



## 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, once the heart of the ancient world and now the capital of Italy. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore the city on your own.

**Dinner:** This evening, share a delicious pizza dinner with your group.

## Day 3: 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's Pontifical Swiss Guard. Inside, pass under gilded archways before visiting St. Peter's tomb. Continue on to experience the breathtaking ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. From Michelangelo's frescos to Raphael's tapestries, Pope Sixtus IV commissioned the masters of the day to cover nearly every inch of the chapel in art depicting important Biblical scenes.

**Free time:** Spend the afternoon exploring Rome on your own.

## Day 4: Rome

**Sightseeing tour of Rome:** No place integrates its past into the present quite like Rome. 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. Later, see the ruins of the Roman Forum, the former heart of the Roman Empire where Julius Caesar gave great political speeches.

**Rome on foot:** On your self-guided walking tour, visit the Pantheon, built to honor all the gods of Rome. A column of light filters in from the domed ceiling's prominent oculus. Continue to the grand city square known as the Piazza Navona and to the Spanish Steps, the widest staircase in Europe. Before you say "arrivederci," toss a coin into the Trevi Fountain to ensure a return trip to the Eternal City.

📍 **Food walking tour:** Explore the many culinary traditions and specialties of Italy on this food walking tour, stopping to savor included bites and dishes along the way.

## Day 5: Rome | Florence

**Travel to Florence:** Continue to Florence, the birthplace of the Italian language, opera, and the Renaissance.

**Sightseeing tour of Florence:** Florence is home to world-renowned works of art, including Michelangelo's statue of David and Botticelli's The Birth of Venus. As you explore the city, pass by the Duomo and the classical statues at the Piazza della Signoria. You'll also walk across the Ponte Vecchio, a medieval bridge where many of Florence's famed leather and gold artisans keep shop.

**Dinner:** Enjoy dinner with your group this evening.

## Day 6: Florence

**Accademia:** Admire Michelangelo's statue of David inside Florence's acclaimed Accademia Gallery. Explore the winding halls of busts portraying important political figures, epic heroes, and scenes from popular myths.

📍 **Pisa:** Opt to visit the city that rose to global fame by mistake. See the iconic Leaning Tower of Pisa, where Galileo is said to have performed a number of experiments involving speed, mass, and acceleration. Then, visit the oft-forgotten but strikingly beautiful Baptistery and Cathedral.

## Day 7: Florence

**Uffizi Gallery:** Take a stroll through the famous art museum. You'll get a chance to admire artwork by Botticelli, Michelangelo, Da Vinci and Raffaello, just to name a few.

**Gelato demonstration:** Discover the process of making Italian gelato alongside an expert gelato maker. Stick around after the demonstration to try some gelato yourself.

**Free time:** Explore Florence at your own pace for the rest of the day.

## Day 8: Depart for home

Today your Tour Director assists with your ride to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

## 📍 2-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

### Day 8: Siena & San Gimignano | Florence

**Travel to Siena and San Gimignano:** Take a day trip to two of Tuscany's most beloved destinations. Enjoy a guided tour through the medieval architecture of both cities. Later, visit Siena's Duomo, and its breathtaking 800 year-old architecture.

### Day 9: Florence

**Pitti Palace and Boboli Gardens:** Visit the largest museum complex in Florence, Pitti Palace. Take a stroll through the different galleries and finish in Boboli Gardens, a 500 year-old park filled with sculptures from the 16th, 17th, and 18th century."

📍 **Wines of Tuscany:** Try some of Italy's finest wines with a group wine tasting.

**Dinner:** This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner in Florence with your group.

### Day 10: Depart for home

Arrive at the airport and check in for your return flight home.