



Venice, Florence & Rome for Solo Travelers

9 days | 11 days with Sorrento Peninsula extension

Three iconic Italian destinations. Countless ways to experience them. On this trip to Venice, Florence, and Rome exclusively designed for solo travelers, you'll discover each city's rich history while sampling their distinctive (and delicious) dishes and drinks. A hearty bowl of ribollita soup in Florence to warm you up? A scoop or two of gelato in Rome to cool you down? Travel solo (but never alone!) as you and your fellow adventurers uncover the antique art and architecture at St. Mark's Square, Florence Cathedral, and the Roman Forum. Add the extension to the Sorrento Peninsula and apply a postcard-perfect finish to this trip of a lifetime.



Your tour package includes

- 7 nights in a private room at handpicked hotels
- 7 breakfasts
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 cooking class
- 4 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- St. Mark's Basilica
- Florence culinary walk
- Trevi Fountain
- Piazza Navona
- Pantheon
- Roman Colosseum
- Italian cooking class

Tour pace

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Group size

15-28

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Venice today.

Venice → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Venice

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Italy! Settle into your hotel. Then, gather with your Tour Director and fellow group members at a mixer before enjoying a welcome dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Venice

Included meals: breakfast

Surrender to the beauty of Venice's labyrinthine canals, elegant bridges, and ornate Gothic and Renaissance architecture. Close your eyes and let the sound of lapping water and the passing gondolas soothe you, but not for too long—there's so much to see! You'll meet up with your local guide and explore the heart of Venice on foot and (if you'd like) by vaporetto, or water taxi.

- Feel the energy of St. Mark's Square, with its thriving cafes and sumptuous buildings, and marvel at the domes, colorful mosaics, gothic adornments, and arches of St. Mark's Basilica— one of the symbols of Venice.
- See the windowed Bridge of Sighs, named after the legend that prisoners would sigh at their final view of their beloved Venice before being taken down to their cells in the New Prison.
- Watch a Murano glassblowing demonstration, where artisans keep the Venetian glasswork tradition alive. Observe as they skillfully use the distinctive millefiori technique to create intricate patterns by fusing tiny glass rods.

Spend a free afternoon exploring Venice's waterways or board a vaporetto and cruise down the city's famous Grand Canal on today's optional excursion.

Please note: Depending on ticket availability and timing, travelers on some departures may enter St. Mark's Basilica after the sightseeing tour.

+ Venice Grand Canal Cruise

Florence → 2 nights

Day 4: Transfer to Florence & food tour

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner

Cross through the Apennine Mountains as you make your way to Florence, whose Renaissance treasures and hidden piazzas bathe in the golden glow of Tuscan sunlight. Set off on a culinary-themed walking tour of the city with a local guide once you arrive.

- Learn about the city's art and history at Piazza di San Lorenzo, one of the oldest squares in Florence and home to the parish church of the famed Medici family.
- Feast your eyes on Italian delicacies: Tuscan breads, Chianina beef, tripe, lampredotto (a traditional Florentine dish made from a cow's fourth stomach), vegetables fresh off the vine, and ripe herbs for sale at local shops.
- Admire the architectural masterpiece of Florence Cathedral, locally known as the Duomo. Its iconic dome is complemented by the Gothic beauty of Giotto's Campanile—a freestanding bell tower adorned with colorful marble panels and detailed relief work.
- Pass the Dante House, dedicated to the memory of Dante Alighieri (of *Divine Comedy* fame), then stop in the courtyard of the Pazzi Palace to try Tuscan croutons topped with chicken liver or olive pâté, paired with a glass of Chianti. As you savor your snack, take a moment to admire the graceful arches and columns that surround this Renaissance gem.
- End with a stop at a local bistro for Italian necessities—coffee and gelato, that is.

Sit down for an included dinner this evening, served with beer or wine.

Day 5: Free day in Florence

Included meals: breakfast

The day is yours! Enjoy a free day in Florence or add an excursion to the Tuscan hill town of San Gimignano, where you can admire its UNESCO-noted historic center and dramatic skyline punctuated by 14 soaring medieval towers. Need inspiration for your day in town? Escape the crowds and wander through the Boboli Gardens, located behind the grand Pitti Palace. Explore the extensive greenery, hidden pathways, and stunning sculptures of this peaceful oasis, then dive into the vibrant

Mercato di Sant'Ambrogio, which has served locals for more than 100 years. Smaller than its more famous counterpart, the Mercato Centrale, the market will give you an intimate and authentic appreciation for how Florentines live. Browse through stalls bursting with fresh produce, regional delicacies, and traditional wares. After, join the locals for a coffee or a bite to eat at the market's lively cafes.
+ San Gimignano: Medieval Sights & Tuscan Flavors

Rome → 3 nights

Day 6: Transfer to Rome & walking tour

Included meals: breakfast

Depart Florence for Rome, where you'll take a guided walk to discover the beautiful squares and fountains of the city center.

