



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



ON LOCATION

WELCOME!

ETERNAL CITY TIP-OFF NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER EDITION

Your trip to Italy is less than 50 days away! As you approach this once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Eternal City, we'd like to share some important details to help you prepare to travel and some information about St. Augustine and the Augustinian Friars.

PACKING TIPS

We'd like to provide you with some information and recommendations to consider while you are packing for your trip.

Prior to your trip, we recommend packing your essential medications in your carry-on bag in case of an unforeseen baggage issue upon your arrival or departure.

Fall in Rome is typically cool and mild with an average high temperature of 62°F. On average, Rome experiences about 8 days of rain during the months of October and November. Be sure to dress accordingly and bring layers as you will likely be on the move during most of your time in Rome. Also, be sure to pack modest clothing as many landmarks are subject to a strict dress code.

Pack comfortable shoes, Rome is a very walkable city, and walking is often the easiest form of transportation. Also, consider bringing a crossbody bag to keep your valuables secure especially near major landmarks.

ELECTRICITY

The voltage in Italy is 230V. If you plan to use an appliance that only uses 110 voltages, please bring a converter and wall adapter. If the appliance is dual voltage, you will only need a wall adapter. Converters and wall adapters can be found in several stores, such as Amazon, Target, or Walmart.



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INTERNATIONAL CALLING

Cell phones operate on a GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) standard. To use your existing cell phone, contact your service provider to determine if your phone operates on a GSM standard. If so, your phone will work abroad but will incur international roaming fees which can be very expensive.

You can also contact your service provider to determine what international call and data plans are available. Most offer plans for as little as \$10 a day. Please note, when placing calls in Italy you will need to put the country code at the beginning of the number. For example, if you needed to contact an Italian number you would put +39 followed by the phone number.

If you are calling friends or family back in the U.S., you would put +1 followed by the number. We also recommend downloading WhatsApp. WhatsApp is a free messaging app that can be used internationally with Wi-Fi or mobile data. It's available worldwide and doesn't charge extra to message or call people in other countries. However, depending on your cellular plan, you may incur international charges for using cellular data on WhatsApp.

To avoid data roaming charges, you can try these tips:

- Turn off roaming on your phone
- Use Wi-Fi
- Turn off mobile data and data roaming
- Turn off media auto-download over your cellular connection



CONFIRM YOUR SHIPPING ADDRESS

ENSURE YOU RECEIVE YOUR GIFTING

In anticipation of your gifting shipment, we'd like to confirm the shipping address we have on file for you. Each reservation will receive one (1) box including your gifts.

To update the mailing address for this gifting shipment, please complete the form below. Act fast as the deadline to update your address is **Friday, September 25**.

UPDATE ADDRESS

If you're unsure which address is listed for your reservation, please reference the email sent on Thursday, September 10 from **GuestServices@m.onlocationexp.com**.

OFFICIAL TRAVEL ITINERARY APP

COMING SOON

In the coming weeks, you will receive an email with a link for you to register for the official travel itinerary app from **Event Works**.

What is Event Works? This is the main platform we use to communicate with travel guests before and while they are on-site. This is also where we will share your travel party's personalized itinerary.

If you need help through the registration process upon receiving this email, please contact our Guest Services Team at **GuestServices@onlocationexp.com**.



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ST. AUGUSTINE & THE AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

FROM THE *AUGUSTINIAN COMPANION*

HEART ON FIRE

The symbol of the heart on fire represents Augustine's **caritas**. **Caritas** includes both love of God and of neighbor.

Augustine is often represented holding a flaming heart to indicate his commitment to caritas. The Augustinian heart is passionately alive, with the desire to know God and experience divine love in our lives.

Augustine writes in the Confessions that our hearts are restless until they rest in God (Conf. 1.1.1). As we journey on this pilgrimage together, look for images of the restless heart as we seek to follow Augustine's example in setting our own hearts on fire with love.



AUGUSTINIAN SEAL

The heart on fire is found in the Augustinian seal with other imagery of Augustinian spirituality.

The book symbolizes the Word of God, source of light and truth, and the quest for wisdom.

The arrow piercing the heart represents the Spirit of God calling us to continued growth and reminding us of the source of our restlessness.

The seal may also contain Augustine's mitre or crozier, or a scroll with the words, 'Tolle Lege.'



ON LOCATION.

THE ORDER OF ST. AUGUSTINE

WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE

The term Augustinians applies to two separate and unrelated types of Catholic religious orders. Mendicant Orders are those whose members take individual or corporate vows of poverty and depend on charitable contributions to sustain their work. These Augustinians balance a religious life of contemplation with apostolic ministry, live in community with each other and follow the Rule of St. Augustine.

