

# *Celebration* · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

## 7 -10 Day Italian Flash – Action & Adventure Meet Historic Culture



**CUSTOM ITINERARY – YOUR FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS & DATES –  
– 7-10 DAY ITINERARY**



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## 7-10 Day Italy Itinerary: Milan – St. Moritz, Switzerland Rome – Tuscany - Florence



### Day 1 Arrival Italy: US - Milan

**Upon arrival in Milan**, enjoy a comfortable and efficient luxury VIP meet and greet service . Beginning from the aircraft, escorting you right to your waiting driver for a transfer to Hotel The First.

- You will be met at the aircraft with a name sign, at this point you will be escorted through immigration.
- Your assistant will be on hand to collect all your baggage off the carousel and escort you curbside to meet your English Speaking Driver for a transfer to hotel The First.
- This service includes full assistance in case of flight delays, cancellation or passenger delay and special needs. (Assistant at disposal for 1 hour)
- Please note that portorage service is not included however if you wish

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- you may request this locally and pay for it directly to the porters.
- Transfer to the hotel (TBD)

**Upon arrival at the hotel**, you will meet the concierge who will welcome you with a private VIP Check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation.

You are at leisure to relax and get settled in. You are free to explore on your own or enjoy the hotel facilities until your afternoon tour.

**Lunch is on your own today.** See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Milan.



**Milan Bike Tour - 3:30 pm:** Meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for an invigorating bike tour through Milan.

Discover the delights of Milan by bike on this afternoon! Following an expert guide, you'll cycle at a gentle pace around the captivating city streets, seeing top Milan attractions as well as lesser-known treasures that tourist maps miss.

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Explore fashionable and quirky neighborhoods like Manzoni and Ticinese, and see iconic Milan monuments such as Milan Duomo, Teatro La Scala, Castello Sforzesco (Sforza Castle) and more! (3 ½ Hr.)

**After the tour**, you will be delivered to your hotel, where the remainder of the day is at leisure: Return to your hotel to relax or continue to explore on your own.

**Dinner** is on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Milan.

## Day 2 Italy: Milan – St. Moritz, Switzerland –



**Early Breakfast in your hotel.**

**After breakfast**, Meet your private English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the train station for your exciting day in the Swiss Alps via Bernina Express Rail.

**7:00 am:** Board the train and enjoy this scenic day aboard this train where you will see spectacular views and immerse in the beauty of the Alps.

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Take a ride on the Bernina Express, Switzerland's alpine delight. This train journey takes you along one of the most beautiful railway routes in the world – now a UNESCO World Heritage Site – through the Bernina Pass to the exclusive resort of St Moritz at the 'Top of the World.'

Enjoy a round-trip scenic coach trip and ride a bright red rail car, passing unrivaled landscapes amid the towering peaks of the Swiss Alps, including time to spend in the charming towns of Tirano and St Moritz.

Your rail journey starts amid the palms and oleanders of northern Italy, taking you over the spiraling viaduct at Brusio and through the Bernina Pass into Engadin, arriving in St Moritz 2.5 hours later. Along the way you'll pass wild gorges and icy glaciers, cross soaring bridges and shoot through loop tunnels.

This north-south alpine crossing offers eye-catching vistas of stunning scenery from your rail car. Capture photographic views of the Alps and its glacial lakes, and look out your window to watch the bright red train curve against a snow-speckled landscape (if traveling in winter). You'll see impressive alpine valleys, lakes and waterfalls at almost every turn!

What better way to enjoy the breathtaking scenery of Switzerland and the Alps year-round than a ride on the Bernina Express? Known as the 'Little Red Train,' the Bernina Express was built more than 100 years ago to scale the majestic mountain landscapes of the Swiss Alps. This historical feat of engineering still climbs up the 7,330-foot (2,235-meter) high Bernina Pass along a UNESCO World Heritage-listed route.



**Depart by comfortable coach from Milan at 7am** and enjoy a scenic bus tour to the Swiss town of Tirano, situated at the foothills of the Alps. Pass mountain streams and forested hills against a backdrop of steep, snow-capped peaks. When you arrive in Tirano at approximately 10:30am, you'll have free time to explore before boarding the train and continuing forward on your journey.

