

Enchanting

ITALY

Venice, Tuscany, Pisa, Florence, Assisi, The Vatican, Rome

August 13-21, 2024

\$3,199.00 Per Person, Double Occupancy [Land Only]



LAKE ARBOR TRAVEL, 301-390-1639

www.lakearbortravel.com

ITINERARY

Tuesday, August 13: Depart United States

Depart United States for Venice, Italy.

Wednesday, August 14: Arrive Venice, Italy



Arrive Venice Marco Polo Airport and transfer by private boat to our hotel, overlooking the famous canal. Balance of the day is at leisure to explore this glorious city with its astonishing treasures. Venice is built on over a hundred small islands and connected by 400 bridges, truly an artistic masterpiece. This evening, we get together for an Orientation Meeting with our Tour Manager, followed by a 3-course Welcome Dinner in a typical Italian restaurant, with wine.

Overnight: Hotel Ca'Dei Conti, Superior Room

Meal: Dinner

Thursday, August 15: Tour of Venice

After breakfast, begin a 2-hour guided tour, including the famous St. Mark's Square and view of the Golden Basilica of San Marco, built over several centuries in a fusion of Byzantine, Roman and Venetian architecture. See the Bridge of Sighs, created at the beginning of the 17th century to serve as a link between the prisons and the inquisition rooms of Doge's Palace. Then, continue to the pink marble Doge's Palace, official residence of the Venetian ruler; its facade is highlighted by a massive late-Gothic gate, known as the Porta della Carta. Enjoy a private gondola ride, with music -- the rest of the day is yours to explore this stunning city.



Overnight: Hotel Ca'dei Conti, Superior Room

Meal: Breakfast

Friday, August 16: Tuscany, Pisa, Florence

After breakfast, we transfer by private boat to Tronchetto to board our private motorcoach for travel to Pisa. Here we will enjoy a 2-hour guided tour with entrance tickets to Pisa's Leaning Tower, among the most instantly recognizable structures on earth. The monuments on the extraordinary Piazza create a unique architectural blend of Romanesque and Gothic styles.



We depart Pisa and travel through the beautiful golden landscape of Tuscany, dotted with olive trees, to enjoy a 3-course Tuscan dinner with wine. Then travel to the lively Renaissance city of Florence, with its priceless art and architecture for overnight.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Mediterraneo, Deluxe Room

Meal: Breakfast, Dinner

Saturday, August 17: Tour of Florence

Today's tour of Florence begins with a visit to the Accademia of Fine Arts, where Michelangelo's *David* is housed; stand in awe of this glorious work of art. Walk to the Duomo, celebrated for its magnificent dome designed by Brunelleschi, and view the Baptistery's renowned "Gates of Paradise" by Ghiberti. Continue on a walk through the open-air museum at Signoria Square, ending at the splendid Ponte Vecchio. Florence is indeed the center of the world's finest art and architecture. Enjoy lunch at a local farm in Florence's countryside. Rest of the day at leisure in this spectacular Renaissance city.



Overnight: Grand Hotel Mediterraneo, Deluxe Room

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Sunday, August 18: Medieval Assisi to Rome

Depart Florence to the small medieval town of Assisi perched high on a hill in the Umbria region, with its Roman ruins, winding medieval streets and sacred shrines. Assisi is best known as the birthplace of St. Francis of Assisi - patron saint of Italy. Its main attraction is



the 13th-century Basilica di San Francesco, one of the artistic highlights of medieval Europe which contains the sacred relics of St. Francis and Giotto's astonishing frescoes. The town of Assisi has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its significant art and architecture.

Afterwards, continue to Rome, the astonishing city built on seven hills, rest of day at leisure.

Overnight: Starhotel Metropole, Deluxe Room

Meal: Breakfast

Monday, August 19: Tour Ancient Rome and The Colosseum

The historic tour of ancient Rome begins at the Roman Forum, the central area of the city from which ancient Rome developed. View the triumphal Arch of Constantine, erected by the Roman Senate to commemorate Constantine's tenth year of leadership over the Eternal City. On to the mighty Colosseum, the world's largest amphitheater, over 1,900 years old. It seated over 50,000 people, offering gladiator fights, executions and animal hunts! You can now see a section of the area that was once underground. Enjoy the delights of Rome this afternoon on your own.



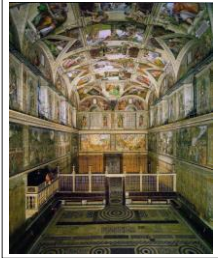
Stop at a local café for lunch and just people-watch, or savor a cappuccino, indulge in a delectable gelato or try an authentic Italian pizza.

Overnight: Starhotel Metropole, Deluxe Room

Meal: Breakfast

Tuesday, August 20: St. Peter's Basilica, Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel

Today we visit the Vatican Museums and Michelangelo's masterpiece, the Sistine Chapel. Stroll through one of the most important art collections of the world. Admire the Gallery of its great frescoes by Michelangelo. Continue to St. Peter's Square, passing Bernini's famous colonnade to view St. Peter's Basilica, built on the burial site of Saint Peter, with the most famous Michelangelo's Pieta.* Enjoy the afternoon at leisure or join the optional walking tour of the Eternal City's grand piazzas that includes the Spanish Steps and continues to the legendary Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon and the baroque Piazza Navona. Tonight linger and explore on your own and perhaps enjoy typical Roman cuisine.



Overnight: Starhotel Metropole, Deluxe Room

Meal: Breakfast

Wednesday, August 21 : Depart Rome to U.S.

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Meal: Breakfast

*Due to Religious events, the opening times of St. Peter's Basilica are subject to change without notice. In these cases, we will visit the Vatican Library instead of the Basilica.

**Contact Toni Hillman, 301-390-1639, tonihillman@aol.com
Lake Arbor Travel**