



ITALY

Florence, Siena, and Rome

Greenwich High School 2024

APRIL 11 – 19, 2024

Trinity College
Cultural Programs
in Italy



Embark on an unforgettable nine-day spring break adventure with your fellow Greenwich High School classmates! Discover the rich history, captivating culture, and exquisite artistry of Italy as we journey through the enchanting cities of Florence, Siena, San Gimignano, and Rome. Get ready to explore iconic landmarks like the world-renowned Uffizi and Accademia in Florence, the Piazza del Campo in Siena, and immerse yourself in the grandeur of St. Peter's Square, the awe-inspiring Pantheon, the majestic Colosseum, and the historical Forum in Rome. This incredible experience is open exclusively to students enrolled in Shapers of the World and AP Art History, so don't miss out on this opportunity to create lifelong memories while deepening your knowledge of art and history in Italy's most iconic cities!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Marvel in the works of Michelangelo, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, and more at the Uffizi and Accademia.
- Explore the medieval skyscrapers of San Gimignano.
- Trace the history and culture of the Ancient Romans as you visit the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Pantheon, and Palazzo Massimo.





ITINERARY

DAY 1 | THU | 11 APR | IN FLIGHT

Departure for Italy

Depart Greenwich High School for a coach transfer to New York JFK. Depart New York JFK to Rome Fiumicino FCO on ITA Airways, overnight flight 603.

DAY 2 | FRI | 12 APR | FLORENCE

Arrive Rome, Train to Florence, City Walk, Santa Maria Novella, Orientation & Safety Talk

Upon arrival at Rome-Fiumicino International Airport “Leonardo da Vinci,” our Group Leaders will be available outside customs to direct the group to the train station. We’ll continue our journey via high-speed train to Florence Santa Maria Novella, with the added perk of beverages and snacks during the train ride.

Upon our arrival in Florence, we’ll head to our hotel to drop off our luggage. From there, we’ll embark on an immersive orientation walk led by a local expert, exploring the charming streets and rich history of this captivating city. Our walk will culminate at the magnificent Santa Maria Novella, an architectural gem and art treasure trove. This basilica, constructed in the 15th century, features a renowned façade designed by Leon Battista Alberti. Inside, we’ll marvel at 15th-century frescoes by artists like Masaccio, Domenico Ghirlandaio (and possibly a young Michelangelo), Lorenzo Ghiberti, Giambologna, Bernardo Daddi, and Filippino Lippi.

Returning to our hotel, we’ll check into our rooms and have time to refresh before gathering in the meeting room for an Orientation and Safety session. Here, our Group Leaders will provide introductions, review the program schedule, cover logistics, safety guidelines, emergency procedures, and address any questions. We will also discuss COVID-19 protocols, ensuring we adhere to all relevant requirements and policies throughout the program.

LUNCH-DINNER

HOTEL MAXIM AXIAL

DAY 3 | SAT | 13 APR | FLORENCE

Renaissance Art Lecture, Galleria dell’Accademia, Galleria degli Uffizi

We will walk to a local venue to attend a lecture with an esteemed art historian. This expert will provide a captivating overview of medieval and Renaissance art, preparing us for our upcoming field trips to the renowned Accademia and Uffizi.

We will walk to the Accademia for a lecture on one of the most famous statues in the world, Michelangelo’s David. In addition to admiring this extraordinary figure, we will also see the unfinished statues known as the Prisoners. It has been suggested that Michelangelo left them in their incomplete state to symbolize the struggle of humankind to free the spirit from matter.

We will then have time for independent exploration in the Accademia that includes works by other great sculptors and artists—many of which were collected by the Medici and donated to the Grand Duchy of Tuscany—and a Museum of Musical Instruments.

