

# Gladiators, Gondolas and Gold



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-  Start Location
-  Plane
-  Cruise
-  Over night

-  Visited Location
-  End Location
-  Train
-  Ferry



## Day 1 | Welcome to Rome



2025 marks a Jubilee Year, a momentous Roman Catholic event celebrated every 25 years, turning Rome into a center of celebration. As festivities unfold, itineraries may be adjusted to ensure you make the most of your time as you visit the Eternal City.

Ciao Roma! Feast your eyes and your stomach on the 'Eternal City' – the launch pad for an unforgettable adventure with *la famiglia*. Tread in the footsteps of the ancients before meeting with your Travel Director and fellow travelers for a Kickoff Party that will rock Rome.

**Meals:** Dinner

**Hotel:** Crowne Plaza St. Peter's

## Day 2 | Explore Ancient Rome



Join a Local Specialist to delve into centuries of history and culture. Venture across the Tiber to the Colosseum, imagining a time when brave warriors fought to the thunderous roar of thousands. Then it's time for a cheesy Family Fun affair as we Dive Into Culture and learn how to make authentic Italian pizza, sharing a tasty slice or two of our culinary masterpieces with our loved ones.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Crowne Plaza St. Peter's

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Ancient and Christian Rome** - Join us on an exploration of Rome's past with our Local Specialist. On this trip you'll visit the Catacombs, where the early Christians assembled to escape persecution and which were used as underground cemeteries. We'll also pass by the pyramid of Cestius and the baths of Caracalla.

Adult: 51.00 EUR

### Day 3 | Venture to a Gladiator School



Book your spot on the podium. It's time for Family Fun as you become a gladiator for the day. You'll learn how to wield a gladiator's sword and gain insights into military techniques with an expert. This afternoon, you'll have some free time to explore the city with the family. Perhaps count the Spanish Steps or toss a coin into the Trevi Fountain to secure your speedy return to Rome.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Crowne Plaza St. Peter's

#### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Piazzas and Fountains** - Discover the most enchanting areas of the city with a Local Specialist. Stroll through the maze of narrow streets and picturesque squares in Rome's historic center, uncovering famous landmarks and hidden gems in the Eternal City.

Adult: 49.00 EUR

### Day 4 | Enjoy Pisa and on to Florence



Embark on a scenic drive north through Tuscany's golden fields. Stop in Pisa to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site Piazza del Duomo to snap a selfie in front of the famous Leaning Tower. Carry on to the Renaissance city of Florence, our home for the next three nights.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Grand Mediterraneo

#### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**An Introduction To Florence** - Enjoy a drive up to one of the highest points that overlooks the city of Florence. Afterwards, you'll join our Local Specialist at the River Arno to take a walk over the Ponte Vecchio, see the new market, admire Piazza della Repubblica, the facade of the Bargello Museum and Dante's House. Then we'll finish off with a Carousel Ride for the younger participants (if available).

Adult: 39.00 EUR

## Day 5 | Discover Art and Architecture in Florence



The exquisite sights of Florence are brought to life on a walking tour in the expert company of a Local Specialist. See the magnificent Gothic Duomo and famous Baptistery before marveling at Michelangelo's statue of David at the Academy of Fine Arts. Learn about the quality and workmanship of two of this city's historic industries at demonstrations of Florentine leathercraft and 18-carat gold. Where better to Dive Into Culture and indulge in a refreshing gelato than in the city where it was invented? Tonight, join the Miari Fulcis family for a Be My Guest experience, enjoying delicious specialties against the backdrop of picture-perfect olive groves and vineyards on their 15<sup>th</sup>-century estate in the Tuscan hills. Salute!

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Grand Mediterraneo

## Day 6 | Florence Your Way



You have a full day at leisure to enjoy this remarkable Renaissance city. Florence is a living museum that you can explore on foot. Perhaps join an optional experience to the 'Town of Towers' – San Gimignano.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Grand Mediterraneo

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Visit to San Gimignano** - Join us for a panoramic drive to the nearby hilltop town of San Gimignano. Magnificently preserved from the Middle Ages, this little town, known as the 'Medieval Manhattan', is one of the most beautiful in Italy - a true gem. You'll also enjoy a local treat.

