



ITALY CLASSIC

A compelling tour visiting the cultural treasures of Italy. Sun-drenched Sorrento and Pompeii in the south, Lake Garda and Pisa in Italy's north; then Venice & Florence, Rome and the Vatican.....it's all in 6 unforgettable days!

Tour time table

DAY 1

05:30 departure from Ramstein – 08:30 breakfast break (30 min) at rest stop near Baden Baden – cross into Switzerland at Basel – past lake Lucern and across the scenic Swiss Alps – 13:00 lunch stop at rest stop Bellinzona (45 min) – cross Italian border at Chiasso – past Milano to Lake Garda – stop at Pesciera, time for dinner at a Pizzeria and to browse (16:30 / 19:00) - 20:30 arrival at Venice hotel – check in

DAY 2

07:00 breakfast at hotel – 8:00 check out and departure – 08:30 take the ferry to historical center of Venice – 09:00 / 10:00 sight-seeing around St.Mark's Square – visit of glass blowing work shop (10:00 / 11:00) – free time – 12:30 – 13:15 Gondola ride (€ 30) – 13:45 dep. ferry to bus parking – 14:30 depart from Venice towards Rome – 18:30 dinner stop at free way rest stop in Tuscany – 21:00 arrival in Rome – check into hotel.

DAY 3

07:00 breakfast at hotel – 08:00 depart for Vatican (optional € 69) – Vatican tour from 08:30 / 12:00 – time for lunch – 13:00 / 16:00 city tour of Rome – 1 hr rest at hotel – 19:00 / 21:00 dinner at family style restaurant (opt.€39)– 21:30 return to hotel

DAY 4

06:30 breakfast at hotel – 07:00 depart for excursion to Pompeii and Sorrento (opt. €99) – 10:00 / 12:30 walking tour of Pompeii excavations – scenic drive along the coast to Sorrento – 13:30 / 14:30 lunch (€12) in Sorrento – free time to shop and explore until 15:45 – walk to harbour – 16:15 / 17:00 ride per jet boat to Naples – 20:30 return to hotel in Rome

DAY 5

07:00 breakfast at hotel – check out and departure at 08:00 – drive towards Florence – 10:00 / 10:30 stop en route – 11:30 arrival in Florence – time for lunch – 12:30 / 14:00 city walking tour (Duomo, Piazza della Signoria, Santa Croce) – 14:00 / 16:00 free time to shop and explore – 17:00 hotel check in – 18:30 depart for Tuscan dinner – 19:00 / 21:30 Tuscan Dinner (opt.€49) – 22:00 return to hotel

DAY 6

07:00 breakfast at hotel – check out and departure at 08:00 – drive to Pisa – 10:00 / 11:00 walking orientation tour to cathedral and Leaning Tower, then free time – 12:00 departure from Pisa – 14:00 short stop (15 min) near Parma – 17:00 dinner stop (45 min) near Milano – Switzerland – 20:00 short stop (20 min) at Swiss/German border – 24:00 return to Ramstein

Frequently asked questions:

- How many stops do we make on the 1st day?

We will make frequent stops for your comfort about every 3 hours. On the way from Ramstein to Venice there will be a total of 4 stops.

- At our stop in Switzerland, do we need Swiss Francs to pay for our meals and purchases?

No, at the Swiss free way rest stop where we take our lunch break they take also Euros or credit cards.

- When do we sign up and pay for the optionals?

While on tour with the guide on the first day of your journey.

- Can we pay the optionals per credit card?

No, please bring enough (Euro) cash. You can also get cash at ATMs in Italy but there generally is a daily limit of €400 that you can

take out.

- What type of hotels can I expect?

We generally use Mercure, Novotel, Holiday Inn hotel, Golden Tulip or independent hotels of similar standard, 3 or 4 stars.

- Are the hotels centrally located?

Our contract hotels generally are located not in the city center due to limited accessibility with big buses in the historical centers but they are located close enough to reach the center per bus within approx 15 / 30 minutes

- Is tap water safe to drink in Italy?

Yes.

- Is there a lot of walking during the city tours?

Yes, city sightseeing tours in Italy involve hours of walking due to traffic restrictions in the historical centers. Also, there are stairs and cobble stone pavements. You should be in good physical condition and bring comfortable walking shoes for our daily sightseeing.

- Are there any clothing restrictions for some sights or events?

Yes, at religious sights such as churches and especially the Vatican you must wear cloths that cover shoulders and knees to be granted access. At our arranged dinners the dress code is casual to smart casual.

- Can I do my own explorations instead of participating in the city tours?

You are always free to leave the tour group at any time and place to do your own thing. Please let the guide know ahead of time when you leave the tour and when and where you intend to meet back with the group.

- Is there time for souvenir shopping during the city tour?

Yes, plenty. There are souvenir shops near almost all sights we will visit and see during this tour and our guides will make ensure that you also have the time to shop around and even give recommendations on what are characteristic things to buy, where you find them and which areas and tourist traps to avoid.

- What is the Tuscan dinner about?

Our special Tuscan gala dinner allows you to sample the great tuscan cuisine in all its variety and beyond the dining experience there is live music entertainment. It takes place at a beautiful restaurant, a former 16th century farm house, located out on the country in the Chianti wine region.

Before the meal starts an aperitiv is served. Then:

1st course: A buffet of antipasti, bruscetta, stuffed mushrooms, olives, grilled zucchini and eggplant etc.

2nd course: Penne with spicy meat sauce and home made ravioli with truffles in alfredo sauce

3rd course: Prime rib of beef with potatoes and green salad

4th course: Variety of deserts to choose from. Tiramisu, lemon tarte, raspberry cake, etc

White wine, Red wine, mineral water, espresso

- Are there vegetarian options at the arranged dinners?

Yes, please let the tour guide know at the beginning of the tour if you have special dietary requirements such as vegetarian or vegan preferences or any food allergies.

- What if I don't want to participate in one or more of the optional events?

There are always alternative options if you don't want to participate. As for the arranged dinners, you can use the hotels restaurant instead or places near the hotel or grab a snack while still in the city. If you choose not to take our Pompeij & Sorrento excursion you have a free day to spend in Rome for own explorations. Please never hesitate to ask your guide for alternative plans according to your personal interests and requirements. He/she will be glad to assist you.

- What if I get lost somewhere and cannot make it back to a meeting place it time?

Upon departure in Ramstein the tour guide will hand out emergency sheets with his/her cell phone number, name, adress and phone number of the hotels and the number of the nearest US embassy. Whith this info provided, you can always contact the guide and arrange to meet later some where else and take a taxi to an other meeting point or back to the hotel.