



# Venice, Florence & Rome for Solo Travelers

# 9 days | 11 days with Sorrento Peninsula extension

The Colosseum and Saint Mark's Basilica are classic sites to cross off your Italian bucket list. But on this trip to Venice, Florence, and Rome for solo travelers, you'll discover that perfecting your gelato order and finding which trattoria has the best margherita pizza are just as important. Travel solo (but never alone!) as you discover the ins and outs of the local culture and cuisine alongside like-minded adventurers.



#### Your tour package includes

7 nights in a private room at handpicked hotels

7 breakfasts

3 dinners with beer or wine

1 cooking class

4 sightseeing tours

Expert Tour Director & local guides

Private deluxe motor coach

# Included highlights

St. Mark's Basilica Florence culinary walk Trevi Fountain Piazza Navona Pantheon Roman Colosseum Italian cooking class

# Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including cobblestone streets, with few hills or stairs.

# Group size

15-28

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### Overnight Flight → 1 night

#### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Venice today.

# Venice → 2 nights

#### Day 2: Arrival in Venice

Included meals: welcome dinner
Welcome to Italy! Settle in to your hotel. Then,
gather with your Tour Director and fellow group
members at a mixer before enjoying a 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.

- Stroll across 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.

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

+ Venice Grand Canal Cruise

#### Florence → 2 nights

# Day 4: Transfer to Florence & food tour

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner
Cross through the Apennine Mountains as you
make your way to Florence. Then, set off on a
culinary-themed walking tour of the city with a
local guide.

- Learn about the city's art and history at Piazza San Lorenzo.
- See Italian cuisine such as Tuscan breads, cold cuts, Chianina beef, tripe, lampredotto, vegetables, and herbs for sale from local shops.

- View the legendary Florence Cathedral, known as the Duomo.
- Pass the Dante House and Giotto's Campanile, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture.
- Stop at an osteria to try Tuscan croutons topped with chicken liver or olive paté, pappa al pomodoro, and pasta paired with a glass of Chianti.
- End with a stop at a local bar for an afternoon pick-me-up of coffee followed by a tasting of gelato from one of the city's oldest gelaterias. Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

#### Day 5: Free day in Florence

Included meals: breakfast
Enjoy a free day in Florence or add an excursion.
+ San Gimignano: Medieval Sights & Tuscan
Flavors

# **Rome** $\rightarrow$ 3 nights

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

Included meals: breakfast

Depart Florence for Rome, where you'll take a guided walk to discover the beautiful squares and fountains throughout the city center.

- Stroll past the Spanish Steps, where Bernini's Baroque-style fountain has stood since the 1600s, and head to the intricately carved Trevi Fountain.
- Enjoy a gelato tasting before entering the Pantheon, home to the world's largest unenforced 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: Sightseeing tour of Rome

Included meals: breakfast, tasting
Follow in the footsteps of the ancient Romans on
a guided walking tour

 Soak up over 2,000 years of history in Imperial Rome, viewing the Arch of Constantine and the Arch of Titus.

- Enter the Colosseum, a monumental amphitheater that reverberates with the roar of ancient spectacles.
- Pass Palatine Hill, see where ancient Romans raced chariots at Circus Maximus, the columned Temple of Hercules Victor, and the Theatre of Marcellus.
- Visit Rome's Jewish Ghetto neighborhood and step inside a local shop to taste Roman Jewish delicacies.
- End your tour at the Portico d'Ottavia, which was built in the first century BC and housed a Roman fish market from the Middle Ages until the 19th century.

Enjoy a free afternoon in Rome or add an excursion.

Please note: Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs excursion may be offered on day 8, depending on the day of the week.

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

#### Day 8: Free day in Rome & cooking class

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner Enjoy another free day to explore Rome or add an excursion.

Please note: Iconic Sights: Vatican City excursion may be offered on day 7, depending on the day of the week.

This evening, enjoy a hands-on cooking class led by an experienced Italian chef. You'll learn how to make fresh fettuccine and traditional dishes before sitting down to enjoy the foods you cooked during a farewell dinner.

+ Iconic Sights: Vatican City

#### **Flight Home**

#### Day 9: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home, or extend your stay to visit the Sorrento peninsula.

#### + Sorrento Peninsula extension

From its perch high above the Bay of Naples, Sorrento waits to welcome you with its candycolored 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** $\rightarrow$ 2 nights

# Day 9: 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 10: Free day on the Sorrento Peninsula

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day on the Sorrento peninsula or add an excursion.

This evening, sip a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ Capri: A Day on the Iconic Island

# **Flight Home**

#### Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the Naples 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.com/VS6** | 1-800-597-0350

#### **Day 3: Venice Grand Canal Cruise**

\$99/\$109\* (1 hour, departure time varies)
There's nothing more romantic than Venice from the water, and you'll soak in all the beauty the city has to offer as you set off from St. Mark's Square on this leisurely excursion. Do as the locals do and board a private water taxi to embark on a cruise down the famous Grand Canal. Float past the countless historic buildings that dot the canal banks as you admire the City of Water. After, head to a traditional Venetian barcaro, or wine bar, to enjoy a glass of prosecco and an aperitivo, or light snack.

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

\$115/\$125\* (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: Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs

\$89/\$99\* (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 8: Iconic Sights: Vatican City

\$125 (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 citystate 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.

#### **Extension excursion options**

#### Day 10: Capri: A Day on the Iconic Island

\$125/\$135\* (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.

\*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.com/terms