



La Vita Bella in Italia:
Rome, Florence & Venice
May 24- June 16, 2021

Ancient history will come alive as we step into the Colosseum where gladiators fought to the death, explore the Forum where Julius Caesar walked, and visit some of the earliest Christian churches in the Western world. Exploring the catacombs just outside the ancient walls of Rome will provide us with insights about early Christian burial practices. Renaissance and Baroque art and architecture will come alive as we visit museums and churches scattered throughout Rome, Florence, and Venice, including St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.

Our selection of accommodations and means of transportation reflect the local culture, providing you with experiences that are different from those that millions of tourists have who come to Italy every year. In fact, you will be more than a tourist: you will be a student whose curriculum comes alive in archaeological sites, museums, parks, churches, and piazzas. You will also have opportunities to travel on your own and focus on areas of interest to you. Italy's extensive and easy-to-navigate train system will allow you to travel to places such as Cinque Terre (five towns that hug the coast of the Italian Riviera), Siena (a medieval Tuscan city), and Pisa. The choice is yours.

Our trip's title says it all: "The Beautiful Life in Italy."

24 May, Monday: Departure for Italy

You may travel with the group to Rome, or you may travel to Italy independently. If you fly into Rome on your own, plan your travel so that you arrive at the Rome airport no later than 10:30 a.m. local time on Tuesday, May 25. All flights from the US are overnight flights, so you must depart from the US no later than Monday, May 24. We recommend that you use Rome's main international airport, Leonardo da Vinci International Airport (also known as Fiumicino Airport). The airport code is FCO. We also recommend that you fly directly to Rome from the US. Flights through London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, and other European airports arrive later in the day. You must arrive at our accommodations no later than 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25.

25 May, Tuesday: Arrival in Rome

Your overnight flight arrives in the Eternal City. Please refer the travel information under May 24 for important details.

Transportation from Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport will be provided for students whose flights arrive prior to 10:30 a.m. today. You must arrive at our accommodations no later than 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25.

Students who arrive earlier than today or independently on this day may apply for a refund of up to €18 for their transportation into Rome. Students must supply an invoice, taxi receipt, train ticket, or bus ticket to be eligible for a reimbursement.

Our time in Italy begins this afternoon with an orientation to our program and Rome's transportation system as well as a neighborhood walking tour where you'll learn about the nearest restaurants, grocery stores, and other useful points of interest.

Today's lunch and dinner are included in the program fee as is our after-dinner gelato.

26 May, Wednesday: Exploring Rome's Ancient Past

We'll spend the day touring the heart of ancient Rome, home to the Forum, Flavian Amphitheater (Colosseum), and Palatine Hill which overlooks what remains of the Circus Maximus. The evening is free.

27 May, Thursday: A Roman City

Today we'll visit Ostia Antica and wander among its ruins. Located not far from the Mediterranean coast, Ostia was Ancient Rome's port city and offers a glimpse into the everyday life of Romans. The evening is free.

28 May, Friday: The Remnants of Imperial Rome

We'll begin our day at the Capitoline Hill (and its museum) from which we can see the Colosseum and Palatine Hill for a reminder of what we visited earlier in the week. We'll also visit the Pantheon whose dome and oculus are world-famous. The remainder of the day is free. You might consider going to the exciting area of Trastevere for dinner.

29 May, Saturday: Art, Architecture, and the Early Church

We'll begin today with a tour of the intriguing San' Clemente church and its astonishing layers of archeological history going back to a pre-Christian temple. Seeing the three layers of history as we descend to the lowest level will provide us with a visual indication of the truth that Rome is built on itself. This afternoon we will visit the Catacombs of Priscilla. Those planning to travel this weekend may leave Rome this evening. *Check with Dr. Cole before making plans to be sure your travel times work with our schedule.*

30 May, Sunday: Free Day

Stay in Rome and explore historical sights we won't get to as a class, visit one of the city's many beautiful parks, go out to the beach at Ostia and swim in the Mediterranean, or travel on Italy's extensive train system to exciting towns and cities across the nation. It's your choice.

