



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, founded in 753 BC. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore the city on your own.

Dinner: This evening, get to know your tour group over a welcome pizza dinner.

Day 3: Rome

Sightseeing tour of Rome: Walk through the Colosseum, the world's most famous arena. 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.

📍 **Opera dinner:** Tonight, you can opt to take your group to the Opera. Here you'll attend a classical presentation, while enjoying dinner.

Day 4: Rome

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.

Free time: Spend some time exploring the city at your own pace.

📍 **Caravaggio Art Tour:** Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio had a formative influence on the Baroque school of painting, and this tour visits three churches featuring the Italian artist's work. At Santa Maria del Popolo you will see the Conversion of St. Paul and The Crucifixion of St. Peter. San Luigi dei Francesi is home to the Matthew trilogy: The Calling of Saint Matthew, St. Matthew and the Angels and The Martyrdom of Saint Matthew. At Chiesa di Sant'Agostino, behold the Madonna di Loreto and learn about the artist.

Day 5: Rome | Assisi | Florence

Travel to Assisi: Head to Assisi, whose religious significance and outstanding Renaissance art draws visitors from every corner of the globe. You'll see the Basilica of St. Francis, where Giotto's painted frescoes illustrate the life of one of Italy's most beloved saints. Then, continue on to Florence.

Dinner: Tonight, enjoy a taste of Italian cuisine with a group dinner.

Day 6: Florence

Art tour of Florence: Take a tour of Florence today with an expert local guide. As the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance, Florence is home to some of the world's most exquisite art and architecture. Explore the ideas of power and patronage during the Renaissance, and discuss the social, political and artistic implications of the era.

Accademia: Admire Michelangelo's original statue of David inside Florence's acclaimed Accademia Gallery. The museum also houses the artist's four famous unfinished statues, the Prisoners.

Day 7: Florence | Night Train

Uffizi Gallery: See Botticelli's famous Birth of Venus painting up close. Study the details of Leonardo da Vinci's Annunciation in front of the masterpiece. The Uffizi is one of the oldest and most renowned museums in the world.

Night train to Paris: Board an overnight train to Paris via Milan.

Day 8: Paris

Sightseeing tour of Paris: Get a taste of Parisian style as you ride down the famous Champs-Élysées. 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. As you gaze upon the lush and beautiful gardens of Les Tuileries, it's easy to forget the turbulent history of this sophisticated city.

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

Day 9: Paris

Sightseeing tour of the Louvre: An expert guide will share insights about the artwork and artists represented at the incomparable Louvre during a guided tour for your group. 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.

Atelier visit: See where working Parisian artists draw their inspiration from on your visit to an atelier. You can find everything from potters' wheels to fashion mannequins to canvasses that stretch to the ceiling inside.

Seine River cruise: Enjoy an evening boat cruise with your group. Navigate around Paris' most famous landmarks while floating around the famous Seine River.

Day 10: Paris

Sightseeing tour of the Musée d'Orsay: Today, an expert guide will introduce you to the Musée d'Orsay. Part of this museum's draw is the building itself. Built for the 1900 Universal Exposition, the Gare d'Orsay functioned as a train station until 1939 and was converted into a museum in 1986. The museum is noted for its collection of Impressionist paintings—a walk through the upper gallery will reveal works by Monet, Renoir, Degas, Sisley and Pissarro.

📍 **Giverny or Auvers-sur-Oise (seasonal):** Join an optional half-day excursion to the village of Giverny, where impressionist painter Claude Monet lived for more than 40 years. Or head for Auvers-sur-Oise, where Vincent Van Gogh worked and resided until his death.

Day 11: Depart for home



✦ 2-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Day 11: Paris | Amsterdam

Travel to Amsterdam: Travel by high-speed train to Amsterdam.

Rijksmuseum: Spend the afternoon admiring works, including Rembrandt's *The Night Watch*, at the Dutch national museum.

Dinner: Discuss Amsterdam's art and culture over a group dinner.

Day 12: Amsterdam

Sightseeing tour of Amsterdam: A local guide will show you the Westerkerk (West Church), where Rembrandt is buried. Pass by the flower markets—Amsterdam is known for its colorful tulips. See the Koninklijk Paleis (Royal Palace), once the home of the Dutch Royal Family, before continuing to Rembrandtplein, a bustling square that comes alive at night.

Anne Frank House: Visit the Anne Frank House, where the young girl hid with her family from 1942 to 1944.

Day 13: Depart for home