



Rome, Florence & Venice

Rome

Rome, the “Eternal City” is one of the oldest cities in the world. It is a place of pleasure, romance and utter amazement. The streets are filled with quaint cafes, busy family-owned restaurants and sidewalk espresso and gelato bars. The shopping is endless as well as the changing exhibits, festivals and of course the food!

Today, Rome is a modern, cosmopolitan city, and one of the most widely visited tourist destinations in all of Europe. Due to its influence in politics, media, the arts and culture, Rome has been described as a global city, and as one of the few major European cities that escaped World War II relatively unscathed, Central Rome remains essentially Renaissance and Baroque in character. The historic center of Rome is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, hosting leaders of industry, scholars, entertainment icons and world political figures alike.

Dining in Rome is simply incredible, and the city enjoys an eclectic, vibrant nightlife. “Do as the Romans,” as they say; you may find yourself reveling in the incredible bars, clubs and dancehalls throughout the city well into the night!



Rome

Renaissance Rome

This tour takes place at the Piazza della Repubblica, once called Piazza Esedra, located in front of Diocleziano Baths. The square hosts the famous Naiad's Fountain, founded in 1901 by Mario Rutelli. The tour continues with a stroll toward the historical center, where you will visit the Trevi Fountain, a famous Roman landmark. The water movement is audible in the nearby streets as you approach the Piazza, and exalts nature's constant flow in its dynamic effects. Next, your guide will take you to Piazza Colonna, whose name is derived from the marble column of Marco Aurelio, and has been sheltered in the piazza since ancient times. The north side of the square hosts Palazzo Chigi, which is now a seat of the Italian government, and on the east side you can admire the Galleria Colonna. Continue toward the Pantheon, originally built as a temple dedicated to the seven deities of the seven planets of Ancient Rome. You will continue to the Piazza Navona, which follows the plan of an ancient Roman circus. The 1st century stadium of Domitian Piazza Navona is the pride of Baroque Rome and shelters numerous sculptural and architectural creations, such as the famous Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi by Gian Lorenzo Bernini. The tour will then take you to Piazza di Spagna (Spanish Steps) and the Trinita' dei Monti steps, located in one of the most famous squares in the entire world. The square hosts the peculiar fountain of Barcaccia, which is a masterpiece by Pietro Bernini, father of Gian Lorenzo Bernini.



St. Peter's Cathedral, Sistine Chapel & Vatican Museum

Visit the Vatican Museums with your personal guide who will explain to you the entire setup and history of Vatican City. Your tour will include an explanation of Roman sculpture, the Tapestry Gallery, the Geographical Maps gallery and the Sistine Chapel. Your tour continues with a visit to St. Peter's Basilica highlighting the Pieta, the lateral altars, the apse with the Glory of the Holy Spirit, the allegorical throne of St. Peter's, the main Canopy by Bernini, the memorial to Pope Alexander VII by Bernini, the oldest memorial in the Church by Pollaiuolo, the Memorial to Pope Johannes XXIII, the Memorial to the Stuarts family, the mummified bodies of the beatified and canonized Popes and the Baptismal Fountain.

Rome

Colosseum

The imposing Colosseum, is an iconic symbol of Imperial Rome and probably the most impressive building of the Imperial-era! The Colosseum is an elliptical amphitheatre, the largest ever built in the Roman Empire. It is one of the greatest works of Roman architecture and Roman engineering. Originally capable of seating around 80,000 spectators the Colosseum was used for gladiatorial contests and public spectacles, including mock sea battles, animal hunts, executions, re-enactments of famous battles and dramas based on Classical mythology.



Roman Forum

The Roman Forum (Forum Romanum) was the political and economical centre of Rome during the Republic. The importance of the Forum area is indicated by the presence of many of the central political, religious and judicial buildings in Rome. The Regia was the residence of the kings, and later of the rex sacrorum and pontifex maximus; the Curia, was the meeting place of the Senate; and the Comitium and the Rostra, where public meetings were held. Major temples and sanctuaries in the Forum include the Temple of Castor and Pollux, the Temple of Saturn and the Temple of Vesta. Commercial and judicial activities took place in the basilicas, the two remaining are the Basilica Aemilia and the Basilica Julia. Through the evocative ruins of the Forum, you will have a chance to learn from your guide, the history, antidotes, lectures on social and political life of Rome, from its origin to the glorious days of the Great Roman Empire.

