

THE BEST OF ITALY: 12 days / 11 nights

Florence, Siena, San Gimignano, Chianti, Tuscany, Rome, Pompei, Sorrento, and the Amalfi Coast



<https://www.florenceandbeyond.com/the-best-of-italy/>

Highlighting the very best of Italy, this tour has been designed for people with limited mobility in mind. While there are only three accommodation stops, staying in central Italy allows us to maximize the number of places that we can visit, creating an itinerary that is both varied and comprehensive. Our private transfers and transport will bring us from door-to-door, limiting the amount of walking that has to be done. Our local tour guides will be selected to ensure that we tour at our own pace. And in bigger cities we will make the best use of our time by using eco-friendly transport methods.

Italy is undoubtedly rich with culture and history and this will not be neglected. Our tour will be split between exploring the extraordinary historic, art, and architectural sights with experiencing in a more hands on way where our famous foods come from and how they are made. There will be breathtaking scenery as we travel through some of Italy's most iconic landscapes and adorable townships that hark back to Italy's illustrious past.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the Renaissance city of Florence and the Uffizi Gallery's masterpieces
- Tours and tastings in Italy's food valley, Emilia-Romagna, home to Parmesan Cheese and Balsamic Vinegar
- A day dedicated to Tuscan Towns. Visit Siena, San Gimignano and the Chianti countryside.
- Free day to explore Florence on your own or take a day trip to Venice
- Stop in Tuscany's most scenic countryside for a pasta making class on our way to Rome
- Discover the city of Rome from the comfort of an eco golf cart - all day tour
- Guided tour of the Vatican museum and Sistine Chapel
- Visit the ruins of Pompei
- Full day excursion to the breathtaking Amalfi Coast with local lunch
- Take a ferry across the bay of Naples to the enchanting island of Capri

ACCOMMODATION - 4 Star Hotels

- 5 nights in Florence
- 3 nights in Rome
- 3 nights in the Amalfi Coast

DAY 1: Arrive in Florence

When you arrive at the Florence airport, there will be a driver waiting for you at the arrivals exit. They will bring you directly to the hotel where you will meet your tour leader, check-in and relax. Enjoy a stroll around Florence to shake off your jetlag and then meet in the hotel for a orientation meeting. We will have an early welcome dinner in a Tuscan restaurant close to the hotel.

DAY 2: Guided tour of the Uffizi Gallery

After breakfast, we will meet our tour guide in the center of Florence. The Uffizi Gallery is home to the world's most important collection of Renaissance artwork, bequeathed to the Tuscan state by Anna Maria Luisa de' Medici, last lineal descendant of the House of Medici.

In the evening there will be a special Steak Dinner, masterpiece of Florentine cuisine.



DAY 3: Parmesan Cheese & Balsamic Vinegar

Today we are going to head north to the region of Emilia-Romagna, Italy's famous food valley. Start the day at a Parmesan cheese farm. They will walk us through the steps of how this world famous, delicious cheese is made followed by a tasting and free time of course in their Parmesan shop. Our afternoon will be spent lunching on local specialties including Modena's famous, original and traditional Balsamic Vinegar. Our hosts will take us into their family acetaia and explain how balsamic vinegar is made.

DAY 4: Free Day

Sleep in, book a tour, take the train to Venice, shop--this day is yours to enjoy.

Your tour leader will be available in the morning to answer questions and point you in the right direction.

DAY 5: Tuscan Towns & Countryside

Today will be a big one but we will have our own private bus and tour guide to ensure we make the most of it. Our guided tour of Siena we will also include entrance to the extraordinary cathedral. In San Gimignano, fondly referred to as the medieval Manhattan (for its many towers), amongst other things you can enjoy world famous gelato. Lunch in a traditional restaurant and wine tasting in the Chianti countryside are also included.

DAY 6: Florence to Rome

Make sure your bags are packed and ready to go! We are heading to Rome. But why not take the scenic route. Val D'Orcia has some of Tuscany's most incredible countryside where we will stop and make our own lunch! Learn how to make pasta and then enjoy the fruits of your labor!



DAY 7: The Eternal City

Rome is a big, expansive city filled with famous monuments. To cover the most ground, today we will take a guided, eco golf cart tour covering all the history and sights. Pick up from the hotel and lunch included.



DAY 8: Sistine Chapel

This will be an early morning. Access the Vatican Museum an hour before its official opening. Enjoy a guided tour of the Museum and Sistine Chapel without the normal crowds. The visit will be followed by a breakfast, after which you can continue to explore the museum.

In the afternoon you are free to explore Rome.