We will walk to the reserved entrance of the Galleria degli Uffizi for our self-directed field trip, where we are free to venture through the museum at our own pace and explore according to our individual interests. Renowned as the most extensive collection of Renaissance art worldwide, the Uffizi showcases a remarkable journey through various artistic periods, from Gothic to medieval, Renaissance to Mannerist, encompassing painting, architecture, and sculpture. Within its hallowed halls, we will encounter a multitude of iconic masterpieces, including Leonardo da Vinci’s mesmerizing Annunciation, Botticelli’s ethereal Birth of Venus and enchanting Primavera, captivating works by Titian, Michelangelo’s poignant Holy Family, as well as a selection of Caravaggio and Artemisia Gentileschi’s compelling artworks.

It is worth noting that a coffee bar awaits us at the end of the second corridor, atop the Loggia. Here, we can relish a moment of refreshment while marveling at the splendid view of the Palazzo Vecchio and the magnificent Duomo. This provides an ideal opportunity to rejuvenate, sip a delightful beverage, and enjoy a well-deserved rest amidst the artistic wonders that surround us.

BREAKFAST-DINNER

HOTEL MAXIM AXIAL



DAY 4 | SUN | 14 APR | FLORENCE

Palazzo Pitti, Santa Felicita, San Miniato al Monte, Opera Concert

We’ll set out on foot for our expert-led field trip to Santa Felicita and the Palazzo Pitti, both nestled in a neighborhood called the Oltrarno, on the south bank of the Arno. Our first stop on our morning walk is the church of Santa Felicita, near the Ponte Vecchio and Palazzo Pitti, where there is a vibrantly colored Deposition by Jacopo Pontormo.

We continue a couple of blocks down the main road to the imposing Palazzo Pitti. Built in 1458, the Palazzo Pitti is a monumental emblem of the Renaissance, imbued with profound historical and artistic value. Named after Luca Pitti, a prominent Florentine banker, this grand palace became the Medici family’s home from 1589 until the passing of its final member, Anna Maria Luisa de’ Medici, in 1743. During Tuscany’s subjugation to French rule, it served as Napoleon’s residence and later became the regal palace of the House of Savoy during Italian Unification. Today, it hosts an impressive art collection featuring works from esteemed artists like Antonio Canova, Artemisia Gentileschi, Raphael, Tiziano, and Peter Paul Rubens.

The Group Leaders will let you know the appointed time and place to set out for our San Miniato al Monte visit. We'll set out on foot, embarking on a scenic springtime journey that involves ascending hills and traversing ancient staircases that overlook the picturesque city of Florence. This remarkable adventure leads us to the 11th-century basilica of San Miniato, which serves as a historical landmark and continues to operate as an Olivetan monastery. The basilica is famed for its breathtaking façade, a masterpiece of architectural artistry, and its interior boasts a collection of exceptional mosaics that narrate captivating stories of the past.

At a venue in the heart of the Oltrarno, we will attend a captivating performance of opera arias by Giacomo Puccini, a treasured native son of Tuscany from the nearby city of Lucca. The live performance is with a solo artist with piano accompaniment, breathing life into Puccini's timeless masterpieces.

BREAKFAST-DINNER
HOTEL MAXIM AXIAL

DAY 5 | MON | 15 APR | SIENA

Transfer to San Gimignano, Agriturismo, Siena Orientation Walk

After breakfast, our bags are loaded onto the bus, and we check out of the hotel. We drive south of Florence toward the famed medieval hilltop city of San Gimignano, where the magic of the medieval era lingers in every corner. Our local expert will lead us on a remarkable journey, delving into this Etruscan town's captivating history and architectural marvels. Marvel at the well-preserved medieval aspect that permeates the streets, a testament to the city's rich heritage.

Once a city adorned with an astonishing 77 towers, each vying for prominence in family rivalries, San Gimignano offers a glimpse into the fascinating dynamics of medieval society. Discover the intrigue behind these towering structures, symbols of power and status strategically built throughout the town.

Leaving the captivating confines of San Gimignano, we embark on a short bus ride, venturing a few miles outside the town to an organic farm. Here, amidst the peaceful Tuscan countryside, we uncover the intricate process behind the production of extra-virgin olive oil, the cultivation of local wines, and the care and preservation of the cherished Chianina cattle.

Following lunch, we will continue by bus to Siena, where we check into our hotel.

