



ROAD SCHOLAR

BRADLEY
UNIVERSITY

The Best of Italy: Rome, Florence, and Venice **Saturday, September 17, to Friday, September 30, 2016**



Program Summary and Highlights:

Experience the beauty of three historic capitals of Classical, Medieval and Renaissance acclaim as local experts lead you on a journey through some of Italy's greatest cities. Follow the path of legendary artists, scientists and philosophers from the classical remnants of Rome to the preserved treasures of Florence and Venice.

- Trace Roman history through the ages as you visit the Colosseum, the Pantheon, Borghese Museum, and the Vatican Museum.
- Journey to Florence and Venice via a high speed EuroStar train, reaching speeds of over 120 mph.
- View the "David" — a Renaissance period masterpiece in Florence — and ride in a gondola through the canals of Venice.

Program Price Includes:

- 12 nights of accommodations
- 30 meals: 12 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 9 dinners
- 6 Expert-led lectures
- 18 Field trips
- Reserved entrances for the Vatican Museums (Sistine Chapel), Colosseum, Forum, Galleria Borghese Uffizi Gallery and the Accademia (Michelangelo's David) minimize wait time
- Travel by high speed train, luggage transported by courier from Rome to Florence and from Florence to Venice
- Group travel and transfers throughout the program
- A Group Leader to accompany you throughout the program to handle all logistics
- All gratuities, taxes and destination fees
- The Road Scholar Emergency and Travel Assistance Plan, including 24-hour assistance for medical and other emergencies

All Inclusive Pricing:

Double Occupancy - **\$6,525 per person** Single Occupancy - **\$7,395 per person**

For those wishing to extend their trip and make their own transportation arrangements (including to and from the airport, flights, and transfers), land-only prices are listed below. Online registration is not available for this option, so you must call the office and register with Gwen at (309) 677-3900.

Double occupancy land only - \$5,099 Single occupancy land only - \$5,975

- Online registration available **Thursday, January 21 at 9:00 am**
- Non-refundable \$250 deposit due **Friday, March 18, 2016**
- Final payment due **Monday, May 1, 2016**. (Optional cancellation insurance also due at this time.)

Program Activity Level:

- **Extensive** walking in traffic-free urban centers which prevent tourist coaches from parking or loading passengers at sites. The distances traversed on foot can reach **4 mi/day**—always interspersed with rest time, typically at a meal. Standing for extended periods of time during site visits. Special attention needs to be paid to the uneven aspect of cobblestone streets. Elevator use in some historic buildings is restricted. **Not all staircases have banisters.** Venice is unique as a city with no vehicles besides public or private boats that run along the Grand Canal. Extensive walking in Venice includes crossing bridges that span minor canals. As with many things, the effort expended has its aesthetic reward.

Itinerary Summary:

- Arrival Rome, 4 nights; train to Florence, 4 nights; train to Venice, 4 nights; departure.

Accommodations:

Hotel Tiziano: Rome, 4 nights

- The hotel is located in the heart of historical Rome and is within walking distance of Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, Capitoline Hill, Roman Forum, the Colosseum, and more. Set in the elegant and classical 18th century Pacelli palace, the recently refurbished Hotel Tiziano Rome boasts a classically beautiful setting. This former palace of a noble Roman family has been renovated into a comfortable and luxurious hotel. Elevators and free wi-fi throughout the facility.

Hotel Adriatico: Florence, 4 nights

- Grand Hotel Adriatico is an elegant, functional, and modern 4 star hotel in the historical centre of Florence that combines the great tradition of Florentine warm hospitality and personalized welcoming with efficiency and comfort of the best international hotels. Situated in a unique position, near the Santa Maria Novella railway station and within a 10 minute walk from Duomo, Ponte Vecchio, Galleria degli Uffizi and more. The classroom and breakfast room are on the ground floor; elevators access all guest rooms.