Florence

Florence is a city of art and architecture with striking buildings, formidable galleries and treasure filled churches, cathedrals and basilicas. Up close, Florence is one of Italy's most atmospheric and pleasant cities. Although the city is very modern, it has maintained a strong resemblance to the late, medieval century that contributed so much to the artistic and political development of Europe, known as the Renaissance period. It is the capital of the Tuscan region and offers unlimited activities for those who visit. Like most great cities, Florence is built around a great river. The Arno River bridges are some of the loveliest in the entire world. With endless museums, boutiques, restaurants, cafes, and wine bars, Florence is a destination for the young at heart, the outdoor adventurer and those who appreciate art and history, including the fine art of wine.



Tuscany-Siena

SIENA

Siena is one of Italy's most captivating cities, with its concentration of medieval and gothic architecture and charming small town appeal. Located in Tuscany, about an hour south of Florence, Siena offers a treasure trove of art and architecture to the culture fanatic, and fabulous food and wine for gourmet travelers. Siena's cuisine is pure and simple, yet distinguished by the excellence of its fresh ingredients. The streets in Siena are lined with fabulous restaurants and cozy cafés.

The mystery associated with Siena stems from medieval times, and romance is felt by all who encounter this rugged, yet beautiful land. Siena and the surrounding towns offer a market for arts and crafts of quality and tradition. Glass making, ceramics, fine antique furniture and hand painted silk clothing are just a few of the treasures that originate from this artistic area. In just about every part of Siena, fountains can be found. The fountains were originally created to protect "Good" water, and were used for drinking, cooking and agricultural purposes.

Surrounded by olive groves and vineyards, Siena is an icon for food and wine. All dishes include handcrafted olive oil and are accompanied with the finest of all Italian wines, which come from the famous wine regions such as Montepulciano and San Gimignano. Boutiques, markets, and specialty stores are also in abundance and are located on every street corner.



San Gimignano & Assisi



SAN GIMIGNANO

San Gimignano is a small, fortified hill town located within close proximity to Siena. Mainly famous for its medieval architecture, especially its towers, the town is also well-known for its white wine Vernaccia di San Gimignano which is grown in the area. While in other cities, such as Bologna or Florence, most or all of their towers have been brought down due to wars, catastrophes, or urban renewal, but San Gimignano has managed to conserve fourteen towers of varying height which have become its international symbol. The town contains four squares and houses two famous churches: the Collegiata, formerly a cathedral, and Sant'Agostino, which houses a wide representation of artwork from some of the most renowned Italian Renaissance artists.

ASSISI

The town of Assisi, with its Roman ruins, winding medieval streets and sacred shrines, has been a major Catholic pilgrimage destination for centuries and is today one of the most popular tourist destinations in Italy. Although Assisi has only about 3,000 inhabitants, 4 to 5 million pilgrims and tourists visit the small town each year. Your private guide will give you a tour of the sites that make this small town famous: the Saint Francis Basilica that is filled with spectacular frescoes by Giotto; the Saint Claire Basilica; and the Santa Maria degli Angeli Basilica that houses the Portiuncula.





Venice

Venice is one of the most enchanting cities on earth. Its Grand Canal is one of the most beautiful thoroughfares in the world. It is a place where light and water create a magical restlessness. Venice is the capital of Veneto and is made up of over a hundred Islands. It is a city that is known for its pristine glassworks, its famous Rialto Market and the winding streets of its Labyrinth district that is filled with fascinating shops and charming cafes. Venice is rich in history making the many museums, basilicas, churches and palaces a must activity for all who visit. It is also home to many famous personalities and trendsetters. Venetian cuisine is cherished throughout the world as well as its wines like the beloved Soave. It is not only a city of fantasy and freedom, it is also a city of pleasure and joy.

