



GRAND TOUR OF ITALY



*Educational
Tours*



Discover the Global Classroom

10 or 12 DAYS

Grand Tour of Italy

Italy



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



This grand tour will delight your senses, from the sounds of Rome's streets to the sights along Venice's Grand Canal.

Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 8 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (10 with extension)
- European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- 6 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides:
 - Venice • Florence • Assisi • Pompeii
 - Vatican City • Rome
- 1 walking tour: Rome
- 9 visits to special attractions:
 - Doges' Palace • Glass-blowing demonstration
 - Duomo • Leather-making demonstration
 - Assisi Basilica • Roman ruins at Pompeii
 - Sistine Chapel • St. Peter's Basilica • Colosseum

OPTIONAL:

Pisa • Capri

WITH EXTENSION:

 All of the above PLUS:

- 3 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides:
 - Trastevere and Janiculum
 - Catacombs and St. Paul's Outside the Walls
 - Ostia Antica
- 3 visits to special attractions:
 - Catacombs • St. Paul's Outside the Walls • Ostia Antica

Day 1 Flight

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

Day 2 Milan • Venice

Arrival in Milan • Touch down in Milan, fashion and finance capital of Italy. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

Transfer via Verona (time permitting) •

Transfer by way of Romeo and Juliet's Verona, known for its couplets and Capulets. Here, you can see the town's Roman Arena, which dates back to the 1st century. You'll also see a bronze statue of Juliet, standing below the balcony said to be the one where Juliet called to her Romeo.

Arrival in Venice • Arrive in magical Venice, home of Marco Polo.

Day 3 Venice

Guided sightseeing of 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 more than 500 years. Venice is also famous for its glassware—you'll see why during a glass-blowing demonstration.

Visit to Doges' Palace • Visit the grand 14th-century, pink-and-white Doges' 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.

Day 4 Venice • Florence

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

Day 5 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.

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 6 Florence • Assisi

Guided sightseeing of Assisi • Stop in Assisi, where a local guide shows you the 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 artful frescoes.

Day 7 Assisi • Sorrento

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.

Arrival in Sorrento • Experience the unparalleled beauty of Italy's favorite resort, overlooking the Bay of Naples.

Day 8 Sorrento • Rome

Optional excursion to Capri • Enjoy beautiful views of the Amalfi coastline as you ferry across the Bay of Naples to the captivating and mountainous Isle of Capri. On this full-day optional excursion, you will travel by funicular to the ancient island resort of Capri, then board a cruise and take in 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, you will instead explore the scenic towns of Capri and Anacapri with your guide.

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

Day 9 Rome

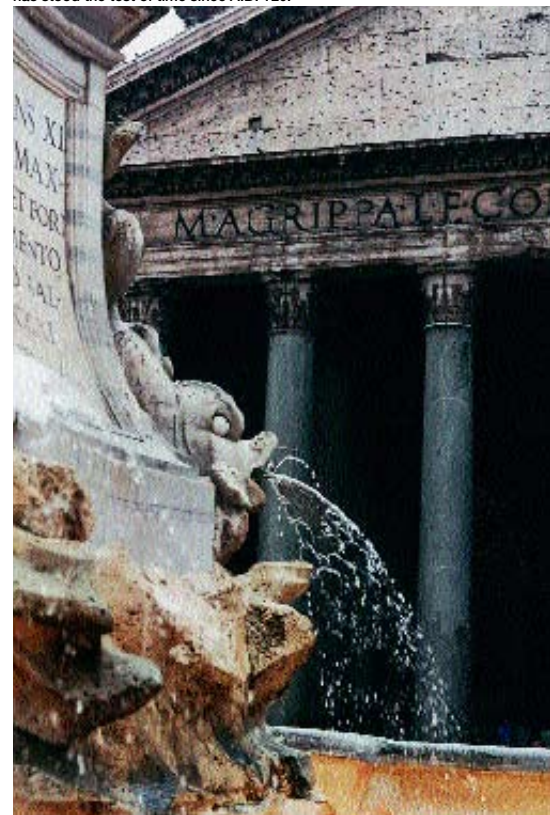
Visit to Vatican City • Today, you will explore Vatican City, the world's smallest country. Begin at the Vatican Museum, where elaborate galleries filled with one artistic masterpiece after another lead you directly to the Sistine Chapel. Between 1508 and 1512, Michelangelo painted some of the world's 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.

The Pantheon in Rome—a circular temple built to honor all the gods—has stood the test of time since A.D. 120.



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

Day 10 Rome

Guided walking tour of Trastevere and Janiculum • Enjoy a stroll through this quaint area of Rome, where the buildings snuggle against each other and the smell of garlic hangs in the air from local trattorias that set up tables along the cobblestone streets. Trastevere (Latin for "across the Tiber") is, as one would guess, just across the Tiber River and a lively hotspot for the young and hip. Check out the top of Janiculum Hill, which offers some of the best views of the city. You'll also see the memorial dedicated to those who died in the 1849 battle against the French and the water-spurting Acqua Paola, created from leftover

marble from the Roman Forum. Pass the Villa Doria Pamphili, a 1650 park, before heading to the Passeggiata del Gianicolo, where you'll hear cannon fire daily at noon.

Guided excursion to the Roman Catacombs and St. Paul Outside the Walls • Take an excursion to Rome's outlying catacombs, Christian burial grounds that date from the 2nd through 5th centuries. As you visit these mysterious burial chambers of popes and saints, keep your eyes out for early Christian art. Continue on to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, the second-largest church in the city of Rome, next to St. Peter's. On the basilica's peripheral walls hang circular portraits of each pope. There is space for only seven more portraits, and legend says the world will end once the walls fill up.

Day 11 Ostia Antica • Rome

Guided sightseeing of Ostia Antica • Today, take a half-day excursion to explore the ruins of Ostia Antica, a former Roman port city on the Tiber River. Founded in the 3rd century B.C., Ostia was the very first Roman colony. Stroll amid the ancient baths, temples and villas of this picturesque setting.

Free time in Rome • This afternoon, 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 12 Departure

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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Educational Tours

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(in Quebec: 1-866-750-2550)**