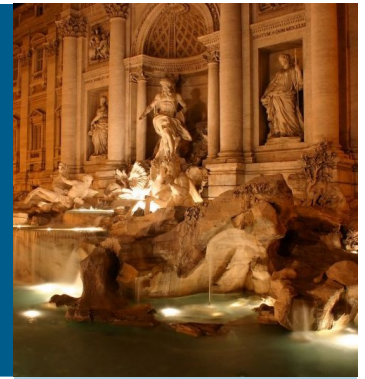


Best of Italy

10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS - INDEPENDENT TRAVEL
DEPARTS DAILY FROM ROME OR VENICE

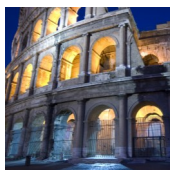


First stop, Rome, with its cozy trattorias and remnants of the famous Roman civilization, the city invites you to step back to a past that is still very much alive. Contemplate the city's rich history while devouring a plate of pasta or a slice of pizza. Continue to Italy's Renaissance capital, Florence, known for its artistic treasures, including Michelangelo's *David*. Enjoy tasty Italian gelato and a glass of Chianti, and then stop at a boutique to purchase a souvenir made from luxurious Italian leather. End your trip in Casanova's city of Venice, where getting lost along ancient stone paths is a pleasure, and it's impossible not to fall in love.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE ROME

Arrive in Rome and collect your bags. As you exit customs you will be met by a representative that will help you with your luggage and escort you to your hotel where you will stay for 4 nights. Today you are free to do what you please. Travel back in time by roaming the ancient streets of Rome. Make sure to dine in one of the fantastic local restaurants; start your trip right by indulging in some Italian cuisine that is simply *bellissimo*.



DAY 2 ~ ROME

After breakfast you will be met in the lobby of your hotel for your full-day tour. Afterwards, you will be free to spend the evening dining and relaxing as you please.

PRIVATE ESSENCE OF ROME TOUR ~ This one-day, private walking tour is a wonderful way to experience all of the city's main attractions. You will have a chance to visit the great icons of Rome, including the ancient Colosseum and Forum as well as the historic city center. After this

unforgettable view and exploration of the ancient world, you will head over to Vatican City. At the Vatican Museums, you will see and experience the museums' most famous objects of art and architecture, including the Sistine Chapel. After, you can marvel at the enormous Basilica of St. Peter, soaking in the anecdotes of popes, saints, and artists. Ending your tour in true Roman style, you will take a stroll through Rome's most beautiful squares where you will see the city's most famous monuments including the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon and Piazza Navona.



DAY 3 ~ ROME

On your second full day in Italy you will get a chance to experience the bustling city of Naples and to step back in time to explore the fascinating ruins of Pompeii. Upon your return to Rome make sure to join the Italians for a late dinner.

NAPLES AND POMPEII TOUR ~ This full-day tour will whisk you along the "Sun Route," through the beautiful regions of Lazio and Campania. Once in Naples, you will enjoy a panoramic city tour before continuing towards Pompeii. After a short

INCLUSIONS

- Private Arrival Transfer
- 4 nights Rome
- Private Essence of Rome Tour
- Naples and Pompeii Tour with lunch
- Exclusive Cooking Lesson and Grocery Tour
- 1st Class Rail
- 3 nights Florence
- Guided City Tour with Accademia and Uffizi Galleries
- Private Greve in Chianti, Verazzano Castle and Radda in Chianti Tour with Lunch
- 2 nights Venice
- Private Gondola Ride
- Absolute Venice Walking Tour
- Private Departure Transfer

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INCLUSIONS

- **Private Arrival Transfer**
- **4 nights Rome**
- **Private Essence of Rome Tour**
- **Naples and Pompeii Tour with lunch**
- **Exclusive Cooking Lesson and Grocery Tour**
- **1st Class Rail**
- **3 nights Florence**
- **Guided City Tour with Accademia and Uffizi Galleries**
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visit to a cameo factory, you will visit the excavations of this world-famous Roman town, giving you a glimpse of what everyday life was like in 79 A.D.



