

2019 Humanities International Tour: Italy and Germany

Period: 5 April to 21 April 2019

RATIONALE: Students will have the opportunity to visit key-places where ideas and individuals shaped the history of the world and which still influence different societies today. While developing an understanding and skills from various experiences (geographical, cultural, linguistic and organisational) the tour will aim at giving students an insight into the significance of the 1900s and the social impact as well as long-term consequences of autocratic regimes. In this light, and considering the links to the Australian Curriculum for the Humanities and Social Science Learning Area, it is possible to understand the reasons behind the selection of the destinations: Milan – Rome – Berlin.

The visit to key-locations will make relevant the impact of totalitarian regimes on societies and their approach towards human dignity. **Milan**, where Fascism was founded in 1919, can be seen as the starting point of a journey of ideas that shaped the 1900s. Since then, Facism was developed in different forms throughout the XX century across the world: Germany, Spain, Portugal, Chile, Cuba before Castro, Argentina, Greece, and more.

Rome, the ‘Eternal City’ will clearly include a great focus on the Vatican City (Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, ...) as well as the exploration of Ancient Roman world heritage (Colosseum, catacombs, Ostia Anticay etc.). The impact of modern political ideas will be still evident throughout other locations across the city.

The flight from Rome to **Berlin** will concur with the 80th Anniversary of the Pact of Steel between Italy and Germany, which symbolised the birth of the Axis powers and the spread of totalitarian ideologies. Berlin will be the city of three eras: as Nazi capital (1933 – 1945), as Cold War flashpoint (1949 – 1989) and as democratic political centre of the European Union (today): a dynamic, multiethnic, vibrant city, rich in cultural learning opportunities for our students. A visit to **Magdeburg** (150 km south west of Berlin) will also provide the group with the opportunity to meet the Norberto community and gain a better understanding of our own College identity and its religious roots.



→ Milano – Roma by coach

→ Roma – Berlin by flight

ITINERARY

N.B.: specific activities, time schedule and locations will be disclosed in 2018. Slight changes may also apply.

(B) – Breakfast

(L) – Lunch

(D) – Dinner

DAY 1:	Depart Perth
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Meet at Perth International Airport for the flight to Milan, Italy (details will be provided separately)

DAY 2:	Arrive in Mila	L, D
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Transfer to the **Hotel**. Allocation of rooms, city orientation of the surroundings. Depending on the flight arrival time, an activity will be organised (details will follow).

DAY 3:	Milan	B
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Then visit **St. Ambrose Basilica**, the holy patron of Milan, one of the most important figures of early Christianity in Northern Italy before its spread in central Europe, buried in the basilica bearing his name. The original church was consecrated by Ambrose himself (in 386 AD) and was later rebuilt in the 11th century.

San Siro Stadium, including entrance to the **museum**. The Meazza Stadium is a proud footballing shrine to two of the biggest clubs in Italy: both the Internazionale (or most commonly known as Inter) and IL MILAN! (Note: stress the vowel I, not A as for the city itself: MÍLAN!).

From there a nice stroll to **Centro Città**, for the Duomo (the Cathedral), Galleria and la Scala and Museum of '900. Walking through Via Torino and Colonne di San Lorenzo, we will end the day with a pizza for dinner on the **Navigli**, before returning to the Hotel.

DAY 4:	Milan	B
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In the morning, we will visit the Central station, built during the Fascist era, where the **Holocaust Museum** is located. Between 1943 and 1945, hidden from the eye of common people catching trains, underground platform 21 was the starting point for the convoys of hundreds of deportees, transported on cattle wagons headed to concentration camps such as Auschwitz, Mauthausen and Bergen Belsen. (Year 10 students should particularly remember the latter one, as Holocaust survivor Mrs Hefty Verolme shared her experiences pf that place with us at school in Term 3). A Holocaust Memorial is now situated in an area below the railway tracks, a place for reflection, study and research. Continue onto **Pinacoteca di Brera** for an independent visit, the main public gallery for Milan inside the Palazzo Brera building, in a vibrant pedestrian zone.

DAY 5:	Milan – Bomarzo Gardens – Rome	B, D
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Board the coach and transfer to Santa Maria Delle Grazie to view Leonardo Da Vinci’s fresco “**The Last Supper**”. Then board the coach heading Rome, with a stop at the **Gardens of Bomarzo** in Tuscany, named *Parco dei Mostri* or “The Park of the Monsters”. Commissioned in 1552 by Prince Pier Francesco Orsini, it was an expression of grief designed to shock. The Park is filled with bizarre and exotic sculptures for which only the accompanying inscriptions provide any explanation. Among the stonework pieces are a war elephant, a monstrous fish-head, a giant tearing another giant in half, and a house built on a tilt to disorient the viewer. Perhaps the most frightening piece in the park (now under UNESCO heritage) is an enormous stone head, mouth opened wide in a scream. The accompanying inscription reads “all reason departs.” Continue onto Rome, where you will be transferred to the hotel.

DAY 6:	Rome	B
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Use the metro tickets included make your way to the **EUR**. Originally named E42, EUR stands for Esposizione Universale Roma, a world’s fair that Benito Mussolini and his administration planned for 1942, to celebrate 20 years of Fascist rule in Italy. This district, built according to a master plan by architect Marcello Piacentini, is located on the edge of Rome’s historical centre, and was intended to showcase the new fascist Italy and its leadership in architecture, as it had been in the past. Yet the war first, and the new urbanistic needs of the 1950s and 1960s stopped the development of the broader plan. After EUR, head to **Trastevere** for a visit to Santa Maria in Trastevere, a church known for its 12th century mosaics and lavish interior with Roman columns. Crossing the river and the Tiberine island, visit the **Tempio alla Patria** before returning to the Hotel.

