ASSISI

Although Umbrian in origin, Assisi was influenced by nearby Etruscan settlements. Under the name “Assisi”, it became a flourishing Roman municipality. At the beginning of the 3rd century BC, the city witnessed the first battle of Assisi, known as the Christian city. After the fall of the Roman Empire, Assisi was razed by Tullia and the Goths (145 A.D.), recaptured by the Byzantines and then conquered by the Lombards. It remained under the dominion of the Duchy of Spoleto for a considerable period. It began to flourish again during the 11th and 12th centuries as a free commune but it was soon troubled by new wars. It fell to the Austrians and it was here that in 1814 Napoleon I, who later became Emperor, was born in the town. The city continued to grow, and by 1880, the population had reached 26,000. Assisi was subject to various events throughout the centuries, the Plague, the Napoleonic Wars, the Congress of Vienna, and the Risorgimento, the unification of Italy in 1861. Assisi is the site of an ancient Benedictine convent which established St. Clare in 1212.

PIAZZA DEL COMUNE

The Roman Temple of Minerva (1st century A.D.), the 12th-century Palazzo del Capitano del Popolo, the Torre del Popolo, completed in 1305, and the Palazzo del Prior (14th century).

MUSEO E FORO ROMANO

The Roman Forum is located below Piazza del Comune and encompasses the original Roman paling, the base of the temple of Minerva, and the Magistrates’ Temple.

CHIESA NUOVA

It was built in 1459 on the remains of a building believed to be the house of St. Francis’ family. St. Francis was supposedly born in the nearby Oratorio of San Francesco Piccolio.

CATTEDRALE DI SAN RUFINO

The imposing Romanesque façade dating from 1149 is adorned with three rose-windows and symbolic sculptures. The interior was altered in the 16th century, but there is still the triumphal arch where St. Francis and St. Clare were baptized. The Cappella del Sacramentum, the wooden choir, the Roman altar, the crypt and the museum are points of interest.

BASILICA DI SANTA CHIARA

An example of Italian Gothic architecture (1227-1290). It contains precious paintings dating from the 13th to 14th centuries and the famous Crucifix venerated by St. Francis at Assisi.

ALTRI MONUMENTI

CHIESA DI SANTA SISTINA (13th century) in one of the most picturesque corners of the town.

CHIESA DI SAN GILDEO DEI MUNICIPI (11th century).

CHIESA DI SAN PIETRO (11th - 13th centuries) with its elegant façade and unusual dome.

ROCCA MAGGIORE

A logical inque of medieval military architecture, from the top there is a breathtaking panorama.

ABBASTA DI SAN BENEDETTO

ML Subasio is an ancient Benedictine monastery about 7 kms from Assisi with two Romanesque crypts.

ROCCA SANFRETO

II kms from Assisi, it is a church with paintings by followers of Giotto and painters from the Umbrian school.