

ST JOHN'S REGIONAL COLLEGE DANDENONG

Italian Educational & Cultural Experience



VITA ITALIAN TOURS

Travel Live Learn

Vita Italian Tours specialises in personally guided educational and cultural tours to Italy

PROPOSED TRAVEL ITINERARY

23 March – 8 April 2020

Tour Duration - 17 Days

Day 1 Monday 23 March Meet at Melbourne International Airport at the international check-in area at least 3 hours before departure for the flight to Rome. Your flight details will be supplied at a later date.

Day 2 Tuesday 24 March Rome (D) Your tour leader will meet you at Rome International Airport with the transfer to your hotel. They will be holding a sign “St John’s Regional College Dandenong”. You will then be transferred by coach to your hotel in the centre of Rome where you will check-in and have time to freshen up or have a rest. Before dinner, your tour leader will guide you on a leisurely stroll through some of the famous ‘piazze’ of Rome including Piazza della Repubblica, Fontana di Trevi, the Pantheon and finally Piazza Navona. Dinner will be in a family restaurant near Piazza Navona.

Day 3 Wednesday 25 March Rome/Ancient Rome (BD) Today is all about ancient Rome and the great legacy the Romans have left to this city and the world. The group start with a private guided visit by local guide of the most iconic building from ancient Rome, the Colosseum. Your tour leader will then continue the exciting walking tour through the Roman Forum and if time permits the Campidoglio and the Mayoral Offices. In the evening the group may wish to attend evening Mass at the local church. Dinner in a traditional Roman restaurant.

Day 4 Thursday 26 March Rome/Vatican (BD) Today the group make a special trip to the Vatican City. You will have the opportunity to tour the Vatican Museums including the Sistine Chapel followed by a visit to St Peter’s Basilica, so important for religious, architectural and historical reasons. In the afternoon, there may be time for independent sightseeing with your teachers. Dinner in a traditional Roman restaurant.

Day 5 Friday 27 March Rome/Florence (BD) Today after breakfast we travel to Florence the city of the Medici by a private air-conditioned bus. After arrival in Florence, the group will check in at the hotel and have time for a quick rest. Your tour leader will lead the group on a walking tour, featuring the Piazza del Duomo and its cathedral, the Giotto Campanile and the magnificent East Door of the Baptistery known as the ‘Gates to Paradise’. Dinner at a restaurant in the centre of Florence.

Day 6 Saturday 28 March Florence (BD) The day in Florence starts with a guided 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 where the group will enjoy a guided visit to the famous Uffizi Gallery. In the afternoon there will be an opportunity to view a demonstration at the famous leather school of Santa Croce where authentic Florentine leather is produced. The rest of the afternoon there will be time for teacher/student activities. The group may wish to visit other historical sites such as the Ducal Palace and Ponte Vecchio. Dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 7 Sunday 29 March Florence/Pisa (BD) After breakfast the group will have the opportunity to have a special trip by train 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 is the campanile, or bell tower of the Cathedral. The Tower, which was begun in 1173 and completed after 500 years, is famous for its noticeable lean and has recently had a lot of work to stop it falling to the ground. Upon returning to Florence, the afternoon is free for teacher/student activities. A suggestion is to explore the San Lorenzo Market where there are leather goods and souvenirs for students to purchase. Dinner in a local restaurant in Florence.

Day 8 Monday 30 March Florence/Assisi/Pesaro (BD) Today will be an early morning start. The group will travel in air-conditioned comfort by private bus through some of the most beautiful countryside of the Central Apennines to the city of Pesaro in Le Marche Region. On the way the group make a special stop in Assisi: the home of the most beloved saint in Italy: St Francis. Your tour leader will lead you through the magnificent Basilica of St Francis with the famous frescoes by the father of the Renaissance: Giotto and many others. We continue on to Pesaro where the group will arrive by late afternoon. Pesaro is a charming town situated on the Adriatic Coast nestled against a backdrop of rolling hills surrounded by ancient hill towns and castles. The group will be met by the Director of the International Language 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 stay in Pesaro. Dinner with your billeted family.

Day 9 Tuesday 31 March Pesaro (BD) After breakfast with your family, the students will begin their first language class in the Pesaro Civic Museums located in the historical centre of Pesaro. The impressive palace was built in the 1500's by the noble Mosca family. All classes begin at 9.00 AM and finish at 12.30 PM with a break of 20 minutes around mid-morning. There will be a guided visit to the internationally renowned Rossini Conservatoire of Music as well as the workshop of a local Luthier artisan who hand makes and repairs string instruments for the Conservatoire. In the afternoon, students will be given a tour of the city of Pesaro and admire the many interesting landmarks. Dinner with your billeted family.

Day 10 Wednesday 1 April Pesaro/Fano (BD) Students will have their second language class in the neighbouring city of Fano, located 12 km south-east of Pesaro along the Adriatic Sea. Fano is famous for its ancient Roman ruins and temple of Fortuna occupied by Julius Caesar in 49AD. Emperor Augustus also built the town walls and the Arco di Augustus which still stands as a testament to the city's rich Roman past welcoming visitors into the city. It is market day in Fano and students will have language activities in the local open-air market. There will also be the opportunity to buy some lunch and browse some of the local stores. In the afternoon, students will return to Pesaro where there will be time for teacher/student activities. Dinner with your billeted family.

