

CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



Venice, Florence & Rome

The Best of La Dolce Vita

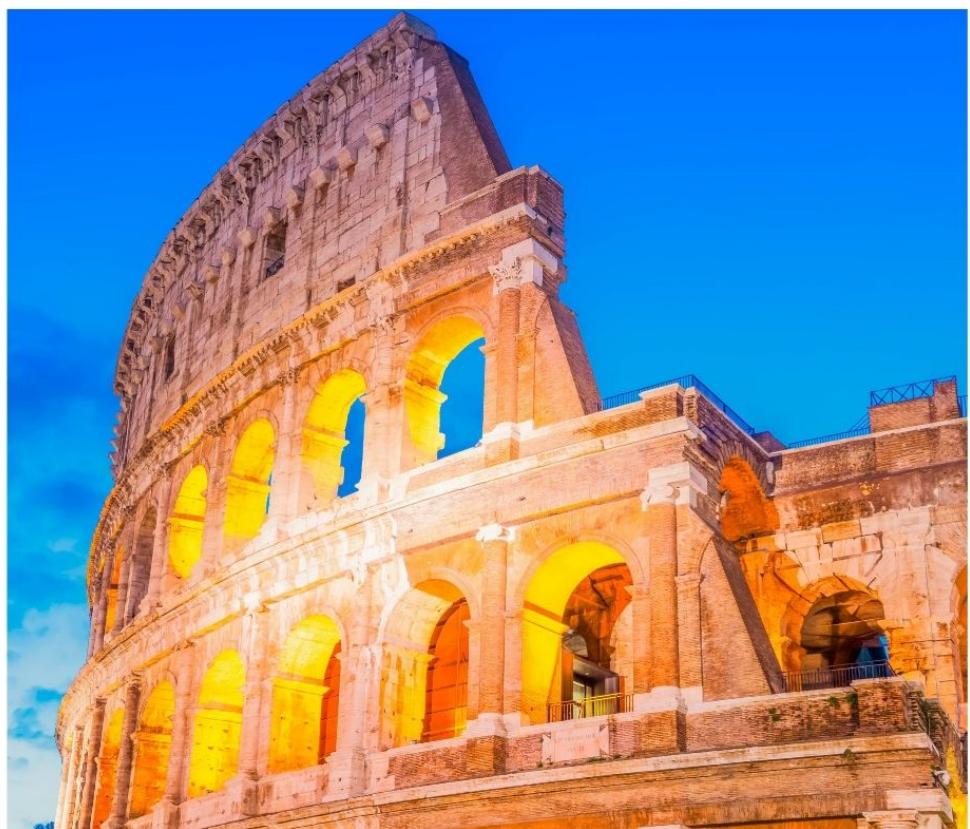


“
*Classic Journeys
provides unbeatable
access to experiences
around the globe.*”

TRAVEL + LEISURE

The "Big 3" Cities in One Remarkable Week

Discover Italy's iconic trio—Venice, Florence, and Rome—in one perfectly paced week on this unforgettable cultural walking tour. Experience each city through the eyes of our expert local guides who unlock insider access that most tourists never enjoy. You'll glide through Venice's canals in hand-crafted gondolas, taste the creamiest gelato (and meet the artisan who handcrafted it), and enjoy privileged entry to historic masterpieces such as Michelangelo's David and the Sistine Chapel. In the Tuscan countryside, unwind at an exclusive villa estate surrounded by rolling hills, vineyards, and timeless charm. When in Rome, we'll bring its grandeur into perfect focus—from the Trevi Fountain to the Colosseum—while introducing you to chefs, farmers, winemakers, and historians who reveal Italy's authentic soul.



DAY 1 »

Venice

- Explore Venice's spectacular Piazza San Marco, Bridge of Sighs and Rialto Bridge
- Enjoy a scenic gondola ride along the picturesque narrow canals

No matter how old you are you've probably seen plenty of pictures of Venice. Now you're really here, and today you'll see it in style. The city is small, so you don't have to cover much ground to take in the sights. Our guided afternoon walk starts in Piazza San Marco. Right next door is the Palazzo Ducale, the palace of the Doge, which was once the title given to Venice's ruler. We'll also get a look at the Bridge of Sighs. The high-up enclosed bridge was where convicts used to sigh as they caught their last glimpse of Venice before going to prison. It's just one of the tons of stories you'll hear from your local guide on our walk.

