



Venetian Bridge. Photo credit: Mike Beales.

Ceiling detail, Vatican Museum. Photo credit: BrYYZ

See wonders of our world, including the Colosseum in Rome and St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. Wander the canals of Venice. Learn about Julius Caesar, St. Peter, St. Francis of Assisi, the Poor Sisters of Clare, Michelangelo, Mussolini, and pirates of the Mediterranean—among others. Gain an understanding of forces that have shaped much human activity over the centuries, from Roman civilization, to the Catholic faith, to the Renaissance. Find out why Italy is called the country of Romance. This well-paced tour includes opportunities to explore on your own and time to stop, look, listen, and taste. Travel will be on foot and by train or public transit—so you can mingle with the locals. The Friesens have been to Italy several times and have curated this tour of some the best parts of the country. Len is a history professor and Mary is an educator and special education consultant; together they have led several tours that combine learning and leisure.

Itinerary

Thursday, April 4 Rome

Arrive in Rome after a day of travelling. Greet your tour leaders and gather with your travel companions for a welcome dinner and tour overview at your hotel.

Friday, April 5 Rome

Tour some of Rome's impressive ruins, including the mighty Colosseum and the Roman Forum. Continue your walking tour this afternoon to see the Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, and the Spanish Steps. Make a wish at Trevi Fountain, one of the most famous baroque fountains in the world. Pause on the Spanish Steps to overlook the city. After dinner, rest or stroll the city streets by night with Len and Mary.

Saturday, April 6 Rome

The UNESCO World Heritage site of Vatican City is rich in culture and history. See the renowned city as well as St. Peter's Basilica—the largest church in the world. Explore the city on your own this afternoon, or join Len and Mary for a walk which may include touring Trastevere, a district of narrow streets and ancient churches. Or find a spot in a local café or piazza (city square) and watch modern Romans going about their business.

Sunday, April 7 Assisi

Enjoy the scenery and chat with fellow travellers on a train bound for Assisi. After dinner at a local restaurant, spend the evening resting, or explore the city on foot alongside with the Friesens. Incredibly, this beautiful hillside town has been preserved to look much as it did in St. Francis's time.

Monday, April 8 Assisi

Spend the morning at the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi—an important pilgrimage destination for people touched by the life of the 12th century friar. Dine near the ancient Roman ruins of the Central Piazza, then discover more of Assisi at your leisure. If you'd rather, you can take a guided walk to the Basilica of St. Clare with Len and Mary. Learn about the Order of the Poor Clares, or ascend the heights of St. Francis's hermitage.

Tuesday, April 9 Florence

If time permits, return to the Basilica of St. Francis for a final visit in the morning. Board a direct train to Florence and enjoy another relaxing train ride across the Italian countryside. Get acquainted with the city on an evening walkabout and receive an overview of the next few days with your tour leaders.

Wednesday, April 10 Florence

Immerse yourself in the art of Italian Renaissance painters at the Uffizi Gallery. A knowledgeable guide will give you insight into the works of these artists. After lunch near the Piazza della Signoria, investigate the Florence on foot. See the Ponte Vecchio, the beautiful Santa Maria Duomo Cathedral, and the Baptistry of San Giovanni, a church from the 4th or 5th century believed to have been built on the site of an even more ancient Roman place of worship. If you choose, take part in an evening visit to Piazzale Michelangelo for stunning, panoramic views of Florence.

Thursday, April 11 Florence

Tour Florence Cathedral, Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze (with Michelangelo's incomparable "David") and other architectural wonders of this culturally rich city. In the afternoon, get to know the city a little better—browse the shops, or sit in a café and marvel at the renaissance beauty of Florence, Italy.

Friday, April 12 Venice

After a final few hours in Florence, travel on to Venice. Begin your afternoon with a leisurely cruise down the canals with a guide pointing out the sights as you sail through this beautiful UNESCO Heritage city.

Saturday, April 13 Venice

Explore St. Mark's Square and the Basilica. Climb the steps of the Campanile in the Piazza to see Venice from above. With suggestions from Len and Mary, discover some of Venice's many canals and bridges or some of the city's piazzas. Share favourite memories of your tour over dinner at a local restaurant.

Sunday, April 14

Depart for North America.

