



Educational Tours

THE GRAND TOUR OF ITALY

12 days | Summer 2016





Educational Tours

THE GRAND TOUR OF ITALY

INCLUDED ON TOUR



Round-trip flights on major carriers; Full-time Tour Director; Air-conditioned motorcoaches and internal transportation; Superior tourist-class hotels with private bathrooms; Select meals with a mix of local cuisine; Connect to your travel experiences with weShare, our project-based online educational tool.

Guided Sightseings: Venice; Florence; The Vatican; Ancient Rome; Capri; Pompeii

Entrances: Glass-Blowing Factory; Doges' Palace; Duomo, Florence; Leather-Making Demonstration; Accademia, Florence; Baptistery & Cathedral, Pisa; Sistine Chapel; St. Peter's Basilica; Forum Romanum; Colosseum; Capri Minicruise/Minibus; Pompeii Roman Ruins

Overnight stays:

- Venice (2)
- Florence (2)
- Rome (3)
- Naples (2)
- Rome (1)

NOT INCLUDED IN PROGRAM PRICE

Optional excursions; Insurance coverage; Beverages and lunches; Transportation to free-time activities; Customary gratuities (for your Tour Director, bus driver and local guide); Porterage; Adult supplement (if applicable); Weekend supplement; Shore excursions on cruises; Any applicable baggage-handing fee imposed by the airlines (see eftours.com/baggage for details); Expenses caused by airline rescheduling, cancellations or delays caused by the airlines, bad weather or events beyond EF's control; Passports, visa and reciprocity fees



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YOUR ITINERARY

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Board your overnight flight to Milan!

Day 2: Milan | Venice

Arrive in Milan and Transfer to Venice via Verona (*time permitting*)

Arrive in Milan, the fashion capital of Italy. After meeting your tour director, you will transfer to Verona. Here you can see the town's Roman Arena, which dates back over 2,000 years. You will also find a bronze statue of Juliet in the tiny courtyard that houses the balcony made famous by Shakespeare.

Arrive in Venice

Arrive in magical Venice, home of Marco Polo. Known globally for its gondoliers and glassware, Venice is also a heady mix of busy piazzas thronging with pizzerias and cafes, as well as deserted streets alongside canals that often lead to hidden gems such as churches or local restaurants serving regional delicacies.

Day 3: Venice

Guided Sightseeing of Venice

Begin your sightseeing of la Serenissima (the city's nickname meaning "the most serene") at St. Mark's Square, "the finest drawing room in Europe," according to Napoleon. Allegedly buried under the altar of the basilica are St. Mark's remains, which, in the 11th century, were smuggled out of Alexandria in a barrel of salt pork to prevent a thorough search by the city's Muslim guards. Also, see the Grand Canal and the 324-foot Campanile (Bell Tower), whose steps were originally built so that a noble could ascend on horseback. Look for the clock where two bronze figures have been striking the hour for over 500 years. Venice is also famous for its glassware—you'll see why during a glassblowing demonstration.

Visit the Doges' Palace

Visit the grand 14th century pink and white Doges' Palace, from which mighty Venetian dukes once ruled. Here you'll stroll over the Bridge of Sighs, connecting the palace and its prison. As they crossed the bridge, prisoners supposedly sighed with perfect sadness as they regarded their beautiful city for the last time. Casanova made a daring escape from this prison in 1756.

Free Afternoon in Venice

The afternoon is yours to explore wondrous Venezia. Stroll along the intertwining canals, or venture into the labyrinth of streets crammed with restaurants and shops. Alternatively, you might wish to take in the views from the Rialto Bridge. Otherwise, enjoy a truly romantic experience and ride in one of the city's many gondolas along some of its finest canals.

Day 4: Venice | Florence

Transfer to Florence via Bologna

On your way to Florence, enjoy free time in Bologna. You might enjoy a visit to the Basilica di San Domenico, which features Michelangelo's San Procolo, considered to be his rehearsal for the David. A climb to the top of the leaning Asinelli tower rewards a stunning view. Or enjoy a stroll down the Via Strada Maggiore, which is lined with mansions.

Arrive in Florence

Set deep in the heart of Tuscany is one of Italy's jewels. The city of Florence has delighted visitors for centuries with its remarkable architecture. Whether sitting by the River Arno, strolling the beautifully housed streets or viewing the renaissance masterpieces that fill the city's churches and museums, one can only be astonished by the feeling of true beauty.

