



*College Study
Tours*

ROME, FLORENCE & VENICE



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9 OR 11 DAYS

Italy

PROGRAM FEE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip airfare, bus transfers
- 7 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (plus 2 nights with extension)
- European breakfast daily
- 3 dinners (plus 2 dinners with extension)
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- Audio guide for Vatican City
- Select guides and entrances to special attractions as per itinerary

OPTIONAL

- Burano



Florence rests along the Arno River and is the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance.

Experience the vast legacies of Venice, Florence and Rome. Study the architecture of Venice's picture-perfect palaces and imagine the centuries-old culture that is still visible in this water wonderland. Discover how Florence's Renaissance introduced the world to opera, artistic genius and Machiavellian politics. In the Eternal City, encounter the enduring influence of emperors and popes who shaped the course of world history.

Day 1 Flight

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

Day 2 Rome

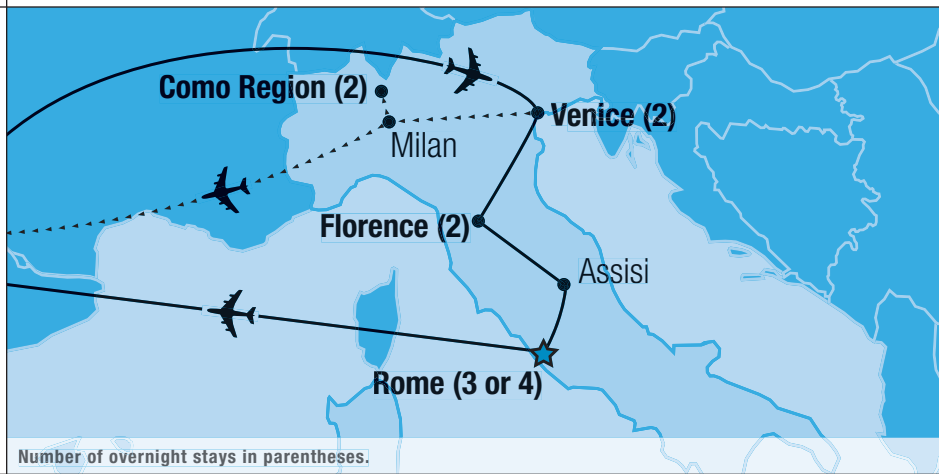
Arrival in Rome • Arrive in *bella Roma*, the Eternal City. Here, Charlemagne was crowned by the pope in A.D. 800. After clearing customs, meet your EF Tour Director, who will accompany you to your hotel.

Day 3 Rome

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 as 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.

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.



Italy abounds with vibrant culture and rich traditions!

Day 4 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.

Day 5 Florence

Transfer via Assisi to Florence • En route to Florence, stop in Assisi, birthplace of both St. Francis and St. Clare. Wander through this city, nestled between Mount Subasio and fields of olive groves, which draws millions of tourists every year with its religious significance and some of Italy's finest early Renaissance art. At the Basilica of St. Francis, follow the life of one of Italy's most beloved saints through Giotto's frescoes. Then continue on to Florence.

Arrival in Florence • Arrive in Florence, birthplace of the Italian language, the Renaissance and opera.

Day 6 Florence

Guided tour of Florence • Fall under the spell of the powerful Medici family on today's tour, guided by a local expert. 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 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 Baptistry opposite the Duomo. Later, watch artisans at work at a local leather-making demonstration.

Visit to the Accademia • Admire Michelangelo's original statue of *David* inside Florence's acclaimed Accademia Museum. The museum also houses the artist's four famous unfinished statues, the *Prisoners*, as well as hundreds of busts created by Michelangelo's contemporaries.

Day 7 Venice

Transfer to Venice via Bologna • Visit Bologna today, one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Europe. Known for such culinary contributions as Bolognese sauce and cured meats, Bologna is also home to the oldest university in the western world. On your guided visit of Bologna, stop at the University of Bologna, founded in 1088. You'll also see the Piazza Maggiore, Basilica of San Petronio, Palazzo Comunale and Torre degli Asinelli, two towers which serve as a symbol of the city.

Day 8 Venice

Guided sightseeing in Venice • Begin your tour 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.

Visit to the Doge's Palace • Visit the famous 14th-century pink and white Doge's 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. Venice is also famous for its glassware—you'll see why during a glass-blowing demonstration.

Optional Excursion to Burano • This evening, enjoy dinner and explore the island of Burano, located at the northern end of the Venetian Lagoon near Torcello and a 40-minute watertaxi trip to Venice. Known for its exquisite lace, Burano is also known for its small, brightly colored houses. These houses are popular with artists and with fishermen—who spot the colored houses from sea and can then distinguish land through the fog. Other attractions in Burano include the Church of San Martino, the Oratorio di Santa Barbara and the Museum and School of Lacemaking.

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 Como • Milan

Extension to Como and Milan • Alternatively, your group can extend its stay two days.

Guided sightseeing of Milan • Explore Milan, a thriving metropolis and center of business and fashion. Historic yet increasingly modern, the city has been ravaged by war and total or partial destruction following armed conflicts in 539, 1157 and 1944. For that reason, Milan's vast antiquity has been reduced, and the city has developed into a cutting-edge metropolis, famous for its chic fashion, nightlife, arts and technology.

gy. On a guided sightseeing tour, view the masterpieces that managed (some say, miraculously) to survive the modern era: the Gothic Duomo and La Scala Opera House.

Day 10 Como

Lake Como cruise • Transfer to the region of Lake Como, probably the best known of Italy's lakes due to its mountain views and magnificent villas. A boat cruise around Lago di Como brings you up close to the pristine beauty of this northern Italian lake. At 1,350 feet, it is the deepest lake in Europe. Surrounded by the Swiss Alps to the north and the Italian Alps to the east and west, the lake stretches for 30 miles and splits into three parts at Bellagio, the centro di lago, or center of the lake. Spend a few hours cruising north to Colico, stopping in small lake-side towns along the way. Later, disembark back in Como.

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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