



# Grand Tour of Europe: London to Rome with Kathy

16 days | 18 days with Florence extension | Apr 08 2026—Apr 23 2026

When Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower, and the Pantheon are only a fraction of a tour's highlights, you're in for one magical trip. On this sweeping tour of Europe that whisks you from England to France, the Netherlands to Germany, and Switzerland to Italy, you'll treat your eyes, ears, and tastebuds to a kaleidoscope of cultures you'll never forget.



## Your tour package includes

- 14 nights in handpicked hotels
- 14 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 11 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 3 train rides

## Included highlights

- Trafalgar Square
- Buckingham Palace
- Eurostar train ride
- Eiffel Tower photo stop
- Amsterdam canal cruise
- Rhine River cruise
- Lake Como cruise
- St. Mark's Square
- Pantheon

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including cobblestone streets, with some hills and stairs.

For more information, contact

<https://groups.goaheadtours.com/groups/tours/grand-tour-with-kathy> | 1-800-438-7672

# Grand Tour of Europe: London to Rome with Kathy

16 days | 18 days with Florence extension

## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to London today.

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## London → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in London

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to England! If you arrive between noon and 6 p.m., we recommend treating yourself to afternoon tea—the traditional British meal of cakes, biscuits, dainty sandwiches, and, of course, tea.

Tonight, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner, served with beer or wine.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of London

*Included meals: breakfast*

London's been settled for almost 2,000 years, and its history winds through Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Viking rule. Today's guided tour will take you through the relics, landmarks, and stories of this cosmopolitan city of contrasts.

- Pass grand Trafalgar Square, commemorating a British naval victory over France and Spain in 1805. Keep your eye out for the square's four bronze lion statues guarding Nelson's Column, as well as the National Gallery art museum.
- Gaze up at the dome and spires of St. Paul's Cathedral, perched atop Ludgate Hill. This Anglican cathedral, once the tallest building in London, has held services for state funerals and jubilee celebrations, as well as the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer.
- See Westminster Abbey, the setting for royal coronations since 1066 and the final resting place of William Shakespeare, Isaac Newton, and many other luminaries.
- View the city's defining landmarks, including Big Ben—the nickname for the Great Bell of the clock at the Palace of Westminster. It's

also become London's unofficial calling card. You'll also pass the Tower of London, home to the Crown Jewels of England and once a menagerie of exotic wild animals like lions and polar bears.

- Take in the contrast of old and new when you pass by Tower Bridge, once the largest drawbridge ever, and the London Eye—the larger-than-life observation wheel that's quickly become symbolic of the city.
- Stop by Buckingham Palace, the royal residence in London, where you may catch the Changing of the Guard ceremony—just look for the distinctive red tunics and tall bearskin caps.

Can't get enough of castles and kings? Add the excursion to Windsor Castle for a fascinating peek into royal goings-on at the world's longest-inhabited castle, as well as the historic market town of Windsor.

If you choose to take the day to yourself, enjoy a free afternoon in London. Shop and dine in posh Covent Garden in the West End, or head to Shoreditch for its vibrant art and street food scene. Your Tour Director is also your go-to source for recommendations.

+ Windsor Castle

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## Paris → 2 nights

### Day 4: Eurostar train ride to Paris

*Included meals: breakfast*

Board the famed high-speed Eurostar train and travel beneath the English Channel (at speeds close to 186 mph) to the Gare du Nord train station in Paris, France.

Ready to hit the town? Take a stroll through Montmartre's art-filled streets to peek into artists' studios. As you explore, dip into a sandwich shop for the deceptively simple jambon-beurre: a crusty baguette slathered in butter and topped with freshly carved ham. For a more elevated experience, opt into the evening's dinner and Seine River cruise. As the sun sets and the city's streetlamps begin their nightly twinkle, you'll see Paris' monuments in a whole new light.

*Please note: Travelers should be prepared for an early morning train departure. Porterage is not included on train transfers. Travelers must be comfortable lifting and carrying all luggage over steps, onto platforms, and into storage.*

+ Dinner in Paris & Seine River Cruise

### Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Paris

*Included meals: breakfast*

Ready to be dazzled by the City of Light? Begin your first full day in France with a tour of its splendid capital, Paris. With a local guide leading the way, you'll get an overview of its most recognizable landmarks and a feel for the character of its arrondissements. (That's French for "districts," and it's how Parisians refer to the city's neighborhoods.)

