



Vita Italian Tours

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

TOUR 3 DONATELLO

Italian Cultural Experience

Tour duration 14 days
From AUD \$4,480

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

Day 2 Milan (D) Your tour leaders will meet you at Milan International Airport with your transfer to your hotel. We will be holding a sign with your school name. Upon arrival, there will be time to check into the hotel, before your tour guide will take you on an educational walk in the historical centre of Milano. Highlights will include: the impressive Duomo, Royal Palace and the shoppers' paradise – Galleria Vittorio Emanuele. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 3 Milan (BD) On our second day in Milan the group will have a guided walking tour of the imposing Castello Sforzesco and its grounds built by the Sforza family in the 14th century. In the afternoon we visit Santa Maria delle Grazie to view Leonardo's famous painting 'The Last Supper'. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 4 Milan/Venice (BD) This morning we say goodbye to Milan as we travel by train with the Eurostar to captivatingly beautiful Venice. Upon arrival 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 5 Venice/Murano (BD) After breakfast we take in the sights again along the Grand Canal to the island of Murano. There, we will see where Venice's world famous glass is made and visit several workshops to witness master glassblowers creating their works of art. In the afternoon the group will return to Venice to 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 Venetian mask making. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 6 Venice/Ravenna/Florence (BD) Today after breakfast we travel to Florence the city of the Medici. On the way we make a stop to the historical City of Ravenna where a local guide will show us the marvellous legacy left to us by the three Empires: Late Roman, Gothic and Byzantine. 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 the 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 in a restaurant in the centre of Florence.

Day 7 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 Palazzo Vecchio and the Uffizi Gallery. Your tour guide will then 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 restaurant in Florence.

Day 8 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 (bell tower) of the Cathedral famous for its noticeable lean. In the afternoon we return to Florence by train where the group is free to wander through the famous markets shopping for leather and gold goods or leisurely explore this beautiful city. There will also be free time to explore other historical sights such as Ponte Vecchio and the church of Santa Croce renowned for its frescoes and the tombs of some of Italy's famous artists. Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 9 Florence/Rome (BD) We say goodbye to the city of the Medici as we make our way south to the Eternal city of Rome. 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 10 Rome (BD) Today 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 Peter's Basilica, important for religious, architectural and historical reasons. Dinner in a traditional restaurant.

Day 11 Rome/Appia Antica (BD) On our final day on tour 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 12 Rome (B) Today after breakfast we depart for Rome International Airport for our flight back to Australia.

Day 13/14 Arrival back in Australia.

Items included in the Tour

- A return economy airfare
- All land travel in an air conditioned bus
- Eurostar train from Milan to Venice
- All water transport in Venice
- Accommodation for 10 nights in 2/3 star hotels in Milan/Venice/Florence & Rome
- 10 breakfasts
- 10 dinners
- Admission to all galleries, museums and historical sites included in the itinerary
- Venetian mask making demonstration and workshop
- Personally guided tours to all towns mentioned in the tour
- 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 \$4,480*** 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.**