

## **BGST History Tour: Exploring Christian History, Art and Spirituality in Italy (2-14 Nov 2018)**

For most Christians, history tour basically begins from the apostolic period, skips over to the Reformation briefly, before continuing in the late 20<sup>th</sup> or even 21<sup>st</sup> century. As to what happened in the intervening 2,000 years, we are not quite sure. As surely as Christ promised to be with us forever (Matthew 28), His Spirit has been working through his people ever since the early Church – through the church fathers, the medieval Christians, the Reformers, the evangelicals of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and, of course, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There is, therefore, much wisdom to be learnt and gleaned, from our spiritual heritage.

This church history tour aims to survey the historical, spiritual and physical landscape of the early Christians (1<sup>st</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries) so that we may learn from them spiritual insights that can help us mature and live out our Christian lives in an increasingly technocratic and globalised world.

The Tour learning program includes (1) two pre-tour lectures on the history of Christianity (1<sup>st</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries) (in Sep & Oct); (2) daily tour ‘sermons introducing to the rich spiritual teachings of spiritual giants, such as the Apostle Paul, Augustine, Benedict of Nursia, and Francis of Assisi; and (3) the devotional role of Christian art through the centuries.

- **Key cities covered:** Rome, Vatican City, Pompeii, Montecassino, Assisi, Florence, Ravenna, Cinque Terra and Venice.
- **Itinerary Highlights:** Roman Colosseum and Forum, Vatican Museum, Galleria Borghese, Catacombs of Domitilla, Montecassino (Benedictine) monastery, St Francis Basilica, St Clare Monastery, Pompeii Ruins, San Gimignano, Uffizi Museum, Florence Cathedral, St Mark’s Cathedral (Venice), a hike at Cinque Terra, and shopping at Noventa Di Piave Designer Outlet
- Led by Dr Lai Pak Wah (Vice Principal & Lecturer in Church History, BGST)

	<b>Program</b>	<b>Lecture/ Hotel</b>
Sep, Oct	Pre-Tour Lectures (in 2 parts): Introducing Church History from 1 <sup>st</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> centuries	-
Nov 2 (Fri) Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gather at Airport (8:00 hrs)</li> <li>- Flight to Rome (EK353/EK95;</li> <li>- Dep 10:10 am/ Arr 18:45 hrs)</li> <li>- Check in 20:30 hrs</li> <li>- Dinner Free &amp; Easy (F&amp;E)</li> </ul>	Rome Hotel Day 1 (B/L)
<b>PART 1: INTRODUCTION TO ROMAN HISTORY AND CHRISTIAN ART</b>		
Nov 3 (Sat) Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visits to Colosseum &amp; Roman Forum (AM)</li> <li>- Lunch</li> <li>- Vatican Museum &amp; St Peter’s Basilica (Include Pius-Christian Museum and</li> </ul>	Sermon: Reflections on Word, Art and Gospel  Rome Hotel Day 2 (B/L/D)

