



Vita Italian Tours

Vita Italian Tours are designed  
for the traveller who wants  
more than just a holiday

## **TOUR 1 MICHELANGELO**

### **Italian Educational & Cultural Experience**

**Tour Duration 21 Days**  
**from AUD \$4,980**

**Day 1** Meet at International Airport at the check-in area for departure for Rome.

**Day 2 Rome (D)** Your tour leaders will meet you at Rome International Airport with your transfer to your hotel. We will be holding a sign with your school name. Your hotel is in the centre of Rome where you will check-in and have time to freshen up or have a rest. Before dinner, we will guide you on a leisurely stroll through some of the famous 'piazze' of Rome. The guided walking tour will include Piazza della Repubblica, Fountain of Trevi, Piazza della Rotonda, Piazza Navona and finally Campo de' Fiori. The walk will end with an early dinner in a traditional Roman restaurant.

**Day 3 Rome/Vatican (BD)** After breakfast we continue to enjoy and experience more of the fascinating sites of Rome. We start with the important Monument to Vittorio Emanuele, Campidoglio and the Mayoral Offices. Also, your tour leaders will take the group through Ancient Rome, visiting the Roman Forum, followed by a special visit to the Colosseum. In the afternoon there will be a guided tour of St Peters Basilica, important for religious, architectural and historical reasons. Dinner in a traditional restaurant.

**Day 4 Rome/Appia Antica (BD)** After breakfast the group will experience a very special day. We take a local bus to the Parco Regionale dell'Appia Antica. This will be an interesting and educational visit to one of the earliest and most strategic roads of the Roman Empire. Along the road the group will see ancient monuments, aqueducts and visit the famous catacombs. Dinner in a traditional restaurant.

**Day 5 Rome/Pompeii/Sorrento (BD)** Today will be an early morning start. Our tour bus will take us south along the Autostrada del Sole to Pompeii which was destroyed and preserved by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. A local guide will lead us through the ruins of this truly magnificent Roman city. We then travel to Sorrento and check in at our hotel. Before dinner at the hotel there will be a guided walking tour through the historical centre of Sorrento. Dinner in Sorrento.

**Day 6 Sorrento/Amalfi Coast (BD)** Today we will be taking in the sights of the Amalfi Coast which has breathtaking views. We travel by coach to beautiful Positano and then proceed to Amalfi which was once a powerful maritime republic famous for ship building and manufacturing paper. The afternoon is free to wander through Amalfi. Dinner in Sorrento.

**Day 7 Sorrento/Educational Language School Le Marche (BD)** After breakfast we travel east crossing the Central Apennines to Le Marche Region. We will travel in air-conditioned comfort through some of the most beautiful countryside of Central Italy. We travel along the A14 Autostrada, which has spectacular views of the Adriatic and surrounding countryside. We should reach our destination by late afternoon where the group will be welcomed by the principal teachers of the school who will give a brief explanation of the activities for the coming days. The students will be introduced to the families they will be staying with for the duration of their Italian language experience. Dinner will be with their billeted family.

**Day 8/13 Language School (BD)** For the next six days students will attend classes from 9:00am to 1:00pm with a 20 minute break around mid morning. In the afternoons they will be attending a variety of activities, for example:

- Guided visits to Urbino and Republic of San Marino
- Visits to local important cultural and historical sites, museums, galleries and markets
- Traditional Italian Pizza making cooking lesson in a local agriturismo
- Maiolica Ceramic workshop where students will learn the ancient techniques of this famous art form.

**\*\* Activities will vary depending on the educational school you choose. \*\***

We have internationally recognised schools in Milano, Florence, Venice, Orvieto, Pescara, Pesaro/Urbino, Padova & Taormina in Sicily.

