



FLORENCE, ROME AND ATHENS



*Educational
Tours*



Discover the Global Classroom

10 or 13 DAYS

Florence, Rome and Athens

Italy • Greece



Number of overnight stays in parentheses. This tour may also be reversed.

Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 7 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms, plus 1 night ferry accommodations (plus 3 nights cabin accommodations with extension)
- European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time bilingual EF Tour Director
- 6 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: Florence • Vatican City • Rome • Pompeii Delphi • Athens
- 2 EF walking tours: Rome • Athens
- 9 visits to special attractions: Duomo • Leather-making demonstration Sistine Chapel • St. Peter's Basilica • Colosseum Pompeii Roman ruins • Delphi Site Delphi Museum • Acropolis

WITH EXTENSION: All of the above PLUS:

- Greek Evening
- 3-day Greek island cruise with optional excursions, including: Mykonos Walking Tour, Rhodes and Lindos, Old City and Philirimos, Lindos, St. John's Monastery and Grotto of the Apocalypse, Scenic Island Tour, Ephesus and the House of the Virgin Mary, Ancient Ephesus



Witness ancient wonders like Rome's Colosseum and take in the majesty of the Renaissance in Florence.



Day 1: Flight

Overnight flight to Italy • Relax as you fly across the Atlantic.

Day 2: Milan • Florence

Arrival in Milan • Touch down in Milan, fashion and finance capital of Italy. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your bilingual EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

Transfer to Florence • Arrive in Florence, birthplace of the Italian language, the Renaissance and opera.

Day 3: Florence

Guided sightseeing of Florence • Fall under the spell of the powerful Medici family on your guided tour. Pass the classical statues of the Piazza della Signoria, where Michelangelo's David originally stood and is now the site of an impressive replica. From behind the Uffizi Palace, you will see the Ponte Vecchio, one of the city's only bridges to survive WWII and now one of its most photographed sites. The bridge provided the Medici easy access from the Pitti Palace to the Uffizi. Continue past the Chiesa di Santa Croce, final resting place of Michelangelo, Machiavelli and Galileo. Next, you will visit the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, better known as the Duomo, or dome, that dominates Florence's skyline. The dome was sculptor and architect Brunelleschi's finest work, and the nearby campanile (bell tower) was designed by the painter Giotto. Look for the famous bronzed doors – Ghiberti's legendary Gates of Paradise – at the Baptistery opposite the Duomo. Later, watch artisans at work at a local leather-making demonstration.

Day 4: Florence • Rome

Travel to Rome • Continue on to bella Roma, the Eternal City. Here, Charlemagne was crowned emperor by the pope in A.D. 800.

Visit the Colosseum • Spend time exploring the mighty Colosseum, Rome's largest amphitheatre. Its elaborate construction spanned two emperors – building began between A.D. 70 and 72 under Vespasian and was completed in A.D. 80 under Titus. Originally built to accommodate nearly 50,000 spectators, the Colosseum played host to some of the most incredible spectacles of the day, including gladiatorial combat, mock sea battles, animal hunts, executions and even dramatic performances based on classical mythology.

Day 5: Rome

Visit to Vatican City • Today, you will explore Vatican City, the world's smallest country. Begin at the Vatican Museum, where elaborate galleries filled with one artistic masterpiece after another lead you directly to the Sistine Chapel. Between 1508 and 1512, Michelangelo painted some of the world's finest pictorial images on the chapel's ceiling. This was his first attempt at working in fresco, which he did by standing up and craning backward from a scaffold. Next, tour St. Peter's Basilica, erected on the site where the saint was martyred. Enter the basilica under the watchful eyes of the brightly dressed Swiss Guard. Inside, admire Michelangelo's Pietà, the only sculpture he ever signed.

Guided sightseeing of Rome • Get to know Imperial Rome with a panoramic overview followed by a walking tour. Pass by the Forum Romanum, once the heart of the Roman Empire. Stop at the Trevi Fountain and make sure to toss

in a coin to ensure your return to Rome. Then view the Pantheon, one of the best-preserved ancient buildings in the city, commissioned by the Emperor Hadrian around A.D. 120. This temple to “all the gods” features the second-widest dome in Rome. Then, during free time, continue to the Piazza Navona before meeting at the Spanish Steps prior to dinner.

