

Education
First



*College Study
Tours*

ITALY & GREECE



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10 OR 13 DAYS

Italy • Greece

PROGRAM FEE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip airfare
- 7 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms
- 1 night ferry accommodations (plus 3 nights cabin accommodations with cruise extension)
- Complete European breakfast daily
- 5 dinners
- 3 meals daily with cruise extension
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- Whisper headsets
- Audio guide of Vatican City
- Select guides and entrances to special attractions as per itinerary

OPTIONAL:

- Florence
- Cape Sounion Sunset Excursion

WITH EXTENSION:

All of the above PLUS:

- 3-day Greek island cruise with optional excursions offered by the cruise line: Mykonos Walking Tour, Rhodes and Lindos, Old City and Philerimos, Lindos, St. John's Monastery and Grotto of the Apocalypse, Scenic Island Tour, Ephesus and the House of the Virgin Mary, Ancient Ephesus



The Acropolis was built as a sanctuary for the goddess Athena, and the grandest temple on the Acropolis is the Parthenon.

Italy and Greece provide the perfect backdrop for bringing history and art to life. Gaze up at Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel masterpiece and see what remains of Pompeii's luxurious past. Trace Odysseus' footsteps in Greece, feeling the spirit of the Greek gods in Athens and Delphi. Pay homage to the artists, architects and philosophers who have gone before—and marvel at the bright future of these two countries.

Day 1 Flight

Overnight flight to Italy • Relax as you fly across the Atlantic.

Day 2 Rome

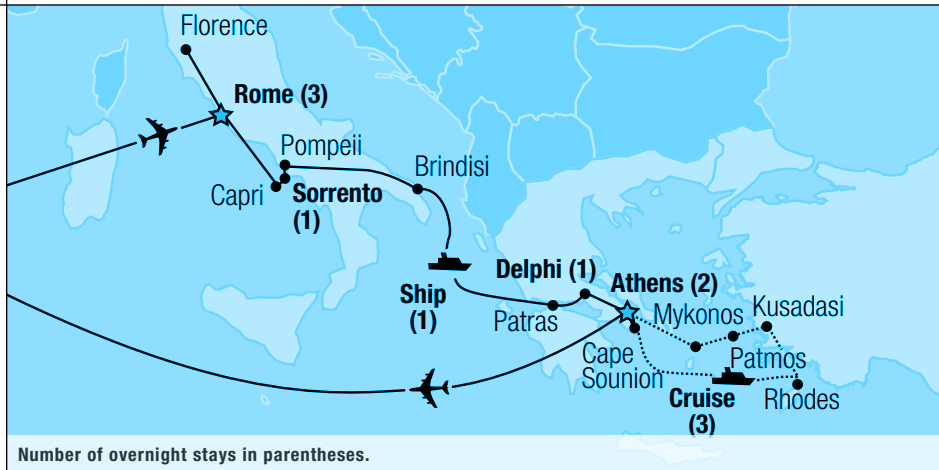
Arrival in Rome • Arrive in *bella Roma*, the Eternal City. Here, Charlemagne was crowned by the pope in A.D. 800. After clearing customs, meet your EF Tour Director, who will accompany you to your hotel.

Day 3 Vatican City • Rome

Visit to Vatican City • Today, you will explore Vatican City, the world's smallest country. Begin at the Vatican Museum, where elaborate galleries filled 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 backward from a scaffold.

Next, tour St. Peter's Basilica, erected 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*, the only sculpture he ever signed.

Guided sightseeing of Rome • Pass the grassy ruins of the ancient Forum Romanum, once the heart of the Roman Empire, and admire the enduring fragments of Rome's glorious past. It was here that business, commerce and the administration of justice once took place. Then visit the mighty Colosseum, Rome's first permanent amphitheater whose three tiers are approximately equal to a 12- to 15-story building. At one time, as many as 50,000 cheering spectators would flock to watch gladiator battles unfold inside. During the staged fights here, as many as 10,000 slaves, prisoners and volunteers were killed. Persecuted Christians were also murdered—spectators saw them mauled by lions. After A.D. 404, gladiator battles ended, but animals were still massacred in the name of sport until the 6th century.



Traditional music is one way the Italians retain their deep cultural roots.

