



Rome, Florence & Venice Carnival

10 days

Just before Lent, the city nicknamed La Serenissima (most serene) opens up into a wild world of luxury, indulgence, and merriment during the annual Carnival celebration. You'll begin your Italian adventure in Renaissance Florence and Eternal Rome before donning a traditional masquerade mask and taking to the Venetian streets with thousands of revelers from near and far.



Your tour package includes

- 8 nights in handpicked hotels
- 8 breakfasts
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 4 guided sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Carnival in Venice
- the Colosseum
- the Roman Forum
- Florence's Duomo
- St. Mark's Basilica
- a mask-making workshop with local artisans

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 2 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including 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 Rome today.

Rome → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Rome

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Italy! Transfer to your hotel and get settled in. Later, meet your group at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Rome

Included meals: breakfast

Follow in the footsteps of the ancient Romans on a guided tour of the Eternal City.

- Soak up over 2,000 years of history in Imperial Rome, viewing the Arch of Constantine and the Arch of Titus
- Enter the Colosseum, the largest amphitheater of the Roman Empire
- Stop at the ruins of the Forum, once the setting of parades, elections, and trials
- Pass Palatine Hill, see where ancient Romans raced chariots at Circus Maximus, and view the Baths of Caracalla

Day 4: Free day in Rome

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day in Rome or add an excursion.

+ Iconic Sights: Vatican City

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

Day 6: Free day in Florence

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a full free day to explore Florence or add an excursion.

+ Siena & San Gimignano: Tuscan Hilltowns

Venice → 3 nights

Day 7: Carnival events in Venice

Included meals: breakfast

Transfer to Venice this morning, then spend the afternoon discovering the excitement and appeal of Venice's Carnival.

- Attend a mask-making workshop to learn about the history of Carnival and its famous disguises
- Try your hand at creating your own mask before taking to the streets to join in on the revelry

Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Venice

Included meals: breakfast

Experience 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, farewell dinner

Spend a free day exploring Venice on your own or add an excursion.

Later, say goodbye to your group at a farewell dinner.

+ Islands of the Venetian Lagoon: Burano & Torcello

Flight Home

Day 10: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Florence → 2 nights

Day 5: Transfer to Florence

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Cross through the Apennine Mountains as you make your way to Florence, home of the Renaissance. Then, get to know the city on a guided sightseeing tour.

- 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

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/RFC | 1-800-754-5066

Day 4: 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 6: Siena & San Gimignano: Tuscan Hilltowns

\$175CAD/\$185CAD* (10 hours, departs in the morning)

Discover the essence of Tuscany on a full-day excursion. In Siena, a local guide introduces you to the town and its black-and-white marble duomo, where you'll find brilliantly colored 16th-century frescoes in the Piccolomini Library. You'll have some free time to explore the Campo, the square that serves as the center of civic life in Siena. Then, journey through the countryside to the town of San Gimignano, where you'll have some free time to explore the city's medieval towers or simply admire the Tuscan hills. Later, you'll head to a nearby vineyard, where an included wine tasting awaits. Please note: This excursion involves a moderate amount of walking.

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