- Stroll past the Spanish Steps, where Pietro Bernini's Baroque-style Fontana della Barcaccia has stood since the 1600s, and head to the intricately carved Trevi Fountain. The latter, a romantic, Baroque beauty carved of Travertine marble, has served as the dreamy backdrop to *La Dolce Vita* and *Roman Holiday*. Legend says that if you throw one coin into the fountain, you're bound to return to Rome.
- Enjoy a gelato tasting before entering the Pantheon, home to the world's largest unenforced concrete dome. There, you'll learn about the engineering skills of the ancient Romans and how they created this well-preserved temple.
- End at Piazza Navona and see Gian Lorenzo Bernini's Fountain of the Four Rivers, commissioned by Pope Innocent X in the 17th century. It symbolizes the four major rivers of the four continents where papal authority had spread at the time.

Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Rome

Included meals: breakfast, tasting

Lose yourself in a chaotic symphony of honking Vespas, busy markets, and secret alleyways. Join your Tour Director for a walking tour of Rome, a living tapestry of contradictions where age-old ruins coexist with a vibrant, modern spirit.

- Soak up over 2,000 years of imperial history, viewing the Arch of Constantine and entering the awe-inspiring Colosseum—the monumental amphitheater that reverberated with the roar of ancient spectacles.
- End your tour in the Jewish quarter, where you'll stop at a local bakery to sample kosher delicacies. Pope Paul IV banished Rome's Jewish residents to the area, which came to be known as the Roman Ghetto, by decree in 1555—a rule that remained in place until the 19th century. Today, the area is a vibrant neighborhood boasting must-try bites like *carciofi alla Giudia* (deep-fried artichokes) and *ricotta* and sour cherry pies.

You won't want to skip the guided tour of St. Paul's Basilica—one of Rome's four major papal churches. Add it to your itinerary to view the final resting place of St. Paul, and to take a subterranean journey to Rome's ancient catacombs.

Prefer to spend the afternoon on your own? Whether you want to take it easy over an Aperol spritz or take in the beauty of the Galleria Borghese's art collection, the day belongs to you.

Please note: The Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs excursion may be offered on day 8, depending on the day of the week.

+ Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs

Day 8: Free day in Rome & cooking class

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

On your free day in Rome, you can discover the hidden gem of Trastevere, a bohemian and mostly car-free neighborhood filled with narrow streets and delectable trattorias. Need a moment of respite? Visit the picturesque Aventine Hill, home to the peaceful Giardino degli Aranci (Orange Garden) and the famous keyhole view of St. Peter's Basilica—which you can visit by adding the guided tour of Vatican City to your day. Here, you'll also experience the grandeur and serene beauty of the Vatican Museum, as well as the Sistine Chapel's venerated ceiling fresco. The day is yours to seize.

This evening, enjoy a hands-on cooking class led by an experienced Italian chef. You'll learn how to make traditional dishes such as fettuccine and enjoy eating the foods you cooked during a farewell dinner, served with beer or wine.

Please note: Iconic Sights: Vatican City excursion may be offered on day 7, depending on the day of the week.

+ Iconic Sights: Vatican City

Flight Home

Day 9: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home, or extend your stay to visit the magical, terraced cliffside of the Sorrento Peninsula.

+ Sorrento Peninsula extension

From its perch high above the Bay of Naples, Sorrento welcomes you with its candy-colored villas, turquoise seas, and the delicate citrus scent of its iconic lemon groves. Stay with your Tour Director to explore the peninsula's infinitely picturesque towns and the excavated remains of Pompeii, all under the watchful eye of Mount Vesuvius.

Sorrento Peninsula → 2 nights

Day 9: Sorrento Peninsula via Pompeii

Included meals: breakfast

En route to the Sorrento Peninsula, stop at Pompeii for a guided walking tour of the city's ruins, frozen in time since the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. The former port town lay buried under ash for 1,500 years before being rediscovered, and ongoing excavation continues to uncover remnants of everyday life before disaster struck.

