



GROUPS

7 NIGHTS

Antiquity and the Middle Ages in the heart of Italy

A journey through the history of Italy, from antiquity to the Middle Ages. Villages and cities that through centuries of history, up to the Renaissance and the Baroque, are enriched with works of art and hidden treasures.

DAY 1 - ROME HISTORICAL CENTER

Arrival and accommodation at the hotel. In the afternoon we will commence with the visit of the Eternal City starting from the beautiful Piazza di Spagna and then the Trevi Fountain. We will continue to Piazza Colonna whose name comes from the presence of the Column of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius. On the way we will see the palaces of the Italian political power: Palazzo Chigi (Government), Palazzo di Montecitorio (Chamber of Deputies) and Palazzo Madama (Senate). After a short stop, visit to Piazza della Rotonda where you can see the Pantheon built by Emperor Hadrian in the second century A. C. and Piazza Navona with the magnificent Fountain of the Four Rivers by Bernini. We will end the visit with the Ara Pacis, an altar dedicated to peace by Emperor Augustus in the year 9 BC. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

DAY 2 - VATICAN

Breakfast, meet with the guide and visit of the Basilica of S. Peter, which with an area of 115 thousand square meters, is the largest in the world. Inside are preserved many masterpieces, among others the Pietà by Michelangelo and the bronze canopy by Gian Lorenzo Bernini. Visit to the crypt which preserves the remains of St. Peter, Pope John Paul II and numerous other popes. Finally, visit St. Peter's Square to admire its colonnade by Bernini. Lunch free (not included).

In the afternoon, visit to the Vatican Museums where various works spanning the ancient and contemporary ages are kept. Sarcophagi and mosaics share the space with masterpieces by great masters such as Giotto, Michelangelo, Leonardo Da Vinci, Raphael (here is the famous School of Athens) up to Dali, Canova and Matisse. In the midst of so much beauty, the presence of a fragment of moon rock donated to Vatican citizens by former US president Nixon continues to amaze. The tour ends in the Sistine Chapel, a masterpiece by Michelangelo Buonarroti, where it is possible to admire the famous frescoes of the representation of the Last Judgment. Dinner in a typical Roman restaurant, return to the hotel and overnight stay.

DAY 3 - COLOSSEUM AND ROMAN FORUM

Breakfast and visit to the largest archaeological area in the world. The Colosseum or Flavian Amphitheater, whose construction was commis-

sioned by two Emperors of the Flavia family: Vespasiano and his son Tito. The Colosseum was started in 72 and finished in 80 A.D. Opposite stands the Arch of Constantine (4th century A.D.) then the Arch of Titus (1st century A.D.), continuing on we can admire the Forum with all its history and after we go up to the Capitol. On the famous hill, where the Municipality of Rome is based, we can admire the beautiful square in the shape of a trapezoid designed by Michelangelo. A visit to the Ara Coeli Church is not to be missed. On the other side of the hill is Piazza Venezia, home to the largest monument in Europe: the Monument to the Unknown Soldier, also known as the Vittoriano. Afternoon at leisure or visit to the Capitoline Museums. Return to the hotel, overnight.

DAY 4 - SPELLO AND ASSISI

Breakfast and transfer from Rome to Spello, one of the most beautiful villages in Italy. The city has been able to preserve a strong medieval atmosphere with its walls, its alleys and its works, such as the splendid frescoes by Pinturicchio preserved in the church of Santa Maria Maggiore. Lunch free (not included).

In the afternoon departure for Assisi, known for being the birthplace of Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Clare. We will visit the Basilica of St. Francis, the Rocca Maggiore, the Town Hall, the numerous churches and the Porziuncola in Santa Maria degli Angeli. The city as a whole transmits strong emotions for its mysticism and for the medieval atmosphere that you breathe there.

Arrival at the hotel, dinner and overnight.

Optional: lunch in a restaurant with typical Umbrian cuisine based on local black truffles.

DAY 5 - CORTONA AND FLORENCE

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Cortona, a city of Etruscan origin, of which there are many testimonies including the mighty walls dating back to the 4th century B.C. Possibility of visiting the Etruscan Museum where, among the treasures on display, we find the famous Tabula Cortonensis, a bronze sheet with one of the longest inscriptions in the Etruscan language. Lunch free (not included).

In the afternoon, transfer to Florence. Arrival at the hotel, overnight.



DAY 6 - FLORENCE

Breakfast at the hotel and meet with the guide. We will begin the visit from Piazza Santa Croce and its homonymous church in which the remains of Michelangelo Buonarroti, Galileo Galilei and Niccolò Machiavelli are kept. We will continue to Piazza della Signoria which is the heart of the Florence Museum with its sixteenth-century statues including Benvenuto Cellini's Perseus, Giambologna's Rape of the Sabines and Michelangelo's David. Then we will enter Piazza della Repubblica, an ancient Roman Forum, to end in Santa Maria in Fiore where the majestic Cathedral is located with Giotto's Bell Tower and the Baptistry next to it (entrance with ticket and skip the line).

Afternoon at leisure for independent visits.

Optional activities: Visit to the Uffizi Museum, Dinner in a typical Tuscan restaurant. Return to the hotel and overnight stay.

DAY 7 - PISA - SAN GIMIGNANO - MONTERIGGIONI

In the morning, after breakfast at the hotel, meet with the guide. Transfer to Pisa where we will visit the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, the iconic Leaning Tower, the Baptistry of San Giovanni and the Monumental Cemetery. Transfer to San Gimignano, the city of the Towers where we can find one of the best ice creams in the world. We will stroll through Piazza della Cisterna, Piazza Duomo and the buildings that surround it.

Lunch free (not included), we then continue to the nearby Monteriggioni, a defensive fortress of the Republic of Siena, which still retains a large part of the 13th century walls. Return to our hotel in Florence, dinner and overnight.

Optional activities: entrance to the Tower of Pisa, visit of the Baptistry of Pisa in Piazza dei Miracoli, Tasting of the famous Vernaccia wine of San Gimignano.

DAY 8 - END OF THE TOUR

Breakfast, check-out and end of the tour with transfer to the train station or Bologna airport.

PRICE FROM: € 780,00
P.P. MIN. 20 PARTICIPANTS

THE PRICE INCLUDES

Transfer by coach, tour leader for the duration of the trip, 7 nights accommodation in a 4 **** or 3 *** star hotel with breakfast, 2 dinners with three-course menu with water / bread, entrance ticket and guided tour of the Vatican Museums in Rome, entrance ticket and guided tour of the Colosseum, Imperial Forums and Palatine Hill, entrance ticket and guided tour of the Basilica of San Francesco in Assisi, entrance ticket and guided tour for the Basilica of Santa Maria in Fiore complex in Florence, guided tour of Baroque Rome, Florence, Assisi, Cortona, Pisa and San Gimignano.

