



ROME, TUSCANY & THE RIVIERA



*Educational
Tours*

→ **Discover the Global Classroom**

9 or 12 DAYS

Rome, Tuscany & the Riviera

Italy • France • Monaco



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



Find authentic restaurants after visiting ancient Roman relics, such as the centuries-old Colosseum.

Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 7 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (10 with extension)
- European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- 3 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: Vatican City • Rome • Florence
- 1 sightseeing tour led by your tour director: Monaco and Eze
- 1 walking tour: Rome
- 1 orientation tour: Nice
- 8 visits to special attractions: Sistine Chapel • St. Peter's Basilica • Colosseum • Duomo • Leather-making demonstration • Pisa Baptistery • Pisa Cathedral • Perfume factory
- Experiential learning: Pizza-making

OPTIONAL: Pompeii

WITH EXTENSION: All of the above PLUS:

- 2 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: Paris • Versailles
- 1 walking tour: Paris
- 3 visits to special attractions: Notre Dame Cathedral • Versailles • Louvre
- TGV high-speed train

Day 1 Flight

Overnight flight to Italy • Spend the night flying across the Atlantic.

Day 2 Rome

Arrival in Rome • Touch down in *bella Roma*, the Eternal City. Here, Charlemagne was crowned by the pope in A.D. 800. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

Day 3 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.

Experiential learning: Create your own pizza!

Tonight, join a professional *pizzaiolo* at a nearby restaurant who will show you how authentic Italian pizza is made. Some members of the group will even don aprons and chefs' hats and try their hand at making pizza. Afterward, you will all sit down to sample their creations for dinner!

Day 4 Rome

Optional excursion to Pompeii • Learn how wealthy Romans lived 2,000 years ago on a full-day optional 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, as well as ancient frescoes and mosaics that miraculously survived the city's demise. (Lunch is included.)

Free time in Rome • Alternatively, you'll have free time to make your own discoveries of Rome—you might wish to focus on museums, cathedrals, or finding the perfect gelato.

Day 5 Rome • Florence

Transfer via Siena • En route to Florence, journey 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 Florence • Arrive in Florence, birthplace of the Italian language, the Renaissance and opera.

Day 6 Florence

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.

Free time in Florence • Ask your tour director for fun suggestions!

Day 7 Florence • French Riviera

Transfer via Pisa • Journey to Pisa and the Field of Miracles, where you'll see 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. Be sure to visit the adjacent cathedral and baptistry, which contain exquisite marble pulpits carved in the Gothic style by Nicola and Giovanni Pisano.

Arrival on the French Riviera • Arrive at the spectacular coastline of the glamorous French Riviera, land of sparkling waters, waving palm trees and sun-drenched promenades.

Day 8 French Riviera

Excursion to Monaco • Follow the coastline of the Riviera to Monaco, a tiny principality that packs wealth, royalty, and the world's most famous casino into just 0.8 square miles. The Grimaldi family has ruled Monaco since 1297, making them the longest-reigning family dynasty in Europe. See the royal palace, and pass by the Cathédrale de Monaco, site of Prince Rainier's wedding to Grace Kelly in 1956. The cathedral is also the final resting place of the prince and Princess Grace, who was killed in a car accident in the hills of Monaco in 1982. Catch a glimpse of the stately Monte-Carlo Casino as you stroll the streets with your tour director. The casino was built in 1878 by Charles Garnier, who also designed the Paris Opéra.

Tuscany's temperate climate is ideal for growing flowers and grapes.



Visit to Eze • En route back to Nice, stop in Eze, a small medieval town perched on a cliff high above the waters of the Mediterranean. Here you'll enjoy a guided tour of a perfume factory.

Orientation tour of Nice • Acquaint yourself with the palm trees and promenades of this exclusive seaside resort. Walk in the footsteps of the rich and famous as you stroll through the Vieille Ville past whitewashed villas, and down the Promenade des Anglais. Nice's spectacular scenery has inspired such artists as Renoir, Matisse and Toulouse-Lautrec.

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 French Riviera • Paris

TGV to Paris • Board the TGV (*train à grande vitesse*, or "fast train") to Paris, cosmopolitan City of Light.

Day 10 Paris

Guided sightseeing of Paris • Discover the city on the Seine, beginning with the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon's Grande Armée. 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. Pass the Opéra Garnier, where the famous Phantom of the Opera haunted his dear Christine, and marvel at Église de la Madeleine, designed as a temple of glory for Napoleon's army. Continue past the geometric gardens of the Tuileries as you make your way to the Place Vendôme, a vast square surrounded by elegant 17th-century façades.

Guided sightseeing of Versailles • Visit 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.)

Day 11 Paris

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*.

Walking tour of Paris • Meander through the Latin Quarter, an area dominated by the Sorbonne, Paris' most famous university, founded in 1253. As you stroll, look for the Panthéon, created by Louis XV because of a promise he made to build a church dedicated to Sainte-Geneviève if he survived a severe illness. You'll also explore Boulevard St. Michel and spend some time browsing the stacks at the famous Shakespeare and Company bookstore, which published James Joyce's *Ulysses* in 1922. As you make your way along the Seine, you'll also have the chance to browse the literary materials sold at *les bouquinistes*, the bookstalls that sell old books, maps, art prints and postcards. It's the perfect place to pick up some authentic souvenirs!

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.

Day 12 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.



ITN0309RTR/P
Itinerary subject to change.

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