The Grand Canal is the major waterway in Venice. Only four bridges cross it, and the most famous is the Rialto. So you know where we're headed next! The people-watching is great, and you'll be surprised at how many boats – and how many different kinds of boats – use the Grand Canal as a street. Until now, we've been on dry land. But no Venice visit is complete without a gondola ride. We'll board the famous boats, skinny enough to make their way through the narrowest canals, to get a look at the city from sea level. Another surprise? How water laps on the steps of the houses...and sometimes inside them.

For dinner, head back to one of the restaurants along the perimeter of Piazza San Marco. During dinner, you can hear how the various orchestras in the square have a sort of "battle of the bands", filling the air with lots of music.

MEALS: D OVERNIGHT: VENICE

DAY 2 »

Florence & Chianti

- Discover Florence's amazing history on a walk from the Duomo to the Ponte Vecchio across the Arno
- Settle into your stunning Tuscan villa hotel with an infinity swimming pool

After breakfast, we take care of hailing a water taxi that takes us to the Venice train station. There we board the high-speed train to Florence. If there's a city with more famous art and buildings per square inch, we've never seen it. Like Venice, it's an easy city to explore on foot without wearing out. Our local guide brings it all to life with personal stories and the colorful history of the Medici family. We'll see the Ponte Vecchio – the most famous bridge across the Arno River, the Duomo and the bustling Piazza Signoria.

Later in the afternoon, we head south across the Arno River into Chianti and our home for the next three nights. Our villa hotel is constructed as a palatial family home in the 16th century. You'll have time to stroll the manicured estate with our hosts - the count and countess - before dinner on the terrace.

MEALS: B, D OVERNIGHT: CHIANTI

DAY 3 »

San Gimignano

- Visit the walled hill town of San Gimignano to see its medieval towers at sunset
- Explore the historic medieval villages of Strovo and Badia a Isola

Fuel up on breakfast because you're off on a morning adventure into the Tuscan countryside. Follow a scenic path to the medieval village of Strovo, and then to Badia a Isola, where pilgrims on their way to Rome used to stay overnight in the ancient abbey. You might even feel the atmosphere of those old medieval travelers. Along the way, you'll discover fields of wheat, poppies, sunflowers and fava beans as we continue to Monteriggioni to explore the medieval fortified village.

Later in the afternoon, explore San Gimignano. While its 14 medieval towers shimmer in the afternoon sun, you'll enjoy a private guided exploration of the walled hill town. A mere 650 years ago, when the town competed with Florence and Siena for supremacy, San Gimignano boasted over 70 towers. Your guide describes for you how the towers were used both for defensive purposes, as well as for ego building. (We bet the kid in you will love when our guides talk about how the towers were really good lookouts and great for pouring boiling oil over enemies!) This evening, you'll dine together at one of our favorite restaurants in town.

MEALS: B, D OVERNIGHT: CHIANTI

DAY 4 »

Siena

- Set out on a walk around Siena with a local guide leading the way and showing you hidden gems
- Visit with a family of shepherds who make their own cheese and savor a generous tasting at their farm

Our morning visit today is great for everyone—it's the cinnamon-colored town of Siena, the true heart of the Tuscan hill towns and a work of art in itself. Still encircled by brick walls, Siena has been an elegant cultural landmark for centuries. Here we'll join our friend Elena for a scenic and historic walk around the town—into the sloping, scallop-shaped Piazza del Campo, through the maze of streets lined with gothic and medieval houses, towers and palazzos, to the zebra-striped cathedral. Along the way, our guide tells us how fiercely teams from the local districts have competed in the Palio horse race run in Piazza del Campo every year for centuries.

This afternoon, you'll also have some time for a little shopping. Later this afternoon, you'll stop at the family farm of our friends Franco and Sara, who tend a flock of 800 sheep in the Tuscan hills. If it happens to be milking day, you may get to see how they milk the ewes. And you'll definitely have a cheese feast as you taste the various fresh and aged varieties that they make right there on their farm.

