



Day 1: Fly to Italy

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

Day 2: Rome

Arrive in Rome: Welcome to Rome. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore the city on your own. This evening, get to know your group over a pizza dinner.

Day 3: 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 saint's tomb. Then, experience Michelangelo's breathtaking frescos at the Sistine Chapel.

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.

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 4: Rome

📍 **Florence:** Join an excursion to Florence, the birthplace of the Italian language, opera and the Renaissance. As you explore the city, pass by classical statues at the Piazza della Signoria. You'll also walk across the Ponte Vecchio, a medieval bridge where many of Florence's famed leather and gold artisans keep shop. The domed cap of the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, or the Duomo, dominates the skyline. Opposite the Duomo, look for the bronzed doors of Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise at the Baptistery. Those who do not visit Florence will enjoy free time in Rome.

Day 5: Sorrento Region

Travel to Sorrento: Mild weather, fragrant lemon groves and the stunning Bay of Naples welcome you to the Sorrento region.

Vesuvius photo stop: When the volcano erupted in A.D. 79, it cloaked everything in ash, perfectly preserving the minutiae of Roman resort life. The buildings and artifacts left behind make this one of the richest archaeological sites in the world—and the perfect place for a photo.

Day 6: Pompeii | Night ferry

Sightseeing tour of Pompeii: See how the wealthiest ancient Romans lived at the Roman ruins. 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.

Travel to Patras: Make your way to Brindisi, where you will board a night ferry bound for Patras, Greece.

Day 7: Delphi

Travel to Delphi: After disembarking in Patras this morning, travel to Delphi, site of the famed Oracle, which stands as one of the most important landmarks of antiquity.

Day 8: Delphi | Athens

Sightseeing tour of Delphi: Visit the archaeological site and museum centered around 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. 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 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, the Temple of Poseidon, one of Greece's most evocative ruins, dominates the landscape. 16 elegant Doric pillars remain. From this lofty cliffside location, you can see five Aegean islands on a clear day. Students who do not join the optional excursion will enjoy free time in Athens.

Day 10: Depart for home

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

📍 3-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Days 10-12: Greek island and Turkey cruise

Three-day cruise: Discover the islands and coastal towns of Greece and Turkey. Enjoy on-board activities as you sail to Mykonos, Kusadasi, Patmos, Crete and Santorini. Beautiful crystalline waters and white sand beaches helped make these destinations prized—and disputed—territories. Turkish, 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: *Ancient Ephesus Through the Ages and the Minoan Palace of Knossos* or *Ancient Ephesus Through the Ages, the Minoan Palace of Knossos and Oia Village*.

Day 13: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport and check in for your return flight home.