

# Italy 2010: OPTIONAL SIGHTSEEING

Sunday, March 7: Depart Washington for our overnight flight to Rome.

Monday, March 8: Upon arrival in Rome we will be transferred to our hotel in Florence.

## **Pisa** (½ day, afternoon)

After a panoramic drive through the Tuscan countryside, you'll drive along the embankment lining the River Arno into Pisa. Your visit begins with a guided visit of Piazza dei Miracoli, home to the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa (exterior visit). This masterpiece of Romanesque art is surrounded by the equally beautiful baptistery and cathedral which we will tour. (*little to no strain*)

**Cost: \$79.00**



Tuesday, March 9:

## **Venice** (full day)

Travel by train to Venice where we will visit the true heart of Venice; Rialto, and St Marks which is the political center of Venice. We will also take a gondola ride on the world-famous Grand Canal before boarding a comfortable motor boat that will take you to Murano, famous for its glassware. During the visit you'll be able to watch the skilled glass-blowers as they create works of art. Re-board your motor boat and you'll journey to the island of Burano to admire picturesque fishermen's houses painted in bright pastel colors, and, of course, the famous lace. You will return to Venice by train to arrive late in the evening. (*light to moderate strain, long periods of walking*)

**Cost: \$299.00**

Wednesday, March 10:

## **Florence City Tour** (½ day, morning)

You'll take a tour of the cathedral complex in the old city center, including Giotto's bell tower, the Baptistery with its bronze doors and the famous cupola by Brunelleschi. A short walk brings you to the Accademia Gallery, which houses the statue of David by Michelangelo. (*light to moderate strain*)

**Cost: \$89.00**

## **Siena & San Gimignano** (¾ day, afternoon/evening)



Discover Siena and San Gimignano, two of Tuscany's most popular attractions. Your trip takes you through the picturesque countryside of the Chianti region, a magical landscape of cypress trees, vineyards and olive groves you'll recognize from Renaissance paintings. On your guided tour of the medieval walled city of Siena, you'll visit the cathedral and its museum, and admire Piazza del Campo, one of the most beautiful squares in Europe. Your tour continues to San Gimignano, a tiny city that has survived the centuries. Hilltop San Gimignano is famous for its numerous skyscraper-like towers, frescoes

and other art treasures. (*light to moderate strain*)

**Cost: \$125.00**

Thursday, March 11: Morning departure from Florence for transfer to Rome.

## **Tiber River Dinner Cruise & Rome by Night** (evening)

Wine, dine and relax while you glide along Rome's River Tiber on this dinner cruise. After being welcomed aboard with canapes and a drink, your 3-course evening dinner cruise takes you toward Tiberina Island then back up to Ponte del Risorgimento, north of the Borghese Gardens, before returning to Sant'Angelo. Dress code is smart casual. You will then enjoy a night-time bus



tour which will include two stops: Piazza Navona, to discover Bernini's beautiful Fountain of the Four Rivers, and the Trevi Fountain, where you can continue the tradition of throwing coins into the impressive Baroque fountain to ensure you return to Rome in the future. (*little to no strain*)

**Cost: \$145.00**

Friday, March 12:

**Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel & St. Peter's Basilica** (½ day, morning)

On your morning guided tour of Christian Rome's most inspirational sites, you'll explore the world's smallest country; Vatican City; its largest church; St Peter's Basilica; and an impressive collection of fine art in the Vatican Museums. A highlight of the tour is the famous Sistine Chapel and its collection of frescoes begun in 1508 by Michelangelo. You'll see the master's best known fresco, the Last Judgment, covering one entire wall of the chapel. (*much walking/heavy strain*)

**Cost: \$79.00**

**Ancient Rome & Colosseum** (½ day, afternoon)



Your tour begins atop the Colle Oppio with a panoramic view of the Colosseum, Rome's most recognizable landmark. Next, your guide will take you through the bloody past of the amphitheater as you listen to tales of gladiators, mock sea-battles and executions. After a brief visit to the Arch of Constantine, you will visit the most famous of the seven hills of Rome; Palatine Hill. From here you can admire the views of the Roman Forum and Nero's Circus Maximus where chariot races were held. The last stop on your tour is a walk along the Via Sacra or 'Sacred Way', the main path through the Roman Forum that was used for triumphal processions.