Walking tour of Rome • Continue on to the legendary Trevi Fountain and make sure to toss in a coin to ensure your return to Rome. Then view the Pantheon, one of the best-preserved ancient buildings in the city, commissioned by the Emperor Hadrian around A.D. 120. This temple to “all the gods” features the second-widest dome in Rome. It was built using the exact proportions of an egg! Finish off in the Piazza Navona, the popular square where you will see Bernini’s impressive Fountain of the Four Rivers.

Day 4 Florence

Optional excursion to Florence via high-speed train • Join an optional excursion to Florence, birthplace of the Italian language, the Renaissance and opera—the city is rich with art, architecture and history. See Piazza della Signoria, the hub of Medici power, and the imposing marble Duomo.

Day 5 Mount Vesuvius • Sorrento

Visit to Mount Vesuvius • Looming high above the Bay of Naples is Mount Vesuvius. Just five miles northeast of Herculaneum, Vesuvius remains an active volcano today. Journey to the summit for a closer look at one of nature’s most powerful forces.

Transfer to Sorrento • Travel to Sorrento and experience the unparalleled beauty of Italy’s favorite resort, which overlooks the Bay of Naples.

Day 6 Pompeii • Night ferry

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 Mount Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79, volcanic ash completely buried the Roman resort, perfectly preserving the minutiae of daily life. Now it is fully excavated, and you can see ruins of villas, ancient temples and the Stabian Baths.

Night ferry to Greece • Board a night ferry in Brindisi. Spend the night in comfortable cabin accommodations as you sail across the Ionian Sea to Greece.

Day 7 Patras • Delphi

Arrival in Patras • Disembark in Patras. Capital of the Peloponnese, Patras serves as a hub for ships traveling among the Greek islands and the ports of Italy.

Transfer to Delphi • Journey through vineyards and orchards to Delphi, home of the mystical Oracle.

Day 8 Delphi • Athens

Guided visit of Delphi • As you tour Delphi, ponder the mysteries of what lies in your future, as did Greece’s ancient military leaders, who left gifts for the Oracle in hopes of good fortune in battle. Then visit the Temple of Apollo, where, according to legend, the god communicated with mortals. Your visit concludes with a stop at the Delphi Museum, whose collection boasts many artifacts dating back to 550 B.C., reminiscent of the mythical past of ancient Greece.

Transfer to Athens • Continue on to Athens, Cradle of Democracy and birthplace of Western civilization.

Day 9 Athens

Guided tour of Athens • An expert local guide introduces you to the antiquities of Athens. Climb the Acropolis to view the majestic Parthenon, perhaps the world’s greatest architectural feat. See the Temple of Athena Nike, which once housed a gold statue of the goddess (her wings were clipped to keep her from ever deserting the city). Athens is named after Athena, the goddess of war and wisdom. After seeing the Presidential Guard in their traditional costumes, pass the stadium, where the first modern Olympics were held in 1896, as well as lively Omonia and Syntagma squares. During free time you may have later, use your

ticket from this morning’s sightseeing to explore other sights in Athens. Visit the Agora, ancient Athens’ political, economic and commercial center, which holds the remains of the Temple of Hephaistos, begun in 449 B.C. You might also visit the Athenian Cemetery, a who’s who of Ancient Athens. It contains impressive family tombs, where statesmen, warriors and authors were laid to rest.

Walking tour of Athens • Get acquainted with the endearing Plaka district. Stroll past Hadrian’s Arch and the Temple of Olympian Zeus, built to honor the most powerful of all Greek gods—construction began in 515 B.C.

Optional Excursion to Cape Sounion • Journey to Cape Sounion to view the grand Temple of Poseidon as the sun sets over the Aegean Sea.

Day 10 Home

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

EXTENSION

Days 10–13 Island Cruise

Cruise extension (seasonal) • Your group can extend its stay for a three-day cruise of the beautiful whitewashed isles of Greece and Turkey aboard a cruise. Your ports of call include picturesque Mykonos, Patmos, Kusadasi and Rhodes. The cruise line offers special optional excursions at these ports, such as a visit to Ephesus in Kusadasi, where you will explore the ruins of Ancient Ephesus and the House of the Virgin Mary, where it is said she lived her last years. In between, you’ll have plenty of time to enjoy life on board the ship. Free-time options at sea include shopping, games, fitness activities, swimming and sunning. (Please note that the cruise is seasonal and the itinerary is subject to change.) Fly home from Athens on Day 13.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.

YOUR CURRICULUM ON A GLOBAL SCALE

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ITN0309IAGA/IAXA
Itinerary subject to change.

2010/Spring