Padua

Padua is a city in Northern Italy's Veneto region. A romantic city of arcaded streets, Padua has long been one of the major cultural centers of northern Italy. Its university, founded in 1222 and Italy's second oldest, attracted such cultural icons as Dante (1265–1321), Petrarch (1304–74), and Galileo Galilei (1564–1642), thus earning the city the sobriquet La Dotta (The Learned). Padua's Basilica di Sant'Antonio, begun around 1238, attracts droves of pilgrims, especially on his feast day, June 13. Three great artists—Giotto (1266–1337), Donatello (circa 1386–1466), and Mantegna (1431–1506)—left significant works in Padua, with Giotto's Scrovegni Chapel being one of the best-known, and most meticulously preserved, works of art in the country.





Doge Palace

A masterpiece of Gothic architecture, the Doge's Palace is an impressive structure composed of layers of building elements and ornamentation, from its 14th and 15th century original foundations to the significant Renaissance and opulent Mannerist adjunctions. The structure is made up of three large blocks, incorporating previous constructions. The wing towards the St. Mark's Basin is the oldest, rebuilt from 1340 onwards. The wing towards St. Mark's Square was built in its present form from 1424 onwards. The canal-side wing, housing the Doge's apartments and many government offices, dates from the Renaissance and was built between 1483 and 1565.

St. Marks Square

Piazza San Marco, or Saint Mark's Square, is the largest and most important square in Venice. Being the widest swath of flat, open land in the water-bound city, it has long been a popular meeting place for Venetians and visitors alike. The Piazza's rectangle design was once a showcase for the city's aristocracy and is most impressive from its sea approach – a reminder of Venice's centuries-old legacy as a powerful maritime republic.

Called "the drawing room of Europe" (a quote attributed to Napoleon), Saint Mark's Square was named after the unusual and stunning Basilica of the same name that dominates the east end of the square. The slender Campanile di San Marco, the Basilica's bell tower, is one of the square's most recognizable landmarks.





Burano

Picturesque Burano is known for its brightly colored fishermen's houses and its casual eateries serving seafood from the lagoon. The Museo del Merletto has exhibits on the development of lace-making in the area, and shops sell lace products like linens and clothes, as well as the local butter cookies called "bussolai buranei." The ancient Chiesa di San Martino has a leaning 17th-century bell tower.

Murano

The island of Murano is renowned for its long tradition of glass-making. Ferry-loads of visitors come to explore the Museo del Vetro, which tells the story of glass through the centuries, and to shop for locally crafted souvenirs. Built in the Romanesque style, the Church of Santa Maria and San Donato has a colorful mosaic floor and supposedly houses the bones of a slain dragon.



Itinerary

Day One - Friday, 15 September 2023

Transfer from FCO Rome Airport to hotel in Rome with private bus and Tour Escort.

Lunch on your own

PM at leisure

Welcome dinner at local restaurant

Overnight at a 4 star hotel in Rome

Day Two - Saturday, 16 September 2023

Breakfast included at hotel

Half day Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica with private bus and Tour Escort.

Includes : Bus service, English local guide, Vatican Museums tickets and headsets.

Description : Visit of the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel with its magnificent fresco of the Last Judgement by Michelangelo, and St. Peter's Basilica centre of the Christianity, housing the famous masterpiece of art "La Pietà" by Michelangelo.

Remainder of day at your leisure

Overnight at a 4 star hotel in Rome

Day Three - Sunday, 17 September 2023

Breakfast included at hotel

Full day Renaissance and Imperial Rome Tour with private bus and Tour Escort.

Includes : Bus service, English local guide, Colosseum tickets and headsets.

Description : Visit the imposing Colosseum, the Roman Forum with its well preserved ruins, Piazza Venezia with the monument dedicated to the unknown soldier and the Capitol Hill designed by Michelangelo.

Lunch on your own

After lunch, visit of Spanish Steps and the elegant shops, Trevi Fountain to throw a coin inside as tradition, the Pantheon housing the tombs of the Kings of Italy, and Piazza Navona with its beautiful fountains.

Dinner on your own

Overnight at a 4 star hotel in Rome



Itinerary

Day Four - Monday, 18 September 2023

Breakfast included at hotel

Transfer from Rome to Florence with private bus and Tour Escort.

Stop at Assisi for the visit of St. Francis Basilica.

Assisi : The pink stone town of Assisi is the home of the Umbrian mysticism. The outstanding figures of the two local saints, Francis and Clare, intertwine with the artworks of the most famous painters of the Middle Ages.

Lunch on your own

After lunch board your bus and continue your journey to Florence.