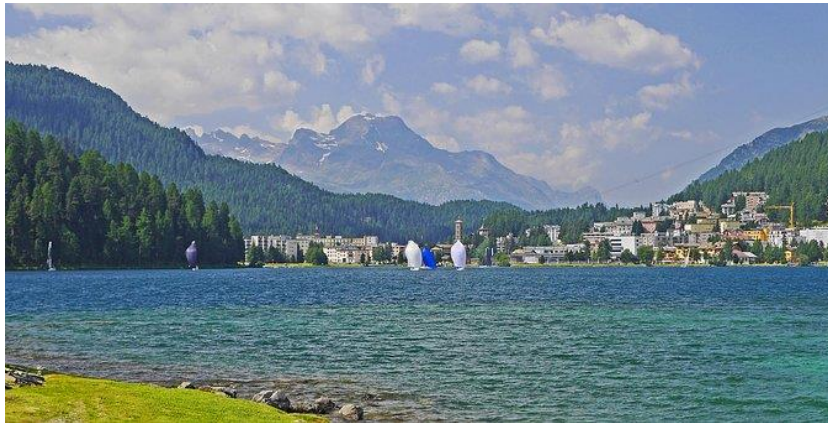
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**Upon arrival in St. Mortiz**, you will be delivered to the resort to begin your adventures in Switzerland's infamous playground.



**Upon arrival at the exclusive resort of St Moritz**, disembark and spend about 1.5 hours in town.



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Flanking the shore of a beautiful lake in the middle of the Upper Engadin, St Mortiz offers an array of attractions and is famous for its winter sports as well as polo, golf, cricket and tennis.



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Set out on foot to discover the town's elegance, perhaps stopping for lunch (own expense) or visiting a chocolatier **before departing by coach at 4:30pm and arriving in Milan around 7:30pm.**

You will be returned to the train station after the trip. You can hail a taxi or make your way back to the hotel on your own.

**Dinner is on your own today.** See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Milan.

## Day 3 Italy: Milan – Rome

**Breakfast in the hotel.**

**After breakfast,** you can relax in the hotel, finish packing, or do a little exploring on your own.

**Early Lunch is on your own today.**

**At the appropriate time,** Meet your private English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the train station for your passage to Rome.

**Train Transfer to Rome 12:55 pm:**

**Upon arrival in Rome,** meet your English-speaking driver at the train station for your transfer to your hotel (TBD).

**Upon arrival at the hotel,** meet the concierge and enjoy a VIP welcome and check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodations.



The remainder of the day is at leisure to get settled into your suite, enjoy the hotel spa, or do a little exploring on your own.

**Dinner – Scenic Tiber River Dinner Cruise:** This evening you will enjoy a scenic Dinner cruise on the Tiber River.



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**Departure Point:** Meet your private English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel for a transfer to the cruise departure point, the Sant'Angelo Bridge which is close to one of the oldest and most distinctive monuments in the entire city, Castel Sant'Angelo.



Board the boat for your stylish 2.5-hour dinner cruise on the Tiber River in Rome.

**Experience the romance of Rome by night** on this 2.5-hour dinner or wine cruise on the Tiber River.

Witness unparalleled views of some of the city's most famous monuments, such as St Peter's Basilica and Castel Saint' Angelo, illuminated against the inky Roman sky as you indulge in fine Italian wine and a gourmet 4-course dinner.

Both wine tastings and dinner are served by the boat's waiting staff and accompanied by live music.

**After your dinner cruise**, make your own way back to your hotel where you are at leisure to explore on your own or to enjoy the hotel.

Taxis are readily available, or you may choose to have your private driver return for you and transfer you back to your hotel.

**Day 4 Italy:** [Rome](#)

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## Breakfast in the hotel.



**After breakfast**, you Electric Bike Tour through Rome - 10:00 am: After breakfast, meet your English-speaking driver in the lobby of the hotel for your transfer to Central Rome, near Rome Termini Station, (the departure Point) and meet your English-speaking professional local guide who will lead your private tour today. You will pick up your bikes here.



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See the sights of the Eternal City on a full-day electric bike tour, with a pizza or pasta lunch, wine and a gelato stop included!

Easy and safe to ride, the bike has an electric motor that kicks in when pedaling. As well as allowing you to see the sights with little effort, the bike enables you to cover more ground, too!



