GO AHEAD TOURS

Venice, Florence & Rome

12 days | 15 days with Sorrento Peninsula extension

Try as you may, it's impossible to choose a favorite among Venice, Florence, and Rome. Each city is unique in its own right, with distinctive flavors, sights, and sounds. Float along Venice's meandering canals. Gain new respect for the Renaissance masters in Florence. Walk in the footsteps of the ancients in Rome. And eat like a king (or queen) no matter where you are.

Your tour package includes

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

Included highlights

St. Mark's Basilica
Florence Duomo
Ponte Vecchio
World-famous Italian cuisine
Orvieto
Roman Forum
Colosseum

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including cobblestone streets and unpaved paths, 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 today.

Venice → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Venice
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 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 4: Free day in Venice
Included meals: breakfast
Enjoy a free day in Venice or add an excursion.
+ Islands of the Venetian Lagoon: Burano & Torcello

Florence → 3 nights

Day 5: Transfer to Florence & sightseeing tour
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Cross through the Apennine Mountains on your way to Florence, where you'll meet a local guide for a tour of the city.

- 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

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 6: Free day in Florence
Included meals: breakfast
Enjoy a free day in Florence or add an excursion.
(Please note: Siena & San Gimignano: Tuscan Hilltowns excursion may be offered on day 7 depending on the day of the week.)
+ Siena & San Gimignano: Tuscan Hilltowns

Day 7: Free day in Florence
Included meals: breakfast
Spend another free day in Florence or add excursions.
(Please note: The Leaning Tower of Pisa and Galleria dell'Accademia Museum excursions may be offered on day 6 depending on the day of the week.)
+ The Leaning Tower of Pisa
+ Accademia Gallery

Rome → 4 nights

Day 8: Rome via Orvieto
Included meals: breakfast
En route to Rome, stop in the Etruscan hilltop city of Orvieto for free time.

- Hop aboard a funicular to make your ascent to Orvieto
- See Orvieto Cathedral, a striking example of Gothic architecture

Then, continue on to Rome.

Day 9: 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 by Palatine Hill to see Circus Maximus, the stadium where ancient Romans raced chariots, and the Baths of Caracalla

Enjoy free time in Rome or add an excursion.
+ Pasta-Making Class & Dinner

Day 10: Free day in Rome
Included meals: breakfast
Spend a free day in Rome or add an excursion.
(It may be offered on day 11, depending on the day of the week)
+ Iconic Sights: Vatican City

Day 11: Free day in Rome
Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner
Enjoy another day to explore the city at your leisure or add an excursion. Then, join your group at tonight's farewell dinner. Tonight, as you dine, you'll be treated to a multi-course traditional Italian meal with a live musical entertainment.
+ Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the airport for your flight home, or extend your stay to explore Naples.

+ Sorrento Peninsula extension

From its perch high above the Bay of Naples, Sorrento waits to welcome you with its candy-colored villas, beautiful sea views, and food you'll be talking about for a long time. Continue on with your Tour Director to explore the Sorrento Peninsula, which is just as inviting as it sounds, and uncover history on a tour of Pompeii.

Sorrento Peninsula → 3 nights

Day 12: Sorrento Peninsula via Pompeii
Included meals: breakfast
En route to the Sorrento peninsula, stop at Pompeii for a guided walking tour of the city's ruins.

- Discover how Roman citizens lived 2,000 years ago, before Mount Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79
- View the excavated Roman ruins of theaters, villas, temples, and baths

Then, continue on to the Sorrento peninsula.

Day 13: Free day on the Sorrento Peninsula
Included meals: breakfast
Enjoy a free day on the Sorrento peninsula or add excursions.
+ Capri: A Day on the Iconic Island
+ Rustic Italy: Farmhouse Dinner & Wine Tasting

Day 14: Free day on the Sorrento Peninsula
Included meals: breakfast
Spend a free day on the Sorrento peninsula or add an excursion.
This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.
+ Scenic Amalfi Coast

Flight Home

Day 15: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the Naples airport to board 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/VFR | 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 4: 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.

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 7: The Leaning Tower of Pisa
$145CAD/$155CAD* (6.5 hours, departure time varies)
Travel through the Tuscan countryside for a visit to Pisa's Piazza dei Miracoli, or Field of Miracles, to see the famed Leaning Tower. Admire the Pisan Romanesque marble facade of the adjacent UNESCO-listed 11th-century cathedral before stepping inside. Then, gaze at Giovanni Pisano's Gothic pulpit inside the Baptistery of St. John. End your time with a gelato tasting. Please note, entrance into the tower is not included.

Day 7: Accademia Gallery
$89CAD (2 hours, departure time varies)
Home to Michelangelo's masterpiece David, the Accademia Gallery is one of the most famous museums in Florence. Skip the ticket lines, and join a local guide on a tour of the museum as you learn about Renaissance art history and view a variety of pieces, including the marble statue of David. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 70 days prior to departure.

Day 9: 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 10: 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 11: 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.

Extension excursion options

Day 13: Capri: A Day on the Iconic Island
$149CAD/$159CAD* (8 hours, departs in the morning)
Travel by ferry to the fabled isle of Capri, a beloved resort since the days of the Roman Republic. Weather permitting, you'll enjoy a boat ride around the island. Later, you'll enjoy free time to discover why everyone from Roman emperors to Sophia Loren has spent their vacations in Capri. If the weather prohibits a boat ride, you'll travel to the village of Anacapri, which offers stunning views of the surrounding scenery.
Please note: This excursion is weather-dependent. Travelers prone to seasickness should take the proper precautions.

Day 13: Rustic Italy: Farmhouse Dinner & Wine Tasting
$175CAD/$185CAD* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)
Take a short trip outside of Sorrento for a cultural experience at an agriturismo, or farm stay. Here you'll have a chance to explore the lush gardens, cultivated fields, and vegetation typical of many Mediterranean regions. After touring the farm, savor an aperitif of prosecco, meant to stimulate the appetite. A four-course dinner will follow, complete with a wine tasting led by an experienced sommelier. After an evening experiencing the Italian art of eating, return to Sorrento.
Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from March through October and inclusions may vary based on season. In addition, climbing stairs and walking is required in order to tour the farm.

Day 14: Scenic Amalfi Coast
$179CAD/$189CAD* (8 hours, departs in the morning)

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Join a local guide and drive along the Amalfi Coast, enjoying views of lemon groves growing on terraced cliffs and whitewashed villas clinging to the rocky shores. Stop along the way at the Madonnina viewpoint. This scenic spot offers stunning views of the sea and overlooks Positano, one of the most famous towns on the Amalfi Coast. You'll also see the region's beauty up close during a visit to the town of Amalfi. Here, you'll admire picturesque streets and historic sites, including the architecturally stunning Cathedral of St. Andrew. This unique, 13th-century cathedral houses relics of St. Andrew the Apostle, and you'll enjoy free time to step inside, do some shopping, or relax over a leisurely lunch. End your time in Amalfi with a taste of delizia al limone, a local lemon dessert.

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