



# Grand Tour of Italy & Greece

14 days | 18 days with Santorini & Athens extension

Italy and Greece often find their way to the top of many travel bucket lists—and for good reason. Both countries shine when it comes to their fresh cuisine, dreamy views, and dynamic cultures. Find inspiration in Italy as you visit Venice, Florence, and Rome. Then, head to Greece to uncover history in Delphi, Olympia, and Athens.



## Your tour package includes

- 12 nights in handpicked hotels
- 12 breakfasts
- 5 dinners with beer or wine
- 7 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 1 on-tour flight

## Included highlights

- St. Mark's Basilica
- Florence Duomo
- Ponte Vecchio
- Spanish Steps
- Pantheon
- Temple of Apollo
- Ruins of Olympia
- Archaeological site of Mycenae
- Acropolis
- Parthenon

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2.5 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and unpaved trails, 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 Venice.

## Venice → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Venice

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Italy! Meet your Tour Director and fellow group members at tonight's welcome dinner.

### Day 3: 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.

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

Enjoy a free afternoon in Venice or add an excursion.

*Please note: On some departures travelers may enter St. Mark's Basilica after the sightseeing tour based on ticket time availability.*

+ Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise

+ Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

## Florence → 2 nights

### Day 4: Transfer to Florence & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Cross through the Apennine Mountains as you make your way to Florence. Once you arrive, get to know the city with a local guide.

- View the legendary Florence Cathedral, known as the Duomo.
- Pass Giotto's Campanile, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture.
- Walk past Piazza della Repubblica to the medieval Ponte Vecchio.

- Stroll along the Arno River and through the courtyard of the Uffizi Gallery to Piazza della Signoria, center of Florentine life.

### Day 5: Free day in Florence

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Florence or add an excursion.

+ San Gimignano: Medieval Sights & Tuscan Flavors

## Rome → 3 nights

### Day 6: Transfer to Rome & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast*

Depart Florence for Rome, where you'll explore the ancient city on a guided tour.

- Stroll past the Spanish Steps, where Bernini's Baroque-style fountain has stood since the 1600s
- Walk to the intricately carved Trevi Fountain, and toss a coin for good luck
- Step inside the Pantheon, home to the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome
- Learn about the engineering skills of the ancient Romans and how they created this well-preserved temple
- End at Piazza Navona and see the Fountain of the Four Rivers

### Day 7: Free day in Rome

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in Rome or add excursions.

+ Iconic Sights: Vatican City

+ Pasta-Making Class & Dinner

### Day 8: Free day in Rome

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Spend a free morning exploring Rome or add an excursion.

This evening, enjoy an elegant, four-course dinner at a local restaurant with live musical entertainment.

+ Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs

## Delphi Region → 1 night

### Day 9: Flight to Athens & transfer to Delphi

*Included meals: breakfast*

Fly to Athens, Greece this morning. Then, continue on to Delphi.

## Olympia Region → 2 nights

### Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Delphi & transfer to the Olympia Region

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Set off on a guided tour of Delphi, home of the mystical oracle. You'll visit the Temple of Apollo where, according to legend, the gods once communicated with mortals.

Cross onto the Peloponnese peninsula as you make your way to the Olympia region this afternoon.

### Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Olympia

*Included meals: breakfast*

Tour the historic city of Olympia with a local guide.

- View the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, known as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
- See the ancient Gymnasium and site where the first Olympic Games took place.
- Step inside the Archaeological Museum of Olympia and enjoy free time to explore the exhibits.

Spend a free afternoon in the Olympia region or add an excursion.

+ Greek Cooking Demonstration & Folk Show Dinner

## Athens → 2 nights

### Day 12: Athens via Mycenae & Corinth Canal

*Included meals: breakfast*

As you make your way to Athens, stop to visit several historic sites.

- Head to the UNESCO-listed Archaeological site of Mycenae.
- Take a guided tour of the ancient Mycenaean city and learn about its connection to Homer's famous Greek epics the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.

- Snap a photo of the Corinth Canal, which separates the Peloponnese peninsula from mainland Greece.

### Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Athens

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

A local guide introduces you to the highlights of this bustling ancient capital, home to the world's first democracy.

- Pass by the Olympic Stadium, Syntagma Square, and the Arch of Hadrian.
- View the sixth-century Temple of Zeus.
- See the classically inspired Old Royal Palace, home of the Hellenic Parliament, and drive through the Plaka district.
- Set off on a walking tour around the ancient Acropolis, site of the Parthenon, Temple of Athena Nike, and Erechtheion.

Enjoy a free afternoon in Athens or add an excursion.

Celebrate your trip with your fellow group members at a farewell dinner this evening.

+ Cape Sounion

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## Flight Home

### Day 14: Departure

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

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue on to visit Santorini and further explore Athens.

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## + Santorini & Athens extension

Want another dose of Greece's ancient history and laid-back lifestyle? Take a ferry to Santorini to see it all alongside a local expert. Then, fly to Athens and let the myth-filled streets call you back.

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## Santorini → 3 nights

### Day 14: Ferry to Santorini

*Included meals: breakfast*

Take a ferry to Santorini, then enjoy free time to discover the island's charming culture and awe-inspiring landscapes.

### Day 15: Sightseeing tour of Santorini

*Included meals: breakfast*

Take in the local sights on a guided tour of Santorini, a volcanic isle known for its black-sand beaches, cliff-lined shores, and stunning whitewashed architecture.

- Visit the prehistoric settlements that were unearthed during the archaeological excavations at Akrotiri.
- Ride to the top of Mount Profitis Ilias for panoramic views of the whole island.
- Stop in the small, picturesque village of Pyrgos.

Spend a free evening in Santorini or add an excursion.