The last stop is the temple which houses the altar where Julius Caesar was cremated. Visitors from around the world still leave flowers and candles at this site to this day. (*light/moderate strain*)

**Cost: \$69.00**

Saturday, March 13:

**Best of Rome Tour** (½ day, morning)

Explore Rome's classical attractions on a morning tour that begins in Piazza del Popolo, which traditionally marks the northern "door to Rome". You'll then proceed to the Spanish Steps, with their lively atmosphere and stunning views down into the winding alleys of the heart of the historic center. Next you will encounter Piazza Colonna, which contains the column erected by Marcus Aurelius and is considered by Romans to be the very center of the city. Stop at the Pantheon, with its impressive concrete dome and open oculus, which never fails to impress. Nearby you will explore Piazza Navona, with Bernini's famous "Fountain of the Four Rivers" triumphantly marking its center. Next, a visit to Campo de' Fiori gives you a taste of one of the liveliest and famous traditional Roman piazzas. After stops at the Fountain of the Turtles, Teatro Marcello (the "Little Colosseum") and the Capitoline hill, you will cap off the tour with a grand finish at the Caffarelli Terrace, with splendid views over the historic center of Rome. (*light strain*)

**Cost: \$59.00**



**Rome: Angels & Demons Tour** (½ day, afternoon)

Unravel Rome's secrets on the 'Angels and Demons' tour, inspired by Dan Brown's novel. Not just for fans of Dan Brown, this unique tour takes you to some of the most beautiful piazzas in Rome, as well as lesser known sites away from the tourist trail where pagan symbolism and Christianity intermingle. Fueled by a shared passion for Rome, history and Dan Brown's famous novel Angels and Demons, your guide will take you to the enigmatic sights mentioned in the novel, and reveal so much more about the mesmerizing city of Rome. You'll discover a hidden passage unused for centuries, and learn the secrets of the Illuminati and the Four Altars of Science, representing the four elements of earth, air, fire and water. As you search for the secrets scattered throughout Rome by the twin heads of the Illuminati, Bernini and Galileo, you'll visit some of Rome's most beautiful sites to breathe the air of intrigue, mystery and revelation. (*light strain*)

**Cost: \$79.00**

**Note:** Schedule of tours subject to change based on availability.  
Minimum of 20 travelers on each tour required for each tour to operate  
**Sightseeing purchased after arrival in Europe is subject to a 25% surcharge.**

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

_____ Pisa	\$79.00 x _____ persons = \$ _____
_____ Venice	\$299.00 x _____ persons = \$ _____
_____ Florence City Tour	\$89.00 x _____ persons = \$ _____
_____ Siena & San Gimignano	\$125.00 x _____ persons = \$ _____
_____ Tiber River Dinner Cruise	\$145.00 x _____ persons = \$ _____
_____ Vatican Museum & St. Peter's Basilica	\$79.00 x _____ persons = \$ _____
_____ Ancient Rome & Colosseum	\$69.00 x _____ persons = \$ _____
_____ Best of Rome Tour	\$59.00 x _____ persons = \$ _____
_____ Rome: Angels & Demons Tour	\$79.00 x _____ persons = \$ _____
	<b>Total \$</b> _____

**Please complete your selections and return with payment to TCI by February 7, 2010. Sights received after this date will receive a 10% late penalty.**

**Send to:**  
Travel Counsellors, Inc.  
276 West Market Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Should the US Dollar devalue more than 3% before departure, a currency fluctuation surcharge may be applied to your final invoice.  
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