



# Florence: The City Experience

7 days | 10 days with Venice extension

Settle in and immerse yourself in the beauty of Florence, the gateway to the greater Tuscany region. This hub of modern culture and influential history is lined with cobblestone streets, is overflowing with masterpieces from some of the greatest minds in Renaissance art, and is the place to go for world-renowned food and wine. Unpack only once and discover why the city shines as the Tuscan capital.



## Your tour package includes

5 nights in a well-located hotel  
5 breakfasts  
2 dinners with beer or wine, including a signature farewell dinner experience at an Italian villa  
Sightseeing tour with a local guide  
Expert Tour Director

## Included highlights

Accademia Gallery  
Florence Duomo  
Giotto's Campanile  
Ponte Vecchio  
Piazza della Signoria  
dinner at a villa in Fiesole

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 2.5 hours daily across uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with some hills and stairs.

## Group size

15–38

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Florence today.

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## Florence → 5 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Florence

*Included meals: breakfast, welcome dinner*

Welcome to Italy! Get settled in to your hotel, then meet your group at tonight's welcome dinner.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Florence

*Included meals: breakfast*

Set off on a guided sightseeing tour of Florence, the city distinguished as the birthplace of the Renaissance.

- Step inside the Accademia Gallery to see Michelangelo's iconic statue, the David (*Please note: Entrance to the Accademia Gallery may occur during the afternoon instead of the morning on day 3, or may take place on days 5 or 6.*)
- View the legendary Florence Cathedral, known as the Duomo, and walk through the city's UNESCO-listed Historic Center
- Pass Giotto's Campanile, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture
- See the medieval Ponte Vecchio and the Piazza della Signoria, the center of Florentine life

Later, enjoy free time or add an excursion.

+ Tuscan Cooking Class & Dinner

### Day 4: Free day in Florence

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a full free day in Florence or add an excursion.

+ Siena & Chianti Wine Tasting

### Day 5: Free day in Florence

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a full free day in Florence or add excursions.

+ Florence Home-Hosted Dinner

+ Michelangelo's Florence

### Day 6: Fiesole & farewell dinner

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Enjoy a full free day in Florence or add an excursion.

Tonight, journey to the scenic Etruscan-Roman town of Fiesole to say goodbye to your group as you enjoy a signature farewell dinner experience on a villa terrace.

+ The Pitti Palace & the Boboli Gardens

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## Flight Home

### Day 7: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

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## + Venice extension

All the pictures in the world couldn't prepare you for the real-life sight of Venice rising from the water. After a train ride, find out why the Queen of the Adriatic has such a special place in our hearts on a tour with a local guide.

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## Venice → 3 nights

### Day 7: Transfer to Venice

*Included meals: breakfast*

This morning, climb aboard a high-speed train and take off across the Italian countryside to Venice. Upon arrival, take a water taxi ride to your hotel.

### Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Venice

*Included meals: breakfast*

Admire historic churches, winding canals, and picture-perfect piazzas on a guided tour of the city known as the Queen of the Adriatic.

- Step into the iconic St. Mark's Square and enter St. Mark's Basilica
- View the stately Doge's Palace, built in the Venetian Gothic style in 1340
- Marvel at the Bridge of Sighs, the link between Doge's Palace and the New Prison
- See a glassblowing demonstration to learn about the city's most celebrated art

Enjoy a free afternoon in Venice or add an excursion.

+ Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise

+ Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

### Day 9: Free day in Venice

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in Venice or add an excursion.

This evening, gather with your group for a farewell drink.

+ Islands of the Venetian Lagoon: Burano & Torcello

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## Flight Home

### Day 10: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.ca/FWE](http://goaheadtours.ca/FWE) | 1-800-754-5066

## Day 3: Tuscan Cooking Class & Dinner

\$159CAD (2.5 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

This evening, learn how to make a traditional Tuscan meal under the direction of expert local chefs. Craft authentic pici, a thick, hand-rolled pasta, two kinds of bruschetta, and tiramisu. Then, pair your creations with wine, and sit down to a delicious dinner with your group. Please note: Depending on the size of the group, the class may be divided into two shifts. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

