



# ITALY

## CRADLE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Pick your date!

### A 12-Day Adventure:

Your journey includes round trip economy airfare from Washington Dulles, superior first class hotels, deluxe motor coaches, buffet breakfast daily, dinners as outlined, guided sightseeing.

### Getting To See:

- Rome
- Sorrento
- Naples
- Amalfi Coast
- Venice
- Positano
- Florence
- & More!

# ITINERARY **DAYS 1-4**

---

## **DAY 1 | ARRIVE IN ROME**

You will arrive in Rome, meet your escort and your private deluxe coach and drive to Sorrento. Dinner and overnight will be at the hotel.

## **DAY 2 | NAPLES & POMPEII**

This morning you will go for a visit in the city of Naples to the National Archaeological Museum, one of the world's most important museums which houses the treasures of Pompeii and Herculaneum. From there you will go to visit the ruins of Pompeii, which was destroyed completely by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 AD. It was covered with hot lava because of its close proximity to the volcano and lay undiscovered until the 17th century. Pompeii was a Roman city, which existed at the time of Christ and was ruled by the same powers that ruled in the land of Jesus at that time. In this visit you will gain insight into daily life in Roman times and thus have new understandings of the prevailing culture at the time of Jesus.

## **DAY 3 | AMALFI COAST**

Today you will explore the wonders of the Amalfi coast, one of the most scenic drives you can take anywhere in the world. You will stop in Positano for a scenic photo opportunity on your way along the stunning coastline to Amalfi where you will have time for lunch. Afterward you will also visit Ravello before returning to Sorrento to for the evening. Dinner will be on your own.

## **DAY 4 | ROME**

Today after an early breakfast you will say farewell to Sorrento and begin the drive to Rome. Once in Rome, you will proceed to the catacombs, burial place and meeting place of the early Christians. They were forced to meet in secret, underground, to escape persecution during the time before Constantine. You will proceed to check in at your hotel and have time to settle in before dinner at a local restaurant.





# ITINERARY DAYS 5-6

## DAY 5 | ROME

This morning you will begin with a visit to St. Peter's Basilica. This is Catholicism's most sacred shrine and holds hundreds of precious works of art, some salvaged from the original 4th century basilica built by Constantine and others commissioned from Renaissance and Baroque artists. From there you will go to the Vatican Museum, home to the Sistine Chapel and Raphael Rooms, as well as one of the world's most important art collections. These are housed in palaces originally built for Renaissance popes. Following your visit you will proceed to the church of St. Peter in Chains. At this church you will see Michelangelo's statue of Moses, which alone makes a trip to Rome worthwhile. Tonight you will go to the famous Trastevere area where you will enjoy a special & typical Roman dinner.



## DAY 6 | ROME

Today you will be visiting Imperial Rome. You will go to the Coliseum, Rome's greatest amphitheater, commissioned by Emperor Vespasian in 72 AD. It was here that the Romans watched as the early Christians suffered and died as they were thrown in the arena with lions and other wild animals. You will proceed through the Roman Forum, where you will see several ruined temples, triumphal arches, and basilicas. The Arch of Titus was erected in 81 AD to commemorate the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. After your visit to the Forum, you will proceed to the famous Trevi Fountain, and on to the Piazza di Spagna, where you can climb the Spanish Steps. From here you will be on your own for a free afternoon of last minute shopping or additional sightseeing. Dinner will be on your own



# ITINERARY DAYS 7-8

## DAY 7 | FLORENCE

This morning you'll leave Rome on your way to Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance, the artistic and cultural awakening of the 15th century. Along the way, you'll stop at Orvieto to visit this charming town and the beautiful Duomo. Thomas Aquinas made Orvieto famous as a place of spiritual pilgrimage. The cathedral was begun in 1290 and the famous sculptures, reliefs and mosaics of the façade illustrate the way of salvation for the faithful. After lunch on your own you will proceed to Florence, to check in at your hotel and have the balance of the day free. Dinner will be at a local restaurant.

## DAY 8 | FLORENCE

This morning you will begin with a walking tour of Florence. During the time that the Medici family was powerful in this area (14th -16th centuries), Florence was at the cultural and intellectual heart of Europe. You'll stroll along the Ponte Vecchio, the beautiful old bridge lined with shops spanning the Arno. You will then proceed to the Duomo, the spiritual, geographical and historical heart of the city. This cathedral is the fourth largest in Europe and is still the tallest building in Florence, as well as one of the oldest. We'll see the Baptistery with its celebrated bronze doors by Pisano and Ghiberti, (Dante was baptized here), the Campanile, designed by Giotto in 1334, the great Dome by Brunelleschi and finished in 1463, as well as many other features and famous works of art at the Cathedral Works Museum near this amazing structure. After lunch on your own, you will visit the Galleria dell'Accademia. Founded in 1563, it was the first school established in Europe specifically to teach the techniques of drawing, painting, and sculpture. The most famous work on display is Michelangelo's David, which established Michelangelo at the age of 29 as the foremost sculptor of his time. Dinner and overnight will be at a local restaurant.





# ITINERARY DAYS 9-12

## DAY 9 | FLORENCE

This morning you will begin with a visit to the world-renown Uffizi Gallery, Italy's largest art gallery. After your tour of this great collection, you will have the afternoon free to linger in the museum, to do some shopping, or just relax in your room or at a local café – you choose! Dinner will be on your own.

## DAY 10 | VENICE

This morning you will head to your final stop on your tour: Venice, one of the most the unique and charming cities of the world. You will enjoy seeing the city from the water as you experience a Gondala Serenade through the Grand Canal. Afterward, you will have dinner at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel for overnight.