Day 5: Florence

Guided Sightseeing of Florence

Fall under the spell of the powerful Medici family on your guided tour. See Giotto's Bell Tower and the imposing marble cathedral in the Piazza del Duomo. Stand before Ghiberti's legendary *Gates of Paradise* (so dubbed by Michelangelo), and pass the classical statues of the Piazza della Signoria—here you can see where Michelangelo's *David* originally stood. Later, watch local artisans at work at a local leather workshop.

Visit the Accademia

This simple building, located on Via Ricasoli, houses one of the world's true masterpieces in Michelangelo's statue of *David*. Elsewhere, you can see unfinished works by the great artist along with other Renaissance treasures.

Day 6: Florence | Rome

Transfer to Rome via Pisa

Italy's largest baptistery (54.86m tall and 104m in circumference), the Battistero di San Giovanni is also slightly taller than the Leaning Tower across the square. As it shares the same unstable ground as the tower, the baptistery also has a slight lean of 0.6 degrees towards the cathedral. The baptistery's pulpit is a masterpiece carved in 1255-60 by Nicola Pisano. Begun in 1093, Pisa Cathedral (Duomo di Pisa) is a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture.

Arrive in Rome

Welcome to Rome, the Eternal City. The city is an incredible mix of archaeological gems, Roman genius, Renaissance art and religious treasure. As Italy's capital, it is also the bustling heart of this exciting country. With its fashionable shopping and café-culture, Rome really is a unique European experience.

Day 7: Rome

Guided Sightseeing of Ancient Rome

Your guided sightseeing of ancient Rome takes you into the ancient Forum Romanum, once the heart of the Roman Empire. You will also visit the Colosseum, where gladiators once battled for their lives in front of 50,000 spectators.

Free Time at the Spanish Steps and Trevi Fountain

Enjoy free time in Piazza di Spagna. Climb the staircase to view the city below, or take the time to wander through one of Rome's most popular shopping areas. Alternatively, snag a moment to relax amongst the hustle and bustle of the city while enjoying a traditional Italian treat—gelato. You should also make sure to wander over to the famed Trevi Fountain and toss in a coin to ensure your return to Rome.

Day 8: Rome

Guided Sightseeing of the Vatican

The world's largest dome is located in the world's smallest country. See both as you tour St. Peter's Basilica, erected in Vatican City on the site where the saint was martyred. Enter the basilica under the watchful eyes of the brightly dressed Swiss Guard. Inside, admire Michelangelo's *Pietà* and try to find the artist's signature (it is the only sculpture he ever signed). Then continue on to the Vatican Museum, where elaborate galleries packed with one artistic masterpiece after another lead you directly to the Sistine Chapel. Between 1508 and 1512, Michelangelo painted some of the world's finest pictorial images on the Chapel's ceiling. This was his first attempt at working in fresco, which he did by standing up and craning backwards from a scaffold.

Day 9: Rome | Naples

Transfer to Naples via a Guided Excursion to Capri

Encounter beautiful views of the Amalfi coastline on an excursion across the Bay of Naples to the captivating and mountainous Isle of Capri. Travel by funicular to the town of Capri and board a cruise to see the most spectacular views of Capri's coast. You'll see the Arco Naturale, a majestic stone arch on the eastern cliffs, and the famous Faraglioni, three enormous, pale-ochre limestone colossi that loom out of the sea. When weather conditions do not permit a cruise, groups will visit Villa San Michele in the town of Anacapri instead.

Arrive in Naples

Arrive in Naples, a favorite retreat of Rome's emperors. The city reached its peak in the 13th century when Charles I of Anjou chose it as his capital.

Day 10: Naples

Free Day in Naples

Take some time today to explore the quintessential Italian city that gave the world Sofia Loren. You may wish to visit some of the newly renovated museums and palaces or relax at a café.

Day 11: Naples | Rome

Return to Rome via a Guided Sightseeing of Pompeii

Learn how wealthy Romans lived 2,000 years ago on an excursion to Pompeii, one of the richest archaeological sites in the world. When neighboring Mt. Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79, volcanic ash completely buried the Roman resort. Now it is fully excavated, and you can see the ruins of villas, ancient temples, and Stabian Baths.

Day 12: Depart for Home

Transfer to the Airport for Your Return Flight

Your tour director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

Itinerary is subject to change

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at www.eftours.com/bc.

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“As a parent I am very grateful that I was able to give this opportunity to my child. It was worth every penny to see her smiling face in the pictures on the trip. Encourage your child to embrace the moment; be open to new cultures, foods, and just a new way of life and looking at things.”

— KATHLEEN, DAUGHTER TRAVELED APRIL 2013

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