

Classics of Italy

DAY 1, Sunday - Depart USA

Depart the USA for Italy. Your flight includes meals, drinks and in-flight entertainment

DAY 2, Monday - Arrive in Venice

Arrive in Venice and transfer to your hotel. Balance of the day at leisure. This evening, enjoy an orientation meeting with your tour escort, followed by a welcome dinner.

Overnight: Venice

Meals: Dinner

DAY 3, Tuesday - Tour Venice

Today begins with a boat ride to the Island of Murano, known throughout the world for its glass manufacturing industry. Visit St. Mark's Square to begin a guided walking tour of romantic Venice. View the Golden Basilica of San Marco, the Bridge of Sighs and visit the Doge's Palace, whose facade features a massive late-Gothic gate, known as the Porta della Carta. Take the remainder of the day to explore Venice on your own.

Optionals: Gondola Tour (PM)

Overnight: Venice

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4, Wednesday - Venice, Pisa, Florence

Travel through the stunning panorama of Tuscany to Pisa. On arrival, view the famous Piazza del Miracoli with its Leaning Tower, the Baptistery, the Duomo, and the Monumental Cemetery. The four monuments of this extraordinary piazza make for a unique architectural blend of Romanesque and Gothic styles. En route to Florence, visit a local Tuscan farm in the countryside for a wine tasting with local specialties.

Overnight: Florence

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5, Thursday - Tour Florence

Today's morning tour begins with a visit to the Accademia of Fine Arts, where Michelangelo's David is housed. Walk to the Duomo, celebrated for its magnificent dome designed by Brunelleschi, and view the Baptistery's renowned "Gates of Paradise" by Ghiberti. Continue to explore the open air art museum of Signoria Square ending at Ponte Vecchio, known as the "Old Bridge." Enjoy the afternoon at leisure in Florence.

Optionals: Tuscan Evening with Dinner

Overnight: Florence

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6, Friday - Florence, Assisi, Rome

Today travel along the famous "Sun Route" motorway to the medieval the city of Assisi, world-known for its 13th century Basilica of St. Francis and Giotto's frescoes. Continue to Rome.

Overnight: Rome

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7, Saturday - Tour Vatican Museum

Today begins with the visit to the Vatican Museums and Michelangelo's breathtaking Sistine Chapel. Stroll through St. Peter's Square, passing Bernini's famous colonnade, to visit St. Peter's Basilica, where you will view Michelangelo's Pieta. This highly-finished marble sculpture depicts the body of Jesus in the arms of Mary after the Crucifixion, and was created for the funeral monument of French cardinal Jean de Billheres. Remainder of the day at leisure.

Optionals: Dinner with Opera Singers and Illumination Drive

Overnight: Rome

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8, Sunday - Ancient Rome

This morning, a historic tour of "ancient Rome" takes you to the Roman Forum, the political center during the Roman Republic, the triumphal Arch of Constantine, the Arch of Titus and the Colosseum, the largest amphitheater built in the Roman Empire. Enjoy the balance of the day at leisure in the Eternal City.

Optionals: Walking tour of Piazzas and Fountains of Rome (PM)

Overnight: Rome

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9, Monday - Depart for the USA

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

Meals: Breakfast