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Venice, Florence & Rome (9 days)

9 days | 11 days with Sorrento Peninsula extension

We've picked three iconic cities at the pulse of Italy's vibrant culture, both past and present. Venice brings romance to the forefront, with sprawling Baroque palaces and meandering, gondola-dotted canals. The Renaissance is tangible in Florence, where the presence of the world's greatest artists can still be felt. And in Rome, history is ever-present, from the crumbling Colosseum to the Forum. The people, the food, the way of life—experience what Italy is all about as you make your way from one city to the next.



Tour Dates: September 12-20 w/ext-Sept 22, 2022

Price (quoted from Newark on 4/20/21) Use your airport
**US\$3,724 - Base tour including air (quoted from Newark) US
 \$4,303 - w/extension including air (quoted from Newark)**

Book Now at
grouptoursite.com/tours/walshvifs

Your tour package includes

- 7 nights in handpicked hotels
- 7 breakfasts
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 3 guided sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- St. Mark's Basilica
- Florence Duomo
- Ponte Vecchio
- Piazza della Repubblica
- world-famous Italian cuisine
- Colosseum
- Roman Forum

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including cobblestone streets, with few hills or stairs.

Group size

15-38

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Venice today.

Venice → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Venice

Included meals: dinner

Welcome to Italy! Transfer to your hotel and get settled in. Later, meet your fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Venice

Included meals: breakfast

Admire historic churches, winding canals, and picture-perfect piazzas on a guided tour of the city known as the Queen of the Adriatic.

- Step into the iconic St. Mark's Square and enter St. Mark's Basilica
- View the stately Doge's Palace, built in the Venetian Gothic style in 1340
- Marvel at the Bridge of Sighs, the link between Doge's Palace and the New Prison
- See a glassblowing demonstration to learn about the city's most celebrated art

Enjoy a free afternoon in Venice or add an excursion.

+ Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise

+ Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

Florence → 2 nights

Day 4: Transfer to Florence & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Cross through the Apennine Mountains as you make your way to Florence. Once you arrive, get to know the city with a local guide.

- View the legendary Florence Cathedral, known as the Duomo
- Pass Giotto's Campanile, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture
- Walk past Piazza della Repubblica to the medieval Ponte Vecchio
- Stroll along the Arno River and through the courtyard of the Uffizi Gallery to Piazza della Signoria, center of Florentine life Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 5: Free day in Florence

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in Florence or add an excursion.

+ San Gimignano: Medieval Sights & Tuscan Flavors

Rome → 3 nights

Day 6: Transfer to Rome & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast

Depart Florence for Rome, where you'll follow in the footsteps of the ancient Romans on a guided tour of the Eternal City.

- Soak up over 2,000 years of history in Imperial Rome, viewing the Arch of Constantine and the Arch of Titus
- Enter the Colosseum, the largest amphitheater of the Roman Empire
- Stop at the ruins of the Forum, once the setting of parades, elections, and trials
- Pass by Palatine Hill to see Circus Maximus, the stadium where ancient Romans raced chariots, and the Baths of Caracalla

Day 7: Free day in Rome

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in Rome or add excursions.

Please note: Iconic Sights: Vatican City excursion may be offered on day 8, depending on the day of the week. Please call for more information.

+ Iconic Sights: Vatican City

+ Rome Cooking Class & Dinner

Day 8: Free day in Rome

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Enjoy another free day to explore Rome or add an excursion.

Please note: Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs excursion may be offered on day 7, depending on the day of the week.

This evening, enjoy an elegant, four-course farewell dinner. While you dine, you'll be treated to some of opera's best-loved arias sung by professional tenors. *Please note: The opera performance is seasonal and runs from March through November. Dinner will take place at a local restaurant from December through February.*

+ Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs

Flight Home

Day 9: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home, or extend your stay to visit the Sorrento peninsula.

+ Sorrento Peninsula extension

From its perch high above the Bay of Naples, Sorrento waits to welcome you with its candy-colored villas, beautiful sea views, and food you'll be talking about for a long time. Continue on with your Tour Director to explore the Sorrento Peninsula, which is just as inviting as it sounds, and uncover history on a tour of Pompeii.

Sorrento Peninsula → 2 nights

Day 9: Sorrento Peninsula via Pompeii

Included meals: breakfast

En route to the Sorrento peninsula, stop at Pompeii for a guided walking tour of the city's ruins.

