

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 DEPART HOME

Overnight flight to Rome

DAY 2 ARRIVE ROME (2 NIGHTS)

Welcome to Rome! After check-in, relax and unwind. Later meet with your Travel Director and fellow travellers. This evening, consider a stroll around this fascinating ancient city and mingle with the locals in beautiful squares with stunning architecture!

You will be invited to a Welcome Meeting at the hotel on group arrival day, with your Travel Director, at approximately 4.45 p.m. Please check the Bulletin Board for details.

DAY 3 ROME SIGHTSEEING AND FREE TIME

Don't miss the opportunity to join an optional excursion to the famous Sistine Chapel and Vatican Museums. Later, your expert Local Guide takes you on a sightseeing tour starting with a visit to the Vatican City and the awe-inspiring St. Peter's Basilica to view Michelangelo's statue, the Pietà. Cross the Tiber in ancient Rome and view the Forum and the mighty Colosseum. Afterwards, during free time, consider a trip to the catacombs and the medieval city walls or the Pantheon and Piazza Navona. (BB)

DAY 4 ROME – SORRENTO – BAY OF NAPLES

Today head south to the Bay of Naples. Drive to the nearby resort of Sorrento to visit an inlaid wood workshop. Then consider an optional excursion to Positano and the Amalfi Coast. Later enjoy dinner at the hotel. (BB D)

DAY 5 BAY OF NAPLES – ASSISI

Perhaps join an optional guided walking tour of Pompeii, which lay undiscovered beneath a layer of ash for centuries after Mount Vesuvius erupted in AD 79. Afterwards, leave the Bay of Naples and continue on passing by Monte Cassino, the scene of fierce fighting during the Second World War. Continue north to the mystical town of Assisi, built on the fertile slopes of Mount Subasio in Umbria. (BB D)

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DAY 6 ASSISI – VENICE (2 NIGHTS)

Your morning orientation tour of Assisi reveals a town that has changed little since the time of St. Francis, who was born here in 1182. There is time to visit the great Basilica and see the Saint's tomb. Later see the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, built on the site where St. Francis died in 1226. Your journey continues north across the dramatic Apennine Mountains to the magical, romantic city of Venice. (BB D)

DAY 7 VENICE ORIENTATION AND FREE TIME

Your day starts with a cruise by private launch to St. Mark's Square in the heart of Venice. Admire the Bridge of Sighs, the ornate Doge's Palace and the Byzantine Basilica of St. Mark. Visit a glass-blowing workshop for a demonstration of this ancient craft, which originated on the Island of Murano. Spend free time afterwards exploring this fascinating city or perhaps take a trip out across the lagoon to the Island of Burano for a relaxing seafood lunch. (BB)

DAY 8 VENICE – VERONA – ITALIAN LAKES

Head west across the plains of the Veneto to Verona, the home of Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers. View the vast Roman Arena, where concerts are still held regularly each year, and walk to view Juliet's balcony. Continue north to the Italian lake district to visit Lake Como, a favoured summer retreat of the rich and famous, before arriving at your hotel where you dine tonight. (BB D)

DAY 9 ITALIAN LAKES – PISA – FLORENCE

Journey south and cross the Apennines en route to the coast, past the historic port of Genoa. Follow the coastline, with marvellous views of the marble quarries at Carrara, whose marble has been used since the time of ancient Rome, and is still sought after today. In Pisa, explore the Square of Miracles, featuring the Leaning Tower, Cathedral and Baptistery. There is time to shop for souvenirs and take pictures! Arrive later in Florence, birthplace of the Renaissance. (BB)

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DAY 10 FLORENCE SIGHTSEEING – ROME

There are few cities in the world with an artistic legacy to equal that of Florence. Your expert Local Guide gives a superb commentary of the city's history during your walking tour, which includes the Baptistery, Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, the impressive Giotto's Bell Tower, and Piazza Signoria. Experience a demonstration of fine leatherwork with time to explore on your own. Shop for high quality leather and 18-carat gold jewellery, for which Florence is renowned and don't forget to try the ice cream! This evening in Rome you might like to celebrate the end of your holiday in style! (BB)

DAY 11 ROME – HOME

This morning, say 'arrivederci' to Italy, your Travel Director and newfound friends at the end of an unforgettable holiday. Transfers available to Rome Fiumicino Airport. Conditions apply. (BB)

Meal plans: In cities with more than one-night stay meal plans may vary sometimes from one night to the other.

