

ITINERARY

Inside visits and special features are shown in UPPERCASE in the tour description, including admission charges where applicable.

DAY 1 - ARRIVE ON VENICE ISLAND, ITALY **WD**

Welcome to Venice! At 6 pm, meet your Tour Director and traveling companions for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY 2 - VENICE ISLAND **B**

After a PRIVATE BOAT RIDE, follow your Local Guide on a walking tour and visit ST. MARK'S SQUARE with its byzantine Basilica, lavish DOGES' PALACE, and the BRIDGE OF SIGHS. Also, watch a skilled GLASSBLOWER fashion delicate objects in an age-old traditional manner. You may wish to enjoy an optional gondola serenade.

DAY 3 - VENICE ISLAND–PISA–FLORENCE **B**

A scenic drive across the Apennines brings you to Pisa. In the spectacular Square of Miracles, take the traditional picture pushing back the amazing Leaning Tower, 180 feet high and no less than 12 feet out of the perpendicular. Arrive in Florence, "Cradle of the Renaissance." Tonight, is your chance to try out Tuscan specialties.

DAY 4 - FLORENCE–ASSISI **B, D**

This morning follows your Local Guide to the ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS to see Michelangelo's celebrated statue of David. Also admire the magnificent marble cathedral, Giotto's Bell Tower, the Baptistry's heavy bronze "Gates of Paradise," and the sculpture studded SIGNORIA SQUARE. Continue to peaceful Assisi.

DAY 5 - ASSISI–ROME **B**

This morning, a friar will accompany you on a visit to the BASILICA OF ST. FRANCIS, the hub of a religious order devoted to the ideals of humility, forgiveness, simplicity, and love for all God's creatures. Tonight, in the "Eternal City," an optional dinner is available at one of Rome's famous restaurants.

DAY 6 - ROME **B, D**

Guided sightseeing includes inside visits to the VATICAN MUSEUMS and SISTINE CHAPEL with Michelangelo's The Last Judgment, monumental ST. PETER'S SQUARE, and BASILICA to admire Michelangelo's Pietà. Drive to the area of the Imperial Roman Forum and visit the COLOSSEUM, where gladiators once fought. An optional walking tour with a Local Guide is available to further explore famous sites. This evening, a enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

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DAY 7 - ROME–POMPEII–SORRENTO

B

Take a scenic drive southward along the Highway of the Sun. Arrive in fascinating POMPEII, the Roman city both destroyed and preserved by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. Your Local Guide will walk you past patrician homes, public baths, and commercial districts that strikingly recall day-to-day life when Rome was at the apex of her power. Continue further south past Naples and arrive in Sorrento.

DAY 8 - SORRENTO

B, FD

Enjoy an entire day at leisure to explore the charming bayside resort of Sorrento. Your Tour Director will have suggestions on how to spend the day. This evening, a farewell dinner awaits at your hotel.

DAY 9 - SORRENTO

B

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (The nearest airport is Naples.)

Meals:

WD = Welcome Dinner

B = Breakfast

L = Lunch

D = Dinner

FD = Farewell Dinner