Evening: traditional Roman dinner

DAY 9: Rome to the Amalfi Coast

Our bus will pick us up from the hotel and on the way to Sorrento we will stop for a guided tour of Pompei. Our local guide will recreate from the ruins, what it was like to live in this Roman beach settlement in 79 AD. There will be time for a lunch/snack after the tour and then we will continue on to check-in to our hotel in the coastal town of Sorrento.

DAY 10: The Amalfi Coast

Our bus and tour guide will pick us up from the hotel. We will drive one of the most breathtakingly scenic roads in all of Italy, stopping along the way for photo opportunities close to the town of Positano. Our tour guide will take us to visit the town of Amalfi and Ravello, high on top of the hills with epic views of the coast. Lunch will be included. Full day excursion.

DAY 11: The Island of Capri

Holiday location of the rich and famous, Capri offers a luxurious place to spend your summers. We will take a catamaran ferry from Sorrento to Capri. Our tour guide will have local transport waiting to take us to visit the sights of the Island. Back in Sorrento mid-afternoon.

Evening: Farewell dinner all together in Sorrento.

DAY 12: Naples Airport

We will organize transport for everyone to go together to Naples. We can drop you off either at the airport or at the central train station. The time of the transport will be based on when the majority of flights are departing.

Special arrangements can be made for people who are looking to stay on in Sorrento or extend their trip (quote on individual basis).

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 11 nights of accommodation in 4-star hotels, sharing in double/twin rooms.
- 19 included meals:
 - 11 hotel breakfasts
 - 5 lunches
 - 3 dinners
 - 1 private dining steak experience
- Wine, water, and coffee with lunch and dinner (sufficient, not unlimited).
- Transfers and transport by private air-conditioned coach bus.
- Assistance of a professional, English speaking tour director that lives in country for the length of the tour.
- Comprehensive program of sightseeing and experiences:
 - Uffizi Gallery Tour** Enjoy the Renaissance masterpieces with the insights and knowledge from our expert tour guide.
 - Famous Food Day trip** with Parmesan and Balsamic Vinegar farm tours, tasting and traditional lunch.
 - Day trip to** Siena, San Gimignano, and the Chianti countryside with lunch included.
 - Cooking/pasta making class** in Val D'Orcia on the way to Rome.
 - Full day tour of Rome**, sights and history. Sound exhausting? We will relax and enjoy all the sights from our eco-golf cart.
 - VIP early entrance to the Sistine Chapel** one hour before the crowds with guided tour and special breakfast included.
 - Guided tour of Pompei** excavations.
 - Full day excursion to the Amalfi Coast**, including panoramic drive, guided tour of Amalfi and Ravello and lunch.
 - Trip to the Island of Capri** with transport and local guide.
- Personalized arrival transfers from the airport to the hotel.
- Group airport transfer from Sorrento to Naples airport or train station.
- When necessary/required an audio system will be provided so that you can hear your guide from a distance.
- Hotel taxes and service charges.
- City taxes.

Note: this itinerary has taken into consideration participants with limited mobility. By this we understand that you might travel with a wheelchair or walker but you do not need it 100% of the time. There may be some occasions where it is not possible to use your wheelchair.



PREFERRED HOTELS (or similar)

Florence: Grand Hotel Mediterraneo
Rome: Grand Hotel Palatino
Sorrento: Grand Hotel Vesuvio

Included: double or twin rooms for sharing as couples or friends. Single rooms available by request.

This tour is intended as a private tour only.

Tour organized by authorized travel agent and tour operator Florence And Beyond SRLS
Via dei Neri 1, 50122 Florence, Italy.

YOUR ORGANIZER AND TOUR LEADER

Australian living long-term in Florence.

I arrived in Florence in 2001, supposedly on a one year sabbatical from my corporate career back in Australia. Back then very few people in the city spoke English. Once I realized that I was staying, my first priority was to learn the language and then I set about carving out a life and a career for myself. Since 2004 I have worked with international tourists of all ages, creating itineraries and taking groups on tours.

Other than organizing tours, I currently work creating food and wine experiences in Florence. Many people ask me if I am a sommelier, although I have done and continue to do wine courses I prefer to describe myself as food and wine curious. I love tasting wine, talking about wine, and discussing with my guests what they like about wine.

The food and wine in Italy has such a long and rich history which is intrinsically connected to culture and society. Everything you eat or drink tells a story about the place that it comes from.

In my free time I still love to travel and discover new places. In my home time, I am a mum to four cats, I anxiously await the Italian release of the next season of Criminal Minds, and I read books about Florence's food history.