	<b>Program</b>	<b>Lecture/ Hotel</b>
	Christian Lapidarium. Arrange visit to Vatican Grottoes) (PM) - Dinner	
Nov 4 (Sun) Day 3	- Galleria Borghese (Introduction to Baroque Art) (AM) - Santa Maria Della Vittoria - Rome City Tour (Spanish Steps, St Ignatius Church, Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona & Pantheon) (PM)	Sermon: Appreciating Christian Art  Rome Hotel Day 3 (B)
Nov 5 (Mon) Day 4	- Catacombs of Domitilla (AM) - Lunch - Tour of Montecassino Monastery (Church of St Benedict) (PM)	Sermon: Early Christian Spirituality  Pompeii Hotel Day 1 (B/ L)
<b>PART 2: CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY: FROM THE EARLY CHURCH TO THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD</b>		
Nov 6 (Tue) Day 5	Visit to Pompeii - Pompeii Archaeological Park (includes Villa of Mysteries, Lupanar, House of Faun, Agora, a Roman Bath) (AM) - Lunch F&E - Travel to Terni.	Sermon: Pompeii & Early Christianity  Terni Hotel Day 1 (B/D)
Nov 7 (Wed) Day 6	Visit to Cascata delle Marmore & Assisi - Cascata delle Marmore Waterfalls (Terni) (AM) - St Francis Basilica (AM); - Lunch F&E - St Clara Monastery (PM) - F&E Time - Dinner Provided	Sermon: Medieval and Franciscan Spirituality  Assisi Day 1 (B/D)
Nov 8 (Thu) Day 7	- Tour of San Gimignano - Lunch F&E - Galileo Museum (Renaissance Science) - Dinner at Hotel	Florence Hotel Day 1 (B/D)
<b>PART 3: LEGACY OF THE EARLY CHURCH – THE CHURCH FATHERS, RENAISSANCE HUMANISM, BYZANTINE CHRISTIANITY &amp; THE CRUSADES</b>		
Nov 9 (Fri) Day 8	- Morning view of Piazza Michelangelo - Uffizi Museum (AM) - Lunch F&E - Guided Florence City Tour (2-4 pm) - Free & Easy Time & Dinner F&E	Sermon: Renaissance Humanism  Florence Hotel Day 2 (B)

	<b>Program</b>	<b>Lecture/ Hotel</b>
Nov 10 (Sat) Day 9	Hike at Cinque Terre (6 km Hike) - Lunch F&E - Dinner at Hotel	Sermon: Legacy of the Church Fathers  Florence Hotel Day 3 (B/D)
Nov 11 (Sun) Day 10	Visit to Ravenne - San Vitale Basilica, Arian Baptistry - Lunch F&E - Travel to Venice - Dinner	Lecture: Byzantine Christianity & the Crusades  Venice Day 1 (B/D)
Nov 12 (Mon) Day 11	<b>Venice City Tour</b> - St Mark's Square, St Mark's Basilica, Rialto Bridge, Gondola Ride (TBC), Vivaldi Museum, Palazzo Doge's Palace. - Lunch and Dinner F&E.	Venice Day 2 (B)
Nov 13 (Tue) Day 12	- Noventa Di Piave Designer Outlet (AM) - Travel to Airport - Flight back to Singapore (EK136/354 Dep 15:35/ Arr 14:40)	(B)
Nov 14 (Wed) Day 13	- Arrive in Singapore (14:40)	-

### Pricing Details

The land fare covers hotel accommodation, tour coach transportation, guide fees and tips, driver fees & tips, 12 day rental of wireless Vox whispers, church history sermons, all ticket fees for museums and sites, and lecture notes. We shall provide 12 Breakfasts, 2 lunches and 7 dinners.

[Note: we planned for more free & easy lunches to give participants more time to explore the local cities]

The tour will be launched when we reach a minimum tour size of 15 pax. The final price of the tour package depends on the number of participants. There is a price reduction for every 5 additional participants. **The single supplement is S\$895.** All pricing in SGD.\*

<b>No. of Participants</b>	<b>Land Fares</b>	<b>Estimated Airfare (Economy)</b>	<b>Estimated Total</b>
Up to 19 pax	\$4,100	\$1,350	\$5,450
20-24 pax	\$3,650	\$1,350	\$5,000
25-29 pax	\$3,500	\$1,350	\$4,850
30-34 pax	\$3,350	\$1,350	\$4,700
35 pax or more	\$3,250	\$1,350	\$4,600

*\*Note: While the Land Fares are confirmed, the airfare (including airport tax) may fluctuate depending on current market conditions. We recommend purchasing your air tickets from our Tour Agent, Crest Travel. For Business Class Fares, please contact Crest Travel for further details.*

***Please note that should you purchase only the land fare, there will be an additional administrative charge of S\$100 to cover the admin costs of Crest Travel***

*Participants are strongly encouraged to take the recommended Emirate Flights to ensure that we meet and depart at the same time. Should you choose to take an alternative airline or arrange earlier or leave later, please arrange to meet us at the designated meeting areas and time.*

For enquiry, contact Dr Lai Pak Wah at [laipw@bgst.edu.sg](mailto:laipw@bgst.edu.sg)