

LIFE & ART TUSCANY



Day 1: AUSTRALIA – ROME

Meet at the airport for your International Flight to Rome, Italy.

Day 2: ROME

On arrival into Rome you will be met and transferred by coach to your hotel. The rest of the day is then free to explore your new surrounds with your teacher.

Day 3: ROME

(B)

Today you will explore and experience Ancient Rome and its historical perspective. After breakfast meet your guide for your half-day walking tour of Ancient Rome. You will see the sights of the Colosseum (*outside*) (*opened by the Emperor Vespasian in A.D. 80*). With a circumference of 580 yards and height of 157 feet, the Colosseum would hold 50,000 persons. You will then continue on with your tour visiting the Arch of Constantine and the Roman Forum. The afternoon is then free to spend time with your teacher sightseeing, you could visit places such as, Il Campo de' Fiori, Arch of Titus, the Pantheon, the Spanish steps, Victor Emmanuel Monument, and the Trevi Fountain, (*any entrance fees at own expense*).

Day 4: ROME

(B)

This morning you will meet your guide for your second half-day guided tour of Rome. You will visit the Vatican City and its museums, including the Sistine Chapel and St Peter's Basilica with its many treasures and masterpieces, including the famous Pieta' of Michelangelo. The rest of the day is then free for independent sightseeing supervised by your teacher. You may like to take a walk to Piazza Navona, which is a vast and beautiful square lined with baroque palaces. The square has three fountains, including Bernini's masterpiece "Fountains of Rivers" in the centre, (*any entrance fees at own expense*).

Day 5: ROME – POMPEII – NAPLES – ROME

(B)

After breakfast this morning you will be transferred by coach to Naples & Pompeii. Naples is a lively and vibrant city, full of wonderful historical and artistic treasures and narrow, winding streets with small shops. The name comes from the Greek *Neapolis* meaning new city. Here you will have a half day guided tour to the Naples Archaeological Museum which was created in the lively intellectual climate of 18th century Naples, and boasts the largest collection of classical antiquities in the world. After your visit to Naples you will re-board your coach to Pompeii for a half day guided tour. You will explore the ruins of Pompeii, which was struck by a volcanic explosion in 79AD, with your guide. The volcano buried the city under many feet of ash and it was lost for 1,600 years before its accidental rediscovery. Since then, its excavation has provided an extraordinarily detailed insight into the life of a city at the height of the Roman Empire. Later you will be re-board your coach and transferred back to Rome. (*Any entrance fees at own expense*).

TREKSET TOURS

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Day 6: ROME – PERUGIA – FLORENCE (B)

This morning after breakfast you will depart Rome by coach for your journey to Florence, en-route you will stop in Perugia at the Perugina Chocolate Factory. Here a guide from the factory will explain how the world famous “Baci” (“kisses”) chocolate is made. You will get a chance to sample some Baci chocolate. You will re-board your coach to Florence. Florence is often considered the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance and was long ruled by the Medici family. The Medici family was a powerful and influential Florentine family from the 13th to 17th century. The family produced three popes (*Leo X, Clement VII, and Leo XI*), numerous rulers of Florence, and later members of the French royalty. The family also helped to spur the beginning of the Italian Renaissance. Florence is also famous for its fine art and architecture. It is said that, of the 1,000 most important European artists of the second millennium, 350 lived or worked in Florence. Depending if time permits the rest of the day is free for teacher supervised activities. (*Any entrance fees at own expense*).

Day 7: FLORENCE (B)

This morning you will make your own way as a group to your Italian Language and Art school in Florence, for your Drawing and Painting course where you will have your first 3 hour art lesson. This afternoon please meet at the school for your arranged visit to the Brancacci Chapel. The patron of the chapel was Felice Brancacci, he was a rich and powerful man and he commissioned the fresco decoration of the chapel in 1423. The appearance of the chapel today is the result of alterations begun immediately after Felice Brancacci fell out of favour, he was exiled in 1435 and declared a rebel in 1458. After several events, including a fire in 1771, a restoration combined with a thorough scientific investigation in the last decades brought to the state in which it is seen as today, (*entrance fee to Brancacci Chapel included*).

Day 8: FLORENCE (B)

This morning, you will have your second 3 hours drawing and painting course, make your own way as a group to your Italian Language and Art school. This afternoon please meet at the school for your arranged visit to San Miniato and Piazzale Michelangelo. In San Miniato you can see such sights as the Tower of Frederick, the Duomo, Palazzo dei Vicari now a hotel, and the church of San Francesco, which was originally built in the early 13th century with a Romanesque façade, its interior features a Gothic style chapel and frescoes from the 14th and 15th centuries. In Piazzale Michelangelo, you will have a marvellous view of Florence and the hills around it, (*any entrance fees at own expense*).