If you have any questions about the tour, please feel free to reach out by email info@florenceandbeyond.com or by Whatsapp call/message +393287290848

Florence and Beyond is an independent travel agency licensed and registered in Florence. In Italy we not only have to have special qualifications and experience to open a travel agency but we are required to have two types of insurance; one for insolvency or bankruptcy of the agency and one covering any potential damages to third parties. This ensures that travel agents uphold their responsibilities to their clients and the quality of their work and at the same time provides an extra level of security for the customer.

The travel industry in Italy is highly regulated. There are many people operating without these qualifications. Tours organized by Florence and Beyond will only involve collaborators and third parties, such as local tour guides, that have the appropriate licenses and authority to do so.

Florence and Beyond does not organize or book flights, international or local. Please carefully read the terms and conditions outlined by the airline when booking your travel between the United States and Italy. Florence and beyond cannot and will not take responsibility for cancellations, delays, lost baggage or other issues that arise directly from or are the responsibility of the airline.

Please pay special attention to the terms and conditions of your tour including the cancellation policy.

The cancellation policy is put in place to protect both parties. It exists to cover any non-refundable expenses incurred by Florence and Beyond on your behalf. I highly recommend covering unforeseeable events by purchasing a travel insurance policy. Note that you should purchase your travel policy at the time of booking or the very least when you pay the final balance of your tour. Travel insurance should cover costs in the event that at the last minute you have to cancel your tour. Every travel insurance policy is different and most have a copay fee on claims.



CANCELLATIONS & TERMS AND CONDITIONS

It is important to understand that tourism in Italy has relaunched at or above the pre-pandemic capacity. We are required to reserve earlier than in previous years, not only to ensure availability but also to contain prices as much as possible. As such our booking and cancellation lead times are now longer than usual. In many cases we will be required to make not refundable payments in full well before your arrival in Italy.

This trip is subject to a minimum number of participants. If the minimum number of participants is not reached 100 days before departure, we reserve the right to cancel the trip. If this happens, any participant who has already registered and paid the trip deposit, or paid in full, will be fully refunded.

To register for the program and secure your spot, there is a 1500 USD deposit due by March 31st, 2023. The balance payment is due by June 30th, 2023.

We reserve the right in our sole discretion to accept, decline, or remove anyone from a trip (at or prior to departure or during the trip) if we deem their continuation of the trip to be harmful or dangerous to themselves or other trip participants.

If for some reason you need to cancel your trip, a cancellation will only be effective when we receive written confirmation of the cancellation from you by email at info@florenceandbeyond.com. Cancellation by any other means, including phone call or messaging services, are not considered by us and do not constitute a cancellation. **If you cancel your trip, you will be responsible for the below amounts based on the date we receive your written confirmation of cancellation.**

- 90 days or more prior to departure, full refund minus non-refundable bank transaction fees and taxes (approximately 5%).
- 89 – 31 days prior to departure, full refund minus the deposit.
- 30 – 16 days before departure, 50% of the trip is refunded. The rest is non-refundable.
- 15 days or less prior to departure NO REFUND.

No refund is due if a traveler fails to join a trip, joins it after departure, or leaves it prior to its completion for any reason. There will be no refunds for unused services after a trip has commenced.

There are no exceptions to this cancellation and refund policy, including for reasons related to weather, terrorism, civil strife, airline default, strikes, personal, family, or medical emergencies or any other circumstances beyond our control. This means that even if you cancel because of medical issues, virus, sickness, quarantine, travel restrictions/warnings, fear of traveling or any other reason, your booking will be subject to this cancellation and refund policy. This is why we strongly suggest that you secure travel insurance in order to participate on a trip.

HEALTH and COVID: You must abide by any airport, airline, and /or immigration policies and procedures from both the United States and Italy (or your home country) regarding Covid-19 in place at the time of departure. This may include being fully vaccinated, wearing a mask on flights or in tourist locations in Italy. Participants are responsible for checking rules prior to departure.

We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance at the time of booking. Travel insurance policies can cover not only medical expenses in country but also expenses associated with cancellation in the event of illness or other unforeseen eventualities.

You must carry a valid passport and have obtained all of the required visas, permits, certificates, proof of vaccinations, and other travel documentation for all the countries in which you will visit during your trip. Your passport must be valid for 6 months beyond the duration of the trip. It is your responsibility to ensure that you satisfy all entry requirements and that you are in possession of the correct visas, permits and certificates for your trip and that all of the information on those documents are accurate. We are not responsible if you are refused entry to a country because you lack the correct passport, visa or other travel documentation.

Participants should check with consulates for the latest health requirements. Participants must bring their own medications, insect repellent or other recommended prescribed drugs, including but not limited to allergy medication (e.g., EpiPen).