

ROME, TUSCANY, FLORENCE, VENICE & MORE!

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

Day 1: Depart today on your flight to Rome.

Day 2: Arrive **Rome**. 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 3: 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 4: Board your coach for visits to some fabulous hilltop towns. **Civita di Bagnoregio** is perched atop a high plateau, and connected to the rest of region by a long foot path. It is an open air Museum that is marvelously stuck in the Middle Ages. Later board your coach for **Orvieto**. Head out with comfortable walking shoes for Anello della Rupe, a path that goes around the entire rock and hills upon which the town of Orvieto rests. Plan a visit to the Duomo, the heart of the town.

Day 5: Discover Orvieto's underground world. Dug by ancient Etruscans over 2500 years ago, this underground city reveals a labyrinth of grottos, tunnels, stairs and rooms hidden beneath the distinctive rock upon which the city rests. Visit this underground world. Continue to the beautiful countryside of Tuscany and stop in **San Gimignano** a spectacular medieval city that feels like 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. Arrive Florence.



Day 6: 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. This afternoon visit both the Leonardo da Vinci Museum and the Musee Galileo. Witness the life sized inventions of Da Vinci in operation mode as well as reproductions of his most important paintings including the Last Supper, the Mona Lisa and the Annunciation of the genius Da Vinci. Remainder of the afternoon is free visit the Santa Croce area where Galileo, Michelangelo and Dante have their monuments.

Day 7: 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.



Day 8: 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 9: Depart for **Sirmione** a picturesque peninsula with evocative Roman ruins and a 13th century castle. Rich Romans built holiday villas of which one still exists today. The Grotto of Catullus, from 150 AD, is most striking example of a Roman private edifice discovered in Northern Italy. Visit the site and museum at the entrance. Scaliger Castle, built near the end of the 12th century as a defensive network is under the protective ownership of the government since the start of the 20th century. Medieval churches exist today as do the thermal baths dating back to the Roman times. Verona for overnight.

Day 10: Verona has been awarded a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Verona has many well preserved Roman monuments. The city is famous for its Roman Amphitheatre. Today it is popular for public events, fairs, theatres and open air operas. There is also a variety of other Roman monuments to be found in the city such as the Roman Theatre of Verona, the Porta Borsari and Porta Leoni, The Basilica of Zeno Maggiore, the Basilica of San Lorenzo, the Duomo and of course Juliet's famous balcony found at a 14th century house and one of the most visited sites in Verona. Continue to Venice.

Day 11: 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 12: Today, you bid Arrivederci to Italy. You depart Venice and arrive home the same day.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return airfare to Rome return Venice
- 10 nights accommodation with private facilities
- 10 breakfasts
- 5 dinners
- Coach transfers
 - o Rome airport transfer
 - o 2 day Coach transfer Rome to Florence with stops as per itinerary and overnight in Orvieto
 - o Half day visit to Pisa
 - o 2 day Coach transfer Florence to Venice with stops as per itinerary and overnight in Verona
 - o Venice airport transfer
- Guided walking tours
 - o Full day Rome
 - o Half day Florence
 - o Half day Venice
- Entrances/ visits
 - o Vatican
 - o Coliseum and Forum
 - o Civita de Bagnoregio
 - o Orvieto underground tour
 - o Leonardo da Vinci Museum
 - o Musee Galileo
 - o Uffizi Gallery
 - o Academia Gallery
 - o Entrance to Sirmione
 - o Entrance to Grotto of Catullus
 - o Vaporetto transfer in Venice

