



## Day 1: Fly to Italy

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Florence.

## Day 2: Florence

**Arrive in Florence:** Welcome to Florence. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore the city on your own.

**Dinner:** Enjoy dinner with your group in Florence.

## Day 3: Florence

**Sightseeing tour of Florence:** Explore the art and architecture of Tuscany's capital city. See the classical statues at the Piazza della Signoria and walk across the iconic Ponte Vecchio, a medieval bridge where many of Florence's famed leather and gold artisans still keep shop. Gaze up at the domed Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, or the Duomo, which dominates the terracotta-tiled skyline. Opposite the Duomo, look for the bronzed doors of Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise at the Baptistery.

**Free time in Florence:** Wander through city at your own pace.

## Day 4: Florence | Rome

**Travel to Rome:** Head to Italy's historic capital.

**Sightseeing tour of Rome:** Walk through the Colosseum, the world's most famous arena. Here, you can almost hear the stamping feet of the crowds gathered for gladiatorial combat. Nearby, the ruins of the Roman Forum mark the former heart of the Roman Empire. Julius Caesar gave many of his political speeches on this very site.

**Dinner:** This evening, get to know your group over a pizza dinner.

## Day 5: Rome

**Sightseeing tour of Vatican City:** On your sightseeing tour, look for the papal protectors who flank the entrance to St. Peter's Basilica: they're the highly trained soldiers of the Vatican's Pontifical Swiss Guard. Inside, pass under gilded archways before visiting the St. Peter's tomb. Then, experience Michelangelo's breathtaking frescoes at the Sistine Chapel.

**Rome on foot:** On your self-guided walking tour, view the Pantheon, built to honor all the gods of Rome. Continue to the grand Piazza Navona and the Spanish Steps, Europe's widest staircase. Before you say "arrivederci," toss a coin into the Trevi Fountain to ensure a return trip to the Eternal City.

## Day 6: Rome

**Free time in Rome:** Explore the city at your own pace.

☉ **Pompeii:** Join an excursion to Pompeii to see how the wealthiest ancient Romans lived. Here you can explore the fully excavated ruins of Pompeii's ancient temples, forum, and theater. Of the town's three bathhouses, the Stabian Baths was the largest. Learn about their ingenious heating method—one of the earliest examples of its kind—that brought hot water to visitors.

## Day 7: Rome | Athens | Delphi region

**Fly to Athens:** Depart Italy for Greece.

**Travel to Delphi:** Head to the Delphi region, site of the famed Oracle, which stands as one of the most important landmarks of antiquity.

**Dinner:** Enjoy dinner with your group at the hotel.

## Day 8: Delphi region | Athens

**Sightseeing tour of Delphi:** Visit the archaeological site and museum dedicated to the Oracle of Delphi. The philosopher Socrates claimed to consult with the Oracle and ancient military leaders were known to leave offerings here in the hopes of earning luck in battle. You'll also climb the ruins of the Temple of Apollo. According to legend, this is where the gods chose to communicate with mortals. See a variety of artifacts dating back to 550 B.C. at the Delphi Museum, and learn more about the mythical past of Greece.

**Travel to Athens:** Make your way to the capital city of Greece.

**Dinner:** When you arrive in Athens, share a special Greek dinner before turning in for the night.

## Day 9: Athens

**Sightseeing tour of Athens:** Your local guide will lead you up to the Acropolis to view the Parthenon, perhaps the world's greatest architectural feat and an enduring symbol of Athenian democracy. Visit the Temple of Athena Nike, which once housed a gold statue of the goddess, her wings clipped to prevent her from deserting the city. See where the first Olympic athletes displayed physical strength as a way to honor and entertain the gods of Mount Olympus at the Olympic Stadium.

**Explore Athens:** Discover the ancient city named for Athena, goddess of war and wisdom. A walking tour of Athens will take you through the Plaka district and the Temple of Olympian Zeus, built in 515 B.C. to honor the most powerful of all Greek gods.

☉ **Cape Sounion:** Take a sunset excursion to Cape Sounion and view one of the most imposing sights in the ancient world. High above the sparkling Aegean sits the Temple of Poseidon, one of Greece's most evocative ruins. From this lofty cliffside location, you can see five Aegean islands on a clear day. Cap off this excursion with dinner with your group. Students who do not join the optional excursion will enjoy free time in Athens.

## Day 10: Depart for home

Today, travel to the airport where you'll check in for your flight home.

## ☉ 3-DAY PROGRAM EXTENSION

### Days 10-12: Greek island cruise

**Three-day cruise:** Discover the Greek islands. Enjoy on-board activities as you sail to Mykonos, Samos, Patmos, Crete, and Santorini. Beautiful crystalline waters and white sand beaches helped make these destinations prized—and disputed—territories. Roman and Greek influences shape the unique blend of cultures you'll encounter.

☉ **Shore excursion package:** You have the opportunity to choose one of two shore excursion packages: *Samos: Vathi, Heraion, Pythagorion, and the Minoan Palace of Knossos*, or *Samos: Vathi, Heraion, Pythagorion, the Minoan Palace of Knossos, and Oia Village*.

## Day 13: Depart for home

Travel to the airport and check in for your flight home.