

NOW JOURNEY

ITALY'S GREAT CITIES

10-Day Essential Journey

Venice to Florence, Tuscany and Rome

Venice	Florence	Tuscany	Rome
--------	----------	---------	------

A focused Italy journey for travelers who want the essential cultural arc: Venice's canals, Florence's Renaissance heart, the hill towns of Tuscany and the living history of Rome.

10 days | Small group Italy journey | Printable overview

A concise reference piece for printing, sharing and comparing editions. The full interactive Journey Guide remains the complete experience.



Journey at a Glance

What is Included

<p>Arrival Support Meet-and-greet support in Venice and carefully coordinated transfers during the journey.</p>	<p>Heart-of-City Hotels Classic and Deluxe hotel collections in the places guests most want to linger.</p>
<p>Signature Sightseeing Venice Secrets and Treasures, Florence, Tuscan wine country, Vatican City and Imperial Rome.</p>	<p>Daily Breakfast Breakfast each morning plus selected Now Journey dining events with regional character.</p>
<p>Tour Captain A dedicated Tour Captain keeps the journey smooth, personal and connected.</p>	<p>Small Group Designed for intimacy, with a maximum of 16 guests.</p>

Route Line

Venice to Florence to Tuscany to Rome

Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY

1

VENICE

Onward to Beautiful Venice

This morning, say *arrivederci* to Lake Como and travel toward Venice. Depending on the departure, the journey may be by fast train from Milano Centrale, micro-coach or sedan.

Upon arrival, a private water taxi takes you toward your San Marco-area hotel. After check-in and a little time to relax, enjoy a Discovery Walk through Venice's most iconic first impressions: Piazza San Marco, the Campanile, the Grand Canal and the maze of lanes and bridges.

Later, gather for a special Welcome to Venice evening, with cuisine that may draw from Veneto, Lazio and Campania.

Arrival by water

Venice announces itself differently from every other city. The private water taxi arrival, luggage portage and San Marco-area hotel check-in are practical details, but they also create the first emotional transition into La Serenissima.

Discovery Walk

The walk is an orientation rather than a full sightseeing tour. It helps guests place themselves around Piazza San Marco, the Campanile, the Grand Canal and the nearby lanes before the deeper Venice touring the following day.

Evening

The Welcome to Venice dinner is relaxed and celebratory, with cuisine from several regions and time to begin settling into the personality of the group.

Included highlights

- Transfer from Lake Como to Venice.
- Private water taxi arrival near San Marco.
- Discovery Walk including Piazza San Marco, Campanile and Grand Canal perspectives.
- Welcome to Venice dinner.
- Venice hotel examples: Hotel Saturnia and International, Hotel Monaco and Grand Canal or similar.

DAY

2

VENICE

The Story Begins

Venice's Secrets and Treasures is Now Journey's exclusive way into the historic port city. With expert commentary, explore the stories behind San Marco, the Doges, Casanova, Napoleon and the republic's former power.

The day includes St. Mark's Basilica, the Doge's Palace, the old prison and the Bridge of Sighs. Inside the basilica, pause for the mosaics and Byzantine architecture that make Venice feel suspended between East and West.

Later, just before sunset when conditions allow, enjoy an included gondola ride through Venice's canals with professional musicians. The balance of the afternoon and evening is yours.

Special sightseeing includes

- Doge's Palace, the seat of historic Venetian power.
- The old prison and Bridge of Sighs, with the famous final view of sky and freedom.
- Basilica San Marco, where mosaics and Byzantine architecture create one of Venice's great interior moments.
- Piazza San Marco, the Clock Tower, Caffè Florian, Napoleon stories and the Winged Lion.

Gondola experience

Later in the day, the included gondola ride is planned near sunset with professional musicians to make the moment feel genuinely Venetian. If weather prevents the ride, an alternate activity is substituted later in the tour.

Leisure time

The balance of the day is open for Venice at your own pace. Some guests prefer to simply wander; others may ask about Murano glass, shopping, churches or a quiet canal-side dinner.

Optional ideas

- Murano glass blowing demonstration can often be arranged on request.
- Optional dinner invitation from your Tour Captain after the gondola experience.

DAY

3

FLORENCE

Onward to the Birthplace of the Renaissance

Begin with a leisurely breakfast before transferring by boat to Venezia Santa Lucia Station for the fast-train journey to Florence.

On arrival, the Florence Discovery Walk introduces the historic center: Giotto's Campanile, the Baptistery, the Duomo, Orsanmichele, Via Santa Margherita and finally the Ponte Vecchio, the city's only bridge to survive World War II.

Tonight, your Tour Captain hosts a welcome dinner in Florence with authentic Tuscan cuisine, local wines and the generous hospitality of Fiorentini who love what they do.