Hotel Principe: Venice, 4 nights

- This luxurious 4-star hotel in Venice, is well known for its elegance, and the wonderful terrace overlooking the Grand Canal, where guests can enjoy all the magic and charm of Venice. The hotel is an ex Franciscan convent from the 15th Century, and has undergone a modern restoration that showcases the ancient frescoes, stone arches and vaulted ceilings. Elevator access available.

DAILY SCHEDULE:

Saturday, September 17 – Travel to Italy

Departure from Bradley University, flying out of Chicago O'Hare Airport, overnight in transit

Sunday, September 18 – Arrival in Rome / Welcome Orientation

Morning: Transfer to hotel. Check-in time is in the afternoon. Your room might not be ready for occupancy if you arrive early morning. The group leader will be at the reception desk to assist you with safekeeping your luggage after which you can explore the area around the hotel before lunch

Lunch: Lunch at a local restaurant

Afternoon: Check in at your hotel and take the afternoon to unpack and relax. A brief neighborhood walk to locate ATMs, banks, pharmacies, grocery stores, and eateries. Program overview and orientation, distribution of on-site materials. In the late afternoon you will meet with your group leader at the hotel for a review of the program itinerary and site orientation.

Dinner: Dinner at a local restaurant

Monday, September 19: Rome, Forum, Colosseum, Treasures of the Vatican

Breakfast: Breakfast buffet at the hotel.

Morning: Program Orientation and overview. Begin to unravel the multiple layers of Roman history through the sharp insight of a professor who will set the stage for your explorations. A local expert leads the visit to the Roman Colosseum.

Lunch: Lunch at a restaurant near entrance to the Forum.

Afternoon: Guided visit continues to the Roman Forum. The forum dates back to the 7th century BCE and was the religious and civic center of the city. Later in the afternoon a classroom lecture explores the Treasures of the Vatican in preparation for a visit to view a portion of the Vatican's immense art collection.

Dinner: Dinner at a characteristic Roman trattoria.

***Activity Note:** Steep and uneven steps to reach the upper levels of the Colosseum. The walk around the Roman Forum is on uneven paths and original pavement of cobblestone.*

Tuesday, September 20: Vatican Museums, Free Afternoon

Breakfast: Breakfast buffet at the hotel.

Morning: Expert-led visit of the Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica. The extraordinary works of art in the museum collection will amaze you, notable are: Roman statuary (Laocoon, Belvedere Apollo, and gilded bronze Hercules), Raphael's Stanze, and of course Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel. If security permits, your guide will lead you out a back way which puts you at the entrance of St. Peter's Basilica, where you will see Michelangelo's Pietà and Bernini's bronze canopy over the main altar.

Lunch: Lunch on your own.

Afternoon: Free afternoon to explore the city on your own. Suggestions are given on site.

Dinner Dinner at local restaurant.

***Activity Note:** Coach drop-off point is a few blocks from and an uphill walk to the museum entrance. Reserved entrance time at Vatican Museums diminishes the wait in line. The visit requires negotiating multiple flights of steps and walking the long corridor to the Sistine Chapel (distance is about 1/2 mile). Please note that even with a reserved entrance you can expect crowds as thousands of people visit the museum collections and Sistine Chapel every day of the year.*

Wednesday, September 21 – Roman Monuments, Palazzo Massimo Antiquities

Breakfast: Breakfast buffet at the hotel.

Morning: After breakfast, a local expert leads the walk in the heart of Rome to four landmarks: Piazza Navona, whose buildings are set on the seating of Domitian's stadium; the Pantheon, Roman temple built in 126 CE; the Trevi Fountain from the Baroque period and terminating at the Spanish Steps.

Lunch: Lunch at a restaurant just off the elegant Piazza Navona.

Afternoon: Return to the hotel, after lunch, an expert-led visit of the collection of Roman Art at the Palazzo Massimo alle Terme, around the corner from the hotel. Notable is the seated bronze boxer and frescoes from Villa Livia, Augustus Caesar's wife's dining room.