Fare per person:

CAD: Double Occupancy \$4,462; Single supplement \$1,027

USD: Double Occupancy \$3,432 Single Supplement \$790

Fare includes

- Hotel accommodations
- Train transportation: Rome to Assisi, Assisi to Florence, Florence to Venice
- Airport transfer in Venice
- Entrance fees included in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, all dinners
- Expert tour leaders & local guides
- Gratuities for drivers, guides, and group meals

Fare excludes

- International airfare
- Airport transfer in Rome
- In-city local transit (public bus, tram, etc.)
- All lunches
- Drinks with meals
- Hotel portage
- Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance

Insurance

Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance are not mandatory but are highly recommended.

Payments

Rates shown are in effect 05/18. Though every effort is made to maintain established prices, TM reserves the right to adjust prices should it become necessary. The price is guaranteed when paid in full. We accept cheque and credit card payments. Credit card payments are charged a 3% fee.

Canadian contact:

501 - 20 Erb St W
Waterloo, ON N2L 1T2

USA contact:

2308 Wood Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Telephone: 519.885.2522

Fax: 519.885.0941

Toll-free: 800.565.0451

office@tourmagination.com

www.tourmagination.com

TICO # 5001432



TourMagination
discovery+community



Post-Tour Extension: Cinque Terre

Join Len and Mary for three days in the glorious Cinque Terre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with five ancient seaside villages on the Italian Riviera. Set amidst lemon groves and a rugged coastline that tumbles into the sea, and with quaint narrow streets, the Cinque Terre is a walker's paradise.

Itinerary

Sunday, April 14 Venice to the Cinque Terre

Travel by train from Venice to the Cinque Terre (or "Five Lands"). En route, hear stories of Pisa as you pass through this famous city, and see the chalk white cliffs of the most famous marble quarry in the world: Carrara, the source of Michelangelo's David and countless other monuments. Settle into Monterosso al Mare, the only village with a beach and beachside promenade.

Monday, April 15 A Walking Tour from Monterosso to Corniglia

Today, see three of the five villages as you walk from Monterosso to the ancient fishing village of Vernazza. From there, head to the mountain-top village of Corniglia (the only one of the villages not on the sea). Relax on the train back to your base in Monterosso for a leisurely evening overlooking the waters of the Ligurian Sea.

Tuesday, April 16 A Walking Tour From Corniglia to Riomaggiore.

This morning, take the train back to Corniglia and continue your walks through the Cinque Terre. Go first to Manarola, the oldest of the villages. From there it is a short walk to the final village of Riomaggiore. Then take the train back to Monterosso. At some point today you'll stop at an ancient square for Italian coffee and sweets, explore an ancient church and narrow streets, and savour lunch overlooking this World Heritage Site.

Wednesday, April 17 Monterosso to Milan

Depart from the Cinque Terre this morning, but your trip is not over as you head by train for Milan. Tour the Duomo (Cathedral), one of the greatest Gothic churches in the world. You'll also take the "Lift" which will allow you to walk on the roof. Enjoy a final meal together in the heart of ancient Milan.

Thursday, April 18

Say farewell to your fellow travellers as you board your flights for home.

Extension Fare per person:

CAD: Double Occupancy \$1,689; Single supplement \$250

USD: Double Occupancy \$1,298 Single Supplement \$193

Extension Fare includes

- Hotel accommodations
- Train transportation: Venice to Monterosso, Monterosso to Milan
- Transit card for Cinque Terre region
- All entrance fees and guided walking tours as outlined in itinerary
- Expert tour leaders and local guides
- All breakfasts, Farewell dinner
- Gratuities for in-country guides & group meals

Extension Fare excludes

- International airfare
- Airport transfer in Milan
- 4 lunches, 3 dinners; drinks with meals
- Hotel portage
- Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance

Insurance

Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance are not mandatory but are highly recommended.

Payments

Rates shown are in effect 12/18. Though every effort is made to maintain established prices, TM reserves the right to adjust prices should it become necessary. The price is guaranteed when paid in full. We accept cheque and credit card payments. Credit card payments are charged a 3% fee.

Canadian contact:

501 - 20 Erb St W
Waterloo, ON N2L 1T2

USA contact:

2308 Wood Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Telephone: 519.885.2522

Fax: 519.885.0941

Toll-free: 800.565.0451

office@tourmagination.com

www.tourmagination.com