



## Day 1: Fly to Italy

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Rome.

## Day 2: Rome

**Arrive in Rome:** Welcome to Rome. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore the city on your own. Your professor may also use this time to focus on coursework. This evening, get to know your tour group over a special pizza dinner.

## Day 3: Rome

**Sightseeing tour of Rome:** Today, walk through the Colosseum, the world's most famous arena. Here, you can almost hear the stamping feet of the crowds gathered for gladiatorial combat. Nearby, the ruins of the Roman Forum mark the former heart of the Roman Empire. Julius Caesar gave many of his political speeches on this site.

**Rome on foot:** On your self-guided walking tour, view the Pantheon, built to honor all the gods of Rome. Continue to the grand Piazza Navona and the Spanish Steps, Europe's widest staircase. Before you say "arrivederci," toss a coin into the Trevi Fountain to ensure a return trip to the Eternal City.

☛ **Fraschetta dinner:** The tradition of the frascetta goes back to the medieval times of Rome, and were essentially pit stops full of wine for travelers on the way from the countryside to the capital. They have remained nearly unchanged in their rustic and hospitable nature, but today patrons are also treated to generous servings of artisanal cheeses, olives and thick cuts of porchetta—whose savory fame has spread as far as Brooklyn but originates in the town of Ariccia.

## Day 4: Rome

**Free day in Rome:** Rome is yours to explore. You're free to catch up on coursework, take in some extra sightseeing or simply relax with friends. Don't miss out on the chance to sample some of the city's delectable gelato—ask your Tour Director for recommendations.

☛ **Pompeii:** Gain unparalleled insight into the lives of the ancient Roman elite on a journey into the past. Buried in volcanic ash in 79 A.D., the former resort town of Pompeii is now fully excavated and, uniquely preserved as it was, one of the world's richest archeological sites. After a guided tour, enjoy an included lunch and free time before returning to Rome for dinner. Be sure to bring along some comfortable walking shoes.

## Day 5: Rome | Night Train

**Sightseeing tour of Vatican City:** On your sightseeing tour, look for the papal protectors who flank the entrance to St. Peter's Basilica—they're the highly trained soldiers of the Vatican City's Pontifical Swiss Guard. Inside, pass under gilded archways before visiting the saint's tomb. Experience Michelangelo's breathtaking frescos at the Sistine Chapel. Board a night train to Paris via Milan later this evening.

## Day 6: Paris

**Louvre:** Enter by I. M. Pei's glass pyramid, and discover the Greek, Roman and Asian antiquities, as well as precious objects from the Middle Ages, that await inside. The Louvre's massive halls are home to more than 35,000 objects; among them is Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, the *Mona Lisa*. Today, you'll get an up-close look at her beguiling smile.

**Explore Paris:** On your walking tour, head to the Latin Quarter, named because the language was once commonly spoken by the Sorbonne students that populate the area.

**Notre Dame Cathedral:** Admire Notre Dame's sculptured facade, stained-glass rose windows and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings. When you return to Paris, enjoy dinner in the Latin Quarter.

## Day 7: Paris

**Sightseeing tour of Paris:** Get a taste of Parisian style as you ride down the famous Champs-Élysées, an elegant boulevard packed with high-fashion boutiques. You'll pass by grand monuments, including the obelisk in the Place de la Concorde and the Arc de Triomphe. Next, strike a pose in front of the Eiffel Tower. When you see the lush and beautiful gardens of Les Tuileries, it's easy to forget the turbulent history of this sophisticated city. Your guide shares insight into the city's military history when you continue past Les Invalides. Also, learn about political upheaval in Paris as you pass by the Conciergerie, a palace-turned-jail for prisoners of the French Revolution, and the École Militaire, where a promising young Napoleon launched his rise to power.

☛ **Versailles:** Nobody does decadence like Louis XIV, and there's no better testament to this than Versailles. On your excursion to this lavish estate, explore the State Apartments and the magnificent Hall of Mirrors. Walk through the meticulously landscaped gardens and marvel at dozens of ornate fountains. Louis XIV hosted his royal court here to reign in their power and prevent their political rise. Those who do not go to Versailles will enjoy free time in Paris.

## Day 8: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport and check in for your return flight home.

## ☛ 2-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

### Day 8: London

**Travel to London:** Board a Eurostar train and travel to the cosmopolitan city of London.

**Explore London:** Ready to see London on foot? Stretch your legs and set out through Trafalgar Square, Covent Garden and Leicester Square on a walking tour. Then, share a traditional fish and chips dinner with your tour group this evening.

### Day 9: London

**Sightseeing tour of London:** From Big Ben to the Houses of Parliament, Great Britain's royal tradition and rich history greet you at every turn. Behold the Baroque domes and spires of St. Paul's Cathedral, the 17<sup>th</sup>-century church designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Check out the lively five-way intersection at Piccadilly Circus as well as the urban greenery of Hyde Park. You may even get a chance to witness the ceremonial Changing of the Guard. Cap off your tour beside the River Thames and snap photos of the Tower of London.

**Free time in London:** Enjoy free time to explore London on your own. Grab some friends and browse new and vintage wares at Notting Hill's Portobello Market or simply relax in one of the many green spaces the city has to offer. Alternatively, get lost in the Tate Modern's stunning collections of contemporary art.

### Day 10: Depart for home

Today, your Tour Director will assist you to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.