Dinner: On your own.

***Activity Note:** Extensive walking in the heart of Rome's pedestrian-only area from coach drop off point and the area between Piazza Navona and the Spanish Steps. For the afternoon visit, the Palazzo Massimo is situated right around the corner from the hotel. Few stairs to reach the entrance, elevators inside.*

Thursday, September 22 – Borghese Gallery/Train to Florence/Neighborhood Walk

Breakfast: Breakfast buffet in the hotel.

Morning: Check out of hotel. Your bags will be delivered to the hotel in Florence. Coach to the Borghese Gallery, the private pleasure and reception palace of Cardinal Scipio Borghese, an avid art collector and patron of the young Bernini. On display in the Gallery are important paintings by Caravaggio, Raphael, Botticelli and Titian. However, most people go there to see the sculptures by Bernini which are emotionally charged, a true evocation of the Baroque.

Lunch: Lunch at a local restaurant.

Afternoon: Transfer to Florence by high speed train. Travel on the train with just your carry-on bag. Check in and settle into the hotel. Late afternoon neighborhood walk to orient you to the location of ATMs, pharmacies, stores and shops. Florence is much smaller than Rome and can easily be traversed in 30 minutes. On the walk, you may pass the Duomo, the main cathedral and Palazzo Vecchio, the 13th C. city hall, still used for that purpose.

Dinner: Dinner at a local restaurant.

Activity Note: Stairs to reach second floor of the Gallery. Short walk from the hotel to the train station, comfortable ride on the train, short walk to hotel and city orientation in Florence.

Friday, September 23 – Florence & the Medici's, Sculpture Museum, Accademia

Breakfast: Breakfast buffet in the hotel.

Morning: A classroom session on Medieval Florence and the Medici family. Walk to Bargello for an onsite lecture of Florentine Renaissance sculpture.

Lunch: Lunch at a local restaurant.

Afternoon: Walk to the Accademia for an onsite lecture on Michelangelo's David. Remainder of day at your leisure.

Dinner: Dinner at a local restaurant

Saturday, September 24 – S. Lorenzo Market / Art Treasures of the Duomo Museum

- Breakfast:** Breakfast buffet at the hotel.
- Morning:** The Market of S. Lorenzo is the downtown historical fresh fruit and meat market. Along the road, "bancarelle" vendor carts sell various Florentine specialties: leather, scarves, pottery and souvenirs. A local expert leads a visit to the Duomo, Florence's cathedral and the Duomo Museum.
- Lunch:** Lunch on your own.
- Afternoon:** After the Duomo Museum visit, free time to visit other venues with your cumulative ticket of the Duomo Museum complex, or explore other sites in the heart of Florence at your own pace.
- Dinner:** Dinner at a local restaurant.

Sunday, September 25 – Renaissance Art / Uffizi Gallery

- Breakfast:** Buffet breakfast at the hotel.
- Morning:** Morning lecture on medieval and Renaissance art in preparation for the visit to the Uffizi Gallery.
- Lunch:** Enjoy some Tuscan dishes at a local restaurant.
- Afternoon:** A little free time before our appointed time for the Uffizi. For the self-guided visit we will enter as a group, but you are free to spend as much time as you wish. This is the most extensive collection of art, tracing the development from Gothic to medieval to Renaissance to Mannerist paintings in the world. You will find many recognizable masterpieces, including DaVinci's Annunciation, Botticelli's Birth of Venus and the Primavera, some Titians, Michelangelo's Holy Family, and a few Caravaggios as well as Artemisia Gentileschi. There is a coffee bar at the end of the second corridor, on top of the Loggia, with a wonderful view of the watch tower and Duomo where you can get a refreshment and rest.
- Dinner:** Dinner on your own.