## Day 4: Siena & Chianti Wine Tasting

\$169CAD/\$179CAD\* (8 hours, departs in the morning)

Visit the UNESCO-listed Tuscan hilltown of Siena for a guided tour of its medieval sites. Enter the city's 13th-century cathedral, a Gothic masterpiece. It boasts a 56-panel marble mosaic floor, which was completed over a span of almost 200 years, and which is only displayed in its entirety between August and October each year. Marvel at Pinturicchio's frescoes in the adjoining Piccolomini Library, which was built for Pope Pius II. Delve into the city's most important sport as you stroll through Piazza del Campo, site of the annual Palio horse race. Then, journey to Chianti to learn about Italy's wine culture and tradition of agriturismo. Enjoy picturesque views on a winery tour, then taste three of the winery's most distinctive labels paired with antipasti and crostini.

## Day 5: Florence Home-Hosted Dinner

\$125CAD (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Join a local at their home in Florence to enjoy traditional dishes and dine like a true Italian. During this dinner, you'll receive an authentic understanding of your host's day-to-day life while learning about Italian culture and traditions from a new perspective. Please note: Your Tour Director will not attend this excursion. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

## Day 5: Michelangelo's Florence

\$129CAD/\$139CAD\* (4 hours, departs in the morning)

Unravel the genius of Michelangelo, the famous painter, architect, and poet, as you tour notable museums throughout Florence. Start with the San Lorenzo complex, viewing the basilica's counter façade and the Medici Chapels, where you can admire his magnificent sculptures and the architecture in the Laurentian Library vestibule. Walk by Palazzo Medici Riccardi and continue on to enter the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo to see the famous Pietà sculpture and the original Gate of Paradise. On a walking tour of the city, pass the Bargello National Museum and the Buonarroti House, once owned by the artist himself. End the tour outside of the Basilica of Santa Croce, site of Michelangelo's tomb.

## Day 6: The Pitti Palace & the Boboli Gardens

\$135CAD/\$145CAD\* (4 hours, departs in the morning)

Cross the Arno River for a guided tour of the Pitti Palace, the Medici family's 16th-century residence. Today, it's distinguished as a world-class art museum and houses several lavish galleries including the Palatine Gallery. This gallery once served as the Grand Dukes' living quarters and still houses the Medici's private collection of artwork by notable figures such as Titian, Raphael and Rubens. The museum is also home to the Modern Art Gallery, which holds 30 rooms of works that span the 18th century to the early 20th century. After seeing the artwork, step outside to enjoy free time exploring the hilltop Boboli Gardens, which offer incredible, sweeping views of Florence.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 8: Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise

\$125CAD/\$135CAD\* (25 minutes, departure time varies)

More than 100 canals crisscross Venice, and boarding a sleek, black gondola to explore them has become a time-honored tradition. On this memorable excursion, join your fellow travelers for a tour through the canals of Venice, with a gondolier deftly guiding your boat along. Please note: This excursion runs as weather permits, and travelers should feel comfortable getting into and out of the gondolas. A private, two-person gondola ride is available for an additional cost.

### Day 8: Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

\$225CAD/\$235CAD\* (25 minutes, departure time varies)

More than 100 canals crisscross Venice, and boarding a sleek, black gondola to explore them has become a time-honored tradition. On this memorable excursion, you'll enjoy a private gondola cruise for two through the canals of Venice, with a gondolier deftly guiding your boat along.

Please note: This excursion requires two passengers. Cost is per person, and each traveler must book the excursion. Travelers should also feel comfortable getting into and out of the gondolas. This excursion runs as weather permits.

### Day 9: Islands of the Venetian Lagoon: Burano & Torcello

\$119CAD/\$129CAD\* (5 hours, departure time varies)

Visit the islands of the Venetian lagoon, a favorite day trip for locals and travelers alike. First travel by water taxi to Torcello, where the story of Venice began. It was here that mainlanders sought a safe haven from invading barbarians. Step inside the Basilica of Santa Maria Assunta, whose famous mosaics depict The Last Judgement. The next stop is the tiny fishing village of Burano, where brightly colored homes greet visitors. Wander as you please throughout Burano, and be sure to stop in at the island's bakeries.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.ca/terms](http://goaheadtours.ca/terms)