Adult: 43.00 EUR

You will be offered one of the following two Optional Experiences depending on availability:

**Dinner in the Tuscan Countryside** - This evening, take a scenic drive to experience a fun and relaxed evening at a friendly, typical restaurant in the countryside. The chef will delight our senses with regional dishes, made with freshly-bought ingredients from the local farmers' markets. Your delicious meal will be accompanied by excellent wines from the vineyards for which this area is so well known. In short, a Tuscan dream come true in an authentic setting.

Adult: 78.00 EUR

**Tuscan Dinner at Villa Machiavelli** - Through the Chianti hills, you'll drive past vineyards to a delightful hamlet. Our destination is the ancient stone house of Machiavelli, where the great political theorist wrote his immortal work, 'The Prince'. After a welcome drink and a visit of the villa and its wine-cellars, enjoy the best of Tuscan cuisine accompanied by great music and drinks, including of course, Chianti from the Villa's own vines.

Adult: 78.00 EUR



## Day 7 | Venture to Bologna and Onwards to Venice



Stop and smell the rich aromas of Bolognese sauce, spending the morning with a Local Specialist to explore the medieval city of Bologna. Then it's just a hop, skip and a jump towards the island city of Venice. Discover the 'Queen of the Adriatic' from the comfort of one of its traditional gondolas on an optional experience.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Novotel Mestre Castellana

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Gondolas & the Grand Canal*** - Join us for a breathtaking cruise by private water taxi along Venice's Grand Canal. You'll admire the magnificent palazzi, catching a glimpse of the Rialto Bridge and St. Mark's Square. Later on, you'll glide gracefully on a gondola along Venice's dreamy, narrow waterways.  
Adult: 93.00 EUR

## Day 8 | Discover Venice



Cruise to bustling St. Mark's Square on a private launch. View the exquisite Doge's Palace, St. Mark's Basilica and the Campanile and the famous Bridge of Sighs, so named for the sound condemned prisoners made at catching their last glimpse of beautiful Venice. We then witness first-hand the exquisite tradition of Venetian glassblowing. Your MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience helps to support the preservation of this precious Venetian tradition for generations to come. You'll learn how this once-thriving Venetian art is being kept alive by talented glassmakers who delight in working their magic to craft the stunning treasures for which Venice is justifiably famous. Time for Family Fun as you learn about the art of crafting Carnival masks, decorating your own masks with enough paint, feathers and glitter to rival even the most elaborate masks seen at the annual event. This afternoon, consider an Optional Experience to the colorful island of Burano for a delicious meal.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Novotel Mestre Castellana

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Lagoon Cruise to Burano with Food and Drinks*** - Cruise across the Venetian Lagoon to Burano, a small island known for its brightly colored houses and strong fishing traditions. Wander along quiet canals and browse shops selling handmade lace, a craft passed down through generations. Then sit down to a relaxed dinner featuring local flavors and regional wine, surrounded by the island's cheerful character and laid-back charm.

Adult: 86.00 EUR

## Day 9 | Experience Venice's Daily Life



Navigating the bustling canals to the Rialto Bridge and traditional food market, embrace the sights and sounds of Venice from the water before delving into the hidden highlights of Venice during a Small Group Sightseeing walking tour, working up an appetite for lunch at a local restaurant.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Hotel:** Novotel Mestre Castellana

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Doge's Palace and St. Mark's Square*** - Visit the magnificent Doge's Palace, once home to the rulers of the Venetian republic. Accompanied by a Local Specialist, you will walk across the famous Bridge of Sighs before exploring the ornate chambers and grand halls of the palace. Afterwards, soak up the magical atmosphere of St. Mark's Square and delight in the stories about its unique history.

Adult: 67.00 EUR

## Day 10 | Journey Home



Our unforgettable journey together has come to an end. All that's left to say is a hearty arrivederci as you prepare to return home with fantastic shared memories.

**Meals:** Breakfast