

## Italy study abroad – 2015 – Itinerary

### **DAY 1 Friday, 13 March 2015**

Relax and enjoy our scheduled flight from Newark to Rome.

### **DAY 2 Saturday, 14 March 2015**

24-hour Tour Director will meet the group at the airport and remain with us until our final airport departure. Our private coach will be waiting to transfer us to our hotel in Italy. For the next six evenings we will enjoy the convenience of our centrally-located Rome hotel, where daily breakfast will be included. In Rome, the cost of public transport is included for all group sightseeing.

Escorted by the guide, we will be able to experience the city in the same manner as the local people. Enjoy a Walking Tour of Trastevere, which grew to prominence after the advent of the famous Fellini films. Because only a fraction of Trastevere has been excavated, it remains one of Rome's most consistently unchanged medieval neighborhoods, dotted with ancient churches, crumbling buildings, and proud inhabitants who have stressed their independence from Rome for centuries.

Highlights of our walk include Tiber Island, Santa Cecilia in Trastevere, Piazza di San Cosimato, Piazza di Santa Maria in Trastevere, Villa Farnesina.

This evening, dinner will be provided in a local restaurant.

### **DAY 3 Sunday, 15 March 2015**

During the course of our tour we will gain from the knowledge and insight of five half-day local guides while we are here in Italy.

Enjoy a guided tour, through the spectacular remains of the Roman Empire. The Colosseum, considered to be the greatest symbol of Ancient Rome's power and glory, was completed under Titus in 80 A.D. The Colosseum could hold 55,000 spectators, on a par with many of today's modern sports stadiums. Among the sights included is the Arch of Constantine, a triumphal arch finished in 315 A.D., commemorating the victory of Constantine I over Maxentius in the year 312 A.D. Tour the ruins and excavations of the Roman Forum, which features the remains of magnificent temples, basilicas, and triumphal arches that once formed the heart of the Empire.

This evening dinner will be at the group's own expense.

### **DAY 4 Monday, 16 March 2015**

Experience a specialist-guided tour of the Vatican City, including the Museums, home to one of the world's most impressive collections of art. Our tour includes the map tapestry rooms, the magnificent Raphael Rooms, Egyptian Collection, and the spectacular Sistine Chapel, highlighted by Michelangelo's ceiling and his Last Judgment. We will continue into St. Peter's Square to visit St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the western world and the centre of Catholicism. Highlights of our visit include Michelangelo's Pieta and Bernini's magnificent Baldacchino over the high altar. Our visit will also include time spent in the Egyptian Collection.

Tour a local hospital and/or imaging center to learn about imaging techniques in Italy.  
(subject to availability)

This evening dinner will be at the group's own expense.

### **DAY 5 Tuesday, 17 March 2015**

Visit the Capuchin Crypt, located under the Church of Santa Maria della Concezione dei Cappuccini. In the tiny chapels, the remains of 4,000 bodies are arranged into decorative motifs.

Enjoy a lecture by a member of local faculty or a healthcare organization on the national healthcare system of Italy. (subject to schedule and availability)

Visit Sapienza University of Rome, the largest European university and the oldest of Rome's four state-funded universities. In Italian, sapienza means "wisdom" or "knowledge".

Attend a lecture delivered by a local professor (subject to availability after time of booking).

Visit the Pantheon, Rome's best-preserved monument. The Pantheon is a masterpiece of architecture with its huge hemispherical dome. It also contains the tombs of the kings of Italy and that of the artist, Raphael.

This evening we will dine in the Piazza Navona area. Built on the foundations of Domitian's Circus, this magnificent square was designed by Borromini in 17th century. It is full of life and is highlighted by one of Rome's most spectacular fountains, the Four Rivers designed by Bernini. The square is often filled with local artists. The surrounding neighborhood is also one of the best places in Rome to get a tasty tartufo or gelato ice cream.

### **DAY 6 Wednesday, 18 March 2015**

We will travel by train from Rome to Florence. Florence is so deeply connected to the Renaissance movement in art and literature that it is often called the "Cradle of the Renaissance." A walk through the peaceful piazzas reveals the architecture and sculpture that have made this beautiful city one of the world's greatest artistic capitals.

Visit the Accademia Gallery, where we will view Michelangelo's statuary masterpiece, David, and Botticelli's Madonna and Child.

Discover the Museo Galileo, one of the foremost international institutions in the History of Science. It serves as both a noted museum of scientific instruments and an institute dedicated to the research, documentation and dissemination of the history of science in the broadest senses.

### **DAY 6 Wednesday, 18 March 2015**

Spend time in the Piazza della Signoria, the political stage of Renaissance Florence and an open-air museum of sculpture. Experience the Uffizi Museum, one of Italy's finest art museums, containing one of the most famous collections of paintings and sculptures in

the world. Exhibitions include works by most of the acclaimed Italian artists, as well as German, Dutch, and Flemish masters. Of particular note are European paintings from the 13th to 18th centuries, which include works by da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli, Rembrandt, and Rubens.

Stroll along the Ponte Vecchio, the oldest of Florence's six bridges and one of the best-loved sites of Florence. Lined with numerous shops, visitors often do not realize they are on a bridge until they reach the center arches that look out over the Arno.

This evening dinner will be at the group's own expense.

#### **DAY 7 Thursday, 19 March 2015**

Explore Chiesa di Sant' Ignazio di Loyola, which together with Il Gesu form the center of Jesuit Rome. The vast interior is lined with precious stones, marble, stucco and gilt work and the cupola that was never built is a fake perspective.

Enjoy free time today to explore Rome at your leisure.

This evening we will dine near the spectacular Trevi Fountain where it is traditional to toss a coin into the fountain to ensure a safe return to The Eternal City. Spend time at Rome's meeting place, the Piazza di Spagna, home of the famous Spanish Steps. The piazza and steps are both named in reference to a 16th century Spanish ambassador who lived here. English poet John Keats lived and died in the house to the right of the steps, which is now a memorial.

#### **DAY 8 Friday, 20 March 2015**

Our rewarding and enjoyable tour comes to an end as our Tour Director accompanies us to the airport on our final day.