Dinner on your own

Overnight in a 4 star hotel in Florence

Day Five - Tuesday, 19 September 2023

Breakfast included at hotel

Walking tour of Florence with visit of Accademia Museums.

Included : English local guide, Accademia Museums tickets and headsets.

Description : Orientation tour of Florence with local guide visiting the Academy of Fine Arts with the original David's Statue, the Duomo, the Baptistery, Giotto's Bell Tower, the Gates of Paradise doors and the beautiful Signoria Square.

Lunch on your own

PM at leisure

Dinner on your own

Overnight in a 4 star hotel in Florence



Itinerary

Day Six - Wednesday, 20 September 2023

Breakfast included at hotel

Full day excursion with San Gimignano and Siena Tour with private bus and Tour Escort

Included : Bus service, lunch at winery, English local guide and headsets.

Description : Strolling with your Tour Escort through the medieval narrow streets of San Gimignano also called the city of the 100 Towers, magnificent Tuscan hill town completely enclosed within stone walls. When you'll arrive in San Gimignano and walk through the ancient gates, you'll think the time had stopped many centuries ago.

Lunch at winery

Description : Visit Siena with local guide including the medieval town famous for the Palio, the beautiful coloured annual horse race in medieval costumes, Piazza del Campo the place of the Palio, the Mangia's Tower, the narrow streets and the Duomo.

At the end of the tour drive back to Florence.

Day Seven - Thursday, 21 September 2023

Breakfast included at hotel

Transfer from Florence to Venice with private bus and Tour Escort.

Stop in Padua for the visit Basilica of Sant'Antonio.

Lunch at local restaurant

After lunch, continue to Venice for your transfer by motorboat to your hotel.

Rest of the day at leisure

Dinner on your own

Overnight at a 4 star hotel in Venice



Itinerary

Day Eight - Friday, 22 September 2023

Breakfast included at hotel

Walking tour of Venice with visit of the Doge's Palace.

Includes : English local guide, Doge's Palace tickets and headsets.

Description : Visit of St. Mark Square, the Basilica of St. Mark with its Byzantine character, the Doge's Palace symbol of the Venetian civilisation, the Bridge of Sights and the Prisons.

Lunch on your own

PM at leisure

Farewell Dinner at local restaurant

Overnight at a 4 star hotel in Venice

Day Nine - Saturday, 23 September 2023

Breakfast included at hotel

Visit of Burano and Torcello with boat and tour escort.

Description : First stop is Murano Island famous for the Glass Blowing factories, see a demonstration how the Murano glass is product. Continue your journey to Torcello Island to visit the monumental complex of the Basilica of Santa Maria Assunta with its beautiful Byzantine/Roman mosaics.

Lunch on your own

PM at leisure

Dinner at leisure

Overnight in a 4 star hotel in Venice

Day Ten - Sunday, 24 September 2023

Breakfast included at hotel

Transfer from hotel to Venice Airport by private boat and Tour Escort.

End of services.



Inclusions:

- Breakfast daily throughout stay
- Private airport transfer from Rome airport
- 3 nights - Rome/4 star hotel-classic accommodations
- Half day tour of the Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel, St. Peters Basilica, Colosseum and ancient Rome with local professional
- Entry fees to historic sites
- Full day tour of Renaissance and ancient Rome with local professional English speaking guide and driver
- Welcome dinner in Rome
- Transfer from Rome to Florence with private bus and tour escort
- 3 nights - Florence/4 star hotel-classic accommodations
- Stop at Assisi and St. Francis Basilica
- Walking tour of Florence with visit of Accademia Museums with English speaking local guide
- Museum tickets and headsets
- Full day excursion of San Gimignano & Siena with private bus and tour escort
- Lunch at winery
- Transfer from Florence to Venice with private bus and tour escort
- Stop in Padua for a visit of Basilica of Sant'Antonio
- Lunch at a local restaurant
- Water transfer by motorboat to your hotel
- 3 nights in 4 star hotel in Venice
- 1/2 day walking tour of Venice with stop at Doge's Palace
- Dinner at a local restaurant in Venice
- Group tour to Venetian Islands: Murano Glassblowing and Burano Lacemaking and Torcello Island to visit the monumental
- Transfer to Venice Airport by private boat and tour escort