- Comprehensive tour of the city
- Cycle the city streets to absorb the local atmosphere
- Informative, friendly and professional guide
- Lunch included
- Perfect introduction for first-time visitors
- Private group ensures personal service

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See the Colosseum and ruins of Ancient Rome; explore the charming neighborhood of Trastevere; visit squares like Piazza Navona; and admire attractions like Rome

Pantheon,  
Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps and more.



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You will be returned to the departure point. You may decide to spend some time exploring the area on your own, have a café in a local eatery, or you may just want to hail a taxi and return to your hotel, to relax and be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

**Dinner is on your own today.** See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Milan.

### Day 5 Italy: Rome

#### **Breakfast in the hotel.**

**After breakfast,** meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel to begin an extraordinary morning at the Vatican. You will enjoy a very special introduction to the Vatican City and its amazing history, highlights and hidden gems with our local expert guide, a Vatican expert, and access to areas not usually seen by the public.

**This visit is a VIP exclusive private tour** and you will be able to see the Vatican as many people never get to experience. Early Access: Vatican Museum & Sistine Chapel - 7:00 am: Upon arrival at the Vatican, , meet your host outside the Vatican Museums, and be escorted straight inside to the Sistine Chapel – skip the 2 hr. + line.

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**Our Vatican experience** will take us on the most amazing journey through the Vatican Museums, our entrances into which have been prearranged, and into the most beautiful and famous chapels in the world, the Sistine Chapel.



As one of the first visitors of the day, make the most of this sacred room without the crowds, and stand up close to incredible artwork such as Michelangelo's *The Last Judgement* – the iconic blue fresco that adorns the chapel's back wall.

After strolling around the chapel, admiring the works and soaking up the sacred atmosphere of the pope's private chapel, head into the Vatican Museums.

Your visit to the museum complex is independent, meaning that you can see whatever you want to see and spend as long as you want inside. Explore must-visit halls like the Gallery of Maps and Raphael's Rooms, and see classical antiquities, Etruscan artifacts and some of the world's most exquisite pieces of Renaissance artwork

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As we stroll through these amazing buildings we will not only learn about the beginning, the construction, the way of life of the locals here and the amazing power that this tiny state holds but also about the effect it has on and the relationship with neighboring Italy. From the Sistine Chapel, along with our local expert guide we will continue our 'voyage through the Vatican' by entering the ever-majestic Basilica of St. Peters and discovering the secrets of one of the world's most beautiful Basilica's before heading out into the Piazza to discover one of the Vatican city's most magical places.... (tour duration: 4 Hours)

**NOTE: Private entrances to the Vatican are On Special Request and can be confirmed only one month prior to tour.** (tour duration: 4 Hours - 1Hr. pre-open before open to public.) Entrances to Vatican

Museum included.



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## Important things to know about visiting the Vatican: Bags, backpacks, umbrellas

- The cloakroom staff will accept from the visitors their bags and personal belongings

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(ir-respective of the form, material or dimension of the object), with the exception of clothing items, hats, portable umbrellas.

- It is obligatory to deposit in the cloakroom suitcases, backpacks and containers with dimensions larger than cm 40 x 35 x 15.
- It is obligatory to deposit in the cloakroom bags and bag packs which are cumbersome, except those small-sized, that carried on shoulder, don't jut out by 15 cm from the body's shape in its highest point.
- It is obligatory to deposit in the cloakroom any umbrella with a spike tip, umbrellas of medium and large size, walking sticks (except those required by disabled visitors to facilitate their movement), tripods for cameras and video cameras, signage of any kind (except signs used by official guides for their identification).
- It is obligatory to deposit in the cloakroom knives, scissors, any tools that could be harmful to other persons or damage works of art in the Museums.
- It is not possible to deposit in the cloakroom, firearms of any kind or other dangerous objects. It is strictly forbidden to enter the Museums with any kind of weapon.
- Access to the Museums by armed visitors is not permitted. No exception to this rule is made for visitors holding a firearm permit, or if the weapon forms part of a uniform (police, military or others).