DAY 4 ~ ROME

After breakfast, meet your chef for an unforgettable grocery tour and cooking lesson. Following this half-day tour you will have the remainder of your day to yourself. Do your last sweep of Rome, making sure to seek out any sight that you may have missed.

EXCLUSIVE COOKING LESSON AND GROCERY TOUR~ Learn from an expert how to make flawless Italian pasta and wine pairings. First, you will be taken to the places where Romans love to go grocery shopping. Afterwards, your cooking class takes place just a few paces from the Spanish Steps in an luxury home once owned by a princess. At the end of your lesson you'll taste what you prepared and enjoy a glass of Italian wine.



DAY 5 ~ FLORENCE

After an early breakfast make your way to the Termini Station, where you will board your train to Florence. When you arrive make your way to the hotel. You are free to explore on your own for the remainder of the day. This is a great time to discover the birthplace of the Renaissance. Take a stroll along the Arno River and cross the famous Ponte Vecchio. Consider visiting the Basilica of San Lorenzo, home to The Medici Chapels, which serves as the burial ground to the most powerful family in Florentine history. Use the evening to settle in and experience exquisite Tuscan cuisine and wines. Many of the wines you will find in Florence come directly from nearby vineyards and local winemakers, so you can expect the best even if the bottle is fairly inexpensive.



DAY 6 ~ FLORENCE

Today you will experience the highlights of Florence on your full-day guided tour. This tour will give you a great overview of the rich Florentine history and will allow you to avoid the long lines at two of Florence's top museums.

GUIDED CITY TOUR WITH ACCADEMIA AND UFFIZI GALLERIES~ The best way to get to know such a multifaceted town is with a person who resides there. You will never forget the breathtaking views from Piazzale Michelangelo and Fiesole or the charming walk through the narrow Roman and Medieval streets of the Old Town. Cross the spectacular Cathedral and Signoria squares before touring the famous Accademia and Uffizi Galleries, home to the artistic treasures of Michelangelo and Raphael. Your local guide will provide you with fascinating insights into the history, architecture, painting and culture of Florence - and many otherwise hidden secrets of the city.



DAY 7 ~ FLORENCE

This morning you will be picked up at your hotel for a full-day of private touring in the Tuscany region. Take in the glorious views, and wander ancient paths through Tuscan olive groves and scented cypress woods. After a full-day of wine tasting and picture perfect landscapes, enjoy your last night in Florence. Take the time on your way back from dinner to stop by the Loggia del Mercato Nuovo to pick up some souvenirs and visit the Fontana del Procellino. Popular tradition states that rubbing the nose of the wild boar brings good luck and fortune.

PRIVATE TUSCANY TOUR WITH LUNCH~ In the morning you will be met at your hotel by your English-speaking driver for a



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full-day private Tuscany sightseeing tour including visits to Greve in Chianti, Verrazzano Castle and Radda in Chianti. This exclusive experience starts in the city of Greve in Chianti, a delightful town in one of Italy's most famous wine producing regions. You will then enjoy the splendor of the Verrazzano Castle, which is perched high on the hill overlooking the Greve Valley. Verrazzano Castle has a long tradition of winemaking and is mentioned in a manuscript dating back to 1150. Here you will enjoy a traditional Tuscan lunch, followed by wine tasting. The tour will continue to Radda in Chianti, which is a charming medieval commune. Wandering the quant streets of Radda is like taking a step back in time.



DAY 8~ VENICE

After breakfast you will pack up and head to Santa Maria Novella Station to catch your train to Venice. When you arrive on Venice Island you will make your way to your hotel. Venice is known for the beauty of its architecture and artwork, particularly its glassmaking. Tonight you will discover Venice's canals from your private gondola as your gondolier gently floats you through this exceptional city.

PRIVATE GONDOLA RIDE~ This exclusive gondola ride takes you on a romantic journey through Venice's canals. This unique viewpoint give you access to this charming atypical city, which remains one of the largest functioning cities in Europe entirely without motorcars or trucks.