Those staying in Rome might choose to worship at one of the city's few English-speaking churches, such as St. Paul's Within the Walls Episcopal, Rome Baptist, or All Saints Anglican. Of course, there are always Rome's 900+ Catholic churches as well as St. Peter's Basilica which offers Sunday mass in Latin. You might consider heading out for a picnic to the Via Appia Antica, the ancient road that, during the age of the emperors, ran 350 miles from Rome to the port of Brindisi in the south.

31 May, Monday: Free Day

Everyone must be back at our convent accommodations no later than 9:30 p.m.

1 June, Tuesday: Assisi

This morning we'll board a train for a visit to Assisi, a hill town which is the home of St. Francis, the founder of the Franciscan order. We'll take in fantastic views of the beautiful Italian countryside from the top of the city and visit the basilica of St. Francis where the saint is buried. There will be plenty of time to relax in this medieval town. We'll head back to Rome in the late afternoon. The evening is free.

2 June, Wednesday: Depart for Florence

We'll begin the morning with a visit to Santo Stefano Rotondo, a church whose cycle of frescoes recount the martyrdom of saints. We'll then visit the Capuchin museum and crypt where the monastic order has arranged the bones of more than 3,7000 of its deceased members.

After lunch we'll take a high-speed train to Florence. When we arrive we'll check into our accommodations (a convent-hotel situated in what was a Renaissance palace) and take a walking tour of the city, visiting the Ponte Vecchio, Piazza della Signoria, and Duomo. The evening is free.

3 June, Thursday: The Birth of the Renaissance

We'll begin the day by seeing what many people consider to be the greatest statue ever created: Michelangelo's *David* in the Accademia Gallery. We'll then visit the Duomo in the center of the city where we'll learn about Brunelleschi's dome and marvel at Giotto's campanile. After lunch we'll encounter Florence's baptistery with its famous mosaics and bronze doors and visit the Duomo Museum. You may choose to climb the 400+ steps to the top of Brunelleschi's dome or a similar number of steps to the top of the Campanile. Brave people can try both! The evening is free

4 June, Friday: Renaissance Florence

Today's first excursion takes us to the stunning overlook of the city from the Piazzale Michelangelo. We'll also visit San Miniato al Monte, one of the most beautiful churches in Italy. After lunch we'll visit the Santo Spirito church and the Church of Orsanmichele. The remainder of the day is yours to explore Florence.

5 June, Saturday: Renaissance Florence

This morning we'll end our time in Florence by visiting the Uffizi Gallery, home to some of the greatest Renaissance art in the world. The remainder of the day is free for shopping in Florence's markets, visiting sights that are not on our itinerary, or taking a train to Pisa to visit its famous sights.

6 June, Sunday: From Florence to Venice

After morning devotions, we'll leave Florence on an early train to Venice, the Canal City. After settling in, we'll head to one of Europe's most beautiful churches, St. Mark's Basilica. With views of the lagoon from its upper balconies, the church represents an architectural style that reminds us of Venice's once-important position as a trade center serving Europe and Asia. We'll tour the Byzantine basilica dedicated to Mark, the Gospel author and patron saint of Venice, and then head to the second floor museum from which we'll have an up-close view of some of the church's brilliant mosaics. More than 8,000 square meters of mosaics created over more than 800 years cover the walls, vaults, and cupolas of the basilica. Before leaving the church, we'll venture

out onto the outdoor balconies for fantastic views of the lagoon and piazza as well as a group photo. The remainder of the day is yours. A great way to begin your time here is with a gondola ride—a quintessential Venetian experience. Consider going before 7 p.m. when the cost increases.

7 June, Monday: Peggy Guggenheim Collection

Get ready for something very different. The Peggy Guggenheim Collection, situated on the Grand Canal, offers modern and postmodern art extraordinaire. As we engage this museum's collections, we'll talk about what modern art is, what it attempts to do, and how to interpret it. Guggenheim was the daughter of Benjamin Guggenheim, a man who made his riches in the copper mines in the late 1800s and died heroically on the *Titanic*. She lived in the villa that is now home to the museum and used her fortune to purchase works of art from famous and up-and-coming artists who lived during the 20th century. Pieces by Picasso, Calder, Pollock, Dali, Ernst, Rothko, Magritte, and others fill the walls of this intimate museum.

