



# Essential Tour from Rome to Venice

The best of Italy with expert Drivers and Guides in 8 days: Rome, Florence, Venice, Bologna and Cinque Terre including food & wine experience. Group size and private day tours are both included.



Location

**Rome**



Days

**8**



Duration

**ND**



Category



Season



Tour Type

**Semi-Private**

## TOUR OVERVIEW

Essential Tour from Rome to Venice

Rome, Florence, Venice, Bologna & Cinque Terre - The Best of Italy Tour

Food & Wine experiences included

8 days/7 nights

Land | Rome airport

Departure | Venice Airport

Route:

Day 1: Rome airport > Rome

Day 2: Half day Rome Tour (Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter Basilica OR Colosseum, Roman Forum and Palatine Hill)

Day 3: Rome > Siena and San Gimignano > Florence

Day 4: Florence walking tour

Day 5: Cinque Terre discovery and winery escape, with seafood lunch

Day 6: Florence > Bologna and FICO Eatery World > Venice

Day 7: Venice walking tour

Day 8: Venice > Venice airport

Private and Group size day tours are both included

Rome (2 nights) – Florence (3 nights) – Venice (2 nights)

Hotel package on request.

This itinerary is only an example. Our Booking office will be glad to offer a solution based on your request.

Sicily package tour available to add.

Enquire us for all details!

# TOUR ITINERARY



Day 1

## Rome Airport > Rome

Private vehicle and Italian speaking driver disposal: transfer-in only

Welcome to Rome! Upon arrival at Fiumicino Airport (FCO | Your Arrival by TBA ) please proceed through Passport Control and collect your luggage inside the customs area. Then meet your driver and transfer to Rome. The balance of the day is at leisure.



Day 2

## Half Day Rome Tour

CHOICE BETWEEN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TOURS:

Half Day Colosseum, Roman Forum and Palatine Hill

Medium size (up to 30 people) group tour

Get ready to enter into the legend! Jump into Roman history and discover with an expert guide the "Anfiteatro Flavio", the Colosseum: the largest amphitheater not only in the Eternal City, but in the world! get the most complete tour of the Colosseum , Roman Forum and Palatine Hill. Access the Palatine hill with no line and discover the hill where Rome was founded at the beginning. Then reach the Colosseum and be amazed by this monument that is the symbol of Rome in the world. The Amphitheater created to entertain ancient Roman citizens with bloody shows of gladiators, animals and cruel games, is now one of the most fascinating landmark of the City. Then, walk on the original path of ancient Rome along the Via Sacra and see the Temples of Vesta, Antonino and Faustina, the ancient Basilica Julia and Aemilia and dream about the glorious past of the Roman Empire. Unforgettable!

OR

Half Day Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter Basilica

Medium size (up to 30 people) group tour

Take a tour of the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, jumping the lines! No stress to reach the area: upon arrival, your guide will lead you into the museums, through our preferred entrance, hence you'll visit one of the most important art collections of the world. Admire the Gallery of Tapestries, and the Geographical Maps before arriving at the famous Sistine Chapel and the unforgettable Basilica! After the Sistine Chapel you will be taken, through an exclusive access to St. Peter's Basilica, skipping long lines.

The balance of the day is at leisure.



Day 3

## Rome > Siena and San Gimignano > Florence

Private vehicle and English speaking driver disposal for full day

Today pick up at your hotel and departure to Tuscany. On the way, we will stop in Siena and San Gimignano, two of the region's most picturesque towns! Set in a beautiful landscape, surrounded by vineyards and olive groves, Siena is one of the most enchanting medieval cities in Italy. Explore Siena's picturesque streets, admire Piazza del Campo, where twice a year dashing horses compete in the

heart-rendering Palio race and visit the city's awe-inspiring Duomo: it boasts one of the most beautiful floors in the world. Then travel on to San Gimignano, UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most splendid examples of a medieval town. Renowned as "the city of beautiful towers" it is a charming ancient town and has been used as a background in many movies. Discover the sturdy tall towers which characterize the town, delight in the airy squares and shop for the area's premium saffron and hand-made Santa Fina pottery. Continue to Florence.



