



Vita Italian Tours

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

TOUR 4 RAFFAELLO Italian Cultural Experience

**Tour Duration 19 Days
from AUD \$5,100**

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) This morning will be an early 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/Assisi (BD) Our journey takes us north back along the Autostrada del Sole to Assisi in the Italian region of Umbria. Assisi is a historic town perched on Monte Subasio and is famous as the home of one of Italy's most beloved saints, St. Francis. When we arrive in Assisi there will be time to check into the hotel and freshen up before an afternoon walking tour of the town. The tour will include a guided visit to the Basilica of San Francesco d'Assisi, a UNESCO world heritage site that houses countless artistic masterpieces including Giotto's Fresco Cycle. Dinner will be at the hotel.

Day 8 Assisi/Perugia (BD) On our second day in Assisi we will be visiting the nearby city of Perugia. Perugia is the capital of the Umbria Region and is known internationally as a university city and for chocolate making. There will be a guided walking tour of the city, which includes, Perugia Underground within the remains of the *Rocca Paolina*, a 16th-century fortress. The afternoon is free in Assisi to further explore this remarkable city or for student teacher activities. Dinner will be at the hotel.

Day 9 Assisi/Siena/Florence (BD) Today after breakfast we travel to Florence the city of the Medici. 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*'. 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 10 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. From there we 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. In the afternoon there is a visit to a leather 'Bottega' for a demonstration in leather making Florentine style. Dinner is at a local restaurant.

Day 11 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 12 Florence (BD) Today is devoted to the jewel in the renaissance art crown - the Uffizi Gallery, which contains some of the most famous masterpieces of the Italian Renaissance. You will experience the benevolent patronage of the Medici at the height of their power and influence and the legacy they have left the world. In the late afternoon you are free to wander through the San Lorenzo markets shopping for leather and gold goods or for student teacher activities. Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 13 Florence/Milan (BD) After breakfast we make our way north to Milan. Milan is the second largest city in Italy, as well as being the economic heart of Europe and the fashion capital of the world. 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 14 Milan (BD) Today 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 15 Milan/Venice (BD) Today we say goodbye to Milan as 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 16 Venice/Murano (BD) 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 17 Venice (B) Today after breakfast the group departs for Venice Airport for the flight back to Australia.

Day 18/19 Arrive 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 15 nights in 2/3 star hotels in Rome/Sorrento/Assisi/Florence/Milan & Venice
- 15 breakfasts
- 15 dinners
- 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
- Leather 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 \$5,100*** 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.**