



VITA ITALIAN TOURS

*Travel Live Learn*

## TRAVEL ITINERARY & QUOTE

### ST JOHN'S REGIONAL COLLEGE DANDENONG

EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

21 November – 4 December 2022

Tour Duration – 14 Days

**Day 1 Monday 21 November** Meet at Melbourne International Airport at the international check-in area at least 3-hours before departure for the flight to Rome.

**Day 2 Tuesday 22 November 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 sites of Rome including Piazza della Repubblica, Fontana di Trevi and the Pantheon. Dinner will be in a traditional restaurant.

**Day 3 Wednesday 23 November Rome/Vatican/Ancient Rome (BD)** Today the group will be guided by the tour leader to visit the Vatican City and St Peter’s Basilica so important for religious, architectural and historical reasons. The afternoon is dedicated to ancient Rome and the great legacy the Romans have left to this city and the world. The group will have a guided visit 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. Dinner will be in a traditional restaurant.

**Day 4 Thursday 24 November Rome/Florence (BD)** Today after breakfast we travel to Florence the city of the Medici by fast train. 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 5 Friday 25 November 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 with 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 6 Saturday 26 November 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.

**Day 7 Sunday 27 November September 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 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 students will check-in at the hotel which will be their base for the duration of their stay in Pesaro. Dinner at the hotel.

**Day 8 Monday 28 November Pesaro (BD)** After breakfast, 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 at the hotel.

**Day 9 Tuesday 29 November Pesaro/Gradara (BD)** Students will have their second 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 at the hotel.

**Day 10 Wednesday 30 November 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 at the hotel.

**Day 11 Thursday 1 December Pesaro/Venice (BD)** This morning the group say goodbye to Pesaro 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 local restaurant.

**Day 12 Friday 2 December 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 tour leader will lead the group to 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 have time for teacher/student activities. Dinner in a local restaurant.

**Day 13 Saturday 3 December 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.

**Day 14 Sunday 4 December 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
- Guided tour of the Colosseum, Roman Forum
- Private guided tour of St Peter's Basilica
- Meals: 2 Breakfasts, 2 Dinners

## FLORENCE

- Fast train travel from Rome to Florence
- Guided tour of the Accademia Gallery and walking tour of Florence including Piazza Duomo, Piazza della Signoria, Ponte Vecchio and Piazza della Repubblica
- Local train travel to Pisa – Piazza Dei Miracoli
- Entrance to Santa Croce Church and a demonstration at a Florentine Leather Factory
- Meals: 3 Breakfasts, 3 Dinners

## PESARO

- Private coach travel to Pesaro with stop & city tour of Assisi
- 3/4-Star hotel for teacher & students
- 3 x half-day language lessons in Pesaro
- Excursions to Urbino & Gradara
- Meals: 4 Breakfasts & 4 Dinners

## 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
- Land travel in air-conditioned private bus or fast train
- Accommodation for 11 nights will be in 2, 3 & 4-star hotels in Rome/Florence/Pesaro/Venice
- Multiple room accommodation for students and single room accommodation for teachers
- A comprehensive pre-departure information booklet, which includes maps, information on hotels 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 mealtimes or additional drinks in restaurants including tea & coffee
- Personal transport costs, phone calls and other personal needs
- Accommodation tax in Rome, Florence, Pesaro and Venice
- Travel insurance

## Cost

**The cost** of the tour is **AUD \$6,542.00** per student in **shared accommodation**. The tour is costed on **10 students** with one accompanying teacher travelling with the group. The tour will be fully guided by a member of Vita Italian Tours.

**The cost** for additional students wishing to join the tour is **AUD \$6,702.00\*** per student in **shared accommodation**.

(\*This is a price estimation based on current airline pricing with Emirates, local Italian suppliers and may be subject to change.)

## Additional Notes:

\* **The weather:** it is the start of winter. It can get cold during the day with lower temperatures in the evenings. We recommend warm, comfortable clothing with adequate layers, a warm jacket with your favourite winter 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 is required. You should expect to stroll leisurely for up to two hours with breaks for sightseeing, a drink and a gelato. The program appears to be full; however, it is mixed and there is sufficient leisure time for your enjoyment and for student/teacher activities.

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

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Northern Italy: | 12 - 4°C  |
| Central Italy:  | 13 - 5°   |
| Southern Italy: | 16 - 10°C |

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

## For further information

Visit the web site [vitaitaliantours.com.au](http://vitaitaliantours.com.au)

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