

ITALY – GRAND TOUR

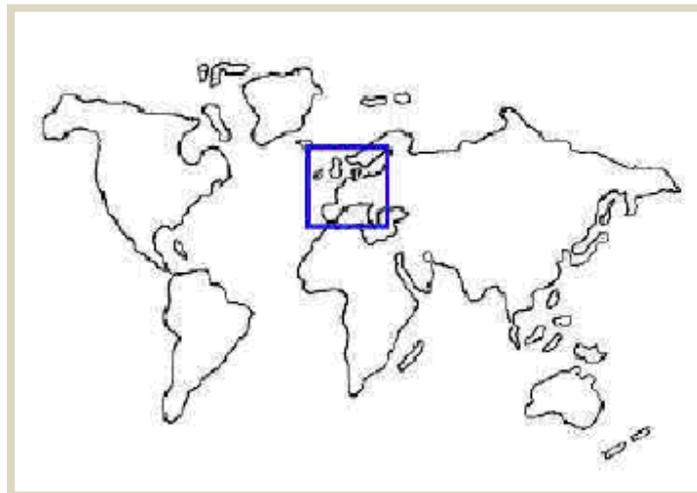
From the Bay of Naples to the Alpine peaks – including the sights in-between 12 days

A perfect vacation for those who want to discover the most interesting places in Italy. All the „must-see“-sights are included in the program – and there is still time for individual explorations and discoveries. The Eternal City with the Vatican Museum and the Catacombs - excursions to Pompeii and Tivoli round off your „Roman“ experience.

An unforgettable train ride brings you to Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance, where you visit the magnificent „Duomo“, the cathedral, and many more monuments.

You'll be captivated with the sights in Tuscany, the richness of Venice, the spectacular Dolomites (Italian Alps) and the fine cathedral of Milan.

In some of these places little has changed since the Renaissance. History comes alive!



The World



Europe



“Italian Panorama”

Features:

Sight seeing with local guide in Italy

- Rome
- Pompeii
- Florence
- Siena
- Venice
- Milan

Guided inside visits to

- Vatican Museum Rome
- Forum Romanum and Coliseum Rome
- Catacombs Rome
- Villa d'Este Tivoli
- Archaeological site Pompeii
- Cathedral of Florence
- Doges' Palace in Venice
- St. Mark's Basilica in Venice

Included Highlights:

- Welcome Dinner Italian style with drinks in Rome
- Excursion to the Catacombs and Tivoli
- Excursion to Pompeii
- Train ride from Rome to Florence
- Boat Ride to one of the Venetian Islands
- Drive through Dolomites (Italian Alps)
- Farewell Dinner with drinks in Milan



Day 1 Depart USA

Overnight transatlantic flight to Rome.

Day 2 Arrival in Rome

Time to rest or explore the surroundings of your hotel with your Tour Director who will give you information and help with orientation. Welcome dinner and overnight in Rome

Coliseum



Day 3 Rome

Sightseeing with your local guide includes inside visits to the Vatican Museum with its Sistine Chapel painted by the famous Renaissance artist Michelangelo, and St. Peter's. From there you proceed to the Roman Forum and the Coliseum. The afternoon is at leisure – you may want to see the Trevi fountain, Navona Square, the Pantheon or the Spanish Steps. It is all delightful and within easy reach. Overnight in Rome

St. Peter



Day 4 Rome

Today you will visit the Catacombs, a network of underground corridors built by the early Christians during the first centuries of Christianity, to serve as cemeteries. Later visit St. Paul's Outside the Walls, a basilica built over the tomb of the "Apostle to the Gentiles." In the afternoon you'll see one of the most famous of all the Renaissance residences in Europe: Villa d'Este in Tivoli – incredible fountains and terraced gardens invite you to imagine life in those days. Rest of the day is free for your own "Roman" discoveries. Overnight in Rome

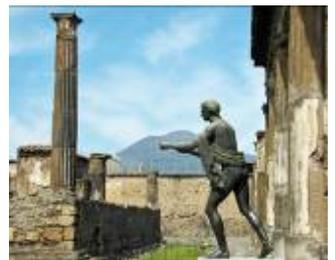
Trevi Fountain



Day 5 Pompeii

This excursion is dedicated to wonderful Pompeii – a Roman city destroyed and yet preserved by a volcanic eruption in 79 a.D. Afterwards you will drive along the Bay of Naples to romantic Sorrento before returning to Rome
Dinner (en route) and overnight in Rome

Pompeii: Apollo Temple



Day 6 Florence

A smooth train ride takes you through Tuscany to splendid Florence. Here a local guide is waiting to show you magnificent Santa Maria del Fiore, Giotto's Bell Tower, the Baptistery's heavy bronze "Gates of Paradise," the Signoria Square, and the Santa Croce Church. Then there is time for independent sightseeing, a cappuccino on one of the squares or a stroll to Ponte Vecchio, the old bridge over the Arno river.

Overnight in Florence



Old Bridge

Day 7 Excursion to San Gimignano and Siena

Through gently rolling, vine-clad hills you drive down to San Gimignano, unique with its medieval towers – once houses of the nobles. In Siena you'll walk through the narrow lanes to the beautiful „Piazza del Campo“, the main square. There is time to enjoy this precious little town, to take pictures and try some local specialties before returning to Florence.

Overnight in Florence



San Gimignano Towers

Day 8 Venice

An easy morning drive via the lush Po River plains to Padua, city of St. Anthony, for a visit to the majestic six-domed Basilica. Then you continue to Venice, a powerful magnet for romantics and art lovers from around the globe. A local expert takes you to see the highlights of Venice: St. Mark's Square, the Byzantine St. Mark's Basilica, the lavish Doges' Palace and – of course – the Bridge of Sighs.

Overnight in Venice



Venice

Day 9 Excursion to Torcello

This morning is dedicated to the outer islands: Torcello with the cathedral Santa Maria Assunta and its impressive mosaics. And then colourful quaint Burano where you take a stroll and savour the unique atmosphere.

Overnight in Venice



Torcello



Burano

Day 10 Venice – Dolomites

Today you'll enjoy a spectacularly scenic drive in the Italian Alps, the Dolomites. There will be time for picture taking, a visit to one of the typical villages, for lunch and for many sights of unspoiled nature along the way.

Overnight on Lake Garda

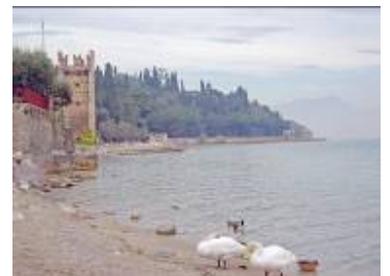


Dolomites

Day 11 Lake Garda – Milan

Hemmed in between the mountains like a fjord is Italy's largest lake, the deep blue Lago di Garda. Charming little places, splendid vegetation, cafés and little restaurants invite you for a relaxing stay. Finally you leave the mountains behind as you approach Milan where you'll see the Duomo, the glass-domed Galleria Vittorio Emanuele and the imposing Sforzesco Castle.

Farewell dinner and overnight in Milan



Sirmione on Lake Garda

Day 12 Departure

Your tour director takes you to the airport and assists with check-in. Then it is: Arrivederci, a presto ! See you again soon !