



“Belle Roma e Firenze”
April 26 – May 10, 2014

Two weeks in April and May 2014 can be among the most memorable of your life, if you spend them exploring the cultural legacy of Rome and Florence under the leadership of Geneva College Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts and Humanities Elizabeth “Betty” Douglas and Dr. Jeffrey Cole, Professor of History and Resident Faculty of the Geneva College Semester in Rome. The trip will be an enjoyable adventure in lifelong learning, enabling you to explore select historical monuments and artifacts from antiquity to the present, while you experience the vibrancy of the cafes, *trattorias*, and other aspects of contemporary life in Italy. Our selection of accommodations and means of transportation reflect the local culture which is different from the experiences that hundreds of thousands of tourists to Italy have each year.

Activities

The trip is designed to include self-directed as well as programmed activities. You will have the opportunity to make choices that suit your own interests. Evenings are left open for doing what you’d like. The pace is designed for enrichment rather than speed; this will not be a mad dash from one site to the next or provide frustrating views of magnificent sites from the windows of a tour bus.

Itinerary

Saturday, April 26: Departure for Italy

Airfare is not included in the tour cost so that participants can make their own reservations. We have found that many people have airline miles or vouchers that they prefer to use. For those wishing to travel with the group from Pittsburgh to Rome (or meet at the gateway city, probably Philadelphia), we will be happy to book or help book tickets on the flight to Rome and will make every effort to get everyone on the same flight.

Sunday, April 27: Arrival & First Day in Italy

Your overnight flight arrives in the Eternal City.

Participants flying on the flight with the majority of the group will be met at the airport by Geneva personnel and taken to Geneva’s Rome Campus via private shuttle. Those arriving separately should book their own transportation to campus.

Our address in Rome is:

Geneva College in Rome
Via Nomentana, 333
00162 Rome, Italy
Vonage phone: 724.359.4696

We'll settle in, taking time for acclimatization and orientation to the neighborhood surrounding the campus. After lunch we'll take a walking tour to the nearby churches, tombs and catacombs of Priscilla, as well as the Church of Sta. Agnese and Mausoleum of Sta. Costanza, all with origins in Early Christian Rome. Not only are they close by, but have the added advantage of seldom being overrun by large tourist groups. You will have the evening to start becoming acquainted with the city, using your Metro pass which is valid on all public buses, electric trams, and subways for the duration of your time in Rome.

Monday, April 28: The Roman Forum, Palatine Hill, Colosseum and Capitoline Hill

We'll spend the morning touring the heart of ancient Rome, the Forum. Its ruins allow us to see clearly the "center-and-path" principle of urban planning that is one of Rome's enduring legacies. After lunch, we'll explore other remarkable historical sites: the Palatine Hill, site of Rome's legendary founding, the Flavian Amphitheater (popularly known as the Colosseum) and the Capitoline Hill. Michelangelo's masterpiece of urban planning and design in the Piazza del Campidoglio is the crowning experience here. We'll also see modern Italy's attempt to match it in the Monument Vittorio Emanuele. The evening might include dinner in Trastevere, a district that has become known as the popular district of Rome, is recommended. The area is alive at night, especially in the Piazza del Santa Maria in Trastevere. Restaurants abound. Some of the best are found off the main streets and tucked into narrow alleys.

Tuesday, April 29: The Vatican Museums

The Vatican Museums, founded by Pope Julius II early in the 16th century, house what is arguably the greatest collection of art and artifacts in the world. Michelangelo, who was in the pope's employ at the time, curated its first acquisitions. His Sistine Chapel murals, as well as those of this contemporary Raphael in the Stanza della Segnatura, are included in the Vatican Museums tour. A single day, rich as the experience may be, barely introduces its breath-taking treasures. The evening will be open.

Wednesday, April 30: The Pantheon, San' Clemente, and San' Giovanni Laterano

It is impossible to overstate the importance of the dome of the Pantheon, the ancient Roman temple that carries the mother of all the great domes of the world. We'll begin with this great engineering feat before going on to the Church of San' Clemente and its astonishing layers of archeological history going back to a pre-Christian temple. After lunch we'll take in the ecclesiastical riches of San' Giovanni Laterano, which preceded St. Peter's as the seat of the papacy. The remainder of the day is yours.

Thursday, May 1: St. Peter's Basilica and Piazza

Today we will visit St. Peter's Basilica. The dome of St. Peter's is one of the Pantheon's most prominent offspring. As an architectural monument, St. Peter's stands as the culmination of Renaissance classicism and Baroque triumphalism. The work of many architects and designers over several generations, its unity can be ascribed to the commanding conception of Lorenzo Bernini. The embracing arms of the Colonnade that defines the Piazza del San Pietro are so inviting that visitors

unquestioningly respond. Its façade is one of the most imitated in the world. We'll be reminded again of the historical span of Rome's glory as we note the visual dialogue with Castel Sant' Angelo. The evening is free.

