



Italy 2021 Itinerary

Travel Dates: May 10 – 21, 2021

Monday, 5/10

Day 1: Fly to Italy

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Venice.

Tuesday, 5/11

Day 2: Venice

Arrive in Venice: Welcome to Venice, the “Floating City.” Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore the city on your own.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner before turning in for the night.

Wednesday, 5/12

Day 3: Venice

Sightseeing tour of Venice: Crisscrossed with romantic bridges and laced with history, Venice boasts some of the world’s finest art and architecture. On your sightseeing tour, see gondolas glide down the Grand Canal before stopping in St. Mark’s Square. Look for the golden weathervane, which resembles archangel Gabriel, atop the 323-foot Campanile (Bell Tower).

Thursday, 5/13

Day 4: Venice | Florence

Travel to Florence: Make your way to Florence, the birthplace of the Italian language, opera, and the Renaissance.

Walking sightseeing tour of Florence: Florence is home to world-renowned works of art, including Michelangelo’s statue of David and Botticelli’s *The Birth of Venus*. As you explore the

city on foot, pass by the Duomo and the classical statues at the Piazza della Signoria. You'll also walk across the Ponte Vecchio, a medieval bridge where many of Florence's famed leather and gold artisans keep shop.

Dinner: Tonight, enjoy dinner with your group.

Friday, 5/14

Day 5: Florence

Begin the day with a climb to the top of Brunelleschi's Dome (Santa Maria Del Fiore) and visit its museum.

In the afternoon, see some of the world's greatest art at the Uffizi Gallery.

Saturday, 5/15

Day 6: Florence

Visit the Accademia: Admire Michelangelo's statue of David inside Florence's acclaimed Accademia Gallery. Explore the winding halls of busts portraying important political figures, epic heroes, and scenes from popular myths.

Free time: Spend your afternoon exploring Florence on your own.

Sunday, 5/16

Day 7: Florence | Assisi | Rome

Travel to Rome via Assisi: Journey to Rome, once the heart of the ancient world and now the capital of Italy.

Visit Assisi: Assisi's religious significance and outstanding examples of early Renaissance art draw visitors from all over the globe. You'll visit the Basilica of St. Francis, where Giotto's painted frescoes illustrate the life of one of Italy's most beloved saints. Here, the remains of St. Francis are entombed in a stone crypt above one of the altars. A local guide will also show you the birthplace of St. Clare, who founded the Franciscan Order of Poor Ladies in the year 1212.

Rome on foot: On your self-guided walking tour, visit the Pantheon, built to honor all the gods of Rome. A column of light filters in from the domed ceiling's prominent oculus. Continue to the grand city square known as the Piazza Navona and to the Spanish Steps, the widest staircase in Europe. Then, toss a coin into the Trevi Fountain to ensure a return trip to the Eternal City.

Dinner: This evening, enjoy dinner with your group.

Monday, 5/17

Day 8: Rome

Sightseeing tour of Rome: No place integrates its past into the present quite like Rome, which you'll discover on your guided tour. As you walk through the world's most famous arena, the Colosseum, you can almost hear the stamping feet of the crowds gathered for gladiatorial combat. Explore the ruins of the Roman Forum, which mark the former heart of the Roman Empire and the spot where Julius Caesar gave many of his great political speeches.

Free time in Rome: Take the afternoon to explore Rome at your own pace.

Tuesday, 5/18

Day 9: Rome

Sightseeing tour of Vatican City: Your local guide will help you find the papal protectors who flank the entrance to St. Peter's Basilica—they're the highly trained soldiers of the Vatican City's Pontifical Swiss Guard. Inside, pass under gilded archways before visiting the saint's tomb. Experience the breathtaking ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. From Michelangelo's frescoes to Raphael's tapestries, the work of the masters of the day covers nearly every inch of the Chapel with art depicting important Biblical scenes.

Free time in Rome: Spend the rest of the day exploring Rome on your own.

Wednesday, 5/19

Day 10:

Travel to Sorrento via Pompeii: Continue towards Sorrento, a beautiful city nestled against the Bay of Naples. Mild weather, fragrant lemon groves, and spectacular coastal views welcome you to the area.

Sightseeing tour of Pompeii: Travel to Pompeii and see how the wealthiest ancient Romans lived at the ruins. Following the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D., the minutiae of day-to-day life in the resort town were frozen in time beneath ash and debris—making this one of the richest archaeological sites in the world.

Thursday, 5/20

Day 11: Sorrento region | Capri | Rome

Return to Rome via Capri: Get to know stunning Capri, famously the home of the sirens in Greek mythology.

Sightseeing tour of Capri: On a guided tour, explore Capri's lush landscapes, including crystalline waters and breathtaking cliffs, before a relaxing island cruise back to the mainland.

Friday, 5/21

Day 12: Depart for home

Travel to the airport, where you'll board your flight home.