



CST# 2001110-40

San Francisco Los Angeles New York Chicago Houston Vancouver Beijing

9/13-Day Italy, Vatican Highlights Tour

Tour Code: UMR9 / UMR13

**Milan, Verona, Venice, Modena, Parma, Pisa, Florence, San Siena, Vatican, Rome
(Bari, Alberobello, Matera, Pompeii, Naples, Salerno, Amalfi Coast, Positano, Capri)**

Departure Dates: (2023) 1/21, 2/18, 3/18, 4/15, 5/20, 6/17, 7/15, 8/19, 9/16, 10/21, 11/18

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Attentive planning on the tour route from Milan to Rome along with many ancient cities for your best experience and utmost comfort.
- Discover many UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Milan Duomo, Piazza San Marco, Leaning Tower of Pisa, St. Peter Basilica, Colosseum, Pompeii, Amalfi Coast, etc.
- Explore several world-renowned Roman ruins, Pantheon, Roman Forum and Colosseum, as well as Pompeii, the ancient city being buried under volcanic ash for over 2000 years, to witness the rise and fall of the ancient Roman Empire.
- Stroll at Juliet's House, can you feel the affectionate romance of Romeo and Juliet in Shakespeare's writings?
- Visit Ferrari Museum for complete exhibits of Ferrari's most iconic cars from throughout its history and shop for your favorite souvenirs.
- Exceptionally diversified travel experience on hydrofoil, ferry, train, cable car and inland flights when shuttling multiple picturesque coastal cities and islands, Venice, Bari, Alberobello, Capri, Naples.
- Crazy shopping at Italy's fashion and design capital, Milan and The Mall Outlet.
- Authentic Italian cuisines: Venetian Seppia Pasta & Fried Seafood Platter, T-bone steak at Florence, Naples-style pizzas, etc.
- Accommodate at convenient 4-star upscale hotels and same hotels for 2 nights in Florence, Rome and Naples.
- Professional Chinese/English speaking guide providing attentive services and history of this ancient country.

ADMISSIONS & TRANSFERS INCLUDED:

- ❖ Ferry to San Marco
- ❖ Ferrari Museum
- ❖ Cinque Terre Train Ride
- ❖ Bagnoregio
- ❖ Pompeii
- ❖ Inland flight from Rome to Bari
- ❖ Amalfi Coast Ferry
- ❖ Positano Ferry
- ❖ Capri Island Ferry
- ❖ Capri Town Cable Car
- ❖ Naples Ferry

ITINERARIES:

1 Hometown Milan, Italy

2 Milan - Duomo - La Scala - Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II

Hotel: Hilton Garden Inn Milan Malpensa or similar

**** No tour or compensation will be given if arriving after 12:00pm, please self check in at hotel. ****

Duomo di Milano: Usually named Milan Cathedral, which took nearly six centuries to complete since 1386. It is the largest church in Italy, the third largest in Europe and the third largest in the world. The gilded Virgin Mary statue on the highest Gothic spire is the symbol of Milan. The lower part of the building is in a typical Baroque style, with extremely complex and exquisite sculptures from top to bottom. Napoleon was crowned King of Italy at the Duomo in 1805. One of the nails reputedly from the Crucifixion of Christ has also been placed there.

La Scala: One of the leading opera and ballet theatres in the world, though it is much simpler in appearance. Most of Italy's greatest opera artists and world-famous singers have appeared here. It is always performers' lifetime dream and glory to perform on this stage. Regardless you are fans of Italian opera or not, you'll definitely love the luscious artistic atmosphere here!

3 Milan - Verona - Verona Arena - Juliet's House - Lake Garda (optional) – Venice (B)

Hotel: Four Points by Sheraton Venice Mestre or similar

Verona Arena: A Roman amphitheatre in Piazza Bra in Verona, built in the first century. It is the third biggest amphitheatre in Italy. It was the place where the ancient Romans watched gladiators fighting and other cruel performances and now is world famous for holding large scale operas and concerts every summer.

Verona Juliet's House: When it comes to romance, some seem to prefer fantasy to reality. The Juliet's House in Verona that has been billed as Juliet's, is on the whole fluff covered with touristic fairy dust. Shakespeare's Juliet wasn't based on a real person, and the house doesn't have any relation to the story. Nevertheless, there are always big crowds of people from all over the world who come here to live the fantasy.

