

The Venetian canals. Michelangelo's *David*. The churches of Rome. Experience the art and culture of Italy that have been admired worldwide for centuries.



ITALY'S ARTISTIC HERITAGE

DAY 1: DEPART USA

Board your overnight transatlantic flight.

DAY 2: VENICE MAINLAND

Arrive today in Venice. Meet your Program Director upon passing through customs and depart for Venice, a powerful magnet for romantics and art lovers from around the world. This evening enjoy dinner at the HARD ROCK CAFÉ.

DAY 3: VENICE MAINLAND

Enter the city in style by PRIVATE BOAT for your tour with Local Guide with Whisper headsets. Highlights of your walking tour are ST. MARK'S SQUARE and its BASILICA, the Clock Tower, lavish DOGES' PALACE and the BRIDGE OF SIGHS, where doomed prisoners caught their final glimpse of the world. Also watch skilled GLASSBLOWERS fashion their delicate objects in an age-old traditional manner. This afternoon walk through the Venice fish market to see the local way of life followed by dinner.

DAY 4: VENICE—VERONA—FLORENCE

Stop in Verona, medieval setting of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. See Juliet's Balcony and stroll around the lovely market square. Continue on to Florence. This evening, enjoy a festive PIZZA PARTY dinner at a local restaurant, where an Italian chef demonstrates just how Italian pizzas are made!

DAY 5: FLORENCE

During your walking tour with a Local Guide with Whisper headsets, visit the ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS with Michelangelo's celebrated *David* and the magnificent CATHEDRAL. Admire Giotto's Bell Tower, the Baptistry's heavy bronze *Gate of Paradise*, sculpture-studded Signoria Square and see a leather-making demonstration. This afternoon join our optional excursion to Pisa or have free time to enjoy world class shopping.

DAY 6: FLORENCE—ASSISI—ROME

This morning depart for Assisi. During your walking tour with a Local Guide, visit ST. CLARE'S CHURCH and ST. FRANCIS' BASILICA, the hub of a religious order devoted to the ideals of humility, forgiveness, simplicity, and love for all God's creatures. Hear about monastic life and view the priceless frescoes

adorning the walls of the church. Continue to Rome for a late afternoon arrival. A guided walking tour takes you to some of the most famous monuments. Admire the Spanish Steps, Via Condotti, Piazza Navona, Parliament, and Pantheon.

DAY 7: ROME

Sightseeing with your Local Guide with Whisper headsets starts with a visit to the VATICAN MUSEUMS and SISTINE CHAPEL, world famous for Michelangelo's ceiling paintings and *The Last Judgement*. Continue to monumental ST. PETER'S SQUARE and BASILICA. Cross the Tiber and visit the COLOSSEUM and the ROMAN FORUM, where Roman legions marched in triumph.

DAY 8: ROME

A full day to enjoy Rome at your own pace or join our full day optional excursion to Pompeii. This evening your Tour Director hosts a farewell dinner to celebrate the success of your Italian vacation.

DAY 9: DEPART FOR HOME

Your homebound flight arrives today.

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Personalize your itinerary by adding your own set of activities or excursions tailored to your class' interests. Please contact your Custom Tour Specialist for pricing.

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Professional Student Discoveries Program Director throughout
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Note: Arrival and departure times may modify this itinerary.

World-Class MOMENTS

Special educational experiences designed to match class curriculum in Social Studies, Math/Science and Language Arts. Please visit www.studentdiscoveries.com for a full listing of World-Class Moments by theme and destination.

Footsteps of Legends Michelangelo—a Most Famous Artist. This tour focuses on the genius of Florence's most famous artist at two seminal moments in his 75-year long career. Students will visit the Accademia Gallery where Michelangelo's 15 foot tall marble *David* dominates. Explore the symbolism and carving technique of the *David* and his attendant Slaves, followed by a walk past the Medici palace where, in 1490, Lorenzo the Magnificent welcomed the 15 year-old artist into his home so that he could supervise at close hand the boy's artistic and social education. The tour finishes with a visit to the church of San Lorenzo where Michelangelo carved the Medici tombs. In addition to focusing on his art, this tour highlights much about the psychology of the sculptor.

Active Learning Life as a Gladiator. Students will re-create Roman history as they don a traditional tunic and learn the techniques practiced by the ancient gladiators of Rome as well as ancient Roman history. This truly Roman experience combines culture, sport and ancient legends. After this experience, the students will head to the Roman Colosseum for a guided tour complete with legends and lore!