Friday, May 2: Tuscany: Pisa and Florence

This morning we'll hop on a train headed for the Tuscany. We'll go first to Pisa and stow our baggage while we tour. In 1987 the medieval Piazza dei Miracoli, with the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, the Baptistry and Campanile (the famed "Leaning Tower"), was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll revel in these unparalleled masterpieces of high medieval art and architecture. We'll go to Florence prepared to witness the difference. Once we check into our accommodations, we'll visit the medieval Church of San' Miniato al Monte and take in the beautiful overlook view of the city from the Piazzale Michelangelo. We'll find a place to dine and end the day.

Saturday, May 3: Florence

The Renaissance, "Rinascita," proclaimed its arrival in 15th century Florence. We'll begin at the center of this city which was once a Roman outpost, and well demonstrates the center-and-path planning concept. The Piazza del Duomo, with the Cathedral of Sta. Maria del Fiori, the Baptistry and Giotto's Campanile, is the spiritual heart of Florence. We'll spend the morning there. You'll have the option of climbing Brunelleschi's dome that sits atop the cathedral. Some of you might want to visit the Duomo Museum where all of the Duomo's beautiful works of art are housed. (These optional sites are on your own at your own cost.) After lunch, we'll visit the Piazza and Church of Sta. Croce, which contains wonderful murals by Giotto, the 14th century painter who laid the foundation for Renaissance painting, and the Pazzi Chapel in which Brunelleschi set the parameters for Renaissance architecture.

Sunday, May 4: Florence

After a time of worship, several key Florentine sites will take up our morning: the Piazza della Repubblica; the Church of Or San Michele, whose exterior sculptures set the pace for the Early Renaissance style in that art; the Piazza della Signoria, and the Piazza del Vecchio, where Michelangelo's *David* (today a copy) stands in front of the 14th century palazzo, the political center of the city. The afternoon will find us at the Uffizi Gallery, one of the world's great repositories of priceless art. We'll spend the evening as we individually choose.

Monday, May 5: Siena

A 75-minute train ride will take us into the Tuscan countryside to the colorful walled medieval town of Siena. The iron-rich, reddish brown clay of this area has provided pigment for certain artist's colors, named "sienna," for centuries. Siena's Duomo, the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption is a spectacular example of the Italian Gothic style, and the Palazzo Pubblico is a striking example of late medieval civic architecture. Archeological excavation and a museum yield further treasures. The museum roof terrace has an unforgettable 360-degree view of the city and Tuscan countryside. Siena is a good place for shopping. Late in the day we'll take the train back to Florence.

Tuesday, May 6: Florence

This morning we'll go to the Piazza of San' Lorenzo to see the historic church and see the Medici Chapels whose architecture and sculptures are the work of Michelangelo as he further expands his artistic horizons. We'll take in more masterpieces of Renaissance architecture at the Piazza della SS. Annunziata and the Ospedali degli Innocenti. After lunch, we'll survey some of the masterworks in the Accademia Gallery, home to Michelangelo's original *David* and the less-known but interesting and

unfinished *Prisoners* sculptures that were supposed to be part of Pope Julius' tomb in Rome's Church of St. Peter in Chains. We'll spend a restful evening and prepare for the return to Rome.

Wednesday, May 7: Return to Rome

An early train to Rome will prepare us to resume our exploration of Baroque Rome. The style of the Catholic Reformation began with the design of Il Gesu, off the Piazza Ignazio, and spread throughout the world with the Jesuits, founded by St. Ignatius Loyola. We'll spend the greater part of the day on your own, perhaps choosing among engaging sights and sites: Piazza Navona, Bernini's *Fountain of the Four Rivers*, Borromini's Churches of Sta. Agnese and S. Ivo, Caravaggio paintings, the Museo di Roma, and the Piazza and Palazzo Farnese. The day will end with dinner and activities of your choice.

Thursday, May 8: Rome Wrap

We cannot leave Rome without seeing Bernini's *St. Teresa in Ecstasy* in the Church of Sta. Maria Vittorio after worship this morning. The Borghese Gallery is also a "must see." We'll observe the contrasts between Baroque and Modern Rome, visiting the Piazza del Popolo and the Church of Sta. Maria del Popolo for the former, and the Palazetto della Sport and Parco della Musica for the latter as time allows.

Friday, May 9: Free Day

The day is yours for exploring or resting. Perhaps you want to take in Assisi or Orvieto. There might be museums or other sites that you wanted to see. Or maybe you want to rent a bike and ride out on the Appian Way. Our staff will be ready to help you make arrangements for your final day in Rome. Then comes preparation for leave taking.

Saturday, May 10: Depart Italy

Say "Ciao, Italia!" If you threw your coins into Rome's Trevi Fountain, this won't be your last visit to this wonderful country.

Please note that the timing, sequence of events, and personnel detailed in this itinerary are subject to change so that we can best tailor the tour to meet local conditions, site availability, and address events beyond the College's control.