Day 4

## Florence walking tour: best of Florence, Accademia and Uffizi

Medium size (up to 25 people) group tour

Discover Florence as you pleasantly walk through it and then visit the main Florence museums with a professional English speaking guide: meet David, the greatest Michelangelo's masterpiece, then enjoy a variety of artists (Giotto, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci and many others) at the Uffizi Gallery; finally learn the history and the secrets about the Vasari Corridor, the Medici family's secret passageway. Walk through the amazing center of Florence and discover its unique secular heritage and breathtaking beauty with an expert and fun tour guide. Our tour explores the historic and architectural evolution factors from the Roman foundation through medieval centuries and its Renaissance glorious period up to modern time Florence. Our guide will take you to some of the most important spots where the greatest minds and artists have stood and been inspired: Piazza della Signoria, the Duomo, the Baptistry, Santa Trinita and Orsanmichele Church, Pontevecchio Bridge, the secret Vasari Corridor and much much more. Then enter the Accademia Gallery museum with a fast-track priority entrance ticket and discover the original Michelangelo's masterpiece that has become the symbol of Renaissance splendor: The David. Admire it from every perspective, gaze in awe at David, that dominates the central gallery of the museum. The David was sculpted by a very young Michelangelo (in his twenties) entirely from a single block of local Carrara marble and it's 5.17 metres tall (17 ft). It represents the biblical hero David that killed Goliath and when it was unveiled, in 1504, it soon came to symbolize the defense of the civil liberties embodied in the Florentine Republic. Admire also Michelangelo's famously unfinished sculptures - Prigioni and San Matteo. The Accademia Gallery Florence houses also many other masterpieces, both paintings and sculptures, from the Middle Ages to Renaissance, by the greatest artists, like Botticelli, Paolo Uccello, Andrea del Sarto and many more, which you will discover with your knowledgeable English-speaking guide. Then move toward Signoria Square and enter the beautiful Uffizi Gallery, where you will enjoy an approx. 2.5-hour guided tour of the main rooms of the Uffizi Gallery, skipping the usual long lines. You will thus be able to view the main masterpieces by artists like Giotto, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, etc. Finally our professional English speaking guide will lead you on a discovery external walk along the Vasari Corridor, the secret Corridor built by Giorgio Vasari ad commissioned by the Grand Duke of Florence, Cosimo I de' Medici in 1564, with the aim to build a path that would allow him and the Medici family to move freely from their residence (Palazzo Pitti) to the government palace (Palazzo della Signoria, other side of the Arno river), passing above the famous Pontevecchio (the landmark of Florence). With a focus by our art expert, uncover the Vasari Corridor history and secrets (no entrance in the corridor - please see notes) : Hidden between city houses and even passing through a church, the Vasari Corridor has evolved as one of the most astounding architectural masterpieces of the Renaissance. There will be a break during the visit: take the time for a frothy cappuccino or coffee at the Uffizi Café located on the terrace above the ancient Loggia dei Lanzi, with a spectacular panorama on history.





