

# 9 DAYS - ITALIAN EXPERIENCE

## Lose yourself in the beauty of Tuscany

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Welcome to Rome

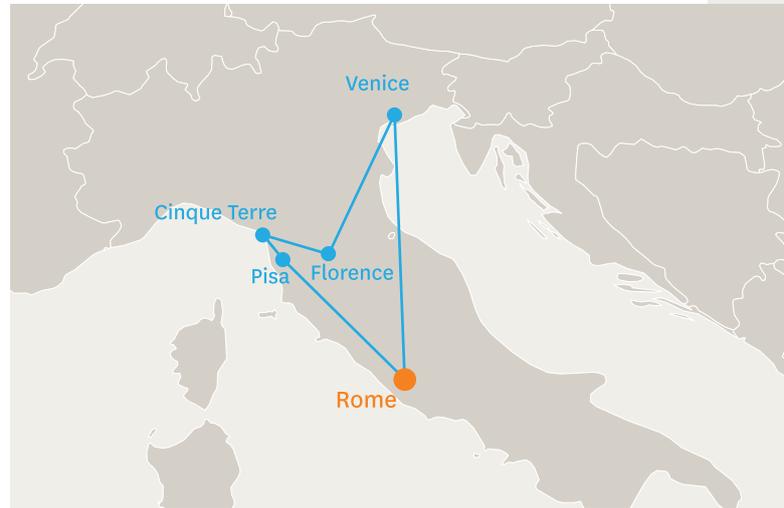
Welcome to Rome! The first day of the tour is an arrivals day: meet up with your tour guide at our accommodation in the afternoon and prepare for the tour of a lifetime! If you arrive early, head into the city and see some of the sites that make Rome famous the world over. An ancient city that has seen the rise and fall of entire empires, there is no shortage of historical real estate to feast your eyes on. Not to mention designer shopping and brilliant food. Tonight, you'll meet the rest of the tour group at our included welcome dinner.  
Dinner.

#### Day 2: Rome

Today we'll take a guided walking tour of the city, stopping off at the landmarks that have made Rome a perennial favourite with travellers all over the world. See ancient Roman architecture, medieval buildings, Renaissance artworks and more remnants of Rome's illustrious past as capital of this incredible country – and of the Roman Empire at large. Be sure to see sightseeing highlights like the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, the Roman Forum, the Pantheon and the countless other attractions that make Rome famous the world over. Later, you'll have the option of taking a guided walking tour of the Vatican City. Marvel at glittering artworks, vast marble halls and opulent architecture – all part and parcel of the Vatican's status as the seat of papal power. Eating and drinking well is also an important part of Roman life, and as they say, 'When in Rome, do as the Romans do.' Try excellent Italian cuisine, and be sure to grab a famous Roman gelato while you're sight-seeing!  
Breakfast

#### Day 3: Rome - Venice

Leaving the capital behind, we'll drive through the region of Umbria. Known as the 'fruit bowl of Italy', it is famous for its produce, food and beautiful mountainous landscapes. Prepare for one of the most spectacular sights in Europe as we approach Orvieto, a city perched dramatically atop sheer vertical volcanic rock. We'll take the funicular up to the historic centre, where you'll have some free time to explore and see the sights, including the exquisite facade of the Cathedral of Orvieto, the papal residence and the Alborno fortress, before we travel on to Venice. We'll get a classic Venetian view from the famous Rialto Bridge on our orientation walking tour. While in Venice you also have the opportunity to board a gondola and see Venice the traditional way, try classic Venetian cuisine, visit the famous museums and art galleries and simply get the full Venetian experience!  
Breakfast, dinner



#### Day 4: Venice free day

Take the time to explore today on your free day in Venice. Marvel at this incredible city, which features more artistic masterpieces per square kilometre than any other place on earth! Speak with your tour leader for suggestions for your free day in Venice. You also have the option of joining our evening excursion to Verona, where you can see Juliet's balcony – where Juliet is said to have been wooed by Romeo in Shakespeare's most famous play – and see the ancient amphitheatre built by the Romans.  
Breakfast.

**Day 5: Venice - Florence - Tuscany**

Today, we make our way to the beautiful city of Florence, stopping along the way in Lake Garda for a photo stop. The next stop is Verona for a look at Juliet's balcony – where Juliet is said to have been wooed by Romeo. Then, we make our way to Florence for a guided walking tour. Learn more about the heritage of this city, which stretches back through the ages to encompass Renaissance artworks and Roman ruins. Sights to see in Florence include Ponte Vecchio, Palazzo Vecchio, Florence Cathedral, the Basilica of Santa Croce and of course Michelangelo's David. A cultural and political focal point during the Renaissance, Florence is endowed with a huge variety of important buildings and famous artworks. We'll then make our way to our accommodation in Tuscany.

Breakfast, Antipasto in Tuscany

**Day 6: Tuscany free day or the Cinque Terre & Pisa**

Enjoy the option of a free day today in beautiful Tuscany, where options include further time in the city of Florence or exploring the spa town of Montecatini. You also have the option of joining an optional excursion to Pisa and Cinque Terre! A highlight of any tour to Italy, you'll be able to snap photos of the legendary Leaning Tower of Pisa and explore the grounds. We will then continue on to the stunning coastal town of La Spezia, the gateway to the Cinque Terre. Cinque Terre literally means 'Five Lands' and consists of five coastal cliff-side towns linked by rail and by footpaths. On this excursion return transport via Pisa is included in your tour package, and you have the option of purchasing a pass to enter Cinque Terre.

Breakfast

**Day 7: Tuscany - Rome**

Today will give you more chance to enjoy Tuscany! We make our way through one of the world's most picturesque countryside landscapes, admiring Tuscan farmhouses, vineyards and olive groves as we drive by. We will make a stop in San Gimignano to sample local wines and antipasto, before rounding off the day with dinner when we arrive back in Rome.

Breakfast, dinner

**Day 8: Free day in Rome**

Today you will have a free day in Rome. You can enjoy the whole day shopping in one of countless boutiques and department stalls in the centre of Rome or if you are after bargains visit one of outlet malls on the outskirts of Rome. You could also take one of our optional tours and visit Naples and Pompei.

Breakfast

**Day 9: Rome**

After breakfast, our tour concludes, and it's time to say your goodbyes. Private transfer will take you from your hotel to the airport. In case you have an afternoon or late evening flight you can continue with your last-minute shopping or gallery and museum hopping. Arrivederci Italia!

Breakfast. Private airport transfer.

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 8 nights' accommodation in twin rooms. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 8 Breakfasts, 3 Dinners, 1 Antipasto in Tuscany.
- 10 included Experiences, 2 optional Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences).
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- Free Wi-Fi in hotels
- Services of your tour leader from day one till day seven, who will be on hand with advice and tips and ensure that you get the most from your trip.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days and arrival and departure days).
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

**ACCOMMODATION****ROME**

Club House Roma  
Christophoro Colombo  
Hotel American Palace  
Park Hotel Ginevra

**TUSCANY**

Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio  
Hotel Autopark  
Hotel Raffaello

**VENICE**

Hotel Centrale  
Hotel Residence Elite  
NH Venezia Congress Center  
Hotel San Guiliano  
Hotel Venezia