



Classic Italy & Malta 2018

ROME, VATICAN CITY, FLORENCE, PISA, VALLETTA

September 25th – October 4th (tentative)

10 days

Cost: \$2500 total

Includes: all international & domestic flights, accommodations, airport transfers, some meals, full time travel director, all listed admissions, and guided walking tours in Rome, Valletta, & Florence. Other expenses **not included** are: some meals, excess baggage fees, and optional excursions.

Travel Insurance available through our affiliate program at World Nomads. More information at <http://percussive.org/italy>

Price Valid Until: May 25, 2018 - checks made payable to Percussive, LLC – Cash, Venmo (@percussive), & Credit Card also accepted. 5% processing fee added to all credit card transactions



DAY ONE – Fly to Italy

- Transfer via provided shuttle from West Michigan area to Chicago O'Hare International Airport to take your flight to Rome
- Enjoy a comfortable flight on a full-service airline where you will have full meal service, complimentary alcoholic beverages, in-flight personal entertainment, and premium comfort.

DAY TWO – Arrive in Rome: The Eternal City

- Arrive in Rome. After clearing customs and retrieving baggage, transfer to your hotel to check-in
- Later, join your local tour guide as they take you on a guided walking tour of the city, where you will see famous sites such as:
 - Spanish Square and Spanish Steps
 - Immaculate Conception Column
 - The House of Gian Lorenzo Bernini
 - Saint Andrew Church
 - Bernini's Angels
 - The famous "Galleria"
 - Column of Marcus Aurelius
 - Prime Minister House
 - Temple of Hadrian
 - Pantheon
 - The Tomb of the Kings
 - Tomb of Raphael
 - Saint Ignatius Church
 - Andrea Pozzo's Tromp l'oeil
 - Trevi Fountain
- After the walking tour, enjoy a leisurely lunch (on your own) near Republic Square
- Visit Santa Maria Sopra Minerva & the Baths of Diocletian
- Free Time

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:

Leonardo da Vinci Museum

The museum's collection features more than 60 inventions modeled after Leonardo's machines. There are more than 120 pieces on display throughout the museum, including artistic studies of famous pieces like "The Last Supper" and "Vitruvian Man."

Castel Sant'Angelo National Museum

Don't be fooled by the name—Rome's Castel Sant'Angelo was built as a tomb, not a castle. Commissioned by emperor Hadrian in AD 139, this imposing cylindrical mausoleum held the ashes of Hadrian and subsequent Roman emperors until becoming a fortress in AD 401. In the 14th century, a fortified corridor between the castle and St. Peter's Basilica was built, and it became a papal residence. Today, it's home to the Castel Sant'Angelo National Museum and its collection of art, archaeological finds, and weaponry.

DAY THREE – Exploring Rome

- After breakfast, head to the Coliseum, which has been a symbol of ancient Rome since it was completed in 80 AD. Tour the outside and inside.
- Enjoy a visit to the Roman Forum & Palatine Hill, which holds some of Rome's best ancient ruins. Here you will be able to see what life was really like 2000 years ago. Get a chance to see the Mamertine Prison
- After lunch, head to the Basilica of St. Peter in Chains and later climb up the Victor Emmanuel Monument or "Wedding Cake" as it is often referred to.
- Free time afterwards.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:

Roman Catacombs Tour

Uncover the mysteries of the unknown Catacombs of San Callisto, also referred to as the Cemetery of Callixtus. This walking tour of Rome takes you around the intriguing grounds containing the tombs of several different popes from the 2nd to 4th centuries.

Roman Pasta Making with a local chef

Learn to make pasta by hand with a professional chef-instructor for a truly memorable experience in Rome. Your 3.5-hour cooking class takes place in an airy loft apartment and covers the basics of different styles of pasta. Nibble on light appetizers and a glass of prosecco as you begin to prepare the pasta meal. When you have finished, enjoy your dinner at a table on the rooftop terrace with great views. You can also ask your instructor about Italian cuisine and tips for your time in Rome.