Travel day

This is a beautifully practical transition: boat transfer through Venice, fast train to Florence, and then a walking introduction to a city where the Renaissance is visible in stone, bronze, piazza and skyline.

Discovery Walk

- Giotto's Campanile, the Baptistery and the Duomo.
- Orsanmichele and Via Santa Margherita, tied to old Florentine families and local history.
- Ponte Vecchio, the only bridge in Florence to survive World War II.

Dining

The welcome dinner in Florence focuses on Tuscan regional specialties, generous local wines and the warmth of Fiorentini hospitality.

DAY

4

FLORENCE

Florence Secrets and Treasures

Now Journey's Florence Secrets and Treasures tour takes in both the famous and the quietly revealing. Walk Piazza della Repubblica, Piazza della Signoria, Palazzo Vecchio and the portico of the Uffizi complex.

The day also brings the city's artistic icons into focus: Santa Maria del Fiore, the Baptistery's Gates of Paradise, Giotto's Bell Tower and the Galleria dell'Accademia, home to Michelangelo's David.

After the guided experience, the afternoon is left open. Florence rewards both the planner and the wanderer: leather markets, Santa Croce, the Uffizi, the Duomo climb or simply a long coffee in a beautiful square.

Special sightseeing includes

- Galleria dell'Accademia, with skip-the-line planning to see Michelangelo's David.
- Florence's historic center, a World Heritage site.
- The Baptistery, Campanile, Duomo and Brunelleschi's iconic dome.
- The Gates of Paradise, named by Michelangelo, with context on Ghiberti's masterpiece.
- Piazza della Repubblica and Piazza della Signoria.

Afternoon possibilities

After the included touring, the city opens up. You might visit Santa Croce, browse leather markets, climb the Duomo, add the Uffizi or choose the slower pleasure of wandering through Florence without a checklist.

Optional ideas

- Uffizi Gallery guided visit or admission-only planning.
- Duomo climb, Santa Croce, Pitti Palace or Boboli Gardens can be arranged.

DAY

5

TUSCANY

Good Morning Tuscany

Travel into the Tuscan countryside, beginning with San Gimignano, the hilltop town famed for its medieval skyline of towers and its position along the Via Francigena.

Enjoy time to explore the streets and shops before toasting Tuscany with Vernaccia, San Gimignano's signature white wine. Then continue into wine country for a Now Journey winery experience.

At the estate, tour cellars and production spaces before a tasting paired with farm-to-table morsels: pecorino, bruschetta, local specialties, Chianti and Super Tuscan wines. Later, continue to Cortona for a Discovery Walk and a relaxed Apericena.

San Gimignano

The day begins in the town sometimes called the Manhattan of Tuscany, known for its medieval towers and views over the Elsa Valley. Guests have time to explore shops and streets before the countryside experience continues.

Tuscan winery experience

The winery visit is not just a tasting stop. It includes the estate, cellars and production facilities, then a pairing of wines with morsels such as pecorino, bruschetta and local specialties.

On to Cortona

The scenic drive continues to Cortona, where your Tour Captain handles check-in and leads a short walk into the historic heart before the evening Apericena.

Cortona hotel examples: Villa Marsili, Hotel San Michele, Monastero di Cortona Hotel and Spa, Hotel San Luca or similar.

DAY

6

TUSCANY

Exploring Cortona at Leisure

Enjoy a full free day in beautiful Cortona. This is Tuscany without rushing: lanes, viewpoints, shops, churches, a long lunch or simply a quiet morning in a hill town.

Cortona is small but fascinating, situated above Lake Trasimeno and rooted in Etruscan and Roman history. Its ancient walls are still preserved in great part, and the town's views over the Valdichiana give the day a sense of place.

Later, your Tour Captain may invite guests to an optional dinner, or you may explore independently.

About Cortona

Cortona sits in the province of Arezzo, high above Lake Trasimeno. Its ancient walls, Etruscan roots and layered history give the town a depth that rewards unhurried exploration.

Optional experiences often considered

- Cooking class with a local chef, followed by tasting what you prepare.
- Siena with walking tour and free time.
- Cortona and the Franciscan Monastery Le Celle.
- Ancient walls, fortresses, convents and churches for stronger walkers.
- Assisi with private guiding and transportation.

Evening

The evening remains flexible. Your Tour Captain may invite guests to an optional dinner, or you may enjoy Cortona on your own.

Included highlights

- Full day at leisure in Cortona.
- Time for viewpoints, town walls, shops and cafes.
- Flexible pacing after the previous day's wine-country touring.

Optional ideas

- Cooking class outside Cortona.
- Siena day trip, horseback riding or Vespa-style exploring.
- Cortona and Franciscan Monastery Le Celle.
- Assisi privately guided day trip with round-trip transportation.

