

A wide-angle photograph of the Rialto Bridge in Venice, Italy. The bridge is a long, white stone structure with a series of arches and a central, larger archway. It spans across a canal. The buildings on either side are colorful, with red roofs and white facades. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

# Rome, Venice & Tuscany

8 Days

Explore quintessential Italy on this Italian adventure to Rome, Venice, Assisi, Florence and Siena. The trip begins with the **ceremoniousness of Vatican City** and the landmarks of Ancient Rome. It then continues on to the magical city of Venice and the **Renaissance art mecca** that is Florence with stops in **enchanting Assisi and Siena**. Get a taste of Italy's best architecture, art and history.

## Highlights

- ★ Tour of the Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica
- ★ Visit Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis
- ★ See Michelangelo's statue of David at Florence's Galleria dell'Accademia
- ★ Walking tour of Siena including the location of the Palio horserace

## Itinerary Details

### Day 1 - 3

- ✈ International Arrival
- 🚌 Transfer to the hotel by private bus

2 Nights

### Rome

'Rome wasn't built in a day', or so the saying goes, and indeed, the ancient city of Rome stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of history, culture, and architecture. With its origins dating back over 3,000 years, Rome's influence once extended far beyond its city walls, shaping the destiny of millions within its ancient senate houses, temples, marketplaces, and amphitheaters. Today, the city retains its cosmopolitan character, seamlessly blending millennia of history with its modern identity. The iconic landmarks of Rome, such as the Colosseum, the Pantheon, and the Roman Forum, continue to captivate travelers with their grandeur and significance. These ancient marvels evoke a sense of wonder and awe, offering glimpses into the city's illustrious past. Yet, Rome is more than just a repository of ancient ruins; it is a living museum of human achievement and creativity. The Vatican City, nestled within Rome's borders, serves as a spiritual and cultural hub, preserving the legacy of the Holy Roman Empire. St. Peter's Basilica, with its towering dome, and the awe-inspiring frescoes of the Sistine Chapel, painted by Michelangelo, stand as enduring symbols of faith and artistic mastery. Art and architecture abound in Rome, with masterpieces by renowned artists like Bernini, Michelangelo, Caravaggio, and Raphael adorning its streets, squares, and galleries. From intricate fountains to exquisite sculptures and breathtaking paintings, the city is a treasure trove of artistic expression, reflecting the richness of its baroque and Renaissance heritage. Beyond its cultural landmarks, Rome offers a feast for the senses, with its charming cobblestone streets, bustling piazzas, and vibrant street life. Alfresco dining, featuring authentic Roman cuisine and ancient culinary traditions, invites travelers to savor the flavors of Italy while immersing themselves in the city's lively atmosphere. In every corner of Rome, from its ancient ruins to its modern neighborhoods, the spirit of the Eternal City beckons, inviting visitors to explore its storied past and vibrant present.