After settling into our rooms, we will meet a local expert who will lead us on a walking field trip into the heart of Siena. Our journey will bring us to the awe-inspiring Siena Cathedral—also known as the Duomo—a marvel adorned with intricate decorations, and the expansive Piazza del Campo, which holds the legendary Palio horse race held every July and August.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH
HOTEL MINERVA

DAY 6 | TUE | 16 APR | ROME

Transfer to Rome, Palazzo Massimo alle Terme, History of Rome Lecture

After breakfast, our bags are loaded onto the bus, and we check out of the hotel. We drive south of Siena toward Rome.

We will walk to the Palazzo Massimo alle Terme, a magnificent 19th-century residence. Here, we will be treated to an expert-led museum visit, which boasts expansive, sun-drenched exhibition halls displaying a remarkable collection of ancient Roman art. Among the treasures, you'll find the captivating bronze sculpture Boxer at Rest and a stunning array of frescoes, including those from the dining

room of Villa di Livia, the former residence of Caesar Augustus' (Octavian) wife.

Following our visit, we will board our bus that will take us to the drop-off point nearest to our hotel.

After a short break, we will convene in the hotel's designated meeting room upon our return from the Colosseum and Forum. Here, we will be joined by a local history professor whose expertise will guide us in unraveling the intricate layers of Roman history. This engaging session will be a captivating introduction, setting the stage for our upcoming explorations and deepening our understanding of this remarkable city's past.

Rome, known as the Eternal City, has a rich and storied history of over 2,500 years. Founded in 753 BCE, Rome began as a small village and grew into a mighty empire that dominated the Mediterranean world. It witnessed the rise and fall of great civilizations, from the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire, leaving a legacy in governance, engineering, art, and culture. Rome was the center of power and influence, producing iconic figures such as Julius Caesar, Augustus, and Constantine the Great. It witnessed triumphs, conquests, and significant architectural achievements, including the Colosseum, Pantheon, and the expansive network of aqueducts.

BREAKFAST-DINNER
HOTEL NAVONA



DAY 7 | WED | 17 APR | ROME

Colosseum, Roman Forum, Rome's Piazzes, Pantheon

Our day begins as we board a bus or vans to take us to Piazza del Colosseo, where we will be joined by our local expert who will captivate our imagination as we envision the now-ruined buildings. Our field trip will then proceed to the Colosseum, where intriguing anecdotes about Roman entertainment from centuries past will be shared. Constructed in 80 CE and officially named the Flavian Amphitheater, the Colosseum stood as the grandest structure in the Roman Empire. Spanning an impressive 620 by 513 feet, it had a seating capacity of over 50,000 spectators. The methods employed to create the numerous wonders within its walls continue to mystify architects and researchers today. Throughout history and even in contemporary popular culture, it has become an iconic symbol of gladiatorial combat and the tragic fate endured by countless enslaved people, prisoners of war, condemned criminals, and animals from across the empire. Those with the energy and stamina are welcome to climb the 10-foot-high steps to reach the upper level.

After our lunch, we will meet at the entrance to the Colosseo Metro stop to take the Metro to Spagna, where we will embark on a captivating walking field trip with a local expert to explore three iconic landmarks nestled in the heart of Rome: The Spanish Steps, the Pantheon, and Piazza Navona.

Our walk begins at the Spanish Steps, an iconic Roman landmark with immense historical and cultural significance. This grand staircase, consisting of 135 steps, is a popular gathering place and a symbol

of the city's charm. Designed in the 18th century, the Spanish Steps connect the Piazza di Spagna at the base with the Trinità dei Monti church at the top, offering a breathtaking city view. Visitors and locals can be found lounging on the steps, enjoying the bustling atmosphere, and admiring the surrounding architecture. The Spanish Steps have inspired artists, writers, and filmmakers throughout the years, cementing their status as a must-visit destination in Rome.