DAY

7

ROME

To Amazing Rome

Heading south, Tuscany's rolling hills fade into Lazio's storied landscapes. Arrive in Rome, a city where antiquity and modern life overlap at every turn.

After hotel check-in, continue with your Tour Captain into the heart of Old Rome. The walk begins near the Pantheon and moves through Piazza Navona, Campo de' Fiori and Largo di Torre Argentina.

Tonight, gather for a welcome to Rome dinner featuring the cuisine of Lazio, with wines and flavors from Lazio, Campania and Toscana.

There once was a dream that was Rome

The route from Tuscany to Rome changes the mood of the journey. Countryside gives way to the Eternal City, where domes, ruins, columns and everyday Roman life coexist in a way no other city quite matches.

Discovery Walk

- Pantheon area, with context on one of Rome's most extraordinary ancient interiors.
- Piazza Navona, once tied to the spectacle of ancient games.
- Campo de' Fiori and Largo di Torre Argentina, including the story of Julius Caesar's fate.

Dinner

The welcome dinner introduces the cuisine of Lazio, with regional wines and a lively sense of arrival in Rome.

DAY

8

ROME

Exploring the Vatican

With privileged entry planning, explore Vatican City: the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica and Square.

Inside the Sistine Chapel, consider Michelangelo's Last Judgment and the extraordinary scale of the work. In the museums, the route reveals tapestries, sculpture and some of the most impressive collections in the world.

After exiting into St. Peter's Square, return to the hotel area with the afternoon and evening open for Rome at your own pace.

Special sightseeing includes

- Vatican Museums, with tapestries, sculpture and major collections.
- Sistine Chapel, including Michelangelo's Last Judgment.
- St. Peter's Basilica and Square, with skip-the-line and privileged-access planning where available.
- Swiss Guard viewing as you exit into St. Peter's Square when timing allows.

Afternoon

The afternoon is intentionally open after a dense morning of art, faith and history. Guests can rest, explore Rome independently or consider an optional add-on.

Optional ideas

- Baths of Caracalla privately guided visit.
- Ostia Antica or additional Rome sightseeing on request.

DAY

9

ROME

Imperial Rome

Today is Imperial Rome. Set out on a walk where ancient ruins and modern city life blend together, revealing a story that still shapes the way Rome feels today.

The touring centers on the Colosseum and Roman Forum, the old town center of the Roman Empire, with special-access planning and an in-depth guided experience.

Tonight, join your Tour Captain for a special farewell-to-Rome dinner. It is a moment to reflect on the sights, tastes and discoveries shared so far before the journey turns south.

Special sightseeing includes

- Colosseum, the Flavian amphitheater and heart of Rome's imperial spectacle.
- Roman Forum, with Palatine Hill, Capitoline Hill, Caesar's Palace, the Curia and triumphal arches.
- Views of Trajan's Market, the Vittorio Emanuele II Monument, the Jewish Ghetto and other landmarks.

Why this day matters

The power of Imperial Rome is not only in the scale of the ruins, but in walking through the same civic spaces where Roman political, religious and social life unfolded.

Evening

Tonight's farewell-to-Rome dinner is a Now Journey exclusive style evening, a chance to gather before the itinerary turns south toward Pompeii and the coast.

DAY

10

SORRENTO

Departure Day: Arrivederci Italy

Breakfast is included this morning if timing allows before departure.

Guests wrapping up in Sorrento may request an optional departure transfer to Naples airport. Extra nights in Sorrento or on the coast may also be arranged, making it easy to linger a little longer.

Departure planning

Breakfast is included if time allows. Optional departure transfers to Naples airport can be arranged, and guests who want to linger may add extra nights in Sorrento or continue independently along the coast.

Included highlights

- Breakfast included when departure timing allows.
- Optional transfer to Naples airport.
- Extra-night and extension ideas available on request.

Notes for Travelers

Hotels, Dining and Group Style

Hotel Collection

The Essential Journey uses Now Journey's heart-of-city hotel approach: well-located Classic properties and refined Deluxe options in Venice, Florence, Tuscany and Rome.

Dining

Expect daily breakfast and selected Now Journey dining events that feel regional, relaxed and generous, with time left open for independent discoveries.

Small Group Rhythm

This is not a large bus tour. The experience is paced for a small group, guided by a Tour Captain and shaped around connection, not crowds.

- Best for travelers with limited time who still want a complete Venice-to-Rome story.
- The journey ends in Rome, making independent extensions easy.
- Use the full Journey Guide for hotels, dates, detailed inclusions and optional experiences.

Explore the full interactive Journey Guide

Then request your personalized Journey Proposal for dates, room style, pre-tour nights and extensions.