**Today Lunch is on your own.** See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations on dining in Rome.

**After Lunch, Rome Segway Tour - 2:30 pm:** After lunch, meet your English-speaking guide, at a pre-arrange departure point in Central Rome, near Piazza Venezia, where

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after you are comfortable with the Segway, you will begin your tour through the streets of Rome.



Glide toward the area known as Capitoline Hill, and as you approach it you'll be met with the jaw-dropping sights of Ancient Rome. Once the home of richly elaborate temples, shops, markets and government buildings, the area is now a fascinating archeological site peppered with 2,000-year-old world-famous ruins.

Head right up to it and weave around the outskirts of the Roman Forum, seeing grandiose monuments like the Arch of Constantine and Trajan's Column. Hear the history of the site in its heyday from your audio commentary, learning about its status as the administrative center of Rome.



Pass Palentine Hill and stop for a look at Circus Maximus, the vast stretch of flat land where chariot races were once held to entertain up to 250,000 locals. Continue to the Colosseum, Rome's iconic monument on the east side of Ancient Rome, and stop for photos while listening to commentary about the gory, yet glorified, gladiator battles that once took place inside.

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After weaving through the crowds outside the ruins, take back to the streets and head to the Church of Santa Maria to see the Mouth of Truth – an intriguing marble slab.

Featured in the hit 1950's movie *Roman Holiday*, the ancient manhole cover is said to be a lie detector.

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As you wind your way back toward the center of Rome, stop at a scenic vantage point to enjoy picture-perfect views over the city. Your tour then finishes back at the start point. (2 Hrs.)

**After the tours**, you will be returned to the tour starting point to turn in your segways. Then, grab a taxi back to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the evening to relax in the hotel or continue to explore on your own.

**This evening dinner is on your own.** See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations on dining in Rome.

## Day 6 Italy: Rome - Florence

**Breakfast in the hotel.**

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**After breakfast**, you will check out of your hotel and meet your private English-speaking Driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the Train station to meet your train for Florence. Once you arrive at the Train Station, you will board the train for

Florence.

**Transfer to Florence – 10:00 am:**



**Arrival in Florence – 11:51 am:** Upon arrival in Florence, you will be met by your Private English-speaking driver and transferred to your hotel (TBD).

**Upon arrival at the hotel**, you will be met by the concierge who will welcome you with a private VIP check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation.

You will be at leisure to relax and get settled in.

**Lunch is on your own.** You may choose to stay in the hotel or venture out to explore the cafés close to the hotel.

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**After Lunch**, you will be at leisure for the remainder of the afternoon to explore on your own.

**6:30 pm:** Sunset Florence Bike Tour—Meet your private English-speaking professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel and then make your way to Central Florence, departure point close to Piazza della Signoria to get your bicycles and depart on the tour.

**Before you set off**, you will have a short introduction from your knowledgeable guide. Next, the journey begins as you weave through quaint Florence alley-ways and along cycle routes. Sit back and relax as you glide through the city on your comfortable bike, feel the cool breeze, breathe in the fresh air, and see Florence in a totally new way.

Watch day turn to night in the Renaissance city of Florence on this magical sunset cycling tour. For first-time visitors, this tour gives you a fantastic orientation and an opportunity to see virtually all of the famous sights you've read about - at sunset. If you're a veteran visitor, this guided tour is guaranteed to cast the city in a new light as you watch the sun set over the red rooftops of Florence.

Don't forget to bring your camera - there's time to stop at several vantage points to capture the sites as the sun sets.

**You return to the original departure point** close to Piazza della Signoria. At this time, you are free to continue exploring on your own or make your way back to your hotel.

**This evening dinner is on your own.** See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Florence.

### Day 7 Italy: Florence – Chianti Tuscany

**Breakfast in the hotel.**

**After breakfast**, you will meet your private English-speaking Driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to Chianti, in Tuscany for a Bike Tour through Tuscany.

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Leaving Florence, you'll travel by minivan to the Chianti area just outside the city. Pedaling along narrow shaded roads lined with old stone walls, you'll ride past romantic olive groves, vineyards, medieval castles, and hillside villa estates.

surroundings.

When you reach your destination you'll be rewarded by breathtaking panoramic views of Florence and its



You'll also visit a local wine estate and see the vineyard and cellars, you may taste Chianti wine and learn about winemaking, plus taste local extra virgin olive oil. (this is not mandatory and you do not have to join this tour if you would prefer to explore the grounds on your own.)