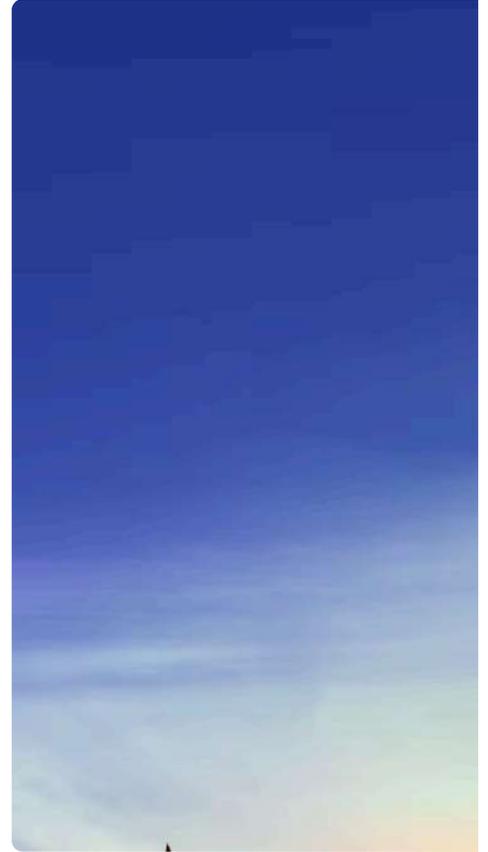
Included activities

### DAY 1: Arrive in Rome

This morning your group will arrive to "the Eternal City." After you collect your bags and proceed through customs, you will be greeted by our friendly English-speaking assistant, who will welcome your group to Italy and escort it to a private bus. From here your group will transfer to your hotel in Rome. As Italian hotels' official check-in time is usually 2:00 pm, if you're arriving before that you are welcome to store your baggage with the reception staff and begin exploring this fascinating city. (If you want to begin sightseeing, we suggest you try to see the



After breakfast this morning your guide will take you on an exciting walking tour of this City of Islands. See St. Mark's Square, the lively central square where the only traffic is that of humans (and pigeons!). Visit inside St. Mark's Basilica, one of the best examples of Byzantine architecture found anywhere in the world. See the famed Bell Tower and the Clock Tower, which displays not only the time of day, but also the dominant sign of the Zodiac and the current phase of the moon. Continue on to the Bridge of Sighs, which is made of white limestone; it passes over the Rio di Palazzo, connecting the old prisons with the interrogations rooms at the Doge's Palace. This afternoon is free. Perhaps you might enjoy a boat trip to the Lagoon Islands this afternoon — or a gondola experience this evening. Tonight, you are free to savor the seasonal flavors of this unique city's cuisine on your own.



## Day 5 - 7

Travel by private coach to Tuscany

2 Nights

### Tuscany

Included activities

#### DAY 5: Arrive in Tuscany

This morning your group will depart Venice and begin its scenic bus journey to a lovely Tuscan villa for a two-night stay in the countryside. Tonight your home is a splendid villa not far from Florence that is surrounded by century-old trees and parkland. The villa offers a beautiful swimming pool which blends seamlessly with its delightful garden amidst the natural setting of the Tuscan hills. This evening your group will enjoy a dinner of local Tuscan cuisine at the villa, prepared with care by your friendly hosts.

#### DAY 6:

After breakfast this morning, your group will travel to the gorgeous city of Florence by private bus. Upon arrival you'll meet a local guide who will show you the Duomo (Cathedral Church) and Piazza della Signoria, a central gathering place for locals as well as tourists. Your tour will end with a visit to the Galleria dell'Accademia to admire Michelangelo's statue of David. After seeing so many of Florence's Renaissance attractions, the afternoon is yours to relax or explore further. You'll return later afternoon to the villa, and prior to dinner enjoy a tasting of locally-produced wines.



## Day 7 - 8

 Travel to Siena by private bus

1 Night

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Included activities

### DAY 7: Arrive in Rome

After breakfast your group will check out and travel by private bus through the beautiful, Tuscan countryside to Siena. This fine medieval city sits on gentle hills between three river valleys. Notice the medieval ramparts where you are greeted with the Latin inscription "Cor Magis Tibi Sena Pandit" (Siena opens its heart to you). Upon arrival a local guide will take your group through the maze of narrow streets to one of the finest squares in Italy, the Piazza Del Campo where the famous Palio Horse Race is held twice a year. You will also visit the 13th-century Cathedral to see its many works of art including the black and white marble walls and columns — as well as the marble floors with decorative inlays. After your tour of Siena and time for lunch, you will continue on to your hotel in Rome. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. After dinner your group will see the landmarks of Rome illuminated with the soft light of an Italian evening, and you'll make a stop to toss your coin into the Trevi Fountain, a time-honored tradition to ensure you will again return to this Eternal City.

### DAY 8:

After breakfast in the hotel, check out and transfer by private coach to Rome's Fiumicino Airport for your return flight to the USA.

 Transfer by private coach to Rome's Fiumicino Airport

 International Departure