Day 5

## Cinque Terre discovery, vineyard escape and seafood lunch

Small size (up to 16 people) group tour

Unveil the secrets and authentic charm of the area off-the-beaten tourist path, relish the flavors of ancient typical cuisine and aromas of sensational wines. Set amid some of the most dramatic coastal scenery on the planet le Cinque Terre, five ingeniously constructed fishing villages, are a Unesco World Heritage site since 1997, and still today look very much like a version of a seafront garden of Eden! On the way admire the scenery: sinuous paths run across stunning cliffsides, and a 19th-century railway line cut through a series of coastal tunnels ferries the footsore from village to village. Learn all about the Cinque Terre's history and unique feature from your guide: the steeply terraced cliffs bisected by a complicated system of fields and gardens hacked, chiseled, shaped and layered over the course of nearly two millennia. So marked are these artificial contours that some scholars have compared the extensive "muretti" (low stone walls) to the Great Wall of China! And all enhanced by the charming villages - Riomaggiore, founded in the 8th century by Greek settlers fleeing persecution in Byzantium, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Monterosso - which look onto the gleaming pristine waters of the sea. Lose yourself in the gorgeous scenery, hike/walk along the famous trails (including the Via dell'Amore - please see notes) and explore a few of the fascinating villages traveling by boat, train and on foot. Crown your day with a memorable typical Ligurian seafood feast, and exquisite regional white wines, in a lovely seafront restaurant. Learn about the area's one-of-a-kind grape harvesting techniques enjoying an exclusive leisurely hike through luxuriant seafront vineyards: nobody in sight apart from the deep blue sea, verdant vines, your group and guide. Weather and sea conditions permitting you will also admire the scenario from the water during a fabulous cruise. Back to Florence.



Day 6

## Florence > Bologna and FICO > Venice

Private vehicle and English speaking driver disposal for full day

Today pick up at your hotel and depart to Bologna, the capital of the prosperous region of Italy Emilia Romagna. Not yet contaminated by mass tourism, the city is the ideal choice for cultural interludes as well as leisure activities and relaxation. Bologna has a number of nicknames: la dotta (the learned) for the ancient university, la rossa (the red) for the warm color of the roofs and houses, and la grassa (the fat) for the wonderful food. At arrival, walk through the historical city centre, visiting Piazza Maggiore, Palazzo Accursio, Palazzo del Podesta', the Sala Borsa, the Fountain of Neptune, Palazzo Re Enzo, the Basilica of San Petronio, the Archiginnasio and the Anatomy Theatre. Then, transfer to FICO Eataly World and start a journey through its fields, factories, restaurants and kiosks, markets, and shops. The tour starts from the fields: 20,000 sqm of outdoor areas to learn more about the main Italian crops and the most representative local animal breeds. Then, the Biodiversity Ambassadors will take you to the heart of FICO Eataly World: the 40 farming factories, where you can meet and speak with artisans to learn about the process of making iconic Italian food products. Hungry enough? It's time to stop by the world's largest Italian culinary offer! Over 45 restaurants, trattorias, bistros, and street-food kiosks to taste Italy's most traditional and innovative recipes. Finally, take a walk through FICO's 9,000 sqm area dedicated to markets and shops and, why not... take a little piece of Italy home with you!

In the afternoon, transfer to Venice. At arrival, independent transfer to your hotel. The balance of the day is at leisure.



Day 7

## Venice walking tour: St. Mark Square, the Basilica and the Doge's Palace

Private vehicle and English speaking driver disposal: no  
English local guide disposal for 2 hours walking tour

This is an introductory sightseeing tour of Venice visiting St. Mark's Square, the Basilica and the Doge's Palace. St. Mark's square was the political and religious centre of the Republic of Venice; since ancient times it has been a place extraordinarily rich in historical and artistic value. A tour of the sumptuous halls of power in the Doge's Palace, once the seat of the Serenissima government, offers an insight of Venice efficient and fascinating political life. Admire the paintings extolling the Myth of Venice, its conquests and diplomatic successes. Relive the pomp and ceremony of one of Europe's most prestigious capitals. The Basilica of Saint Mark, now the city's cathedral, was once both the Ducal Chapel and a reflection of State magnificence. You'll be dazzled by its golden mosaics and precious marbles, works of art that have turned the church into one of the most beautiful monuments in the world. The balance of the day is at leisure.



Day 8

## Venice > Venice Airport




Private vehicle and Italian speaking driver disposal: none

Today independent transfer to Marco Polo Venice Airport (VCE) on time for your departure flight.

## TOUR MAP



## WHAT IS INCLUDED?

-  English speaking staff
-  Licensed Local Guide as per program
-  Visit as per itinerary

## NOT INCLUDED

-  Admission fees
-  Beverages and meals
-  Gratuities and tips
-  Hotel accommodation