**Lunch will be included:** The tour includes a traditional Italian lunch, including

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bruschetta, pasta and wine and other beverages, to refresh you for your ride back to Florence.

Enjoy this bike tour for a magical day out in the beautiful countryside of Chianti (7 hrs.).

**After the touring is concluded we will be returned to the hotel** to relax or continue to explore on your own until time to meet your guide for your exciting dinner and show.



**Dinner – 7:45 pm:** Renaissance Court Banquet in Florence Palace.

Make like Renaissance nobility, and spend an evening in a Florentine ‘palazzo’ with a lavish 4-course banquet accompanied by Chianti wine, music and dancing.

In the palace’s opulent banqueting hall, feast on Tuscan dishes, such as ‘cinta senese’ pork, as dancers and classical musicians in 15th-century costumes provide the entertainment.

**Meet your host in central Florence**, and take a short stroll to one of the city’s beautiful palazzos for your evening Renaissance banquet. Head inside the exquisite banqueting halls of the noble residence, and take a seat at your table as music is provided by harps, flutes and the sweet, high-pitched tones of a soprano singer.



Take in the surroundings, enjoy the entertainment and watch the waiting staff, jesters and dancers — all dressed in beautiful Renaissance costumes — work their way around the room.

If you are lucky, you may be selected to dress up in costume and even learn some of the elegant 15th-century dances!



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As the show around you continues, savor your 4-course meal and sip on a glass of Chianti wine. Finish the meal with coffee and receive a personalized parchment certificate, bearing the emblem of the palace, before leaving.

The rest of the evening is at leisure to relax and enjoy the hotel, or spend some time enjoying the Florence night life.

## Day 8 Italy: Florence

### Breakfast in the hotel.

**After breakfast**, meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for an amazing day photographing Florence.



### Palaces, Palazzos and Bridges

**Photography Tour - 8:30 am:** Set off to begin your tour near the Palazzo Pitti.

Turn your vacation snaps into masterpieces on this 3-hour private photography walking tour of Florence.

With a professional photographer guide, explore the exquisite Piazza della Signoria and

Ponte Vecchio, plus some of the city's lesser-known sights as you learn how to capture their beauty on camera. Choose between the Birth of Renaissance tour that focuses on Florence's Renaissance gems; or book the Palaces, Palazzos and Bridges tour that adds the Palazzo Pitti and Boboli Gardens to the itinerary. Receive full attention from your guide on this private tour.

Start your walk and learn how Florence became a cradle of art in Renaissance times under its ruling Medici family, and how as a result, it offers countless photo opportunities for all levels of photographers.

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## Palaces, Palazzos and Bridges Tour

Meet your guide near the Palazzo Pitti and take shots of this magnificent building, once home to Florence's Medici rulers.

Next, enter the palace's Boboli Gardens, (own expense), laid out for the Medicis in the 16th century.

Line up photos as you explore the statue-lined paths.



Then continue to the Piazza della Signoria – Florence's central square.

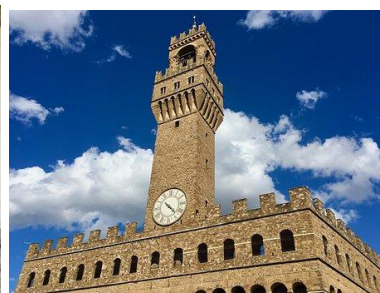


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Photograph the Palazzo Vecchio city hall and statues that frame the square, including the copy of Michelangelo's David.



Then, walk to the Arno River and cross the magnificent Ponte Vecchio. Built in the 14th century, this exquisite, shop-lined bridge cries out to be caught on camera.

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Stop en-route to capture the city's highlights on camera, as well as some lesser-known sights. Learn how to 'spot' great photos, master light and composition, and get invaluable tips on how to use your camera settings to best effect.

Continue to the Piazza della Repubblica, once the site of the Roman Forum, and now flanked by cafés. Capture the bustle here before strolling to the Church of Orsanmichele to photograph the statues that adorn this former 13th century granary.



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Lastly, visit the Ponte Santa Trinita, the arched bridge designed by Ammannati in the 16th century with tips from Michelangelo.