The Details

Who Is Welcome

The program is best suited for alumni and friends of the College who share a Christian worldview and who are active, mobile, able to handle your own luggage, climb a few flights of stairs regularly, and can navigate public transportation with a guide. Participants should be able to engage in up to six hours of activity each day (including walking three to six miles in a day over uneven surfaces) and stand for 45 minutes to an hour at a time. All ages are welcome, although the program is designed for people between the ages of 12 and 99. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. In general, because accessibility standards in Italy are very different from the United States, the program is, unfortunately, unable to accommodate special needs for access.

Tour Size

This tour is limited to 21 participants and is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. The minimum group size is 12. If the minimum is not met by December 31, 2013, Geneva College reserves the right to cancel the tour with a full refund to participants or add a small-group surcharge.

Flight Information

Round-trip economy class air transportation from the US to Rome is not included in the cost of the program. If the location of participants warrants a group flight from Pittsburgh, the College will facilitate the purchase of those tickets and bill participants accordingly. Participants are strongly encouraged to consider purchasing trip cancellation/interruption insurance. Those who wish to travel to and from Italy on their own and meet the group in Rome may do so, but must plan to arrive at the Rome Campus on the day that the program begins and depart on the day that the group departs. The College is happy to provide directions to the Rome campus.

Accommodations

Our home base in Rome will be Geneva College's Rome campus. Located behind the walls of a convent in the heart of the city, the campus provides simple accommodations and a respite from the hustle and bustle of one of the world's most exciting cities. The campus' third floor terrace provides a panoramic view of the gardens where you're welcome to wander and reflect. (See the Semester in Rome website for photos of the facility: <http://www.geneva.edu/object/rome>) Rooms are single or double occupancy (doubles are limited) and are simply furnished with a sink, bed, desk, and armoire. (The college reserves the right to place participants in double rooms on the Rome campus and will reduce the participant's rate by \$100 if this is requested and available or must occur given the makeup of the group and space available.) Bathrooms are on the hall. There is no maid service. Continental breakfast is provided daily and kitchen facilities are available for those who wish to prepare their own meals for lunch or dinner. There are restaurants near campus and public transportation connections to other sections of the city provide access to many more.

In Florence, we plan to stay at a convent located in a 15th century palace a short walking distance from the city's major sites. Accommodations may be double (no reduction will be given) and may or may not have in-room baths. Rooms are simply furnished. Breakfast is included.

Both accommodations are simple, clean, and well-maintained.

Health and Accident Insurance

The College recommends supplementary health and accident coverage for participants through HTH Worldwide which offers a \$0 deductible policy and has a network of English-speaking physicians throughout Italy. The cost of this policy is not included in the program fee.

Program Rates

The program cost is \$2,475 per person, airfare not included. The College reserves the right to adjust the fees upward if the value of the Euro rises above €1 = \$1.50.

Deposit, Payments, and Refunds

A deposit of \$1,000 per person will confirm your participation. The deadline for receipt of deposits is December 31, 2013. Please make your check payable to Geneva College and mail a form for each participant to:

Dan Williams
Geneva College
Office of Alumni Relations
3200 College Avenue
Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Deposits will be received until December 31, 2013 or the trip is full.

Payment of all program fees is due to Geneva College by February 14, 2014 and must be made by check.

Notification of cancellation must be received by the Geneva College Alumni Office in writing. Deposit refunds less a cancellation fee of \$250 will be granted if cancellation is received by February 28. After that date, the following refund schedule applies:

March 1-March 31: 40% of the tour cost is retained by the College

April 1-April 12: 65% of the tour cost is retained by the College

April 13-April 19: 85% of the tour cost is retained by the College

After April 19: 100% of the tour cost is retained by the College

Geneva College strongly encourages participants to take out trip cancellation/interruption insurance. Information about such policies is readily available on the Internet.

Program Cost Inclusions

The program cost includes: airport transfers and driver tip for those traveling on the program dates; train station transfers in Italy; accommodations on Geneva's campus in Rome and in College-selected lodging in Florence; breakfast daily; Rome metro passes; train or bus transportation to and from Florence and Siena; city bus tickets in Florence and Siena; entrance fees for sites mentioned in the itinerary except those noted as optional; site lectures by Professor Douglas and/or other Geneva College faculty or local guides; services of a Geneva College Alumni Office representative; pre-departure information booklet; suggested reading list.

Program Cost Exclusions

The program cost does not include: airfare; lunches and dinners (plan on \$40-\$60 per person per day depending on the exchange rate); passport fees; airport transfers in Rome for those not traveling on program dates; accommodations for those arriving earlier or leaving later than the group; trip cancellation/interruption insurance; independent travel arrangements; optional activities.

To Apply

To apply, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations via phone or e-mail at:

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Director of Alumni Relations
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Beaver Falls, PA 15010
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