



Educational Tours

GRAND TOUR OF ITALY / 2018 SAMPLE TOUR SCHEDULE

Day 1: Overnight flight to Europe

Depart North America on an overnight flight to Europe.

Day 2: Arrive in Milan | Transfer to Venice

Upon arrival at the airport the group should be prepared to wait up to 2 hours for consolidated groups to arrive.

- Morning: Transfer from Milan airport to Verona (2hrs30mins) where the Tour Director will lead the group to see Juliette's balcony and then free time for sightseeing (1hr). The stop in Verona will only be made if all groups arrive in Milan prior to 1:30PM.
- Afternoon: Depart Verona and transfer to the hotel (2hrs). Due to hotel location, the group will not see Venice today.
- Evening: Dinner at the hotel.

Day 3: Venice Sightseeing

- Morning: Early transfer by bus to the water taxi (30-45 mins) and then water taxi transfer into the city of Venice from Punta Sabbioni or Tronchetto (30 min). The group will see a glassblowing demonstration (15 mins) teaching them the history and tradition of Venetian glass. Enjoy a guided walking 1-hour walking. The walk covers some of the areas around St. Mark's and ends in the square. You will not go inside the Cathedral. After this the group will enter the Doges' Palace for a self-guided visit (30 mins). The ticket also gives the group access to Museo Correr and the Archeological Museum, both located in St. Mark's square.
- Afternoon: Enjoy a gondola ride around Venice. After this, free time to explore Venice. Note that Venice is an extremely complicated place to find your way around, even with maps. The group should be told to follow the yellow signs on the sides of buildings: "Per Rialto" and "Per San Marco" to find their way back to the designated meeting point. Late afternoon transfer back to the hotel via water-taxi (30 mins) and bus (45 mins).
- Evening: Dinner at the hotel.

Day 4: Transfer to Florence

- Morning: Depart hotel and transfer to Florence (5hrs). Upon arrival the group will have free time for lunch.
- Afternoon: Free time in Florence for the afternoon. The Tour Director can assist in getting tickets to the Accademia or the Uffizi.
- Evening: Depending upon hotel location, either go into the city center for dinner at a local restaurant (OR) eat dinner at your hotel upon check-in.

Day 5: Florence Sightseeing | *Optional Pisa*

- Morning: Depart hotel for free time in Florence or:

Add this in-depth excursion: Pisa

Transfer Florence to Pisa (1hr30mins). Guided walking tour of area around the Leaning Tower including entry into the Cathedral and Baptistery (2hrs). Return to Florence (1hr30mins) and then free time until dinner (3hrs). [It is not usually possible to get bookings to climb the tower].

- Evening: Depending upon hotel location, and number of participants in the *Optional Excursion to Pisa*, either go into the city center for dinner at a local restaurant (OR) eat dinner at your hotel.

Day 6: Transfer to Assisi | Assisi Sightseeing

- Morning: Depart the hotel to transfer to Assisi (2hrs30mins). The Tour Director will help the group get orientated in Assisi and then give free time for lunch.
- Afternoon: Meet the guide for a sightseeing of Assisi including a visit to the Basilica of St. Francis (1hrs). Free time is offered in the afternoon after the sightseeing (1-2hrs).
- Evening: Check-in at the hotel and dinner.

Day 7: Sightseeing of Pompeii on the way to Sorrento Region

- Morning: Depart hotel and transfer to Pompeii (4hrs30mins). Upon arrival free time for lunch and possibly a cameo demonstration (1hr30mins).
- Afternoon: Meet the local guide for walking tour of the ruins (2hrs). Depart Pompeii and transfer to your hotel (1hr).
- Evening: Check-in and dinner at the hotel.

Day 8: Optional Capri

- Morning: Depart hotel for free time in Sorrento or:

Add this in-depth excursion: Capri

Depart from hotel to ferry terminal in Sorrento (please note that accessing the ferry terminal requires walking approx. 10 mins down a steep hill, speak with your Tour Director in advance if this poses a challenge) and take ferry to Capri (25-45mins). The group will take a boat tour with guided commentary (1hr30mins). There are plenty of opportunities to take scenic photographs of the island. Guide leads group up into Capri Town via funicular (5mins) and will give a short walking tour (15mins) across the island to the "Garden of Augustus" where there are great views down on the Faraglioni Rocks. After this the group will have free time for lunch and shopping (2hrs). Return to the marina and take ferry back to Naples (55mins).

- Afternoon: Depart Naples and transfer to Rome (3hr30mins).
- Evening: Check-in at the hotel and dinner. If the hotel is not centrally-located, the group will not visit Rome today.

Day 9: Vatican Sightseeing | Rome Sightseeing

- Morning: Depart from the hotel and pick up the local guide for the sightseeing tour of the Vatican. The tour will include a walk through the Vatican Museums to reach the Sistine Chapel at the end and a visit to St. Peter's Basilica. Free time is given afterwards for lunch and to explore Vatican City (4hrs30mins).
- Afternoon: Transfer by bus from the Vatican to the Colosseum for a guided visit (45mins) followed by a guided walk through the Roman Forum. The Tour Director will offer the group the opportunity to take a self-guided walking tour from the Spanish Steps or the Trevi Fountain to the Piazza Navona via the Pantheon (1hr30mins).
- Evening: Depending upon hotel location, either dinner at a local restaurant (OR) eat dinner at your hotel.

Day 10: Transfer to Rome airport

The Rome airport is 1 hour from hotel.

2-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Day 10: Sightseeing of Trastevere | Sightseeing of Catacombs and St. Paul Outside the Walls

- Morning: Transfer to central Rome (1hr) and meet guide for walking tour of Trastevere and view Janiculum from the bottom (2hrs). Free time for lunch after walk.
- Afternoon: Take the bus and a local guide along the Appian Way (30mins) to one of three local catacombs for a guided visit (45mins). After tour, return to Rome to see the church St. Paul Outside the Walls (30mins).
- Evening: The bus will drop the group in central Rome near the restaurant for dinner.

**DISCLAIMER: The above is an example of how this tour may run. All times and durations are subject to change, and the order of activities may be switched or substituted as needed based on availability.*

Day 11: Visit Ostia Antica

- Morning: Transfer to Ostia Antica (1hr) and meet the guided for a tour of the ruins and free time (2hrs).
- Afternoon: Transfer back to central Rome for free time and then return to hotel.
- Evening: Dinner at the hotel.

Day 12: Transfer to Rome airport

The Rome airport is 1 hour from hotel.

TIPPING

Tour Director: 9 days * \$6/day= \$54/traveler (add \$12 for extension)

Bus Driver: 9 days * \$3/day= \$27/traveler (add \$6 for extension)

Local Guides: 6 guides * \$2/guide= \$12/traveler (add \$6 for extension)

Total recommended per traveler= \$93 (\$117 for extension)

**Suggested tipping does not include any optional excursions.*

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