

Robert Canis Photography

LA FIORITURA THE 'FLOWERING' OF UMBRIA & ASSISI

June 29th - July 5th 2025

£1995

£1945 (COUPLES SHARING)





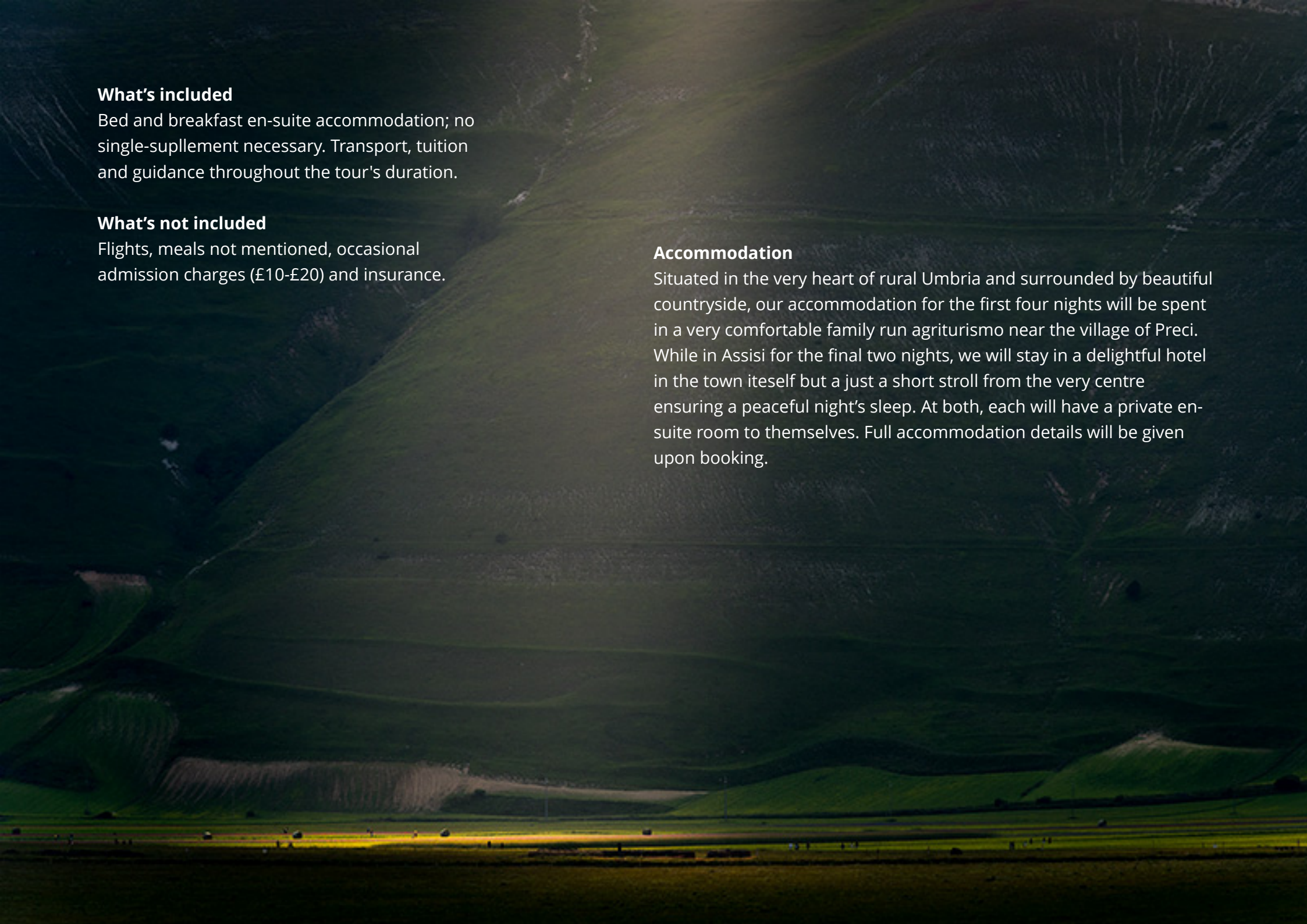
Set in the heart of Italy and often overlooked by its more famous neighbour, Tuscany, Umbria is a relatively undiscovered region which, as a result, retains much of its old-world charm. With its steep wooded valleys, flower-rich meadows and remote upland villages, Umbria is host to some of Europe's most captivating scenery and it is here that we will photograph the annual floral display known as the 'fioritura' or the flowering. Each year, for just a short period, high in the Apennines, surrounded by the towering Monti Sibilini mountains, lentils are grown on the stony plateaus of the Piano Grande, Piano Perduto and Piano Piccolo. Being a rather small, insignificant flower, poppies and cornflowers are sown as indicators in the pesticide-free soil and when they finish flowering the lentils are ready to be harvested. Interspersed with other wildflowers including ox-eye daisy, vetch, viper's bugloss and common spotted orchid, the result for as far as the eye can see is a multicoloured, explosive patchwork! We hope you can join us!



