



# PARIS, FLORENCE & ROME



*Educational  
Tours*

→ *Discover the Global Classroom*

9 or 11 DAYS

# Paris, Florence & Rome

France • Italy



Number of overnight stays in parentheses. This tour may also be reversed.



Explore some of the world's most famous art and architecture, including the Roman Colosseum.

## Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 7 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (9 with extension)
- European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- 4 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: Paris • Florence • Vatican City • Rome
- 2 walking tours: Paris • Rome
- 1 orientation tour: Milan
- 7 visits to special attractions: Louvre • Notre Dame Cathedral • Duomo • Leather-making demonstration • Sistine Chapel • St. Peter's Basilica • Colosseum

### OPTIONAL:

Versailles • Pisa

### WITH EXTENSION:

- All of the above PLUS:
- 2 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: Pompeii • Capri
  - 2 visits to special attractions: Roman ruins at Pompeii • Capri island cruise

## Day 1 Flight

**Overnight flight to France** • Spend the night flying across the Atlantic.

## Day 2 Paris

**Arrival in Paris** • Touch down in Paris, City of Light. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

**Walking tour of Paris** • Our walking tour takes in the chic Opéra district and the Rue du Faubourg St. Honoré, famous for its haute couture boutiques. Stroll through the Place de la Concorde, the city's largest public square, built to honor Louis XV. During the Revolution, this was the location of Joseph Guillotin's famous machine; the next Louis, Marie Antoinette and many others were beheaded here. Continue through the geometric gardens of the Tuileries as you make your way to the Place Vendôme, a vast square surrounded by elegant 17th-century façades. Pass the Ritz hotel at no. 15, a favorite haunt of Ernest Hemingway. (The exact walking route may vary depending on your hotel location and other activities.)

**Visit to the Louvre** • Built to defend the city in the 13th century, the Louvre today safeguards one of the world's greatest art collections. Enter the museum through world-renowned architect I.M. Pei's glass pyramid, constructed in 1989. Inside, discover priceless antiquities from Asia, Greece and Rome. You'll also see precious objects from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, as well as iconic European paintings such as the *Mona Lisa*.

## Day 3 Paris

**Guided sightseeing of Paris** • Discover the city on the Seine: from the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon's Grande Armée, to the Île de la Cité, birthplace of Paris. Take a drive down the elegant Champs-Élysées to the Place de la Concorde. Pass the Conciergerie, where prisoners of the Revolution spent their final days, and see Les Invalides, Louis XIV's grand retirement home for wounded soldiers. You'll also see the École Militaire, where Napoleon graduated to Lieutenant and was told he'd go far if circumstances allowed. Next, make a photo stop at the Eiffel Tower to marvel at the 6,000-ton centerpiece for the 1889 World's Fair. You'll hear the story of how this impressive—but once highly controversial—symbol of Paris was spared the wrecking ball in 1909.

**Visit to Notre Dame Cathedral** • Built between 1163 and 1361 over the remains of an ancient Roman temple, it was here that Napoleon crowned himself emperor in 1804. Victor Hugo once described the sculptured façade of Notre Dame as "a vast symphony in stone." However, had it not been for the creation of his famous hunchback, Quasimodo, the cathedral might never have returned to its former glory. Hugo's novel *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* helped inspire a 23-year restoration of the cathedral that began in 1841. Step inside to admire the stained-glass rose windows and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

**Optional excursion to Versailles** • Join an optional excursion to Versailles, the elaborate palace of Louis XIV. Here, the Sun King held court in the most lavish style imaginable. At one point, 1,000 nobles were attended by 4,000 servants inside the palace, while 15,000 soldiers and servants inhabited the annexes. Stroll through the elegantly landscaped gardens, designed by André Le Nôtre, tour the State Apartments of the King himself, walk through the historic Hall of Mirrors and admire the ornate decor of the State Apartments of the Queen. (Please note: Because of the extreme popularity of Versailles, guided visits of the interior cannot be guaranteed during peak seasons. In this case, your group will hear a presentation from your guide before entering the palace. Please also note that Versailles is closed on Mondays. Participants must enroll in this excursion no later than 50 days prior to departure.)

#### Day 4 Paris • Milan

**Transfer by train from Paris to Milan** • Sit back and relax during your train ride from Paris to Milan, enjoying the countryside of France and Italy along the way.

**Milan orientation tour** • Get acquainted with Milan on your orientation tour. See the impressive Duomo, which was nearly five centuries in the making! The 135 marble spires, thousands of statues and its impressive triangular structure just may convince you it was worth it. The poet

Shelley often reflected in one of the Duomo's 40,000 seats here as he read the works of Dante. Continue to the area known as the Golden Triangle, the city's fashion center. Browse some of the chic boutiques here, including flagship stores such as Armani, Krizia, Versace, Ermengildo Zegna, Missoni, Moschino, Mila Schvn and Trussardi. You'll also pass La Scala. Built in the late 18th century, it is said to be the world's most important opera house. Spend the night in the Milan region.