DAY FOUR – Vatican City

- After breakfast, head over to Vatican City, which is the world's smallest country located inside of the city of Rome.
- Enjoy a visit to the most renowned work of Renaissance architecture: St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the world!
- After some gelato and pizza at St. Peter's Square, enjoy a visit to the famous Vatican Museum, home of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel.
- Afterwards, have some free time to explore on your own

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Hop on Hop off Bus Tour

Enjoy total access to all of Rome's attractions with the 24-hour hop on hop off bus pass. You can get on and off as many times as you please and also enjoy commentary of all of the places you pass by

Private Roman Food Tour

Sample the unique flavors of the Eternal City with this private 3-hour food tour of Rome. Join a local guide for a delicious tour of Rome with 10 stops to taste 10 different dishes.

DAY FIVE – Fly to Malta

- Transfer to the airport this morning for a non-stop flight to the Mediterranean island nation of Malta!
- After arriving at Luqa International Airport, transfer to Malta's capital of Valletta, known as undoubtedly one of the most beautiful and elegant cities in Europe. A masterpiece of Baroque architecture, it is one of the most concentrated historic areas in the world, boasting some of Europe's finest palaces and churches, as well as numerous museums.
- After settling in, join a local guide who will be taking you on a historical walking tour of Valletta. See famous sites such as:
 - The new Parliament building and the ruins of the Royal Opera House
 - The Church of Our Lady of Victory
 - Upper Barrakka Gardens
 - The Auberges of Castille and Italy

- The Castellania, or Law Courts of the Knights
- St. John's Co-cathedral
- The Great Siege Monument
- Strait Street
- St. George's Square and the Grand Master's Palace

- Later, enjoy free time to explore Valletta

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Bird Park & National Aquarium

Visit Birdpark Malta and the National Aquarium on a 4-hour tour from Valletta. Have time at each place to learn about the many birds, animals, and marine creatures that live there, and watch them at play and at rest. Perfect for families and animal lovers of all ages.

Valletta Sightseeing Cruise

Historical battlements, ancient forts, and pretty coastal towns are just some of the sights you can expect to see on this 3.5-hour tour of Valletta's peninsula. Travel to Sliema, one of the capital's ports, and board a boat for your sightseeing cruise. Glide past the Grand Harbour, and see the Three Cities, a collective name given to the ancient fortress cities of Senglea, Cospicua, and Vittoriosa. Then, return to dry land to enjoy some free time in Sliema's main shopping area before your return transfer.

Wine Tasting Tour

Visit Malta's 'Three Cities,' on a 4-hour tour of Cospicua, Vittoriosa, and Senglea, then sample Maltese wine at a local winery. You'll explore winding streets lined with historic churches and landmarks, learn stories from Malta's dramatic past, and see some of the island's top sites. This 4-hour tour includes pickup and drop-off as well as a wine tasting with light snacks.

DAY SIX – Free Day in Valletta

- Enjoy free time in Valletta or opt for an excursion.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:

Gozo Day Trip including Ggantija Temples

Visit Gozo and the prehistoric Ġgantija Temples on this day trip from Malta. In the company of a guide, travel to the neighboring island of Gozo to visit the UNESCO-listed Ġgantija Temples, which are among the oldest megalithic sites in the world. You'll also see some of the Mediterranean's most gorgeous beach vistas, visit Victoria's citadel, and enjoy a 3-course lunch at a local restaurant.

Hagar Qim Temple, Limestone Heritage, & Market

Travel by coach around the scenic archipelago of Malta on this guided, full-day tour. Visit the famous Blue Grotto, whose sparkling waters have been featured in Troy and other award-winning movies. Enjoy free time in the coastal village of Marsaxlokk to stroll the waterfront market, and after sitting down to a leisurely 3-course lunch with wine, visit the Ghar Dalam cave and Hagar Qim Temple.