Lake Garda: The largest lake in Italy located between Milan and Venice and a popular vacation spot in all seasons. It was formed by the glaciers at the end of the last Ice Age.

4 Venice San Marco Basilica & Piazza - Bridge of Sighs - Doge's Palace - Gondola Ride (optional) -

Modena - Ferrari Museum (admission incl.) – Parma (B/L: Venetian Seppia Pasta & Fried Seafood Platter)

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express Parma or similar

San Marco Basilica & Piazza: Lying at the eastern end of the piazza, San Marco Basilica is the cathedral church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Venice, one of the best-known examples of Italo-Byzantine architecture. For its opulent design, gold ground mosaics, and its status as a symbol of Venetian wealth and power, the church got its nickname of "Chiesa d'Oro" (Church of Gold).

Bridge of Sighs: The enclosed bridge which is made of white limestone in 1600 connects the New Prison to the interrogation rooms in the Doge's Palace. Its name proposed that prisoners would sigh at their final view of beautiful Venice through the window before being taken down to their cells.

Doge's Palace: The palace built in 1340 in Venetian Gothic style, and one of Venice's main landmarks. It was once the residence of the Doge of Venice and became a museum in 1923.

Ferrari Museum: Dedicated to the Ferrari sports car marquee, it houses collection of Ferrari's most iconic cars from throughout its history as well as many trophies, photographs and other historic displays about Italian motor racing industry.

5 Parma - La Spezia - Cinque Terre (train ride incl. ) - Leaning Tower of Pisa – Florence (B/D: T-Bone Steak)

Hotel: Starhotels Tuscany or similar

Cinque Terre: Comprises five villages on the rugged, steep landscape along the coast right up to the cliffs on the Italian Riviera. The coastline, the five villages and the surrounding hillsides are all part of the Cinque Terre National Park and are recognised as an UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999.

Pisa: The leaning Tower of Pisa is the landmark of Italy and was added to the UNESCO World Heritage register since 1987. The tower's tilt began during construction in the 12th century, caused by an inadequate foundation on ground too soft on one side to properly support the structure's weight. The tilt increased in the decades but was stabilized before the structure was completed in the 14th century.

6 Florence - Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore - Piazza della Signoria - Ponte Vecchio - The Mall Outlet (B)

Hotel: Starhotels Tuscany or similar

Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore: The dome of this Gothic styled cathedral can be seen from anywhere in Florence. Until the development of new structural materials in the modern era, the dome was the largest in the world and still remains the largest brick dome ever constructed.

Piazza della Signoria: Named after the Palazzo della Signoria, it is an L-shaped square in front of the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence. It is the origin and centre of Florence's history and politics. The square houses the Loggia della Signoria, the Uffizi Gallery, the Palace of the Tribunale della Mercanzia, the Palazzo Uguccioni, and many Renaissance style buildings surrounding.

Ponte Vecchio: A medieval stone closed-spandrel segmental arch bridge over the Arno River, in Florence. It is the only bridge that could survive German attack during WWII, even though the access was obstructed by the destruction of the buildings at its both ends.

The Mall Outlet: A large shopping centre offering exceptional shopping experience for high-end fashions brands, like BV, Fendi, Gucci, Moncler, Prada, YSL, etc and other luxury products at substantial discounts.

7 Florence - Siena - Duomo - Piazza del Campo – Bagnoregio (admission incl.) – Rome (B/D: Hotel Western Dinner)

Hotel: Holiday Inn Rome Eur Parco Dei Dedicati or similar

Bagnoregio: This ancient town is noted for its striking position on top of a plateau of friable volcanic tuff overlooking the Tiber river valley. It is in constant danger of destruction as the edges of the plateau collapse due to erosion, leaving the buildings to crumble as their underlying support falls away and thus became known as “The Dying Town.”

8 Rome - Vatican - Vatican Museum (optional) - Saint Peter’s Basilica & Square - Trevi Fountain - The Pantheon - Roman Forum - Colosseum - Arch of Constantine (B/D: Chinese style)

Hotel: Holiday Inn Rome Eur Parco Dei Dedicati or similar

Vatican Museum: The public museum to display works from the immense collection of the Catholic Church and several of the most renowned sculptures and masterpiece art works from Renaissance. The famous Sistine Chapel is the last gallery within the Museum.

