

Rome & the Rivieras

Rome, Florence & Nice

with visits to Pisa, the Cinque Terre & the Principality of Monaco

Day 1: Fly out from USA

Your Mediterranean adventure begins today as you depart home for your late afternoon flight, flying overnight across the Atlantic to Europe

Day 2: Buongiorno Italia, the Forum & the Colosseum

After a morning arrival at Rome's Fiumicino Airport, we'll transfer into the heart of the Eternal City to check-in to our centrally-located hotel for a 2 night stay.

Afterwards, your Italian experience begins with an afternoon sightseeing tour of Ancient Rome, including visits to the Roman Forum & the legendary Colosseum, scene of grisly 'entertainments'.

Later enjoy a group dinner in an authentic Roman eatery.

Day 3: The Vatican & Rome

We begin today by traveling from Italy into the Vatican, the smallest country in the world & certainly one of the most unique, located entirely within Rome!

Our guided 'V.I.P.' tour will explore the Vatican Museum, including the Sistine Chapel, & St Peter's Basilica. Afterwards there will be time to mail postcards home with Vatican stamps!

With so much to see in Rome, this afternoon has been left free for your own explorations - there are world class museums, extensive ruins, & countless historic churches. Or spend the time shopping for the latest Italian fashions!

After dinner this evening, experience 'Rome By Night' on a walking tour of some of the city's most popular sights: Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, the Trevi Fountain, & the Spanish Steps. Along the way we'll even stop for Rome's best gelato!

Day 4: North to Florence

This morning we depart Rome by bus for the journey north to Florence, arriving in time for lunch in this beautiful city of art.

This afternoon we'll discover the birthplace of the Renaissance, opera & the Italian language as our local guide introduces us to the city & it's must-see sights: Piazza della Signoria, the Palazzo Vecchio, the 'Duomo' & 'Gates of Heaven', & Santa Croce church.

This evening we check-in for a 2 night stay before dinner this evening, followed by what many claim is the world's best ice cream!

Day 5: Florence at Leisure

Today is totally free to explore Florence - there is plenty to keep you occupied, whether taking in the artistic treasures of the Uffizi Gallery, wandering the atmospheric back streets, visiting one of the historic palaces, shopping for gold or leather, or viewing more art in one of the city's other world class galleries.

Day 6: Pisa & the Cinque Terre

One of the world's most famous sights awaits us this morning – the Leaning Tower of Pisa, just one of the impressive monuments in Pisa's 'Field of Miracles' which also includes the 'Duomo', baptistry & cemetery. Tickets to climb the tower are included!

Afterwards we move on to the nearby Cinque Terre, a dramatic & beautiful coastline that attracts visitors from around the world.

The area is named for the five tiny villages – Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola & Riomaggiore – that are wedged into a series of coves between sheer cliffs. Their remoteness & dramatic position on a stunning coastline make them a highlight of any Italian adventure.

Our afternoon will be spent traveling between the villages by train, by boat, & on foot, before we make our overnight stop on the coast.

Day 7: The Italian Riviera to Nice, via Monaco

We say farewell this morning to Italy as we travel to France, our destination being the southern city of Nice. Along the way we'll visit Monaco, one of the world's smallest independent nations.

In Monaco-Ville we'll enjoy a short walking tour of the city, with stops at Palace Square, the Royal Palace (in time to witness the Changing of the Guard), the Cathedral & the port.

Then we'll ride a local bus across the country (really!) to see the famed Casino of Monte Carlo.

Late in the afternoon we continue on to Nice, arriving in time for dinner & checking-in for 3 nights.

Day 8: Nice in Nice!

Our morning sightseeing tour of Nice today includes the Old Town & the colorful Cours Saleya, Nice's main market square since the Middle Ages & still home to flower & produce markets. We'll also visit the four-mile long Promenade des Anglais, with the pebble beach & Mediterranean on one side & the city & mountains on the other.

This afternoon join your tour leader for a trip outside the city to the nearby village of St. Paul de Vence, a picture-postcard village of tiny winding streets with great views over the surrounding hills & sea. It's said that St. Paul is the most visited village in France!

Dinner this evening will be in Nice's atmospheric Old Town district.

Day 9: Free Time in Nice

Today has been left free for you to enjoy this popular city.

You might choose to return to Nice's famous pebble beach to sunbathe, or to bike or rollerblade along the front. Perhaps you'll want to shop for a last minute gift. Or you could visit one of Nice's world class art museums or perhaps its Russian Cathedral that resembles the famous sights of Moscow!

At the end of the day we'll rendezvous for to ride the elevator to the top of Castle Hill for spectacular views of the city & Riviera before our final evening's farewell dinner.

Day 10: Au Revoir!

Sadly it's time to depart France this morning for your flight to the USA, arriving home later today.