***Activity Note:** A small elevator (cap. 3 persons) for disabled visitors may be accessible at the Uffizi Gallery. There is a long flight of stairs to reach the exhibition rooms of the gallery. Expect some crowding in the museum; it is a popular destination for art aficionados.*

Monday, September 26 – Transfer to Venice

- Breakfast:** Buffet breakfast at the hotel.
- Morning:** High speed train to Venice, short walk to the hotel. Your bags will be delivered by courier.
- Lunch:** Lunch at the hotel restaurant
- Afternoon:** A resident of Venice will share insights into different aspects of Venetian culture. Topics vary according to their expertise; details will arrive with the final mailing. Neighborhood walk will indicate the location of ATMs, pharmacies, stores and shops.
- Dinner:** Dinner at a neighborhood restaurant

Activity Note: High speed train to Venice, minimal walking around Venice on arrival day.

Tuesday, September 27 – St. Mark's Square and Basilica, Ducal Palace

- Breakfast:** Breakfast buffet at the hotel.
- Morning:** Travel along Venice's famed Grand Canal on a vaporetto boat (Venice's public transportation system) to St. Mark's Square. The cathedral, built during the 13 C., shows Byzantine influence. There are more than 45,000 sq. ft. of mosaics adorning the church, giving the impression of streets of gold.
- Lunch:** Sample Venetian dishes at a trattoria.
- Afternoon:** Expert-led visit continues to the Ducal Palace, seat of civic and political power. Doges embellished the palace to demonstrate their wealth and importance. There are murals by Tintoretto and Veronese.
- Dinner:** Dinner at a local restaurant

Activity Note: Ride the public vaporetto to St. Mark's Square. Walks in Venice involve crossing multiple bridges that span the canals. The visit through the many rooms of the Ducal Palace requires climbing a few flights of stairs. Narrow passages through the rooms of the Prisons and over the Bridge of Sighs.

Wednesday, September 28 – Frari & Scuola Grane S. Roco, Rialto, Gondola Ride

Breakfast: Breakfast buffet in hotel.

Morning: Ride the vaporetto to the stop near the Frari. Onsite lecture at the Frari where you can admire works by Titian and Bellini. The guided visit continues to the nearby Scuola Grande di S. Rocco. Scuole are lay charitable organizations whose meeting halls were decorated by the great Venetian painters. Learn about their activities and some of their illustrious members. The visit ends at the Rialto Market.

Lunch: Lunch at a local restaurant.

Afternoon: Experience the city from a different point of view as you enjoy a gondola ride along the canals of Venice. Some free time before your independent dinner.

Dinner: Dinner on your own.

Activity Note: Walks in Venice involve crossing multiple bridges that span the canals. Assistance offered getting in and out of the gondola.

Thursday, September 29 – Glassmaking in Murano

Breakfast: Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

Morning: Vaporetto to the island of Murano for a glassblowing demonstration by master artisans. Some free time to stroll the narrow streets along the canals.

Lunch: On your own.

Afternoon: Free Afternoon. With your vaporetto pass you can easily take the boat from Murano to explore the island of Burano, whose leaning tower rivals that in Pisa. Here you can find Venetian lace and small shops where you can watch the crafters create their handiwork. Or return to the center of town.

Dinner: Farewell dinner at the hotel restaurant.

Activity Note: Enjoyable boat ride to the island, minimal effort to walk around the streets of Murano. Low bridges to cross if you explore more of Murano or venture to Burano on your free time.

Friday, September 30 – Program Concludes

Breakfast: Breakfast at hotel; continental style for participants with early morning departures.

Morning: Departure transfer to Venice Airport

Note: Transfer to the airport may be by water taxi from the hotel's private dock on the Grand Canal. Your bags will be loaded onto and off the water taxi but at the airport dock there are some steps to reach the road. Under a covered path, the 8 min. walk to the terminal flanks the parking lot. If you have trouble managing your luggage on the flat path you can use a trolley (euro coin deposit).

Afternoon/Evening: Travel to from Venice to Chicago O'Hare Airport, and back to Bradley!

If you have questions about the trip, please contact:

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