**Day 14 Language School/Siena/San Gimignano/Florence (BD)** Students say farewell to their billeted families as our journey takes us through some of the richest parts of the Italian countryside to Florence. On the way we visit Siena to admire the Cathedral and the Piazza del Campo, one of the most beautiful squares in Europe to learn about the famous horse race '*Il Palio*'. We then travel on to San Gimignano, a tiny historical city perched on a hill, famous for its numerous towers and art treasures. There we will also visit a *gelateria* which has won numerous world titles for its home made ice cream which is regarded as the best *gelato* in the world. After our arrival in Florence, the group will check in at the hotel and the rest of the day will include a walking tour, which features Piazza del Duomo and its cathedral with the Giotto Campanile and the magnificent East Door of the Baptistery known as the '*Gates of Paradise*'. Dinner is in a restaurant in the centre of Florence.

**Day 15 Florence (BD)** Our second day in Florence starts with a visit to the Academy Gallery to admire the original David by Michelangelo and other masterpieces by this great artist. The tour continues to the Piazza della Signoria with the famous Uffizi Gallery and the Palazzo Vecchio. In the afternoon students will have a special demonstration on how to make Gelato at one of Italy's most famous Gelato houses. There will also be an opportunity to wander through the San Lorenzo markets shopping for leather and gold goods or leisurely explore this beautiful city. Dinner at a local restaurant.

**Day 16 Florence/Pisa (BD)** Today we make a special trip to one of Italy's most famous landmarks, the Leaning Tower of Pisa which is one of several architecturally important structures in the Piazza dei Miracoli. The Leaning Tower, built in 1173, is the campanile, or the bell tower, of the Cathedral famous for its noticeable lean. In the afternoon we make our way back to Florence by train. Your tour guide will give the group the opportunity to climb Giotto's famous tower of the Duomo and experience a magnificent view of all of Florence. Dinner in a traditional restaurant in Florence.

**Day 17 Florence/Venice (BD)** After breakfast we travel to Venice by train on the Eurostar. Upon arrival in Venice we take a *vaporetto* ride along the Grand Canal to check into our hotel. We have the afternoon to experience the sights of Venice including Piazza San Marco and the Basilica, the Bridge of Sigh, Ducal Palace and the Rialto Bridge. We then walk back through the small streets of Venice to our hotel for dinner.

**Day 18 Venice/Murano (BD)** Today after breakfast we take in the sights again along the Grand Canal to the island of Murano where Venice's world famous glass is made and visit several glassblowers creating their masterpieces. In the afternoon the group will enjoy a tour of a world renowned workshop that specialises in the production and decoration of traditional Venetian masks. Here the students will attend a special demonstration and course where they will try their hand at traditional Venetian mask making. Dinner at the hotel.

**Day 19 Venice (B)** Today after breakfast the group departs for Venice Airport for the flight back to Australia.

**Day 20/21** Arrive back in Australia

## Items included in the Tour

- A return economy airfare
- All land travel in an air conditioned bus
- Eurostar train from Florence to Venice
- All water transport in Venice
- Accommodation for 10 nights in 2/3 star hotels in Rome/Sorrento/Florence & Venice
- 7 nights home stay with families
- Independent accommodation for the teachers during Language School experience.
- 17 breakfasts
- 17 dinners
- 6 x 3 1/2 hours lessons at Language School with qualified teachers
- Admission to all galleries, museums and historical sites included in the itinerary
- Personally guided tours to all towns mentioned in the tour
- Venetian mask making demonstration and workshop
- Gelato making workshop in Florence
- Services of the tour leaders throughout the tour
- Travel insurance for the duration of the tour
- A comprehensive pre departure information booklet, which includes maps, information on hotels, historical notes and other useful information on Italian culture.

## Items not included

- Admission fees to places other than those specifically itemised in the itinerary
- Meals on tour except when specifically mentioned in the itinerary
- Drinks outside normal meal times or additional drinks in restaurants
- Personal transport costs, phone calls and other personal needs
- Accommodation tax

## **Cost**

**The cost** of the tour is from **AUD \$4,980\*** per student in **shared accommodation**. The tour is costed on a minimum of **20 students** travelling. Vita Italian Tours will offer a complimentary trip for two teachers travelling with the group.

**\* The price is based on the current price trends of airline tickets. The price also includes current government taxes.**