Day 6: Rome • Night Ferry

Transfer to Brindisi • Leave for Brindisi this morning, where you will board the overnight ferry to Patras, Greece. Stop en route to explore the ruins of Pompeii.

Guided sightseeing of Pompeii • Learn how wealthy Romans lived 2,000 years ago on an excursion to Pompeii, one of the richest archaeological sites in the world. When neighbouring Mount Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79, volcanic ash completely buried the Roman resort, perfectly preserving the minutiae of daily life. Now it is fully excavated, and you can see ruins of villas, ancient temples and the Stabian Baths.

Arrival in Brindisi • Board the ferry to Patras.

Day 7: Patras • Delphi

Arrival in Patras • Disembark in Patras. Capital of the Peloponnese, Patras serves as a hub for ships travelling among the Greek islands and the ports of Italy.

Travel to Delphi • Journey through vineyards and orchards to Delphi, home of the mystical Oracle.

Day 8: Delphi • Athens

Guided sightseeing of Delphi • As you tour Delphi, ponder the mysteries of what lies in your future, as did Greece’s ancient military leaders, who left gifts for the Oracle in hopes of good fortune in battle. Then visit the Temple of Apollo where, according to legend, the god communicated with mortals. Your visit concludes with a stop at the Delphi Museum, whose collection boasts many artifacts dating back to 550 B.C., reminiscent of the mythical past of ancient Greece.

Arrival in Athens • Arrive in Athens, Cradle of Democracy and birthplace of Western civilization.

Day 9: Athens

Guided sightseeing of Athens • An expert local guide introduces you to the antiquities of Athens. Climb the Acropolis to view the majestic Parthenon, perhaps the world’s greatest architectural feat. See the Temple of Athena Nike, which once housed a gold statue of the goddess (her wings were clipped to keep her from ever deserting the city). Athens is named after Athena, the goddess of war and wisdom. After seeing the Presidential Guard in their traditional costumes, pass the stadium, where the first modern Olympics were held in 1896, as well as lively Omonia and Syntagma squares. During free time you may have later, use your ticket from this morning’s sightseeing to explore other sights in Athens. Visit the Agora, ancient Athens’ political, economic and commercial

centre, which holds the remains of the Temple of Hephaistos, begun in 449 B.C. You might visit the Athenian Cemetery, a who’s who of Ancient Athens. It contains impressive family tombs, where statesmen, warriors and authors were laid to rest.

EF walking tour of Athens • Get acquainted with the endearing Plaka district. Stroll past Hadrian’s Arch and the Temple of Olympian Zeus, built to honour the most powerful of all Greek gods – construction began in 515 B.C.

Optional Greek Evening • Tonight, opt to experience Greece’s unique and colourful culture during an evening of traditional entertainment and cuisine. Enjoy an authentic meal composed of typical dishes at a specially selected taverna in or near the famous old Plaka district of Athens. Watch an enthralling belly-dance performance, and witness the fancy footwork and twirling bravado of traditional Greek dancing while musicians perform on bouzoukis, stringed instruments unique to Greece. Musical instruments, which date from the Bronze Age in Greece, have long played a central role in Greek tradition, as have regional dances. Experience firsthand this thrilling element of Greek culture!

Day 10: Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you’ll check in for your return flight home.

EXTENSION

Days 10–13: Island Cruise

Cruise extension (seasonal) • Your group can plan to stay for a three-day cruise of the beautiful whitewashed isles of Greece. Your ports of call include picturesque Mykonos, Patmos, Kusadasi and Rhodes. The cruise line offers special optional excursions at these ports, such as a visit to Ephesus in Kusadasi, where you will explore the ruins of Ancient Ephesus and the House of the Virgin Mary, where it is said she lived her last years. In between, you’ll have plenty of time to enjoy life on board the ship. Free-time options while you’re at sea include shopping, games, fitness activities, swimming and sunning. (Please note that the cruise is seasonal and the itinerary is subject to change.) Fly home from Athens on Day 13.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.

The Pantheon in Rome – a circular temple built to honour all the gods – has stood the test of time since A.D. 120.



Discover the Global Classroom



Educational Tours

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(in Quebec: 1-866-750-2550)**