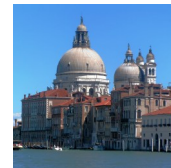


DAY 9~ VENICE

Enjoy your breakfast and then then make your way to Piazza San Marco to meet up with your guide for your half-day city sightseeing tour. This walking tour will

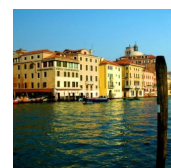
familiarize you with the highlights of this living museum, which is well known for its element of elegant decay. You will then have the rest of the day to explore the maze of meandering streets and canals. Don't worry, you can't get too lost. You're on an island and can always hire a convenient water taxi to take you back to the Grand Canal.

ABSOLUTE VENICE WALKING TOUR~ You will start with an outdoor walk through the most characteristic and important places of Venetian history. This tour includes a visit to the Doge's Palace, which for centuries was the seat of Venetian political power. You'll be surprised by the rich details of the golden staircase and by the realism of the scenes depicted by many artists who have decorated this building. You will relive the anguish of the prisoners crossing the famous Bridge of Sighs to enter the Venetian prisons, famous for hosting Giacomo Casanova. Next you will visit St Mark's Cathedral, one of the most majestic cathedrals of the world! You will have the pleasure to appreciate beautiful gold mosaics, the marble inlays of the floors, and all the particularities of this historic basilica.



DAY 10~ VENICE

After breakfast meet your transfer representative at your predetermined embankment location. You will be transferred to the airport by private boat to board your return flight back home. Make sure to say "Arrivederci" to Italia as you take off from Venice's Marco Polo Airport.



DAY 11~ HOME

Unpack and prepare for your next vacation through Europe Express!



The Basilica of Saint Peter in Rome

Don't want to do it on your own?

Europe Express offers a wide variety of private car and driver options too!

The Duomo at dusk in Florence



Admission Tickets

Instead of simply buying tickets to the sights you want to see, consider taking a tour. This will benefit you in many ways:

1. Many of Italy's sights can have very long wait lines. By taking a tour you will often skip the line and make better use of your time.
2. You will receive explanations of what you see from local experts. This can enrich your experience and make it easier for you to understand the relevance of everything you see.
3. Don't waste your precious vacation time planning what you are going to do each day or shopping around for the right tour. By pre-booking your activities you can guarantee that you will see the sights you traveled around the world to see; make sure you have the best experience possible!

City Sightseeing - 2 Day

The Hop On– Hop Off Bus is the easiest way to see both Rome and Florence. This 2-day pass is provided on an open voucher basis and allows two full days of flexible form sightseeing at an economical price.

- **ROME~** Legend tells of Romulus & Remus and the seven hills of Rome - today this city is home to one of the world's largest churches - The Basilica di San Pietro (St Peter's). The marvelous elliptical piazza, with its curving wings of the magnificent colonnades, is protected by the famous Swiss Guardsmen of the Vatican State. With galleries and museums, an amazing cafe culture, the magnificent Colosseum, the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps, Rome never fails to inspire and amaze. On our tour of the 'Eternal City' you'll see the highlights and experience it all for yourself! Your ticket is valid on both routes for two consecutive days.
 - Line A: Via Marsala, Colosseo, Circo Massimo, Bocca Della Verita, Piazza Venezia, Vaticano
 - Line B: Largo di Villa Peretti, Colosseo, Circo Massim, Isola Tiberina, Piazza Venezia, Vaticano
- **FLORENCE~** In the romantic region of Tuscany lies the jewel of the Renaissance, Florence. Surrounded by the Appenine mountains, it lies in a fertile valley surrounded by the charming Tuscan vineyards and olive groves. The art galleries and museums of Florence are renowned throughout the world and holidaymakers flock to admire the superb David of Michaelangelo, the Venus of Botticelli or the stunning Duomo with its marble facade which glows in the golden sunlight. Two routes - one ticket! All valid for two consecutive days.

For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