Discover how Roman citizens lived 2,000 years ago as you stroll through remarkably preserved temples, well-excavated amphitheaters, and the ruins of private villas and public baths. Then, continue to the Sorrento Peninsula, winding your way along the Costiera Amalfitana—the famed Amalfi Coast. You won't want to close your eyes for even a moment as you drive past colorful villages that cascade down the limestone Lattari Mountains all the way to the Mediterranean.

Day 10: Free day on the Sorrento Peninsula

Included meals: breakfast

If you choose to add a day on Capri to your itinerary today, you'll sail across the Bay of Naples to the famed island. Known around the world as a playground for chic jetsetters, Capri's dramatic coastline is dotted with colorful cliffside hotels and lavish villas. You'll traverse crystalline waters by boat and spend time on the island before returning to the Sorrento Peninsula.

Choosing to spend the day exploring on your own? Many towns on the Sorrento Peninsula are connected via public bus. Ask your Tour Director for a recommendation on what to see—and, more importantly, what to eat!

This evening, sip a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ Capri: A Day on the Iconic Island

Flight Home

Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the Naples airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.com/VS6 | 1-800-597-0350

Day 3: Venice Grand Canal Cruise

\$99/\$109* (1 hour, departure time varies)

There's nothing more romantic than Venice from the water, and you'll soak in all the beauty the city has to offer as you set off from St. Mark's Square on this leisurely excursion. Do as the locals do and board a private water taxi to embark on a cruise down the famous Grand Canal. Float past the countless historic buildings that dot the canal banks as you admire the City of Water. After, head to a traditional Venetian barcaro, or wine bar, to enjoy a glass of prosecco and an aperitivo, or light snack.

Day 5: San Gimignano: Medieval Sights & Tuscan Flavors

\$115/\$125* (6 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Travel through the beautiful Tuscan countryside to discover the medieval village of San Gimignano. During the Renaissance, the rival Guelph and Ghibelline political factions flexed their muscles by constructing tall towers throughout San Gimignano; fourteen of those towers survive today. Later, visit a local winery for a taste of the area's wines and a sampling of olive oil and balsamic vinegar that you won't find anywhere else. Then, enjoy lasagna during a light lunch.

Day 7: Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs

\$89/\$99* (4 hours, departure time varies)

Descend into Rome's ancient catacombs, where early Christians buried saints and popes alongside commoners. A local guide will lead you through the burial chambers before your visit to St. Paul's Basilica, one of the four most important basilicas of Rome. Originally founded by Constantine the Great, the Basilica also houses the tomb of St. Paul. Please note: Shorts and sleeveless shirts are not permitted within the Basilica. Also, this excursion involves extensive walking and may be challenging for claustrophobic travelers.

Day 8: Iconic Sights: Vatican City

\$125 (3.5 hours, departure time varies)

This guided tour takes you inside Vatican City—a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most sacred places in Christendom. This independent city-state within Rome serves as the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church and is home to the Pope. Upon arrival, turn on your pre-distributed headset and dive into the Vatican's rich history with your local guide. First, visit the Vatican Museums, which are more than 500 years old and house many of the world's most important Classical- and Renaissance-era sculptures. Next, step inside the Sistine Chapel, whose frescoed ceiling is arguably Michelangelo's greatest masterpiece. Finally, pay a visit to the enormous St. Peter's Basilica, the epicenter of the Roman Catholic faith. The artists who have contributed to its glory are some of the best Italy has ever known—Bramante, Peruzzi, Raphael, and

Michelangelo. Masterpieces await at every turn, from Bernini's magnificent bronze canopy to Michelangelo's Madonna della Pietà.

Please note: Should this excursion fall on a Sunday, it'll be moved to another day of the tour. Backpacks aren't allowed in the Vatican, and shorts and sleeveless shirts are strictly prohibited. Due to closures of certain entrances and pathways, wait times may extend to several hours during busy travel months. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 70 days prior to departure.

Extension excursion options

Day 10: Capri: A Day on the Iconic Island

\$125/\$135* (8 hours, departs in the morning)

Travel by ferry to the fabled isle of Capri, a beloved resort since the days of the Roman Republic. Weather permitting, you'll enjoy a boat ride around the island. Later, you'll enjoy free time to discover why everyone from Roman emperors to Sophia Loren has spent their vacations in Capri. If the weather prohibits a boat ride, you'll travel to the village of Anacapri, which offers stunning views of the surrounding scenery.

Please note: This excursion is weather-dependent. Travelers prone to seasickness should take the proper precautions.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.com/terms