## DAY 11 | VENICE

After breakfast, you will take a boat to the area of the Piazza San Marco, the pigeon-filled square dominated by the Basilica San Marco, the cathedral of Venice. According to tradition, during the 9th century, the Venetians stole the body of St. Mark, which was buried in Alexandria. They then proclaimed St Mark as their patron saint and in that way, they became linked to the origins and spread of Christianity. After the visit you will have free time to explore the markets and shops on the island before enjoying your Farewell Dinner on your final evening in this enchanting land.

## DAY 12 | FAREWELL

After breakfast, you will go to the Venice airport for your flight back to Houston to contemplate all you've seen and learned about the history of Christianity and the culture of Italy, ancient and modern.





# TRIP DETAILS

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners.
- Audio headsets for flexible sightseeing.
- Luxury air-conditioned coach with WiFi in most countries or alternative transportation (such as rail journeys)
- Hotel portorage of 1 bag per person,
- An expert Travel Director and separate Driver.
- Hotel tips, restaurant tips for included meals, and local taxes.
- A group airport transfer on the first and last day of your guided holiday.
- Handpicked, high quality hotels, all tried and trusted.
- Gratuities to Travel Director, Coach Drivers, and Local Experts.

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- No early check in / late check out.
- International, domestic, and internal airfares, unless specified.
- Travel insurance, visas, and items of a personal nature.

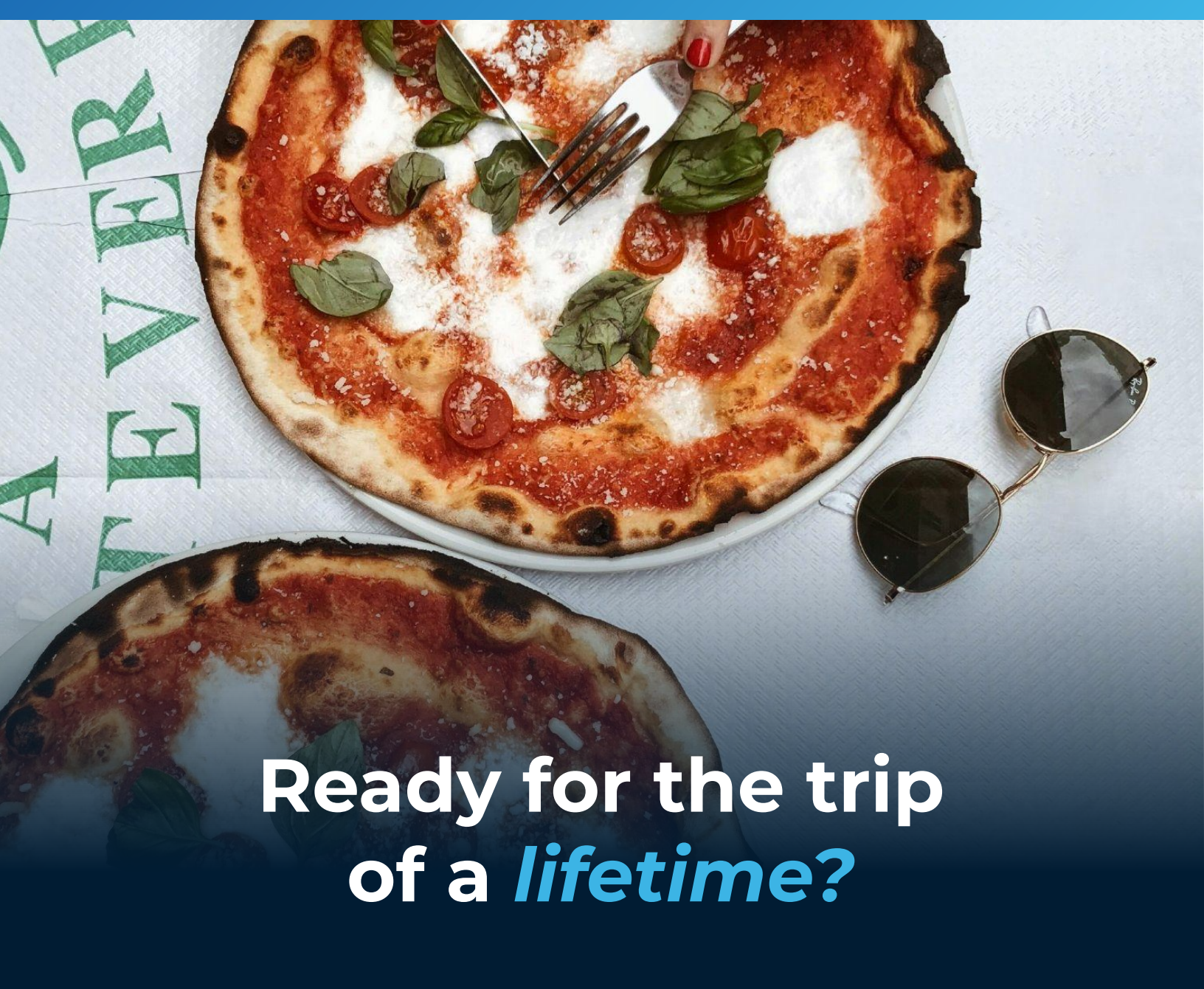
---

## PRICING

Full Tour	Varies
Land Only	Varies
Single Supplement	Varies
Deposit	Varies
Final Payment	Varies

## PAYMENT PROCEDURE

- Deposit payment of \$750 per person to hold space
  - Balance Due
-



# Ready for the trip of a *lifetime?*



If you need more details or are ready to book this trip, please contact us at 281-363-3659 or via our website

[www.gomegatravel.com](http://www.gomegatravel.com)