Point your camera at its statues and the Arno River from here before ending your tour (3 hours).

**Lunch is on your own.** You will have 3 hours to eat, relax, or explore on your own until your afternoon tour.

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**2:30 pm:** Meet your private English-speaking professional guide in the lobby of your hotel (or if you stay in town you can meet your guide at the Piazza della Signoria, in central Florence) for a private tour of Florence Duomo with Brunelleschi's Dome Climb.

You will Skip the 2 Hr. wait Lines and climb to the top of Brunelleschi's Dome with your expert guide!

Majestically dominating the city skyline, the terracotta dome of Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore (or Florence Duomo, as it's more commonly known) is easily Florence's most iconic attraction.

After experiencing this masterpiece of architectural genius, head inside the Cathedral Workshop to learn more about Filippo Brunelleschi, the dome's Renaissance architect.

After explaining the history of the Renaissance dome (known as the cupola) your guide will lead the way straight up its impressive 463-step staircase.

Taking roughly 45 minutes, the walk up the steps is not for the faint-hearted! Be prepared for a steep and narrow climb – hard work but most definitely worth it.

As you ascend through the 'onion layers', or two shells, of the dome, pass fascinating frescoes from esteemed Renaissance artists like Vasari and Zuccari.

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Once at the top, enjoy simply incomparable views over Florence and the Tuscan hills. Walk around the dome's balcony to take photos and soak up the sights, while your guide regales you with tales of Filippo Brunellechi, the talented Renaissance architect who created the dome itself.



After spending roughly 30 minutes at the top, start the careful descent back down the stairs. Relax at the bottom, before heading inside the Cathedral Workshop (Museum of

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Opera del Duomo) to explore with your guide. Hear about the engineering conundrum faced by Brunelleschi -- to create a dome for the 150-foot (45-meter) space without scaffolding or pillars -- and see tools used in the dome's construction, alongside Gothic and Renaissance sculptures. Your guided tour ends inside the museum.

**Break Time:** After your tour you will have approximately an hour and a half to relax in the city, perhaps have a coffee in a café or do some shopping.



Florence River Cruise on a Traditional Barchetto - **6:30 pm:**

**After your break,** make your way to the departure point in central Florence (Directions will be delivered to you prior to your departure) where you will meet your English-speaking professional local guide for a 30 minute walk to the Riverside.

Your local historian guide will introduce you to

the many charms of the city!

Walk through the distinctive Piazza Signoria, often considered the political hub of Florence, and pass the Uffizi Gallery before seeing the Ponte Vecchio, Florence's famous bridge that stretches across the Arno.

At the embarkation point, hop aboard your boat, one of Florence's rare original barchettos, and head down the Arno on a one-hour cruise. Meaning 'little boat' in Italian, the barchetto is a wooden gondola-style boat that was originally used (centuries ago) to carry building materials for Florence's city walls down the river.

While your guide unveils the secrets of the beautiful palaces that frame the riverside, your barcaiole, a true Florentine boat-handler, will expertly guide your barchetto with a long wooden oar.

Relaxing with a glass of Prosecco, you'll glide past the Uffizi Gallery, one of the most famous art museums in Italy, before sailing under the unique Ponte Vecchio.



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As you cruise, your guide will talk about the mysterious Vasari Corridor, the enclosed passageway that lines the Ponte Vecchio, and will explain the town's history.



You will also see countless other Florence attractions during your cruise, such as the Santa Trinita Bridge and Corsini Palace with its stunning Baroque architecture (1 ½ Hr.).

**After your boat tour**, you will be delivered to the pier, where you can enjoy a leisurely walk back to your hotel, stay in the area and explore a little more on your own, or hail a taxi to return to your hotel to relax until dinner.

**This evening dinner is on your own.** See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Florence. The rest of the evening is at leisure to relax and enjoy the hotel or spend some final moments in Florence tonight.

## Day 9 Italy: Florence

### Breakfast in the hotel.

**After breakfast**, check out of your hotel and meet your private English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel for your Transfer to Florence Airport - Time TBD: to connect with your International flights back to the US and forward to home.

**End of Services.**

Ready to plan your journey? Contact us today ! 678-500-9548

Schedule Your Creative Planning Session Now!

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