Highlights

- Incredible mountain and forest scenery
- Small group of just 6 photographers
- 4 nights in lovely rural accommodation
- 2 nights in Assisi
- Riot of wildflower colour
- Landscape and macro photography
- Charming hilltop villages
- Minibus transportation
- Photographic tuition
- Image appraisals





What's included

Bed and breakfast en-suite accommodation; no single-supplement necessary. Transport, tuition and guidance throughout the tour's duration.

What's not included

Flights, meals not mentioned, occasional admission charges (£10-£20) and insurance.

Accommodation

Situated in the very heart of rural Umbria and surrounded by beautiful countryside, our accommodation for the first four nights will be spent in a very comfortable family run agriturismo near the village of Preci. While in Assisi for the final two nights, we will stay in a delightful hotel in the town itself but a just a short stroll from the very centre ensuring a peaceful night's sleep. At both, each will have a private en-suite room to themselves. Full accommodation details will be given upon booking.



Locating suitable accommodation with sufficient en-suite rooms is no mean feat I can tell you! As a result, given the remote location of the plateau, our base is just under an hour's drive away. Therefore, careful consideration has been taken to break up the routine with critiques and excursions in an effort to avoid spending too much time travelling in the minibus. The following itinerary will give you an idea of the daily format though as is always the case with outdoor photography, it will be of a 'fluid' nature as the weather dictates.

Sunrise/Sunset: 5.30/9

Day 1 (Sun 29th)

You will be met by me and Dirk in arrivals at Rome airport where we will travel to our first base near the picturesque village of Campi, a distance of around 3 hours. I will give a laptop presentation of the area and what we hope to photograph giving pointers on technique and composition. Dinner will be served either at the accommodation or a

nearby restaurant.

Day 2 (Mon 30th)

4: Travel to location.

5-8.30: Sunrise and morning shoot of the fioritura.

9.30-10: Breakfast.

10-2: Rest or catch up on sleep. We all need a bit of time to ourselves and you will be ready to go after a nap and freshening up.

2-4: Critique and Lightroom tutorial. Using my laptop, I will look through a small selection of everyone's images where a constructive appraisal will be given including composition and technical advice which can then be carried forward in your photography over the coming days.

4-5.30: Dinner.

6-9: Evening and sunset shoot of the fioritura.

Day 3 (Tues 1st)

8.30-9: Breakfast.

10-2: Photo-excursion to a nearby, picturesque village. Coffee and cake!

4-5: Early dinner.



5-9: Evening and sunset shoot of the fioritura.

Day 4 (Wed 2nd)

4. Travel to location.

5-8.30: Sunrise and morning shoot of the fioritura.

9.30-10: Breakfast.

10-2: Photo-excursion to another village. More coffee and cake!

2-4: Downtime at the base.

4-5.30: Dinner.

6-9: Evening and sunset shoot of hillside villages.

Day 5 (Thurs 3rd)

8.30-9: Breakfast.

10.30. Check-out and transfer to our hotel in Assisi with a mid-way stop.

2. Check-in to our hotel.

3-10: We'll wander the streets and alleys before having dinner rounding the day off with an evening shoot of Assisi illuminated at dusk.