- Discover how Roman citizens lived 2,000 years ago, before Mount Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79
- View the excavated Roman ruins of theaters, villas, temples, and baths

Then, continue on to the Sorrento peninsula.

Day 10: Free day on the Sorrento Peninsula

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy free time to explore the Sorrento peninsula or add an excursion.

This evening, sip a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ Capri: A Day on the Iconic Island

Flight Home

Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the Naples airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.com/VFS | 800-597-0350

Day 3: Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise

\$69/\$79* (25 minutes, departure time varies)

More than 100 waterways crisscross Venice, and boarding a sleek black gondola to explore them has become a time-honored tradition. On this memorable excursion, join your fellow travelers for a tour through the canals of Venice. Please note: This excursion runs as weather permits. A private, two-person gondola ride is available for an additional cost.

Day 3: Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

\$159/\$169* (25 minutes, departure time varies)

More than 100 waterways crisscross Venice, and boarding a sleek black gondola to explore them has become a time-honored tradition. On this memorable excursion, you'll enjoy a private gondola cruise for two through the canals of Venice. Please note: Cost is per person and both travelers must book the excursion. This excursion runs as weather permits.

Day 5: San Gimignano: Medieval Sights & Tuscan Flavors

\$99/\$109* (6 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Travel through the beautiful Tuscan countryside to discover the medieval village of San Gimignano. During the Renaissance, the rival Guelph and Ghibelline political factions flexed their muscles by constructing tall towers throughout San Gimignano; fourteen of those towers survive today. Later, visit a local winery for a taste of the area's wines and a sample of olive oil and balsamic vinegar that you simply won't find anywhere else. Then, enjoy lasagna during a light lunch.

Day 7: Iconic Sights: Vatican City

\$109 (3.5 hours, departure time varies)

This guided tour takes you inside the world's smallest state, Vatican City. Skip the lines upon arrival, turn on your pre-distributed headsets, and immediately begin diving into the Vatican's incredible history with your local guide. First, visit the Vatican Museums, which are over 500 years old and hold many of the world's most important Classical- and Renaissance-era sculptures. Next, step inside the Sistine Chapel, where you'll gaze up at what is perhaps Michelangelo's greatest masterpiece. Finally, pay a visit to the enormous St. Peter's Basilica, the epicenter of the Roman Catholic faith. The artists who have contributed to its glory are some of the best Italy has ever known, including Bramante, Peruzzi, Raphael, and Michelangelo. Masterpieces await at every turn, from Bernini's magnificent bronze canopy to Michelangelo's Pietà. Please note: This excursion is not available on Sundays. Backpacks are not allowed in the Vatican and a dress code of no shorts or sleeveless shirts is enforced. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 35 days prior to departure.

Day 7: Rome Cooking Class & Dinner

\$85/\$95* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner

included)

Join in on this hands-on cooking class led by an experienced Italian chef. During this evening in Rome, you'll learn how to make traditional dishes such as ravioli, gnocchi, and fettuccine. Then, enjoy eating the foods you cooked during an included dinner with wine.

Day 8: Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs

\$65/\$75* (4 hours, departure time varies)

Descend into Rome's ancient catacombs, where early Christians buried saints and popes alongside commoners. A local guide will lead you through burial chambers before your visit to St. Paul's Basilica, one of the four most important basilicas of Rome, originally founded by Constantine the Great. The Basilica also houses the tomb of St. Paul. Please note: Shorts and sleeveless shirts are not permitted within the basilica. Also, this excursion involves extensive walking and may be inadvisable for claustrophobic travelers.

Extension excursion options

Day 10: Capri: A Day on the Iconic Island

\$115/\$125* (8 hours, departs in the morning)

Travel by ferry to the fabled Isle of Capri, a beloved resort since the days of the Roman Republic. Weather permitting, you'll enjoy a boat ride around the island. Later, you'll enjoy free time to discover why everyone from Roman emperors to Sophia Loren have spent their vacations in Capri. If weather prohibits a boat ride, you'll travel to the village of Anacapri, which offers stunning views of the surrounding scenery. Please note: This excursion is weather-dependent. Travelers prone to seasickness should take the proper precautions.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.com/terms