Taormina & Mt. Etna Full Day Trip to Sicily

Full day guided excursion departing from Malta with high-speed catamaran to Sicily. Visit Taormina and Mount Etna in a comfortable coach complete with local guide.

Scenic Tour of Palazzo Parisio, Clapham Junction, Dingli Cliffs, & Buskett Gardens

Explore some of Malta's most beautiful places on a half-day tour of Palazzo Parisio, Clapham Junction, Buskett Gardens, and the Dingli Cliffs, where you'll have sweeping views of the coast from the highest point on Malta. This 4-hour tour includes hotel pickup and drop-off, entrance fees, and a coffee break with pastizzi, a traditional Maltese savory pastry.

DAY SEVEN – Fly to Florence

- Transfer to the airport this morning and fly to the beautiful Tuscany region of Northern Italy
- After arriving in Florence, transfer to your hotel and settle in
- Later, join your local guide on a historical walking tour of Florence, including sites such as:
 - Orsanmichele
 - Duomo Santa Maria del Fiore (outside)
 - Battistero of San Giovanni
 - Basilica SS. Annunziata and Ospedale degli Innocenti
 - Palazzo Medici-Riccardi
 - Central Market

- After the walking tour, return to the Duomo for a closer look inside and also opt to join the group onwards to the Duomo Museum, San Marcos Monastery, Galleria dell'Accademia (home of Michelangelo's David), Giotto's Tower, & Gates of Paradise

DAY EIGHT – Florence Free Day

- After breakfast, join your local guide on another walking tour, this time covering a different part of the city. Visit famous sites such as:

- Santa Trinita Bridge
- Passera Square
- Pitti Palace
- Vasarian Corridor
- Ponte Vecchio,
- Piazza della Signoria
- Old Palace
- Galileo Museum

- After your tour, enjoy free time in Florence

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:

Florence Vespa Tour: Tuscan Hills & Italian Cuisine

Take a spin through Tuscany on a vintage Vespa with this 4-hour tour from Florence. A local guide will lead the way up through the scenic hills, where you'll pass the famous Piazzale Michelangelo and the Church of San Miniato al Monte. Afterward, head back to Florence for a traditional Italian meal to top off your journey.

Cinque Terre Hiking Day Trip

Experience the UNESCO-listed Cinque Terre in one day with a guided hike through the five idyllic fishing villages of old-world Italy. Following the walking trails along the cliffs of the national park, you will see glorious views of this unspoiled stretch of the Italian Riviera. Check out the highlights and learn about the area as you complete a 3.4-mile (5.5-km) route with your guide. This day trip to Cinque Terre from Florence includes transportation by coach, train and boat.

Taste of Chianti: Tuscan Cheese & Wine Tour

Get a true taste of Italy's famous Chianti region on this full-day wine and food tour departing from Florence. Led by a guide, travel through the Tuscan hills by a 4x4 off-road vehicle, stopping to visit a wine estate and historic villa, and a cellar specializing in bottles of Chianti Classico. Sample the finest specialties at each stop, and save room for a 3-course meal in the Chianti countryside before making the return trip to Florence.

Venice Day Trip

Spend a day in Venice with roundtrip tickets on the high-speed train from Florence. Along with your 2-hour train ride, this package also includes a meet-and-greet with a host in Florence to organize your travel plans and a Vessel card for Venice's 'vaporetto' transportation system so you can get around easily.

Hop on Hop off Bus Tour

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DAY NINE - Pisa

- After breakfast, transfer to the nearby city of Pisa for an afternoon of exploration via high-speed train.
- See the famous Leaning Tower and also get a chance to visit the Baptistery, Duomo, Cemetery, & Fortress Tower.
- After some fun souvenir shopping, head back to Florence for your last night in Italy

DAY TEN - Fly Home

- Transfer to the airport for your flight back home.