DAY 7:	Rome	B
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Half day guided tour of the **Vatican City museums**, including the Sistine Chapel, and **St Peter’s Basilica**, with Michelangelo’s famous carving ‘The Pietà’ and his painting ‘The Touch’. The museums contain roughly 70,000 works, of which 20,000 are on display, and currently employ 640 people from all over the world, who work in 40 different administrative, scholarly, and restoration departments. After the tour board the coach to the **Catacombs**, early Christian underground cemeteries used to hide from Roman persecution. Niches of chapels, wall paintings and corridors run below the ground of Rome. The, return to the hotel by coach.

DAY 8:	Rome	B, D
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Take a trip back in time with a **guided walking tour** through the spectacular **Roman Forum** and be met by the glorious remnants of ancient Roman temples. Continue with to the most famous monument to have survived from the classical world, the **Colosseum**. Built nearly two thousand years ago for the purpose of hosting gladiator games thousands of men and animals fought for their lives in its arena. Wild animals from the corners of the empires were brought to show or to fight each other. A few gladiators and warriors found glory, some even found fame and riches but many more died an anonymous death, providing entertainment for eager Roman spectators: The Optus Stadium of Ancient Rome!

Board the coach for **Ostia Anticay**, a large archaeological site that was the location of the harbour city of ancient Rome, explore the site amongst primary sources such as mosaics amphitheatres and other evidence of an ancient civilisation.

DAY 9:	Rome	B
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Transfer by coach to the **Tivoli Gardens** to see the masterpiece; **Villa d'Este**, with its breathtaking garden. Included in the UNESCO world heritage list, the villa is impressive with its fountains, nymphs, grottoes and music; it is a much-copied model for luxurious European gardens. Continue to **Hadrian's Villa**, once belonging to Emperor Hadrian as a vacation home as a tribute to his lover. By modern standards, his 'humble abode' could be considered a town in its own right. The ruins of the emperor's impressive estate consist of more than 30 buildings, discover the complex ruins of the old imperial palace as well as thermal baths, temples, libraries and subterranean passages that are wide enough for vehicles. Return to Rome by coach.

DAY 10:	Rome – Pompeii – Rome	B, D
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Board the coach to travel to **Pompeii for a guided tour** of the archaeological site. Pompeii was destroyed by a volcanic eruption of Mt Vesuvius in 79 AD. The volcano buried the city under many feet of ash and 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. Most of the ancient city has now been unearthed but work continues and new finds are still being made. After the tour return to Rome.

DAY 11:	Rome – Berlin	B
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Board the coach to the airport for the flight to Berlin, Germany. Allocation of rooms, city orientation of the surroundings. Depending on the flight arrival time, an activity will be organised (details will follow).

A 5-days public transport pass is included in Berlin

DAY 12:	Berlin	B
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Board the coach to transfer to **Sachsenhausen** (includes headsets), a former Nazi concentration camp located in the nearby city of Oranienburg. Used primarily for political prisoners from 1936 to the end of the Third Reich in May 1945. This will be a one activity day; a de-briefing session will be organised to share feelings and thought, elaborating on this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

DAY 13:

Berlin

B

This morning enjoy a **walking tour of Berlin** that starts at the city's famous **Brandenburg Gate**, The **East Side Gallery** and the **Treptow Soviet Memorial**. The tour ends at the **Checkpoint Charlie Museum**. Located at the most well-known former checkpoint between East and West Berlin, its famous sign: YOU ARE NOW LEAVING THE AMERICAN SECTOR is now one of the most iconic symbols of the city. The museum chronicles the Cold War Years, and the extraordinary and highly ingenious escape attempts made by East German citizens to reach the West. This afternoon using the public transport pass, make your way to the **Bernice Galerie**, a museum of modern art, photography and architecture in Berlin. Continue onto the **Topography of Terror Museum**, the grounds of which were once home to the Gestapo Headquarters, and the Gestapo "house prison".

DAY 14:

Berlin – Magdeburg - Berlin

B

Board the coach for a full day excursion to Magdeburg, meeting with the Norbertine Community. The group will attend liturgy and visit the Cathedral. Then, a visit to the city's old market square (Alter Market) and its "Magdeburg Horseman" statue. You will also visit Romanesque buildings such as the Art Museum in the Monastery of Our Lady. Visit the Romanesque Art Centre, which is located in close proximity to Magdeburg Cathedral, the city's over 800-year-old landmark. Re-board the coach back to Berlin.

DAY 15:

Berlin

B, D

Using the public transport card make your way to the "**Berlin Unterwelten**" (Berlin Underground) for a **guided tour**. Berlin was the nerve centre of the Third Reich and therefore one of the main targets for allied bombing during WW II. The guide will lead you in exploring one of the few remaining bunkers, as it was left after the war. The rest of the day for last minute sightseeing and shopping.

DAY 16:

Depart Berlin

Board the coach and transfer to the airport for the flight back to Perth. On arrival, collect your luggage and clear Customs and Immigration.