The afternoon is yours to explore Venice and its surrounding islands. Choose Murano for its many shops that sell the island's famous glass that comes in all shapes, sizes, and prices—from jewelry to huge works of art—and attend a glass-blowing demonstration in one of the workshops. You might also choose Burano, famous for its lace-making, quiet canals, and brightly-painted houses. There's also Lido, which offers a beach culture and sunning along the Adriatic Sea. You might consider exploring Venice, especially the Rialto Bridge area and its bustling market.

8 June, Tuesday: Doge's Palace

This morning we'll visit the Palazzo Ducale (Doge's Palace), the grand residence that was home to the city's rulers for hundreds of years. Not only was it a residence, but also the seat of government and the place where Venetian justice was served. Its rooms remind us of the palace's former uses and include the jail cells where prisoners served time. We'll walk across the Bridge of Sighs where convicts had their last glimpses of the outside world before serving their sentences. The afternoon is yours to explore Venice and its surrounding islands.

9 June, Wednesday: Return to Rome and Medieval Rome

Late this morning we will take a high-speed train back to Rome. The remainder of the day is yours to become reacquainted with the city.

10 June, Thursday: The Earthly Jerusalem

The papacy was actively involved in bringing the Renaissance to Rome. This morning we'll tour St. Peter's Basilica, the world's largest Catholic church. In the afternoon we will tour the Vatican Museum and see, among other important works, Raphael's *School of Athens* as well as Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling. The evening is free.

11 June, Friday: Pilgrimage Sights

By the 17th century, there were seven churches that pilgrims visited: San Giovanni in Laterano, St. Peter's, St. Paul's Outside the Walls, Santa Maria Maggiore, San Lorenzo, Sant'Agnese, and San Sabastiano. In the morning we'll take in the ecclesiastical riches of San' Giovanni in Laterano, which preceded St. Peter's as the seat of the papacy, and also visit the Scala Santa. According to Catholic tradition, these are the 28 steps that Christ ascended on the way to His trial before Pontius Pilate. After lunch we'll visit Santa Maria Maggiore and St. Paul's Outside the Walls where, according to tradition, St. Paul is buried. The evening is free.

12 June, Saturday: Baroque Art

This morning we'll encounter one of Rome's greatest museums, the Borghese Gallery, home to spectacular works of art by Bernini and famous pieces by Caravaggio. The remainder of the day is yours. You may choose to leave Rome to visit another Italian locale as you have a free weekend. *Consult with Dr. Cole before you make your plans.*

13 June, Sunday: Free Day

Those staying in Rome might choose to worship at one of the city's few English-speaking churches, such as St. Paul's Within the Walls Episcopal, Rome Baptist, or All Saints Anglican. Of course, there are always Rome's 900+ Catholic churches as well as St. Peter's Basilica which offers Sunday mass in Latin. You might consider heading out for a picnic to the Via Appia Antica, the ancient road that, during the age of the emperors, ran 350 miles from Rome to the port of Brindisi in the south.

14 June, Monday:

Everyone must be back on campus no later than 9:30 p.m.

15 June, Tuesday: The Counter-Reformation and the Baroque

As we continue our investigation of Baroque Rome, we'll begin with Pozzo's spectacular ceiling in the Church of St. Ignatius followed by a visit to San Luigi dei Francesi with its famous Contarelli Chapel decorated with three paintings by Caravaggio, and, finally, Il Gesu the most important Jesuit church in the world. We'll take in the action at Piazza Navona (with Bernini's Four Rivers Fountain in the center), the world-famous Trevi Fountain, and the Spanish Steps. We will celebrate our time together with a group lunch or dinner (included in the trip cost) and say, "Arrivederci, Roma!" If you throw your coins into Rome's Trevi Fountain, tradition suggests that this won't be your last visit.

16 June, Wednesday: Ciao, Roma!

Students can return to the US, remain in Rome, or choose to travel to other destinations on their own. Shuttle service to Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport is included in the program fee. The group flight will leave for the US prior to noon. We will arrive back in the US on the same day.

Please note that the timing and sequence of events 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 our control.

Important Details

Program Dates

The program dates for 2021 are May 24-June 16. All students must plan to arrive in Rome by 12:30 p.m. on May 25 (the first day of the program in Italy) and remain until the last day of the program. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Who Is Welcome

The program is best suited for students who share a Christian worldview and who are active, mobile, able to handle their 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 eight 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. 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.

