schedule of charges in addition to the amount of non-refundable deposit:
- 50% of the tour cost, 61 to 45 days prior to the departure
- 100% of the tour cost 45 or fewer days prior to the departure
All cancellations must be in writing and sent directly to coordinator of the tour - Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky and must be received for reimbursement by the dates shown in the cancellation schedule. We also have to add that should cancellation or alteration of the program occur due to civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, war, natural disaster, and other events of force majeur or acts of God (including threat or fear of same), refunds will be made only to the extent that they are recoverable, and that such cancellation or alteration may result in the total loss of funds paid by participants. It is assumed each participant has reviewed the same with respect to their own comfort level of risk and personal safety. A decision to withdraw from the trip for these reasons or any others will be bound by the same terms of cancellation.

**ALTERATIONS TO ITINERARY:** Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky reserves the right to alter, modify or withdraw the itinerary if air schedules and/or events beyond his control deem it necessary. In the event it becomes necessary for the comfort or well-being of the travelers to alter or modify the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the tour operator and are not grounds for cancellation with refund. Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky assumes no responsibility over any consequences as a result of any participant deviating from the group tour. Because of the difference in language and customs, it is expected that the traveler will follow the directions of the Tour Director at all times. Tour Director reserves the right to restrict a person’s participation in the group’s activities, including exclusion from the group, when, in the opinion of the Director, such action is necessary.

**REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:** A passport with validity for at least six months beyond end of stay, along with any visas required by host countries.

**It is strongly suggested that you:**
- Obtain insurance covering medical needs and coverage of personal property
- Be aware that financial coverage for all emergency medical and other emergency needs will be your sole responsibility. We will provide all possible logistical and personal assistance, but the financial aspect is your responsibility.
- Act in a manner consistent with the surrounding environment
- Make arrangements to have access to sufficient funds to cover personal needs and unexpected events
- Be aware that the places that we will be visiting may not have the same amenities that you are accustomed to. Medical facilities in some areas may be limited.

This agreement becomes effective upon acceptance into the tour by Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky

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Telephone: 001-607-797-1058
Member of the International Association of Travel Agents Network (IATAN)
REGISTRATION FORM:
BYZANTINE AND EARLY CHRISTIAN ART IN ITALY
DATES: MARCH 25 – APRIL 6, 2019

To register please complete this registration form and return it along with your deposit check ($700.00) made to PALOMNIK, LLC. Please write “Byzantine Italy 2019” on the memo line.

Please mail this form and your deposit check to:
Palomnik, LLC, 53 Baxter Street, Binghamton, NY 13905

Full Name:
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Alt. phone and Email:
Emergency Contact Information (Name, Phone, Relation):
Medical restrictions:
Dietary restrictions:

Would you prefer single accommodations at additional costs specified in the itinerary?

Would you prefer to make your own flight reservations, or would you like us to help you to find the best airfare?

Please let us know if there is anything else that we should know in order to make your travel experience more comfortable and pleasant:

Your signature below confirms that you have read the itinerary and agree to abide by Terms and Conditions that accompany the itinerary.

NAME/SIGNITURE:  DATE: