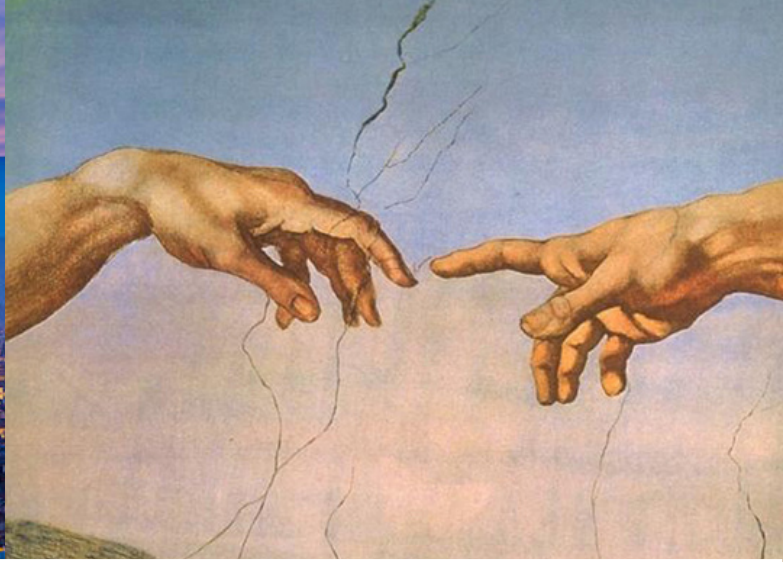




VITORITALY®
Italy with Italians

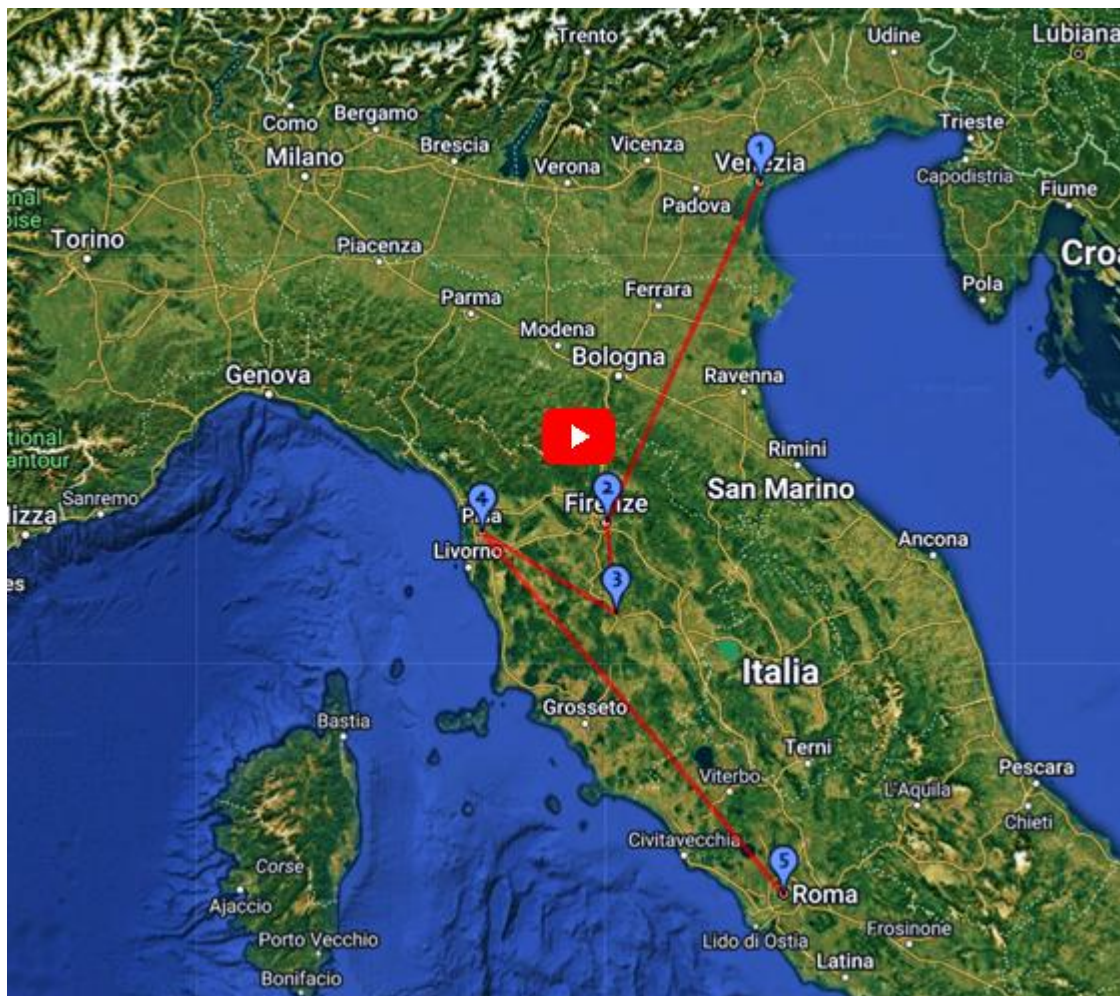
ITALY IN 1 WEEK

Venice, Florence and Rome

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY



From magic Venice to Florence, the cradle of Renaissance, and finally Rome, the Eternal City.
A short tour at the discovery of the most famous cities in Italy, admiring the extraordinary beauty of Italy.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Venice, when wealthy merchants ruled the Mediterranean
- Florence, an open-air museum
- Pisa, how can it stand?
- Siena, power in the Middle Ages
- Rome, walking in the shade of history
- Vatican City, Popes and power

ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY	ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM
Day 1 Venice	- 3-hour private walking tour of Venice city centre with an <u>Authorised Tourist Guide</u> - Admission to Saint Mark's Basilica - Optional Admission to Palazzo Ducale - Half-hour gondola ride <i>Overnight in Venice city centre</i>
Day 2 Florence	- Transfer by private water cab to Venice Pier + Transfer to your accommodation in Florence <i>Overnight in Florence city centre</i>
Day 3 Florence	- 3-hour private walking tour of Florence city centre with an <u>Authorised Tourist Guide</u> - Admission to Galleria dell'Accademia (Michelangelo's David) - Free time <i>Overnight in Florence city centre</i>
Day 4 Siena and Chianti	- Full-day excursion to Siena and Chianti area - Free time in Siena city centre - Visit of a local wine cellar in Chianti area <i>Overnight in Florence city centre</i>
Day 5 Pisa	- Half-day excursion to Pisa – Admission to the Leaning Tower and other monuments in Piazza dei Miracoli - Transfer to your accommodation in Rome <i>Overnight in Rome city centre</i>
Day 6 Rome	- 3-hour private walking tour of the Colosseum and Imperial Fora Archeological area with an <u>Authorised Tourist Guide</u> - Admission to the Colosseum and Imperial Fora Archeological area - Free time in Rome – Optional 3-hour private tour of Rome city centre with an Electric Golf Cart <i>Overnight in Rome city centre</i>
Day 7 Vatican City	- 3-hour private walking tour of the Vatican Museums with an <u>Authorised Tourist Guide</u> - Admission to the Vatican Museums with the Sistine Chapel – Optional Admission to Saint Peter's Basilica - Free time in Rome – Optional Roman Cooking Class <i>Overnight in Rome city centre</i>

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- **Accommodations at 3* to 5* Hotels, Country Houses and Historical Palaces (when available), City Apartments:**
 - Day 1 in Venice city centre
 - Days 2 to 4 in Florence city centre
 - Day 5 to 7 in Rome city centre
- **Transfers (**):**
 - Day 2: Transfer by private water cab to Venice Pier + Transfer to your accommodation in Florence
 - Day 5: Transfer to your accommodation in Rome
- (**) All transfers by private car/minivan/minibus/high-speed train (when available)
- **Private Guided Visits / Tours (**) / Activities:**
 - Day 1: 3-hour private walking tour of Venice city centre with an Authorised Tourist Guide – Half-hour gondola ride
 - Day 3: 3-hour private walking tour of Florence city centre with an Authorised Tourist Guide
 - Day 4: Full-day excursion to Siena and Chianti area – Visit of a local wine cellar in Chianti area
 - Day 5: Half-day excursion to Pisa
 - Day 6: 3-hour private walking tour of the Colosseum and Imperial Fora Archeological area with an Authorised Tourist Guide
 - Day 7: 3-hour private walking tour of the Vatican Museums with an Authorised Tourist Guide
- (**) All tours by private car/minivan/minibus
- **Admission Tickets:**
 - Saint Mark's Basilica in Venice
 - Galleria dell'Accademia in Florence
 - Leaning Tower and other monuments in Piazza dei Miracoli in Pisa
 - Duomo Cathedral in Siena
 - Colosseum and Imperial Fora Archeological Area in Rome
 - Vatican Museums with the Sistine Chapel in Rome

- Full emergency assistance 24 hours/day by our Back Office
- List of recommended restaurants and deli shops along the itinerary
- All taxes

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- All transfers and other services not specifically mentioned in the above program
- Meals, wine and beverages
- Porterage fees at every accommodation
- Camera or Video fees
- Tipping for local guides and drivers
- Laundry, telephone calls and other expenditures of personal nature
- Travel / Vacation insurance

CUSTOMIZATIONS & OPTIONS

- Pick up at Venice Airport /Railway Station at the start of the tour
- Accommodation in Venice the night before the start of the tour
- Admission to Palazzo Ducale in Venice
- 3-hour private tour of Rome city centre with an Electric GolfCart
- Admission to Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome
- Roman Cooking Class
- Drop off at Rome Airport /Railway Station at the end of the tour
- Other options upon request

TOUR MAIN FEATURES (For each location, click on the picture to watch a short video)

VENEZIA

Benvenuti In Italia, and welcome to the “unique” Venice, the “city on the lagoon”!

You will be astonished by its beauty and charm!

You will start your visit with **Piazza San Marco** (St. Mark’s Square) and the interior of the Basilica, a 900-year-old marvel of architecture! The Church is unique in Italy for its golden Byzantine and Medieval mosaics, intricate stone and marble trceries and exuberant Middle Eastern domes. Near St. Mark’s Basilica is **Palazzo Ducale**, the most impressive secular



building in Venice and once the official residence of the supreme authority of Venice, the “Doge”. A masterpiece of Gothic architecture, the Doge’s Palace is an impressive structure composed of layers of building elements and ornamentation, from its 14th and 15th-century original foundations to the significant Renaissance and opulent Mannerist adjunctions.

Then, you may visit **Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari** (Saint Mary’s of Friars), striking for its colossal size and the quality of its works of art, including masterpieces by Titian, Giovanni Bellini and Donatello, and several splendid tombs. Also, you

may explore the streets and savour everyday life in an intricate maze of ancient narrow alleyways, lively squares with magnificent buildings and meandering canals, and finally, walk on the **Rialto Bridge**, Venice’s busy “heart”. Last but not least, you will enjoy a Gondola ride on the city’s canals: a jump back in time when Venetians moved only on the water.

Rich in traditions, Venice offers a wide selection of unique artisan products. In the city of the Italian carnival, the typical **Venetian masks** are a must. The cost of the original ones is relatively high, but it is really worth it! Also, don’t miss an authentic Murano glass object: each product is made and painted by hand, but be sure you buy an original product from Murano, guaranteed by a label or a signature (and the seller), not a Chinese copy!

Stopping at different old “bacari”, the typical Venetian wine bars, in the city’s most picturesque squares and alleys, you will learn a lot about its history, culture, legends and peculiarities. “Bacari” are full of atmosphere and unique in style; here, you will taste the excellent wines of Veneto and enjoy “cicchetti”, the Venetian-style tapas. There is tremendous variety, and options include anything from simple cheese or salami to almost any kind of seafood, fried and grilled vegetables, sweet and sour sardines, creamy codfish and much more (read more about “bacari” in our BLOG: [In Venice, eat and drink like a Venetian, the Bacaro Tour](#)).



Finally, at dinner, you will be delighted by the flavours of the regional cuisine of Veneto, boasting delicious recipes such as “*Sarde in saor*” (marinated sardines), *Risotto with seafood*, or the typical “*Baccala’ mantecato*” to finish with a fantastic “*Bussolà*”, the ring-shaped and cinnamon-flavoured cake! (read more about Venetian cuisine in our [BLOG](#)).

FIRENZE

Welcome to Florence, the land of Giotto and Dante!

Despite its international fame and greatness, Florence is also a small city whose history has been interwoven with that of its passionate citizens for more than one thousand years.

In Piazza Duomo, you will be astonished by the **Duomo** with the incredible Brunelleschi's dome, a masterpiece of art and architecture whose building techniques are still covered by a veil of mystery. Beside it, Giotto's Campanile



(Belltower) and the Baptistery, one of the oldest buildings in the city, with its famous bronze doors made by Giambellino and Ghiberti in the 14th and 15th centuries. In **Piazza della Signoria**, inside the marvellous **Loggia dei Lanzi**, you will walk in the middle of bronze and marble masterpieces by Giambologna and Cellini, and you will admire the imposing **Palazzo Vecchio**, one of the symbols of Florence and still the seat of government of the city. You may also spare some time to relax, visit a typical market for shopping, stroll through the city's pedestrian streets, and cross the oldest bridge in Florence, "**Ponte Vecchio**" (Old Bridge), rich in jewellery shops.

Your itinerary will include **Galleria dell'Accademia**, hosting Michelangelo's David, the most famous sculpture in the world. The David was uncovered and shown to the Florentines on September 8, 1504, and, with its height of 4 meters, the impeccable physical features and the political significance that the iconography of David had taken over the previous century, it left the Florentines of the time speechless and has done the same ever since with visitors from all over the world.

Florence is also the main Italian centre for the production of **high-quality leather goods**. Florentine artisans are so famous that many fashion brands have opened factories in the city or close to it due to their high skill and the continuous inspiration designers take from the town's masterpieces. The area around Piazza Santa Croce, in particular, hosts numerous leather shops and workshops.

Thanks to the tradition of Tuscan tanneries, there is no better place to find **shoes for all tastes** than Florence: from the creations, designed and produced by hand by skilled craftsmen, to the extensive collections available in stores, renewed every season. Above all, Ferragamo (also worth seeing the museum), Gucci and Prada for refinement and elegance. If you prefer a simpler style, many shops across the river Arno specialise in handmade shoes and sandals.

Tuscan cuisine is strong and spicy, with a solid reference to its territory and the recipes dating back to the Middle Ages. For lunch, you can enjoy "*Panino con Lampredotto*" at a typical Florentine market. At dinner, taste the simple yet unforgettable recipes of the Tuscan tradition, such as "*Crostini*", "*Panzanella*", and "*Peposo*". And remember, Florence is the home of "*Fiorentina*" steak! If you are a vegetarian, don't worry: Tuscan cuisine offers tasty alternatives like "*Pappa al Pomodoro*" or "*Ribollita*" (read the article "[In Tuscany eat like a Tuscan](#)" on our BLOG to learn more about Tuscan cuisine).

In Siena, the city of the Palio, you will walk on the famous **Piazza del Campo**, the concave square where horses run twice a year in a dangerous race that symbolizes the city's freedom. On the days of the Palio, the whole town goes wild; read about it in our [BLOG](#).

Indeed, you will not forget the colour of frontages and roofs, the renowned colour "Sienna", a pigment first produced during the Renaissance, that makes the city lovely and warm. And don't forget to taste the Senese sweets: "*cantucci*" (biscuits with toasted almonds), "*ricciarelli*" (soft biscuits with icing sugar), "*panforte*" (cake with fruit nuts and spices) and "*cavallucci*" (biscuits with honey, walnut, candied fruits and herbs. Travellers who love dessert will be delighted!

Then, you will stroll with your head upwards along the streets of one of the most beautiful cities in Tuscany, San Gimignano, also known as the "Medieval Manhattan", thanks to its old and impressive 14 towers that dominate the town skyline. Initially, the towers were 72, built by patrician families probably to demonstrate their wealth and power. Seven of San Gimignano's towers are around Piazza del Duomo; the tallest one is **Torre Grossa**, 54 meters high, dating back to 1298.



Only a few regions can offer such a beautiful and rich panorama as Chianti: green hills sketched by miles and miles of vineyards and olive groves, ancient walled villages, and panoramic curvy roads. Chianti Classico spreads from Florence to Siena and includes the municipalities of Greve, Panzano, Radda, Gaiole and Castellina. Most of the route consists of roads connecting larger towns to villages and castles, like the one leading to **Radda**, the former headquarters of the Chianti Military League, and then to **Castello di Brolio**, where Bettino Ricasoli devised the "recipe" for Chianti wine.

PISA

Pisa is famous worldwide for its "**Torre Pendente**" (Leaning Tower), but its wonderful square, **Piazza dei Miracoli**, set over an ample greenfield, hosts three other whiter-than-white masterpieces of exquisite Medieval art: the Cathedral, the Baptistry and the "Camposanto" (Graveyard). They are so unique that their creation originated a new style, "Pisan Romanesque".

This area was chosen to construct the **Duomo of Santa Maria Assunta** strictly for its centrality; founded in 1064, it was intended to celebrate the grandeur of Pisa during the Marine Republic's epoch of power. "The temple of marble white



as the snow"; that's how the structure is described on the gravestone of its architect, Buscheto di Giovanni Giudice. Consisting of five naves with its transept divided into three naves, it is surmounted by a splendid dome encircled by a loggia. The Duomo's façade and exterior lateral sections feature elaborate decoration in marble (which can also be seen on its interior), mosaics, and bronze.

In front of the Cathedral stands the **Baptistry**, also in a particular version of the Romanesque style. Initiated in 1152 by Diotisalvi, the Baptistry was finally completed in the 14th century; Gothic elements were added then. Of cylindrical form and circled by arcades of columns, this structure in white marble even boasts impressive acoustics.

The **Camposanto** closes the northern end of the complex's piazza. This monumental cemetery, begun in 1278, is bordered by a marble fence and houses a cloister at its centre. Unfortunately, most frescoes that once coloured its walls were destroyed in a fire in 1944 during the battle for Pisa.

Ultimately, the true symbol of Pisa is the **Campanile**, the Leaning Tower, which completes the image of this city. Because of land sinkage beneath it, the Tower stands at a significant incline. Its construction started in 1173, but the Tower was not completed until the second half of the 1300s. In cylindrical form, the blind arcades of its lower part mutate into six floors of loggias, repeating motifs from the Duomo. Inside, a spiral staircase of 294 steps leads to the heights of one of the most famous towers in the world, where the lovely belfry and a spectacular view of the surrounding landscape await.

ROMA

Here you are in Rome, where ancient history, excellent art and religious icons mix uniquely! Start from the 2,000-year-old **Colosseum**, the most famous amphitheatre in the world, and the Imperial Fora, the administrative and monumental centre of the Roman Empire. On the Palatine Hill, the majestic ruins of the Palaces of Augusto, Tiberius and Domiziano still dominate the **Circus Maximus** valley, 50-meter-high structures giving a unique view of the city.

Close to the Colosseum, inside the **Church of San Pietro in Vincoli**, you may see the famous Michelangelo sculpture of "Moses". Supposedly, Michelangelo, admiring his Moses, enraptured by the so realistic shapes of the imposing statue, was struck by a violent outburst of anger and exclaimed the famous phrase "Perchè non parli?" (Why don't you speak!?)

From Piazza Venezia, you will head inside "Baroque" Rome, starting with the **Pantheon**, dedicated to worshipping every god (Pan-every Theon-divinity), now the memorial chapel of great Italian people of the past. After that, don't miss the Church of **St. Louis of the French**, famous for the cycle of paintings of the great Caravaggio at the end of the 16th century. Then, **Piazza Navona**,



the splendid oval area corresponding to the underground Domitianus' Stadium, with the gorgeous Fountain of the Four Rivers by Lorenzo Bernini in the centre of the Piazza. And finally, **Fontana di Trevi**, the city's biggest and most famous fountain, a Rome icon renowned worldwide: here, statues of travertine marble stand over the cliff and the broad basin in an epic representation of the Kingdom of the Oceans.

Rome's city centre is much more than its most renowned monuments. Wouldn't it be fantastic to sit back and relax while discovering the most hidden corners of the "Eternal City"? Enjoy a fun-filled ride onboard an **electric golf cart** and let your senses live a 360° experience in a journey through space and time, moving from one breathtaking location to another. Once on board, you will be driven by an Authorised Driver - Guide on this bonding and unforgettable trip, visiting the most significant monuments and top squares and enjoying the most beautiful sights.

At the end of the day, sit down at a local "trattoria" or "fiaschetteria", the typical home-style restaurant, to taste authentic Roman cuisine in a popular and cheerful atmosphere.

VATICAN CITY

On the other side of River Tevere, Vatican Hill is the home of the tiny state of Vatican City. The immense **St. Peter's Basilica** dominates the extraordinary Piazza framed by the magnificent four-column-deep colonnades designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini. The Basilica is an extraordinary casket for some of the world's most beautiful works of art, such as Michelangelo's "La Pietà" and Bernini's "Baldacchino", along with works of the most important artists of the Renaissance, from Raphael to Canova.

Inside the **Vatican Museums**, you will be astonished by the exquisite and unique **Sistine Chapel**, the "Sancta Sanctorum" ("Holy among the Holiest" in Latin) of the Roman Catholic Church, where cardinals gather to elect the new Pope! The Sistine Chapel takes its name from Pope Sixtus IV della Rovere (pontiff from 1471 to 1484), who restored the old Cappella Magna between 1477 and 1480. The walls were decorated by a team of painters, Pietro Perugino, Sandro Botticelli, Domenico Ghirlandaio, and Cosimo Rosselli, assisted by their respective shops.



Julius II della Rovere (pontiff from 1503 to 1513), the nephew of Sixtus IV, decided to partly alter the decoration, entrusting the work in 1508 to Michelangelo Buonarroti, who painted the Ceiling and, on the upper part of the walls, the lunettes. The nine central panels show the Stories of Genesis, from the Creation to the Fall of Man to the Flood and the subsequent rebirth of humanity with the family of Noah. Again, towards the end of 1533, Clement VII de' Medici (pontiff from 1523 to 1534) asked Michelangelo to paint the Last Judgement on the altar wall. How could he refuse? And, in fact, he did not, but painted his vision of the Judgement, with a powerful and furious Jesus Christ.

The tour is over, but the memories of a fantastic journey will accompany you for a lifetime!

See more about your destinations on our [YouTube channel](#).

Arrivederci for another tour with **VITOR, Visit Italy on the Road**.

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when you live it,
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Ciao da Vitor



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