MEALS: B, D OVERNIGHT: CHIANTI

DAY 5 »

Florence & Rome

- Jump to the head of the line to see Michelangelo's *David* at the Galleria dell'Accademia
- Arrive in Rome to discover this city's main sites, including the Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps

This morning is a special treat, you'll head back into Florence as we've made arrangements at the Galleria dell'Accademia. You'll skip the long lines so you can see Michelangelo's statue of David. Be prepared: He's 14 feet tall! This afternoon's high-speed train trip is a great chance to rest up and compare notes about your favorite moments of the trip so far. Your late afternoon arrival to Rome leaves you with plenty of time to explore, on foot at eye level. Set out with your local Roman guide plots out a route that includes the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps.

The balance of the evening is all yours. Make time for some shopping, wander the scenic streets at your own pace, or settle in at a piazza for a glass of something cold. For dinner, choose a nearby ristorante, make it a pizza evening, or ask for a recommendation for fine dining. It's almost impossible to have anything but a wonderful meal in Rome, no matter what your tastes may be.

MEALS: B OVERNIGHT: ROME

DAY 6 »

Rome & Vatican

- Enjoy a special visit to St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel to see Michelangelo's ceilings
- Learn to toss your own pizza or make your own pasta from scratch with a local Roman friend

Italian breakfasts are amazing - hot chocolate, fruits, fresh rolls, cheese, yogurt, and a whole range of delicious things to savor. Everybody will want to fuel up before heading out to experience Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel. If you think Michelangelo's dome is mind-boggling, wait until you stand under it. This is truly one of the world's most awesome structures for its size, the incredible variety of art and colored stone, and its history - all of which you'll learn about from your guide. It's difficult to get tickets to the Sistine Chapel, but don't worry. We've arranged them so you can all marvel at the artistic treasures without the hassle of planning your own visit.

This evening, join one of our local friends for a hands-on cooking class to make homemade pizza or pasta together. Roll up your sleeves as you learn first-hand about dough making, traditional techniques, and favorite regional recipes. You'll also make a delicious dessert together before sitting down to enjoy a memorable evening of good food, good fun and good conversation... Buon Appetito!

MEALS: B, D OVERNIGHT: ROME

DAY 7 »

Rome & Colosseum

- Set out on a walk that leads to the epic Colosseum and the ruins of the Roman Forum
- Say *arrivederci* to your guide as you part company

After breakfast, set out to explore the Colosseum up-close. It's huge, and with your guide's help it's easy to imagine the stadium full of spectators for gladiator fights, lion hunts and even mock naval battles. You'll also walk through the ruins of the Roman Forum with its ancient columns, the Arch of Constantine and the stone streets that Emperors used to travel.

Late morning, you'll walk back to your hotel to pack up and part company.

MEALS: B

Tour Hotels



[Hotel Saturnia](#)

This historic 4-star hotel is just a three-minute walk from Piazza San Marco, about as perfectly located as you can be in Venice! Parts of it date back to the 14th century, and the same family has owned it for over 100 years.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



[Villa Le Barone](#)

This historic home dates to the 16th century, and your hosts are a count and countess. Its rooms have wood-beamed ceilings and antiques. The property boasts lovely gardens, a new saltwater infinity pool, and a terrace for sunning and Chianti sipping.

NIGHTS: 3 nights



[Rome Times Hotel](#)

A perfect example of modern Italian design, this sleek hotel is just a few minutes' walk from Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps. The spacious, bright rooms offer extra-plush beds, elegant bathrooms, and double soundproof windows.

NIGHTS: 2 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of Hotel Saturnia
CITY: Venice, Italy
TIME: 2:00 PM

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of Rome Times Hotel
CITY: Rome, Italy
TIME: 12:00 PM

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES
 - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES
 - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS
 - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS
 - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED
 - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ REGENERATIVE TRAVEL
 - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

What's Included

- Accommodations for 6 nights
- All breakfasts and 5 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip, handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip
- Award-winning boutique hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience

Above & Beyond Benefits

- ▶ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS
 - One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.
- ▶ INVISIBLE CHECK-IN
 - When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately.
- ▶ PERFECT PAIRINGS DINNERS
 - A special dinner prepared by one of our favorite chefs with a procession of wines tailored to each course.

Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.