



Italy Humanities – 2017 Itinerary

Travel Dates: Friday, July 7, 2017 – Monday, July 17, 2017

DAY 1 (JULY 8): ARRIVE IN ROME

Airport pickup and transfer to Hotel Emmaus www.emmaushotel.com. Settle in, and then gather for lunch which will be on your own. After lunch, rest at the hotel, then tour the local area and learn about Rome. Dinner is included; we will eat near the hotel. After dinner we will walk to St. Peter's Basilica and then we retire for the evening.

DAY 2 (JULY 9): ROME

Breakfast in the hotel dining room, then we will study Humanities in a hotel meeting room in preparation for the day's tour. Visit Ancient Roman site of interest: Trajan's Victory Column, the Colosseum, Roman Forum, the Arch of Titus, the Arch of Constantine, Piazza Venezia, the Temple of Vespasian, the Temple of Saturn, the Temple of Vesta. We will also tour the Capitoline Museum. Lunch will be on your own; dinner is included during the tour. Return to hotel.

DAY 3 (JULY 10): ROME

Start off with breakfast in hotel dining room, and then visit the Pantheon (originally built as a temple to all the gods, now a Christian church). Travel on to the Circus Maximus. From there we will proceed just outside Rome to the Church of San Sebastian to visit ancient catacombs. Lunch will be on your own in between visiting sites, dinner is included. Return to hotel to pack for Florence and Siena.

DAY 4 (JULY 11): TRAVEL TO SIENA AND FLORENCE

Eat breakfast in the hotel dining room. Bring your luggage downstairs to the lobby and hop aboard a bus to travel to Siena and Florence. We will tour Siena and cruise the famous Tuscany Region. Visit the Cathedral of Siena (Romanesque-Gothic architecture) and the church of San Domenico which is closely associated with St. Catherine of Siena. Relax with a coffee in the most amazing shell-shaped Piazza del Campo. Lunch is on your own; dinner is included and will be of typical Tuscany foods.

See San Gimignano and its beautiful medieval towers, named after Bishop Saint Geminianus, who defended the city from Attila's Huns in the 10th century. Siena is a World Heritage site and one of the most beautiful medieval walled towns of Tuscany. Learn the history behind the rivalry that creates one of the world's most intense horse races. At the end of the day we will check into Hotel Olimpia in Florence.

DAY 5 (JULY 12): FLORENCE

This will be our first full day in Florence and we will tour the local area. After breakfast in the hotel we will walk to the Convent of San Marco, the Palazzo Vecchio, the Ponte Vecchio, and then to the Pitti Palace (the Palatine Gallery) to stroll through its beautiful landscaped gardens which overlook Florence and Tuscany. Next we will visit the Accademia Gallery (home of Michelangelo's *David*). Lunch will be on your own; dinner is included.

DAY 6 (JULY 13): FLORENCE

After breakfast in the dining room we will begin the day with an optional climb to the top of Brunelleschi's Dome (Santa Maria Del Fiore and its museum). Participate in an authentic Italian cooking class that will serve as dinner. Finally, back to the hotel you will need to pack for check-out the next morning.

DAY 7 (JULY 14): FLORENCE AND TRAVEL TO ROME

Breakfast is in the dining room. Be sure to have everything packed in the morning since we will be checking out of the hotel on this day. Today you will see some of the world's greatest art at the Uffizi Gallery. You will tour the remaining Florence sites such as Santa Croce church (featuring the funeral monuments of Michelangelo, Galileo, Machiavelli, and Dante). Finally, a brief visit to Santa Maria Novelle, just before we return to Rome by train in the evening. Lunch will be on your own and dinner is included.

DAY 8 (JULY 15): ROME

Breakfast is in the hotel dining room, then a short walk to visit St. Peter's Basilica where we will learn about the church and its history. We will go to the top of Michelangelo's famous dome for a panoramic view of Rome. After lunch we will tour the Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel where you will view spectacular works of art and architecture. Lunch will be on your own and dinner is included.

DAY 9 (JULY 16): ROME

Breakfast is in the hotel dining room. Today we will visit churches of significance in Rome such as Santa Maria della Vittoria, Santa Maria Maggiore, and Sant' Ignazio di Loyola . We will also see Bernini's Fountain of Four Rivers in the Piazza Navona.

Visit San Carlo Quattro Fontane, the Trevi fountain, Spanish steps, Piazza di Spagna, and the Borghese Museum (Galleria Borghese) at the Villa Borghese. We will then walk to the Piazza del Popolo and view paintings by Caravaggio in Santa Maria del Popolo. Lunch will be on your own, dinner is included as we tour the sites. After dinner we will return to the hotel and pack since check-out is the next morning.

DAY 10 (JULY 17): ROME AND TRAVEL BACK TO USA

Check-out of the hotel and meet the bus early in front of hotel for a ride to airport. If time permits we will have breakfast at the hotel.