

VENICE, FLORENCE, TUSCANY & ROME

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

Day 1: Depart today on your flight to Venice.

Day 2: Arrive Venice.

Day 3: Full day in **Venice**, a completely unique city rising in the middle of a lagoon with water flowing between streets and in front of houses and shops. It was as strange a thousand years ago as it seems today. Meet guide for a guided orientation walking tour. Later, lose yourself in the ambiance of this glorious city. See the Clock Tower, Piazza San Marco, the Grand Canal and the graceful Rialto Bridge. Perhaps you would like to arrange a ride on an authentic Venetian gondola.



Day 4: Morning departure for **Florence**. Founded by Julius Caesar, Florence is a small compact city; its narrow streets open unexpectedly into spacious squares. A visit to Florence is a visit to the living museum of Italian Renaissance. Meet guide for a guided orientation walking tour. See the gorgeous Duomo, the Bell Tower, Pont Vecchio the medieval district, and a central bustling food market.

Day 5: Morning transfer to **Pisa** for a look at the architectural project gone terribly wrong, the Leaning Tower. This afternoon visit to the Accademia Gallery. The most famous works are without a doubt those of Michelangelo and in particular his statue of David, a copy of which resides outside in the Palazzo della Signoria in the city. Remainder of the day to discover Florence at your leisure. Spend time on Pont Vecchio, and the Petti Palace. See also Piazza Vecchio, Piazza della Signoria, and Mercato Nuovo.

Day 6: Morning visit to The **Uffizi Gallery**. The Uffizi is the result of a process of acquisition, selection and rearrangement stretching over several centuries and consists mostly of antique sculpture and paintings ranging from the 13c to 18c. Florence is a shopper's paradise - countless shops laden with jewelry of Florentine gold and silver, exquisite leather goods, chic fashion houses, and also of course, the straws market. Don't miss San Lorenzo Market. Afternoon to shop and visit the Santa Croce area where Galileo, Michelangelo and Dante have their monuments.



Day 7: Transfer to **Rome**. Stop is **San Gimignano**, a spectacular medieval city that has the feel of a museum. From a distance, the towers of this 13th century town that were symbols of power and wealth of the city's medieval families, dominate the lush landscape of wheat fields, olive groves and vineyards. After quick check-in coach will drop you in the heart of the city. See the **Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon**. Spend some time in Piazza Navona originally built as a stadium for athletic contests and chariot races. Now it is lined with luxurious cafes and is the home to three lavish Baroque fountains.

Day 8: Morning guided visit to **Vatican**. The Vatican is a city unto itself with its own postal service, radio station, newspaper and army. Visit **St. Peter's Basilica and Square, the Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel**. After lunch your guide will escort you to other major archaeological monuments. See the **Colosseum, the Forum**, Capitol Hill, Victor Emmanuel Monument and Piazza Venezia. Time permitting enjoy some shopping in Piazza del Popolo, Via del Corso and the Via Condotti.



Day 9: Visit **Pompeii**, the sumptuous town that was buried under lava during a volcanic eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79. The city tells the story clearly; the tragic figures caught under the ash, crouching under tables, struggling to get upstairs, a mother holding a baby, a horribly contorted dog on a leash. In Pompeii, the fascination lies in the glimpses of everyday life frozen in time. In addition, you will make a short stop at Cassino War Cemetery to pay your respects to the 855 fallen Canadian soldiers who died fighting Germans during the during WW11.

Day 10: Today, you bid Arrivederci to Italy.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return airfare to Venice return Rome
- 8 nights accommodation with private facilities
- 8 breakfasts
- 4 dinners
- Coach transfers
 - o Venice airport transfer
 - o Coach transfer Venice to Florence
 - o Half day visit to Pisa
 - o Coach transfer Florence to Rome
 - o Return coach transfer to Pompeii
 - o Rome airport transfer
- Guided walking tours
 - o Half day Venice
 - o Half day Florence
 - o Full day Rome
 - o Half day Pompeii
- Entrances/ visits
 - o Return Vaporetto Venice
 - o Uffizi Gallery
 - o Academia Gallery
 - o Vatican
 - o Coliseum and Forum
 - o Pompeii