#### Day 5 Milan • Florence

**Transfer to Florence** • This morning, transfer to Florence, called the Renaissance City for its role in the rebirth of the arts. World-famous artwork, paintings and sculptures, including pieces by Michelangelo, Raphael and Botticelli, can be found here.

**Guided sightseeing of Florence** • Fall under the spell of the powerful Medici family on your guided tour. Pass the classical statues of the Piazza della Signoria, where Michelangelo's *David* originally stood and now the site of an impressive replica. From behind the Uffizi Palace, you will see the Ponte Vecchio, one of the city's only bridges to survive WWII and now one of its most photographed sites. The bridge provided the Medici easy access from the Pitti Palace to the Uffizi. Continue past the Chiesa di Santa Croce, final resting place of Michelangelo, Machiavelli and Galileo. Next, you will

visit the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, better known as the Duomo, or dome, that dominates Florence's skyline. The dome was sculptor and architect Brunelleschi's finest work, and the nearby campanile (bell tower) was designed by the painter Giotto. Look for the famous bronzed doors—Ghiberti's legendary *Gates of Paradise*—at the Baptistery opposite the Duomo. Later, watch artisans at work at a local leather-making demonstration.

#### Day 6 Florence

**Free time in Florence** • Enjoy free time today to explore the Renaissance City. You might want to head to the Accademia, home to the most famous sculpture in the world: Michelangelo's *David*. There are several other works by Michelangelo including his four unfinished statues, *Prisoners*. Maybe you'll look for the perfect leather wallet or bag along the many shops of the Ponte Vecchio or simply people-watch as you sample some tasty gelato.

**Optional excursion to Pisa** • Opt to journey to Pisa on this half-day excursion. In the city's Field of Miracles, snap a picture of the 12th-century Leaning Tower, aslant ever since the third floor was built. This is where Galileo was said to have developed his laws of gravity. Visit the adjacent cathedral and baptistery, which contain exquisite marble pulpits carved in the Gothic style by Nicola and Giovanni Pisano.

#### Day 7 Rome

##### Transfer via San Gimignano and Siena

• En route to Rome, journey to the charming town of San Gimignano, "city of beautiful towers," which was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1990. See the medieval influence here as you admire the 14 towers (of the original 70 or so) that were once used as command centers during wars between the town's families. The hilltop town overlooks a portion of the picturesque Chianti wine region and also boasts an archaeological museum, a couple of art museums and even a torture museum! Stroll past the shops along the quaint cobblestone streets for the perfect souvenir. Then continue to Siena, in the heart of Italy's Tuscan region. A longtime rival of nearby Florence, Siena also has its share of artistic masterpieces. The Piazza del Campo here plays host to Siena's famed Palio (a thrilling bareback horse race) each summer.

**Arrival in Rome** • Continue on to *bella Roma*, the Eternal City. Here, Charlemagne was crowned by the pope in A.D. 800.

You'll spend time in Florence, at the heart of Tuscany—a region renowned for its masterworks of art, rich history and stunning landscapes.



### Day 8 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** • Get to know Imperial Rome on a panoramic tour. Then spend time exploring the mighty Colosseum, Rome's largest amphitheater. Its elaborate construction spanned two emperors—building began between A.D. 70 and 72 under Vespasian and was completed in A.D. 80 under Titus. Originally built to accommodate nearly 50,000 spectators, the Colosseum played host to some of the most incredible spectacles of the day, including gladiatorial combat, mock sea battles, animal hunts, executions and even dramatic performances based on classical mythology. Later, pass by the Forum Romanum, once the heart of the Roman Empire.

**Walking tour of Rome** • As part of your walking tour of Rome, stop at the 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. Then, during free time, continue to the Piazza Navona before meeting at the Spanish Steps prior to dinner.

### Day 9 Home

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

### EXTENSION

#### Day 9 Pompeii • Sorrento

**Transfer via guided sightseeing of Pompeii** • Alternatively, your group can plan to extend its stay two days. 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. Now, it is fully excavated, and you can see the ruins of villas, ancient temples and Stabian Baths.

**Arrive in Sorrento** • Continue to Sorrento and experience the unparalleled beauty of Italy's favorite resort, overlooking the Bay of Naples.

### Day 10 Capri • Rome

**Guided sightseeing of Capri** • Cross the Bay of Naples to the captivating 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 the town of Anacapri instead.

**Return to Rome** • Transfer back to the Eternal City to enjoy the final night of your tour.

### Day 11 Home

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

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



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Itinerary subject to change.

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