Our next destination is the Pantheon, a remarkable testament to ancient Rome's architectural prowess and the best-preserved monument of its kind. While historical accounts credit Emperor Hadrian for its commission in 118–125 CE, recent studies propose an earlier origin. The Pantheon's design achievements and original purpose continue to bewilder archaeologists, architects, and historians. Stepping inside, we will witness the play of natural light through the ceiling's oculus, illuminating the niches along the interior perimeter.

Our final stop is the vibrant Piazza Navona, which holds a captivating history. This long oval piazza has since evolved into the quintessential Baroque setting, initially built by Emperor Domitian between 81–96 CE as a venue for track and field games. The buildings lining the perimeter mimic the footprint of ancient bleachers. Within this lively square, artists and performers bring life to its charming atmosphere. We will encounter Gian Lorenzo Bernini's awe-inspiring Fountain of the Four Rivers at its center and admire Francesco Borromini's architectural masterpiece, the church of St. Agnes, on the west side.

BREAKFAST
HOTEL NAVONA

DAY 8 | THU | 18 APR | ROME

Jewish Rome, Galleria Borghese

We will embark on a walk that will take us to a gate of the Jewish Quarter, where we will meet a knowledgeable local guide. They will lead us on a captivating field trip through what was once the Jewish Ghetto, spanning the 16th to 19th centuries. While Rome had a Jewish community even before the Diaspora, the establishment of the Ghetto was a result of the Catholic Counter-Reformation in 1555, ordered by the Pope.

Within the confines of a mere seven-acre area located in the flood zone of the Tiber, Jews were forced to reside. They were confined behind a wall and stripped of many rights and privileges. This arrangement endured until the unification of Italy under a secular government in 1870, which restored their citizenship. Today, the neighborhood has transformed into a vibrant and bustling community. Apart from the remarkable Jewish Museum of Rome and the magnificent Great Synagogue, the area offers excellent dining options showcasing the rich traditions of Roman Jewish cuisine.

Our next destination will be the renowned Galleria Borghese, an opulent palace that once served as the private pleasure and reception residence of Cardinal Scipio Borghese (1577-1633), a notable art collector, patron of the young Bernini and nephew of Pope Paul V. Accompanied by a local expert, we will enter the gallery at our scheduled time to embark on an enlightening exploration. Within the gallery's walls, we will encounter an impressive array of significant artworks, including paintings by masters such as Caravaggio, Raphael, Botticelli, and Titian. However, the collection's true highlight lies in Bernini's emotionally charged sculptures, which eloquently capture the essence of the Baroque era. After our captivating visit, we will make our way to the designated bus pick-up point, concluding our field trip and returning to the hotel.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER
HOTEL NAVONA

DAY 9 | FRI | 19 APR | DEPART

Departure for USA

Depart Rome Fiumicino FCO to New York JFK on ITA Airway, flight 608. Depart New York JFK for a coach transfer to Greenwich High School.

BREAKFAST



MEET YOUR GUIDE

BIANCA OBRADOVIC

Bianca Obradovic hails from the former Yugoslavia, but her journey led her to Italy over three decades ago when she pursued her studies at the American Business School in Rome. This beautiful country soon became her beloved home. Bianca is a true polyglot with proficiency in English, Italian, French, Arabic, and several other languages. Her extensive experience spans various roles, including site coordination and group leadership for numerous educational travel companies in Italy and the Mediterranean.

PRICING DETAILS

\$4,250 per person

Price includes:

- Airfare relevant to itinerary
- Accommodations, meals as indicated in itinerary, and beverages with meals
- Sightseeing and activities as described, including entrance fees
- Rail tickets relevant to itinerary
- Private vehicle transportation and driver
- Full-time guide for duration of the program
- Travel protection, including medical and trip cancellation
- All gratuities
- Departure tax

Price does not include: Passport fees, some meals (4 lunches; 2 dinners), or items of a personal nature.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on 32 student participants.

A \$500 non-refundable deposit is due Friday, September 29, 2023.

Payment 1 of \$1,875 is due Friday, November 17, 2023.

Payment 2 of \$1,875 is due Friday, January 5, 2024, at which time all funds become non-refundable.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO ENROLL

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