2010

Customize your tour of "Grand Tour of Italy"

YOU'VE GOT OPTIONS—OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS THAT IS.

Go Ahead's optional excursions are the best way to customize your tour by doing as much—or as little—as you prefer. These excursions may be reserved up to 20 days prior to departure or during your actual tour (unless otherwise noted). But why wait? You'll lock in the current low price* when you reserve today. So exercise your options and call your tour consultant at 1-800-206-9871 to get started!

Optional Excursions

Day 3: Lake Como Cruise
Day 5: Gondola Ride with Music
Day 7: Dinner in Fiesole
Day 8: Siena & San Gimignano
Day 10: Perugia
Day 12: Capri
Day 12: Tarantella Dinner
Day 13: Dinner with Tenors
Day 14: Catacombs

Extension Optional Excursions

Day 15: Basilicas of Rome
Day 16: Castel Gandolfo & Ariccia Village

Optionals will run subject to a minimum of 10 participants. Departure times and duration may vary.

International travel is, by its very nature, unpredictable. We must therefore reserve the right to change this itinerary without advanced notice to meet with local conditions at the time of travel. We appreciate your understanding. Please refer to the current catalog for terms & conditions, dates and prices. All prices are in U.S. dollars. If you book any optionals while on tour, please be advised that it may take up to two months for your payment to be processed.

Optional Excursions

Day 3: Lake Como Cruise

(5 hours, departs in afternoon or evening, $75)
This excursion begins with a scenic cruise of Lake Como. Here you'll see some of Italy's most genteel estates set amid splendid gardens with flowering paths. This unforgettable cruise up the lake takes you past charming lake towns to visit lovely Bellagio—a village whose beauty has inspired poets and romantics for centuries. You'll have time to take in Bellagio's classic beauty before adjourning to a local restaurant, where you will sample a carefully chosen menu.
Please note: Departure time for this optional depends on the season. This optional runs March through October only.

Day 5: Gondola Ride with Music

(1/2 hour, departs in the afternoon, $65)
More than 100 waterways criscross Venice, La Serenissima, and boarding a sleek black gondola to explore them has become a time-honored tradition. On this memorable excursion, join your fellow travelers for an insider's tour down the waterways of Venice, complete with music.
Please note: A private two-person gondola ride is available for an additional $100 per person. Advanced reservations are required.

Day 7: Dinner in Fiesole

(2 hours, evening with dinner, $59)
Travel to the hill town of Fiesole for a dinner of regional culinary specialties. On your way to the restaurant, you'll pass by Fiesole square. At dinner, savor Tuscan cuisine that showcases the area's delicious ingredients, including olive oil, fragrant rosemary, pecorino cheese, beans and chestnuts. Many dishes center on vegetables such as artichokes, asparagus, fennel, peas, and wild mushrooms, so vegetarians will feel right at home.

Day 8: Siena & San Gimignano

(12 hours, departs in the morning, $105)
Journey to two historical Tuscan towns on this full-day excursion. In Siena, a local guide shows you the city's marble cathedral and stunningly adorned baptistery, as well as the famous Campo, where the annual Palio horse race takes place. Next, journey through the countryside to the town of San Gimignano with its unusual skyline of huge, medieval towers. Fourteen of the original 70 towers remain from the Middle Ages, an ongoing testament to the Guelph-Ghibelline rivalry that shaped an earlier era. End today's excursion with a sampling of the region's finest wines.
Please note: This excursion involves extensive walking.

Day 10: Perugia

(6 hours, departs in the morning, $75)
Travel to Perugia, the hub of the Umbrian region. A local guide introduces you to the vibrant streets and landmarks of this enticing medieval city. Along the stately Corso Vannucci, an avenue reserved for pedestrians, you'll find an array of boutiques and bars. You might wish to visit the Duomo, with its elaborately carved choir stalls, or the Archaeological Museum. This optional excursion includes a light lunch with wine.

Day 12: Capri

(8 hours, departs in the morning, $105)
Travel by ferry across the blue Mediterranean to

**Prices are subject to change.*

the fabled Isle of Capri, a beloved resort since ancient Roman times. Weather permitting, you'll enjoy a mini-cruise around the island. Later, discover the allure of Capri's stunning beaches. If weather permits a mini-cruise, you'll travel to the village of Anacapri, which offers stunning views of the surrounding scenery.

Day 12: Tarantella Dinner

(4 hours, evening with dinner, $79)
Tarantella dancing is a centuries-old folk tradition in this part of Italy. Tarantella is the Italian word for tarantula, and the frenzied steps of the dance are said to be designed for sweating out the poison if one is bitten by a tarantula. Savor a locally prepared dinner at the Teatro Tasso, then watch a live performance featuring the intricate footwork of the tarantella, demonstrated by a troupe of authentic folk dancers.

Day 13: Dinner with Tenors

(4 hours, evening with dinner, $79)
End your day with a delicious four-course dinner in the heart of Rome. While you dine on a savory meal, you'll be entertained by talented singers performing some of opera's most beloved masterpieces. Don't miss this festive cultural evening!

Day 14: Catacombs

(3 hours, departs in the afternoon, $65)
Descend into Rome's ancient catacombs, underground labyrinths where 2nd-century Christians buried their dead, including saints and popes. A local guide leads you through burial chambers decorated with some of the earliest Christian symbols and artwork for an unforgettable glimpse into a fascinating period in history. You'll also visit St. Paul's Cathedral.
Please note: This excursion involves extensive walking.

Extension Optional Excursions

Day 15: Basilicas of Rome

(3 hours, departs in morning, $49)
Embark on a guided sightseeing excursion of Rome's great patriarchal basilicas. Begin your tour by bus at the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, built on Esquiline Hill in 352 A.D. Continue on to the Basilica of St. John in Lateran, the cathedral of Rome and the mother church of the world, before climbing the Holy Stairs, said to be the stairs that Jesus climbed to reach Pontius Pilate. Your guided tour will finish at the Church of San Pietro in Vincoli, in which there are the Michelangelo's Moses and also St. Peter's Chains.

Day 16: Castel Gondolfo & Ariccia Village

(5 hours, departs in the morning or afternoon, $105)
Leave the hustle and bustle of Rome behind for an afternoon spent exploring Lazio's wine region. Begin your excursion with a stop at Castel Gandolfo, a beautiful village draped on the shores of Lake Alban, about 30 km outside of Rome. It is here that the Pope usually spends his summers. You'll have the opportunity to see his summer home, which was built by the same architect who designed the facade of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. You will stop to admire Bernini's fountain. Travel to one of Ariccia's vineyards for a tour of the winery and a wine tasting, where you will sample a variety of wines as well as the winery's homemade olive oils and other specialties.