Geneva Adult Degree Programs in Italy, 2015
April 25 – May 10

Two weeks in April and May 2015 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 Adult Degree Programs Professor Andrea Korcan-Buzza and Dr. Jeffrey Cole, Professor of History and Resident Faculty of the Geneva College Semester in Rome. Whether for credit (HMT 491) or enrichment, the trip will be an enjoyable adventure in lifelong learning, enabling you to explore select historical monuments and artifacts from antiquity to the Renaissance, 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 millions of tourists to Italy have each year. In many ways, you’ll experience Rome and Florence like the locals do: riding on public transportation, living in a neighborhood away from hordes of tourists, eating in local establishments, and sampling some of the best gelato these cities have to offer.

Activities
The trip is designed to include self-directed as well as programmed activities. 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 sight to the next or provide frustrating views of magnificent sights from the windows of a tour bus. Rather, we’ll dig deeply into select sights that will provide the richest examples of Roman and Florentine culture.

Itinerary

Saturday, April 25: Departure for Italy
Depart 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 and want to leave open the possibility that some participants might want to travel before the program begins or after it ends. Geneva College’s Rome office is happy to provide advice about flights and will be available to answer any other travel-related questions you have.

Sunday, April 26: Arrival & First Day in Italy
Your overnight flight arrives in the Eternal City. Participants will be met at the airport by Geneva personnel and taken to Geneva’s Rome Campus via private shuttle.

We’ll settle in with a welcome lunch and then take time for orientation to the neighborhood surrounding campus. After lunch we’ll walk to the nearby Catacombs of Priscilla and visit the Church of Santa Agnese and Mausoleum of Santa 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 27: The Roman Forum, Palatine Hill, and Colosseum**
We’ll spend the day touring the heart of ancient Rome: the Forum, Colosseum, and Palatine Hill. We’ll also see modern Italy’s attempt to connect the old with the new in the form of the monument to Victor Emanuel II, Italy’s first king. This evening you might consider dinner in Trastevere. 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 28: The Pantheon, San Clemente, and St. John Lateran**
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 St. John Lateran, the church which preceded St. Peter’s Basilica as the seat of the papacy. We will have class for a couple hours this afternoon. The remainder of the day is yours to do with as you wish.

**Wednesday, 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. We will have class for a couple hours this afternoon. The evening will be open.

**Thursday, April 30: St. Peter’s Basilica and Piazza**
Today we will return to the Vatican and 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 will have class for a couple hours this afternoon. The evening is free.

**Friday, May 1: Florence**
This morning we’ll board a fast train headed for Tuscany. 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 will have class for a couple hours this afternoon. The remainder of the day is yours to explore the city’s narrow alleys and cobblestone streets.

**Saturday, May 2: Florence**
The Renaissance proclaimed its arrival in 15th century Florence. 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. This afternoon and evening are free. You’ll have the option of climbing Brunelleschi’s dome that sits atop the cathedral as well as Giotto’s bell tower for commanding views of the city.

**Sunday, May 3: Florence**
After a time reserved for worship at the church of your choice, several key Florentine sites will take up our morning the Piazza della Repubblica; the Church of Orsanmichele, 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 4: 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. Siena is a good place for shopping. Late in the day we’ll take the train back to Florence.

**Tuesday, May 5: 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. 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 will have class for a couple hours this afternoon. The remainder of the day is for you to do as you wish.

**Wednesday, May 6: Explore Tuscany**
We will have class for two hours this morning, but the rest of the day yours to do as you please. You might take the train to Pisa to see the famous Leaning Tower or perhaps head to the Cinque Terre, five stunning seaside towns on the Italian Riviera. You can hike along the coast on a trail that connects the towns or take the local train that runs between them. Other options include bike rides through the Tuscan countryside or local agricultural tours.

**Thursday, May 7: Return to Rome**
An early train from Florence to the Eternal City 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. Today we’ll visit Borromini’s influential church known as San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane and Bernini’s beloved church, San Andrea al Quirinale. We’ll spend some time at Piazza Navona where we’ll see Bernini’s Fountain of the Four Rivers, and then wander over to the Trevi Fountain, and, finally, visit the famed Spanish Steps. The day will end with activities of your choice.

**Friday, May 8: Rome Wrap**
We cannot leave Rome without seeing Bernini’s St. Teresa in Ecstasy in the Church of Santa Maria della Vittoria or visiting the intimate Borghese Gallery that features some of Bernini’s finest statues as well as important works by Caravaggio.

**Saturday, May 9: Free Day**
We will have class for two hours this morning, but the rest of the day is yours for exploring or resting. Perhaps you want to take in Assisi, Orvieto, explore the ancient ruins at Ostia Antica, or relax at the charming seaside town of Sperlonga. Or maybe you want to rent a bike and ride out on the Appian Way. Our Rome staff will be ready to help you make arrangements for your final day in Italy.