Day 11 Thursday 2 April Pesaro/ Urbino (BD) The third language class starts at 9.00 AM in the nearby University city of Urbino. After Florence, Urbino was one of the most important centres of the Italian Renaissance. In the afternoon, the group will explore the land once ruled by the medieval lords of Montefeltro. A conducted tour of the impressive Ducal Palace will give students an insight into the magnificence of the great Duke Federico and how he created a centre of learning famous throughout Italy and Europe. Dinner with your billeted family.

Day 12 Friday 3 April Pesaro/Gradara (BD) Today students will have their fourth language class in Pesaro. The afternoon will consist of a guided tour of the nearby medieval village of Gradara dominated by its magnificent castle overlooking the Adriatic Sea. Gradara was made famous by the legendary love affair between Paolo Malatesta and Francesca da Rimini as immortalised in the 5th Canto of Dante's Inferno. Dinner in Pesaro with your billeted family.

Day 13 Saturday 4 April Pesaro/Villa Caprile (BD) Students will have their final language class in the picturesque location of Villa Caprile, a grand 17th century villa set on a hillside and surrounded by gardens outside Pesaro. The villa today is the site of an agricultural school and students will have the great opportunity to have an Italian Cooking workshop with a local chef. Students will be guided on how to make traditional Italian home-made pasta, notably tagliatelle and make pasta. All will sit down to enjoy the meal they have prepared. The afternoon there will be time for teacher/student activities. Dinner with your billeted family.

Day 14 Sunday 5 April Pesaro/Venice (BD) This morning the group say goodbye to Pesaro and their host families and will travel to Venice, the city on water. Upon arrival in Venice the group will check into their hotel and have a little time to freshen up. Your tour leader will guide the group through the narrow streets of Venice to experience the sights of Venice such as Piazza San Marco and the Basilica, the Bridge of Sighs and the Ducal Palace. In the evening the group may attend Mass before dinner and then enjoy dinner in a restaurant near the hotel.

Day 15 Monday 6 April Venice/Murano (BD) After breakfast, the group take in the sights along the Grand Canal to the island of Murano where Venice's world-famous glass is made. The group will visit one of the island's most famous glass foundries and view a demonstration by a master glass blower. In the afternoon the group will participate in a workshop where they will be able to discover the history of mask making and be able to decorate their own individual Venetian mask. Dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 16 Tuesday 7 April Venice/Marco Polo International Airport (B) After breakfast. The group departs for the International Airport of Venice: Marco Polo Airport for an early afternoon flight back to Melbourne. Flight details will be supplied at a later date.

Day 17 Wednesday 8 April Arrival back in Melbourne International Airport

ROME

- Private transfer from Fiumicino Airport to your hotel in the centre of Rome
- Entrance tickets to the Colosseum and Roman Forum
- Private guided tours with a local guide of the Colosseum, Roman Forum
- Private guided tours of the Vatican Museum & St Peter's Basilica
- Meals: 3 Breakfasts, 3 Dinners

FLORENCE

- Bus travel to Florence
- Entrance tickets to the Accademia Gallery/Uffizi/Leather Factory/Santa Croce Church
- Private guided tour with local guide of the Accademia Gallery and the Uffizi Gallery and walking tour of Florence including Piazza della Signoria and Ponte Vecchio
- Train travel to Pisa
- Entrance to Santa Croce Church and demonstration at a Florentine Leather Factory
- Meals: 3 Breakfasts, 3 Dinners

PESARO

- Home-stay lodging with families for students
- Self-contained apartment for teachers/hotel
- Cooking lesson workshop in Pesaro
- 5 x half day language lessons in Pesaro
- Excursion to Assisi, Fano, Urbino and Gradara
- Meals: 6 breakfasts 6 dinners for students only

VENICE

- Vaporetto tickets for water transfer to Murano
- Water transport to Marco Polo Airport
- Meals: 2 breakfasts 2 dinners

Items included in the Tour

- A return economy airfare with a major carrier ie Emirates, Etihad, Qantas or Singapore
- Individual travel insurance policy for each traveller for the duration of the tour
- Land travel in air- conditioned private buses or fast train
- Accommodation for 8 nights will be in 3/4star hotels in Rome/Florence/Venice
Multiple room accommodation for students and single room accommodation for teachers
- A comprehensive pre-departure information booklet, which includes maps, information on hotel stays and other useful information on Italian culture

Items not included in the Tour

- 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 in Rome, Florence and Venice

Cost

The cost of the tour unaccompanied is **AUD \$6,048*** per student in **shared accommodation**. The tour is costed on **20 students** with two accompanying teachers travelling with the group.

(* **The price is based on the current price trends for saver airline tickets and includes government taxes**)

Additional Notes:

* **The weather:** it is the start of **Spring** and it can be very cold in the early morning and evenings. We recommend warm, conformable clothing, a warm jacket with your favourite walking shoes. The countryside is undulating and hilly. Many of the hill towns have their historical centres closed to traffic and therefore lots of walking may be required on small cobblestone streets. We recommend comfortable walking shoes that will support your ankles.

Temperatures in April vary depending on where you are in Italy, but as a general rule of thumb these are the ranges:

Northern Italy: 14 - 4°C

Central Italy: 15 - 5°C

Southern Italy: 15 - 8°C

>> Be sure to check a current weather forecast for the cities you visit in Italy before you leave home, as the weather can change.