BB = Buffet breakfast

D = Dinner

see the world from the inside

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OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

To complement your itinerary, we have pleasure in offering you a list of Optional Excursions. A selection of those listed below will be offered to you by your Travel Director at the beginning of your trip. Some details may be subject to change, depending on the time you are travelling or local circumstances including weather and days of the week. Further information will be provided by your Travel Director. Payment for Optional Excursions can be made in cash, or by Visa, Mastercard and American Express. Please note that credit/debit cards can only be processed in Euros, however cash can be accepted in most major currencies. **Please be sure to advise your credit card provider that you will be travelling in Europe, before you leave home. Optional credit card payments are processed through a bank in the United Kingdom.**

BUDGETING: To help you with your budgeting we suggest you allow approximately Euro 60 per person per day for optional excursions. Prices are correct at the time of going to press.

ROME

ROMT40 INTRODUCTION TO ROME BY NIGHT

A superb drive through Rome, seeing some of the most impressive sights that this city has to offer. Afterwards with our licensed local guide we will stroll to beautiful Piazza Navona with its fountains, trattorias and outside cafes, followed by a visit to Piazza Venezia to see the Capitoline Hill and Mussolini's headquarters during WWII (Palazzo Venezia)EURO 33

ROMT22 ROMAN HIGHLIGHTS WITH THE COLOSSEUM*

An extension to the included sightseeing tour which allows us to admire the artistic masterpieces collected and commissioned by the Popes and displayed in the Vatican Museums. See the famous Tapestry Gallery and Gallery of Maps then finally wonder at the masterpieces in the Sistine Chapel. Take your time - Michelangelo spent 11 years in the preparation of the vault and altar wall! Our visit will be enhanced by the effective use of our excellent audio system. Later we will enjoy an interior visit of the Colosseum, scene of many gladiatorial combats.EURO 71

*This optional involves reservation and entrance pre-payments. Cancellation within 24 hours will incur a 50% cancellation fee.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

ROME CONT'D

ROMT18 ROME BY NIGHT AND LIGHT DINNER

An easy evening getting to know Rome and some of its main sights by coach. Followed by a delicious light dinner of Italian specialities. Music and Drinks includedEURO 47

ROMT04 ROMAN EVENING WITH DINNER

A light hearted evening in Rome. We will relax and enjoy a typical Italian meal (drinks included), while live musicians entertain us. To complete our evening, we will drive along the Via Veneto, a location made famous by the film 'La Dolce Vita' and see how the Romans enjoy their city. A wonderful end to our day.EURO 59

SORRENTO

SRRT08 POSITANO AND THE AMALFI DRIVE **

Using private mini-buses, we drive along the famous Amalfi Coast in order to visit the exclusive artists' paradise of Positano, magnificently positioned on the Mediterranean coast.EURO 40

SRRT04 POMPEII

A guided tour of the excavations of Pompeii, the perfectly preserved Roman town which was engulfed by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79. A unique opportunity to glimpse a moment of Roman everyday life, frozen for over 2000 years.EURO 36

VENICE

VCEIT87 VENETIAN MAGIC

An unforgettable introduction to this unique and magical city! We cruise along the Grand Canal by private water taxi, admiring the magnificent and elegant palazzos. We see the Rialto Bridge and then reach 'the most beautiful outdoor drawing room in the world', St Mark's Square. Later during your Gondola Ride, you will glide along the picturesque smaller canals, sipping Italian champagne while a duo of musicians entertains.EURO 68

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

VENICE CONT'D

VCET02 LAGOON CRUISE WITH LUNCH OR DINNER

Take some time off the beaten track! We are taken by private boat to the nearby islands in the lagoon of Venice. See the island of Murano and the Hermitage of San Francesco del Deserto. Lunch or dinner is taken at the island of the 'fisherman' - Burano - a photographer's paradise. Drinks are also included.EURO 67

VCET14 MAJESTIC VENICE

Explore hidden parts of the maze of streets which make up this unique city. Your local guide will give you fascinating insights into Venice's past and present, through the eyes of a local. A visit to the majestic basilica of Saint Mark reveals some of its treasures, as well as amazing views from the terrace.EURO 35

COMO

COMT01 VILLAS OF LAKE COMO

We drive along the shores of Lake Como. Here we board our private launch for a leisurely cruise past the most elegant villas and gardens of this region - arguably the most beautiful spot in the Italian Lake District.EURO 37

FLORENCE

You will be offered one of the following two evening optionals while in Florence.

FLOT12 FLORENTINE DINNER WITH ENTERTAINMENT

Sample the flavours of medieval Florence, during an evening of good food and music at a distinctive historic venue. (Subject to availability).EURO 67

FLOT03 LUNCH OR DINNER, WINE AND MUSIC IN THE TUSCAN HILLS

Take a scenic drive through the beautiful Tuscan countryside to a delightful regional restaurant set among the pines and cypress trees. Here a feast of gastronomic specialities awaits, accompanied by song and music.EURO 60

FLOT01 JEWELS OF THE RENAISSANCE

A guided tour of the Accademia allows us to appreciate the most controversial sculpture in Italy, Michelangelo's David. Our visit will be enhanced by the effective use of our excellent audio system.EURO 35