Day 6 (Fri 4th)

4.30-8: Optional sunrise and morning shoot.

8.30-9: Breakfast.

1 onwards: Optional nearby excursions which may include lavender fields and Saint Francis' cave.

6.30-8: Dinner.

8.30-10: Sunset/Dusk shoot of the Piazza Inferiore di San Francesco.

Day 7 (Sat 5th)

Breakfast, check-out and leave for the airport.

Climate

In the mountains while photographing the fioritura, temperatures are typically between 15 and 25 degrees and in the lowlands 25 to 30.

Fitness level

Low to medium. Although most of the sites will be just a short walk from the minibus, due to the hilly nature of both the landscape and villages, there will be occasions when you will be required to navigate steps and slopes. However, this will

always be undertaken at a leisurely pace with breaks. Assisi is particularly hilly so if you suffer from, say, age-related mobility issues then you need to carefully consider this.

Camera equipment

2-3 lenses will be sufficient which include a wide-angle and telephoto in the region of 200-300mm. A macro lens will be very useful (and worth hiring for the trip) and a tripod will be essential for those dawn/dusk shoots. Polarising, neutral density and neutral-density graduated filters will, also, be worthy of consideration. It is essential that you have a clear understanding of exposure. A full checklist will be given nearer the workshop date but the following is most likely what I will be taking. Two full-frame Nikon bodies (a back-up is a must!), 14-30, 70-180 plus a 1.4x tele-converter and a 100mm Micro.

How to get there

Direct flights with BA from London Heathrow to Rome Fiumicino, circa £300. Should you be



travelling from outside of the UK, it would be wise to arrive the day before in case you encounter any flight disruptions.

Image review sessions

As this is a tour and not a workshop where the emphasis is on getting you to great locations at the best time of day, ordinarily, no time for critique sessions would be factored in. However, on this tour, on day 2, following the sunrise shoot (and some sleep!), I will critique a selection of everyone's images and give a Lightroom/Photoshop tutorial which you should hopefully benefit from over the coming days. Also, as you will have noticed, following the tour and upon receiving a small selection of everyone's files, I will provide a recorded critique and Lightroom/Photoshop editing tutorial.





Tuition

I will, as others will testify (just read the testimonials!), always be on hand to offer advice and encouragement. Once arriving at a location, for example, I will indicate those areas I consider to be the most productive and give suggestions on composition, exposure, lens and filter selection. We will then disperse and immerse ourselves, during which I will intermittently approach each of you and see how you are getting on. This, over many years of running tours, I have found to be the most effective way since it allows everyone to grow and create their own style of images.

Clothing suggestions

For the most part, I simply wear shorts, t-shirt and a pair of comfortable walking shoes/trainers. However, for early morning and evening shoots I'll favour lightweight hiking trousers and a long-sleeved shirt with a fleece jumper and in case of a shower, a waterproof jacket.

Meals

As the best light is generally first thing and toward sunset, where we eat and at what time will depend on where we aim to be for photography. Due to the early sunrise time of 5.30, breakfast can be easily taken when we return to the hotel, whereas since sunset is at 9, an early dinner at around 4 will be had. We'll pick up a sandwich, or similar, for later that evening since, if you're anything like me, you'll most likely be quite peckish come 8 or 9 o'clock! Just as with the times, while photographing the fioritura, we will also have to be flexible with where we eat since it makes more sense to have a simple meal close by than somewhere 'fancy' further away.

Partners

Although you are very welcome to bring along a non-photography partner, the cost will be the same as for one who is participating. However, since you will be sharing a room, you will receive a small discount.



Booking your place

In the first instance, please contact me to check that there are places still available as due to travel commitments it may not have been possible to update numbers on the website. To book a place, simply download and fill out the booking form and T&Cs (see Downloads on the right) and return to me either by post or email. Your place will be confirmed upon receipt of the forms and deposit.

Finally...

Thank you for considering this tour. If you have any questions, no matter how small or insignificant they may seem, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'm here to help and ensure that you have a wonderful week filled with inspiring photography!

Tel: 07939 117570

Email: robert@robertcanis.com