Saint Peter’s Basilica & Square: Being built in 1506, St. Peter’s Basilica is an Italian Renaissance church in Vatican City and is regarded as one of the holiest Catholic shrines. It’s the burial site of Saint Peter and many Popes. It has been holding a supreme status in religion, history and architecture.

Trevi Fountain: The largest Baroque fountain in Rome, Italy and one of the most famous fountains in the world. It features in several notable films, like ‘Roman Holiday’ starred by Audrey Hepburn.

The Pantheon: A former Roman temple built to dedicate all gods on Mount Olympia and since the year 609 it became a Catholic Church. Though most of the building was destroyed by a fire in 80AD, leaving only a rectangular colonnade with 16 granite pillars of 12.5 meters high, it was properly re-built later and is still one of the best-preserved of all Ancient Roman buildings. Since its construction, the Pantheon's dome is still the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome.

Colosseum: Built of travertine, tuff, and brick-faced concrete in 80 AD, the Colosseum is the largest amphitheatre ever built. It could hold an estimate of 50,000 spectators and was used for gladiatorial contests and public spectacles, like animal hunts, executions, etc.

9 Rome ✈️ Hometown (B)

9-Day tour finishes. After breakfast, transfer to airport for return flight to hometown.

13-Day tour continues:

9 Rome ✈️ Bari - Alberobello – Matera (B/D: Local Western)

Hotel: MH Matera Hotel or similar

Alberobello: Designated as a UNESCO site, this strange and picturesque town in Southern Italy is famous for its over 1,400 unique trullo buildings originating from the 15th century. It’s also regarded as the Italian version of Japan’s historic villages of Shirakawa-gō.

Matera: An ancient town lying in a small canyon carved by the Gravina. Known as “the Underground City”, it’s one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world.

10 Matera - Sassi – Pompeii (admission incl.) – Naples (B)

Hotel: Holiday Inn Naples or similar

Matera: An astonishing ancient town lying in a small canyon carved by the Gravina is best known as “the Underground City”. It’s one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world with history dating back several thousand years ago and accommodates many invaluable ancient masterpieces of arts.

Sassi: A well-known ancient cave dwellings built on a rocky plateau and inhabited since the Old Stone Age. It was thought to be the first human settlement in Italy and described as one of the most unique landscapes in Europe. Until late 1980s, it was no longer inhabitable due to poverty and hygiene problems and transformed to be a tourists’ attraction. Along with the park of the Rupestrian Churches, it was recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1993.

Pompeii: One of the ancient Roman cities and was buried under volcanic ash and pumice in the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD79. Today it has UNESCO World Heritage Site Status and is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Italy.

- 11 **Naples - Napoli Sotterranea (optional) - Salerno 🚗 Amalfi Coast 🚗 Positano 🚗 Naples (B/D: Italian Pizza)**
Hotel: Holiday Inn Naples or similar

Amalfi Coast: Italy’s most scenic stretch of rugged coastline with classic Mediterranean landscape. It was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997 and one of the “50 Places of a Lifetime” features in the National Geography magazine.

Positano: Named after God of the Sea, Positano is a village and commune on the Amalfi Coast, in Campania, Italy, mainly in an enclave in the hills leading down to the coast. The writer John Steinbeck wrote about Positano, "It is a dream place that isn’t quite real when you are there and becomes beckoningly real after you have gone."

- 12 **Naples 🚗 Capri Island 🚗 Capri Town 🚗 Blue Grotto (optional) 🚗 Naples – Rome (B/D: Local Western)**
Hotel: Holiday Inn Rome Eur Parco Dei Dedicati or similar

Capri Island: The famous English writer Charles Dickens once noted about this island, "There is no spot in the world with such delightful possibilities of repose as this little isle." Even after a century, this renowned resort island has still been attracting many visitors to admire its lush countryside beauties and explore iconic coastal landscapes.

Blue Grotto: A sea cave on the coast of the island of Capri, southern Italy. Sunlight, passing through an underwater cavity and shining through the seawater, creates a blue reflection that illuminates the cavern. Decorated with statues of the Roman sea gods Neptune and Triton, it was used as the personal swimming pool of Emperor Tiberius as well as a marine temple during Roman times. *(Note: Grotto visit may be cancelled in adverse weather.)*

- 13 **Rome ✈️ Hometown (B)**

After breakfast, transfer to airport for return flight to hometown.

< Itineraries may be subject to change. >