The largest and most familiar, originally known as the Hermits of St. Augustine or Austin friars, is now known simply as the Order of St. Augustine (OSA). Two other Mendicant branches of the Order, seeking to return to their monastic roots, also exist. The Discalced Augustinians, to which Martin Luther belonged, became independent in 1592. The Augustinian Recollects followed in 1612.

Beyond the Mendicants, various congregations of clerics, known as Canons Regular, also follow the Rule of St. Augustine. They lead a semimonastic life, while remaining committed to pastoral care, appropriate to their primary vocation as priests. They generally form one large community, usually serve parishes in the vicinity, and are organized as autonomous religious congregations, normally distinct by region. There also exist religious groups who refer to Augustine or call themselves Augustinian but who have no canonical status with either the Order of St. Augustine or the Catholic Church.

The Order of St. Augustine is composed of priests and brothers, whether professed or novices; contemplative nuns; and members of various Augustinian Secular Fraternities. In addition, the Augustinian family also includes other groups: religious institutes, both male and female, such as the Augustinians of the Assumption, the Sisters of St. Rita, as well as other groups of lay faithful affiliated to the Order.

Augustinians differ from traditional monastic orders in that they do not take vows of stability, meaning that they do not live in a single house (monastery or friary) but move as need requires. Friars are engaged in apostolic activity, such as pastoral care, mission work, education, prison ministries, etc. Further, as an international order, they are divided into various provinces throughout the world, with each Province being led by a Prior Provincial and all are under the supervision of a Prior General in Rome. Lastly, they have a special commitment to corporate poverty. Augustinians wear a religious habit, consisting of three pieces: a tunic, a cincture (belt) and a capuche (shoulder cape) with hood. All are usually black in color.



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THE HISTORY OF THE FRIARS

The Augustinian friars came into being as part of the mendicant movement of the 13th century, a new form of religious life which sought to bring the religious ideals of the monastic life into an urban setting, allowing the religious to serve the needs of the People of God in an apostolic capacity. At this time there were a number of eremitical groups living in such diverse places as Italy, England, Switzerland, and Germany.

In 1244, Pope Innocent IV issued the Bull *Incumbit Nobis*. This brief pastoral letter served as the Magna Carta initiating the foundation of the Order as it is known today. This papal bull exhorted these hermits to adopt 'the Rule and way of life of Blessed Augustine,' to profess this Augustinian manner of life in a way that they themselves would decide with regard to specific charism and apostolate, and to elect a Prior General.

These Tuscan hermits came together for a general chapter in March 1244, as decreed by the Bull *Praesentium Vobis*, a chapter presided over by Cardinal Annibaldi. At this chapter, the Order formally adopted the Rule of St. Augustine, to follow the Roman office with the Cistercian Psalter and to hold triennial elections of the Prior General. This event is commonly called the Little Union. On March 31 of the same year, Pope Innocent IV issued the Papal Bull *Pia Desideria*, formally approving the foundation of the Order. In 1256, Pope Innocent's successor Pope Alexander IV called together various other hermit groups from around the world and ultimately joined them to this existing Augustinian Order. This historical union has subsequently been referred to as the Grand Union of 1256.

This early time in the Order's history was characterized by a great devotion to learning, study, prayer, service of the poor, and the defense of the Pope and the Church—a particular charism of the Order rooted in its status as the only Order in the history of the Church to be founded directly by the Pope.



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IMPORTANT EU ENTRY INFORMATION

ENTRY/EXIT SYSTEM

We'd like to remind you of some requirements necessary for your entry into the European Union.

The European Union now requires all non-EU travelers to submit their biometric information at its borders **via the Entry/Exit System (EES)**. This system will collect your fingerprint and face-scan to streamline the process upon the entry and exit of the EU.

The personal information collected by the EES will be kept by the EU to verify visitor movement and ensure travelers are not overstaying the 90-day grace period. Please click below to review more information regarding this new Entry/Exit System.

[LEARN MORE](#)



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PLANNING FOR YOUR TRIP

IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE?

If you or any of your guests need any additional assistance or wheelchair accessibility while on your visit to Italy, please click the button below and complete the form so we can better assist you.

[ADA FORM](#)

CHECK YOUR PASSPORT

Please be sure to check the expiration date on your passport to confirm it is not out of date or that it expires within six months of your trip. This is something that is commonly overlooked and can create a great deal of stress. Airlines will not allow you to board a flight to Italy if your passport is expired so we highly recommend you start the renewal process now as this process takes the same amount of time as a new application.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance can assist with the unexpected: natural disasters, medical issues, flight cancellations, even lost luggage. Because travel packages are fully non-refundable, On Location highly recommends the purchase of travel insurance through Allianz. No one plans for unexpected challenges to arise, so we recommend you protect the investment you have made in your trip.

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**TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS
COORDINATED BY**



ON LOCATION™