Coursework

Students planning to participate in the trip for academic credit at Geneva College must enroll in HUM 301 (6 credits), the course connected with this trip, during the spring semester of 2021. With HUM 301, you will fulfill the requirements for HUM 203 & 303. Regular tuition and fees apply. Students who do not wish to take the trip for credit may do so, but will be expected to participate in all of the class-related activities in Italy. Students who wish to enroll in the course but have already completed either HUM 203 or 303 will have those previously-completed courses count as electives.

The course will be offered MWF, 11:15-12:10 a.m. Students interested in taking the class must arrange their schedule to be available during that time.

Flight Information

Round-trip air transportation from the US to Rome is not included in the cost of the program. Dr. Cole can assist with suggesting the best flights and coordinating communication among group members. A group flight will be available for those who want to take advantage of traveling together.

How to Sign Up

You can submit your application (posted on the Italy Experience website) and deposit to the Crossroads office at Geneva College.

Medical & Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance

As part of the program fee you will receive extensive health and accident coverage through Global Blue. Students are strongly encouraged to purchase trip interruption/trip cancellation insurance because of the risk of further COVID-19 outbreaks.

Accommodations

Our home base in Rome will be a convent in the historic center of Rome not far from the Colosseum. Students will be assigned to double or triple rooms, all or most with private bathrooms. Continental breakfast is served each day and included in the program fee.

In Florence, we will stay at a guest house (formerly a palace) located across the Arno River just a short walking distance from the city's major sights. Students will be assigned to double, triple, quad, or five-person rooms with bathrooms in the room or with a private bathroom nearby. Breakfast is included.

In Venice we will stay at a guest house right on the Grand Canal. Rooms are triple or quad and have private bathrooms. Breakfast is provided.

Note: Accommodations are subject to change based on availability.

Program Rates

The program cost \$2,400. The college reserves the right to adjust the fees upward if the value of the Euro rises above €1 = \$1.25 prior to departure.

Deposit, Payments, and Refunds

A deposit of \$500 per person will confirm your participation and hold your spot. The deadline for receipt of applications and deposits is Wednesday, October 14, 2020, but students should be aware that the program might fill before then. Space is reserved on a first-deposited basis. There are a limited number of spots in the program and only a completed application and deposit holds a student's space.

Please make your check payable to Geneva College and submit it with an application form to Crossroads.

Payment of the balance of the program fee must be received by Crossroads no later than January 31, 2021. For students enrolled in the HUM 301 course, the charge will appear on your student bill.

Notification of cancellation must be received by Crossroads in writing. Deposit refunds less a cancellation fee of \$250 will be granted if cancellation is received by January 31, 2021. After that date, the following refund schedule applies:

After January 31, 2021, the following refund schedule applies:

February 1-April 12:	65% of the program fee is retained by the college
April 13 -April 19:	85% of the program fee is retained by the college
After April 19:	100% of the program fee is retained by the college

If a student cancels and finds another student of the same sex to take her/his place prior to May 1, 2021 the cancellation fees are waived. After May 1, 2021 no changes can be made.

Program Cost Inclusions

The program cost includes: airport transfers in Italy and driver tip up to €18; train station transfers in Italy; accommodations in Rome, Florence, and Venice; Rome metro passes; train transportation for the trips to and from Florence, Venice, and Assisi; Florence bus tickets; Venice vaproetto pass; Assisi bus passes; entrance fees for sites mentioned in the itinerary; site lectures by the professor accompanying the group or local guides; pre-departure information booklet; breakfasts in Rome, Florence, and Venice when staying in college-provided accommodations; first-day lunch and dinner; final lunch or dinner (depends on schedule); international health insurance through Global Blue.

Program Cost Exclusions

The program cost does not include: airfare; lunches and dinners (except as noted above; plan on \$25-\$40 per person per day depending on the exchange rate and how much you eat); passport fees; accommodations for those arriving earlier or leaving later than the group; trip cancellation/interruption insurance; independent travel arrangements; optional activities.

To Apply

Space is limited and will be reserved on a first-deposited, first-served basis. To apply, please take or send the application form posted on the Italy Experience website and the deposit to the Crossroads Office at Geneva College.

Questions?

If you have questions about any aspect of the trip, please contact Dr. Jeffrey Cole at jscole@geneva.edu.