Day 9: FLORENCE (B)

This morning make your own way as a group to your Italian Language and Art school, for your third 3 hour drawing and painting course, your lesson this morning will be held outside. This afternoon please meet at the Italian Language school for your arranged visit to Fiesole, a beautiful hillside town in Tuscany. Here you can visit little church of the Primerana in the cathedral square, where St. Andrew Corsini was warned by Our Lady of his approaching death. You can also visit the shrine of St Donatus of Ireland and the Duomo, containing the shrine of St. Romulus, martyr, according to legend the first Bishop of Fiesole, (*any entrance fees at own expense*).

Day 10: FLORENCE – PISA – FLORENCE (B)

This morning you will have fourth 3 hours drawing and painting course, make your own way as a group to your Italian Language school. This afternoon make your own way to the train station with your teacher for your trip to Pisa, where you will board your train (*return train fare included*). There you can visit by far the best-known sight of Pisa the famous Leaning Tower, which is, but one of many architecturally and artistically important structures in Pisa. The Leaning Tower of Pisa is the campanile, or bell tower, of the Cathedral. It is situated behind the Cathedral and it is the third structure in Pisa's Campo dei Miracoli (*field of Miracles*). The tower is famous for its noticeable lean. It was intended to stand vertically, to serve as a bell tower, but began leaning soon after construction started in 1173, (*any entrance fees own expense*). In the late afternoon with your teacher make your way back to Florence by train.

Day 11: FLORENCE (B)

This morning make your own way as a group to your Italian Language and Art school for your last day of 3 hours drawing and painting. This afternoon please meet at the school for your visit to Il Giardino di Boboli (*Boboli Gardens*), a green space in the middle of Florence. The gardens are laid out on a hillside behind Palazzo Pitti. After visiting Il Giardino di Boboli you might like to visit Palazzo Pitti, Florence's largest and most opulent palazzo, lavishly decorated with the Medici family's former private collection. The art gallery contains a large number of Renaissance works, including several by Raphael (*entrance to Boboli Gardens Included*).

Day 12: FLORENCE – RAVENNA – FLORENCE (B)

This morning after breakfast you will make your own way to the train station with your teacher where you will board your train to Ravenna. Upon arrival into Ravenna, make your own way into the city centre, here you can take a stroll through the city, or visit the many museums famed for its early Christian and Byzantine mosaics. The international heritage of Ravenna, city of mosaics, has been recognised by UNESCO. Eight monuments built over a period of 1500 years have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. Ravenna is a treasure chest of art, history and culture of the highest order, a city with ancient origins and a glorious past and capital three times, of the Western Roman Empire, of King Theodoric of the Goths and of the Byzantine Empire in Europe. The basilicas and baptisteries of the city contain the richest heritage of mosaics here you may like to visit the Basicilica di San Vitale, Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo and Neonian Baptistry. Late this afternoon make your own way back to the train station where you will board your train back to Florence. (*Return train fare from Florence to Ravenna included, any entrance fees at own expense*).

Day 13: FLORENCE – VENICE (B)

This morning after breakfast you will board your coach for a transfer to the train station for your journey to Venice (*one way train fare included*). On arrival you will make your own way to your hotel to check in for your two night stay. The rest of the day is free to explore your new surrounds with your teacher. You could take a Gondola ride down the Grand Canal. Don't miss the sunset from Doge's palace square facing Santa Maria della Salute. Or take a visit to the Giardinetti Ex-Reali (Ex Royal Gardens), the gardens have benches that face the water and you can sit down, rest your feet while watching the gondolieri pass by, (*any entrance fees at own expense*).

Day 14: VENICE (B)

Today you will have a half day guided tour of Venice, with your guide you will visit such sights as St. Mark's square, St. Mark's Basilica, the Doges Palace, the Bridges of Sigh. This afternoon is free for teacher supervised activities, you may like to purchase a vaporetto pass (*at own expense*) and visit the islands of Murano and Burano, where you can see lace making and glass blowing demonstrations. Murano has been the "home" of the glass making industry since the 13th century and Burano is the "home" to the lace making industry, (*any entrance fees at own expense*).

Day 15: VENICE – AUSTRALIA (B)

This morning after breakfast with your teacher you will board your private boat and you will be transferred to Venice airport for your flight back to home.

Day 16: AUSTRALIA

Arrive Home.

INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy airfares: Australia – Rome // Venice - Australia
- 13 nights 2 star hotels (private facilities). Students in multi-share and 2 complimentary teachers in 1 twin share room
- 13 breakfasts
- Private boat transfer: Venice hotel – Venice airport
- Train travel: Florence – Pisa – Florence, Florence – Ravenna – Florence and Florence – Venice
- Coach travel as per itinerary
- Guided tours: 2 half days in Rome, 1 half day Naples, 1 half day Pompeii and 1 half day Venice
- Visit: Perugia Chocolate Factory
- Trekset travel wallets
- Local office Italy

Florence Art School Inclusions:

- 15 hours of lessons (drawing & oil painting) over 5 days
- Materials for drawing & painting
- Visits with Art School: Brancacci Chapel, San Minato & Piazzale Michelangelo and Fiesole