+ Santorini Caldera Cruise & Dinner

### Day 16: Free day in Santorini

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in Santorini or add an excursion.

*Please note: For an additional cost, you can book a visit to the village of Oia through your Tour Director. The visit will either take place on the evening of day 14 or 16 depending on the ferry schedule.*

+ Greek Wine Tasting & Lunch

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## Athens → 1 night

### Day 17: Flight to Athens

*Included meals: breakfast*

Fly back to Athens today. Then, gather with your group members and raise a toast to your trip with a farewell drink.

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## Flight Home

### Day 18: 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/IGC](http://goaheadtours.ca/IGC) | 1-800-754-5066

## Day 3: 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 3: 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 5: San Gimignano: Medieval Sights & Tuscan Flavors

\$159CAD/\$169CAD\* (6 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Travel through the beautiful Tuscan countryside to discover the medieval village of San Gimignano. During the Renaissance, the rival Guelph and Ghibelline political factions flexed their muscles by constructing tall towers throughout San Gimignano; fourteen of those towers survive today. Later, visit a local winery for a taste of the area's wines and a sampling of olive oil and balsamic vinegar that you simply won't find anywhere else. Then, enjoy lasagna during a light lunch.

## Day 7: Iconic Sights: Vatican City

\$175CAD (3.5 hours, departure time varies)

This guided tour takes you inside Vatican City—a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most sacred places in Christendom. This independent city-state within Rome serves as the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church and is home to the Pope. Upon arrival, turn on your pre-distributed headset and dive into the Vatican's rich history with your local guide. First, visit the Vatican Museums, which are more than 500 years old and house many of the world's most important Classical- and Renaissance-era sculptures. Next, step inside the Sistine Chapel, whose frescoed ceiling is arguably Michelangelo's greatest masterpiece. Finally, pay a visit to the enormous St. Peter's Basilica, the epicenter of the Roman Catholic faith. The artists who have contributed to its glory are some of the best Italy has ever known: Bramante, Peruzzi, Raphael, and

Michelangelo. Masterpieces await at every turn, from Bernini's magnificent bronze canopy to Michelangelo's Pietà.

Please note: Should this excursion fall on a Sunday, it'll be moved to another day of the tour. Backpacks aren't allowed in the Vatican, and shorts and sleeveless shirts are strictly prohibited. Due to closures of certain entrances and pathways, wait times may extend to several hours during busy travel months. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 70 days prior to departure.

## Day 7: Pasta-Making Class & Dinner

\$175CAD/\$185CAD\* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

In this hands-on cooking class led by an experienced Italian chef, you'll learn to make pasta—perhaps pillowy ravioli or castellane, a ridged shell pasta that's rolled into a long, oval shape—using traditional techniques you can keep on practicing when you get back home. Then, sit down for dinner and enjoy the dishes you've prepared, along with wine.

## Day 8: Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs

\$125CAD/\$135CAD\* (4 hours, departure time varies)

Descend into Rome's ancient catacombs, where early Christians buried saints and popes alongside commoners. A local guide will lead you through the burial chambers before your visit to St. Paul's Basilica, one of the four most important basilicas of Rome. Originally founded by Constantine the Great, the Basilica also houses the tomb of St. Paul. Please note: Shorts and sleeveless shirts are not permitted within the Basilica. Also, this excursion involves extensive walking and may be challenging for claustrophobic travelers.

## Day 11: Greek Cooking Demonstration & Folk Show Dinner

\$95CAD/\$105CAD\* (4 hours, evening with dinner)

Head to a nearby estate in Olympia where you'll learn about Greek cuisine during a cooking demonstration. Then, enjoy a buffet dinner paired with Greek wine followed by a short, interactive dance performance. Please note: Customers will share stations during the cooking demonstration.

## Day 13: Cape Sounion

\$89CAD/\$99CAD\* (4.5 hours, departure time varies)

Journey to the southern tip of the Attica Peninsula to take in the sights of the Poseidon Coast, including sandy beaches, natural and manmade harbors, and, of course, the Aegean Sea itself. High above the sparkling shoreline, the Temple of Poseidon dominates the landscape. Of the original structure, 16 elegant Doric pillars remain. Afterward, decide how you'd like to spend your free time. Take a moment to look out from the lofty cliffside vantage point, where you can see five Aegean islands on a clear day. You may also choose to

enjoy a coffee, stop in the souvenir shop, or stroll through the area. Please note: This excursion involves some walking on uneven terrain.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 15: Santorini Caldera Cruise & Dinner

\$205CAD (5 hours, departs in the afternoon, dinner included)

Board a catamaran and sail in comfort through Santorini's awe-inspiring caldera on this scenic excursion. You'll cruise around the volcanic island of Nea Kameni for views of the picture-perfect cliffside village of Oia (pronounced "EE-ah"). Situated on the western end of the island, Oia was once a maritime center, and stately captains' houses still sit on its high ridges. Spend the afternoon on the open waters as you snorkel in the ocean, sunbathe on the deck of the catamaran, and swim in a natural hot spring that was once the crater of a volcano. You'll enjoy unlimited wine, water, and soft drinks, as well as a buffet-style dinner of home-cooked Greek specialties, on board the boat as you take in the beautiful scenery. Please note: We recommend packing a bathing suit. This excursion is seasonal and runs from April through mid-October only. It is also weather-dependent. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

### Day 16: Greek Wine Tasting & Lunch

\$125CAD/\$135CAD\* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon with lunch)

Santorini's volcanic landscape and nutrient-rich soil nurture a wealth of outstanding vineyards. You'll tour a local winery and learn about how the vines are trained to grow close to the ground, which helps protect the grapes from the strong ocean winds. Then, sit down for a lunch and tasting featuring some of their signature varietals including Assyrtiko and Vin Santo.

\*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)