**Sunday, May 10: Depart Italy**
Say “Ciao, Italia” if you threw your coins into the 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 current Adult Degree Programs students, their spouses and friends, and alumni of the ADP who share a Christian worldview and are active, mobile, able to handle your own luggage, climb a few flights of stairs regularly, and navigate public transportation with a guide. Participants should be able to engage in up to seven 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. Because accessibility standards in Italy are very different from the United States, the program is, unfortunately, unable to accommodate some special needs for access. Please contact Geneva College’s office in Rome (rome@geneva.edu) if you have questions about your ability to participate.

Coursework (Optional)
For an additional fee of $1,299 ($433 per credit), students enrolled in Geneva’s Adult Degree Programs can earn credit for “Treasures of Rome and Florence” (HMT 491). Classes will be held on field excursions as well in the classroom on some days. The schedule usually notes these days. Enrollment in the course is not a requirement for participation in the trip.

You must decide when you register for the trip whether you will be enrolling in the course. Any change to this intent can be made through March 2, 2015 only.

For more information, see the “Deposit, Payments, and Refunds” section below.

Tour Size
This tour is limited to 20 participants and is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. The minimum group size is 10. If the minimum is not met by December 31, 2014, 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 airfare from the US to Rome is not included in the cost of the program. Each participant must book and pay for their own flight. The Semester in Rome office will be happy to help participants select the best flights for their needs and provide advice about air travel. Flights should be booked so that you land in Rome no later than 10 a.m. on the day that the program begins. This will allow you to reach campus no later than noon. Flights from the US to Rome utilize the Leonardo da Vinci International Airport (also known as Fiumicino Airport). The airport code is FCO.

Participants are strongly encouraged to consider purchasing trip cancellation/interruption insurance.

Accommodations
Our home base will be Geneva College’s campus in Rome. Located behind the walls of a convent just outside the city’s ancient walls, 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. Bathrooms are on the hall. There is no daily 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 easy public transportation connections to other sections of the city provide access to many more.

In Florence, we plan to stay at a retreat center located a short walking distance from the city’s major sights. Rooms are simply furnished and breakfast is included.

Participants will be accommodated in double rooms in Rome and Florence unless a single supplement of $300 is paid.

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

Health and Accident Insurance
Participants should check their health insurance plans for international coverage. 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. Visit http://hthworldwide.net/health-and-safety-services/ for information.

Program Rates
The program cost is $2,300 per person for those not seeking academic credit. Those wishing to guarantee a single room in Florence and Rome should add $300 to the program cost.

For students seeking 3 hours of academic credit through the Adult Degree Programs for HMT 491, the cost is $1,299. This fee will be billed separately from the program charge.

The College reserves the right to adjust the program fees upward if the value of the Euro rises above €1 = $1.50. Participants will receive adequate notification of such a change.

Program Cost Inclusions
The program cost includes: airport transfers and driver tip for those traveling on the program beginning and end dates; train transportation between Rome and Florence; train station transfers; accommodations on Geneva’s campus in Rome and in College-selected lodging in Florence; continental breakfast daily; Rome metro passes; train or bus transportation between Florence and Siena; city bus tickets in Florence and Siena; entrance fees for sights mentioned in the itinerary except those noted as optional or visited during free time; site lectures by Geneva College faculty or local guides; pre-departure information booklet.

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 beginning and end dates; accommodations for those arriving earlier or leaving later than the group; books and other course materials; trip cancellation/interruption insurance; independent travel arrangements; optional activities.
Deposit, Payments, and Refunds: Program Fees

A deposit of $1,000 per person will confirm your participation in the trip. The deadline for receipt of deposits is December 31, 2014. Please make your check payable to Geneva College and mail a form for each participant to:

Geneva College
Attn: Andrea Korcan-Buzza, Adult Degree Programs
3200 College Avenue
Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Deposits will be received until December 31, 2014 or until the trip is full. Payment of all trip fees is due to Geneva College by February 14, 2015 and must be made by check. (See information about tuition payment and refund policy below.)

Notification of cancellation of your participation in the trip must be received by Professor Andrea Korcan-Buzza in the Geneva College ADP 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 to the program fee:

- 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 to cover potential loss of the program fee. Information about such policies is readily available on the Internet.

Payments and Refunds: Tuition

Payment of the tuition for the course (for those taking the trip for academic credit) is due when the student is registered for the course, March 2, 2015. Send tuition payments to the Geneva College Business Office, 3200 College Avenue, Beaver Falls, PA 15010. (Note that if a student has financial aid for tuition available, it may be used toward this course in the same way in can be applied to any other ADP course for credit.)

Tuition refund schedule: Up to but not including the first classroom meeting day prior to the trip: full refund of tuition. From the first day the class meets until and including the 7th day after: 60% refund. On the 8th day after the first day the class meets, inclusive – 0% refund.

Questions?

Questions about travel to and from Rome, Geneva’s campus in Rome, tours, lodging in Italy, travel within Rome and Italy, general logistics, and what is or is not covered by the program fee should be directed to the College’s office in Rome (rome@geneva.edu).

Questions related to the ADP curriculum, payments, fees, refunds, etc. should be directed to Professor Andrea Korcan-Buzza (akorcanb@geneva.edu).