- Drive down the sycamore-lined Avenue des Champs-Élysées—an icon of France that's lined with majestic monuments, glitzy restaurants, and glamorous storefronts. Continue to its western end and take in the magnificent Arc de Triomphe, originally built to commemorate one of Napoleon's many conquests. A dozen different avenues spoke from this epic arch, making it Paris' symbolic heart.
- Pass the 16th-century Pont Neuf, the oldest stone bridge in Paris, and Notre-Dame Cathedral. Watching over its arrondissement from an island in the Seine River, this French Gothic masterwork is one of the city's enduring sights.
- Make a photo stop at the Eiffel Tower (you know this one!) before viewing the Palais Garnier opera house and the Place de la Concorde, the city's grandest square.
- Pass by the I.M. Pei-designed Louvre Pyramid—the grandiose glass gateway to the world's preeminent art museum. Then, marvel at the Hôtel des Invalides: Erected in the 17th century and built to a height of roughly 350 feet, this gold-domed structure is the largest church building in all of Paris and serves as the final resting place of its greatest military leaders.

If you need a break from the buzz of this electric city, seek royal refuge by adding an afternoon outing to the Palace and Gardens of Versailles. You'll encounter gilded walkways, fresco-

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adorned ceilings, and close to 2,000 acres of immaculate green space—all just a few miles west of Paris. Or, stay in town and use your free time to amble to the Champ-de-Mars and savor a picnic in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower.  
+ Versailles Palace & Gardens

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## Amsterdam → 2 nights

### Day 6: Train ride to Amsterdam & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast*

Ride a high-speed train to Amsterdam. Then, take to the water with a local guide, who'll introduce you to the Dutch capital's iconic waterways. Amsterdam's 60 miles of grachtens, or canals, criss-cross the city, earning it a fitting nickname—the Venice of the North.

- Cruise by icons like the Dutch National Opera & Ballet building and beneath the Magere Brug—the famous “Skinny Bridge” that spans the River Amstel. You'll also float by the Jodenbuurt, the former Jewish Quarter, and reflect on the city's long association with Jewish culture.
- See the Dancing Houses, cockeyed structures painted in flashes of vibrant color, and keep an eye out for flower bikes. More than 300 of these bloom-bedecked cycles can be found around the city, decorated and placed by an American expat known simply as “the Flower Bike Man.”
- Disembark and make your way to the Rijksmuseum, the national art collection populated with the works of Dutch masters like Vermeer, Van Gogh, and Rembrandt. Follow it up with a short trek to the Van Gogh Museum and feast your eyes on the largest collection of the artist's paintings, drawings, and letters in the world.

*Please note: Travelers should be prepared for an early morning train departure.*

### Day 7: Free day in Amsterdam

*Included meals: breakfast*

Take your last full day in Amsterdam at your leisure. Ask your Tour Director for a recommendation or while the day away in a canalside cafe. If you'd rather add a bonus Dutch town to your trip, tack on the optional outing to Delft. Medieval architecture, postcard-perfect canals, eponymous pottery—it has the lot.  
+ A Day in Charming Delft

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## Heidelberg Region → 1 night

### Day 8: Heidelberg Region via Cologne & Rhine River cruise

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Cross into Germany on your way to the Heidelberg region today, following the soft chime of Cologne's cathedral bells and Boppard's storybook, half-timbered houses.

- Enter Cologne Cathedral, a Gothic masterpiece and UNESCO World Heritage Site. It took more than 600 years to build, and the cathedral's team of 100-plus stonemasons continue maintaining the massive structure to this day.
- Board a riverboat and cruise through the Middle Rhine Valley from Boppard to Sankt Goar. You'll be treated to views of six ancient castles as you go and take in the medieval architecture hugging the riverbanks.

*Please note: The Rhine cruise is offered seasonally. From mid-October through March, you'll instead enjoy a tasting of local wines in Boppard.*

Sit down for an included dinner this evening, served with beer or wine.

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## Swiss Alps → 2 nights

### Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Heidelberg & transfer to the Swiss Alps

*Included meals: breakfast*

Cradled by the Neckar River and the Odenwald mountain range, the university town of Heidelberg is famous for its Romantic aesthetics, Baroque architecture, and artistic heritage. Today, embark on a guided tour and fall for the charm of this UNESCO City of Literature.

- Wander into the heart of Heidelberg's Baroque Old Town and take in the sights and sounds of the Marktplatz—the elegant Market Square, one of the oldest plazas in the city.
  - Explore the campus of Heidelberg University. Founded in 1386, it's the oldest university in Germany and one of the oldest in the world, with the reputation of producing some of history's most accomplished professionals. Among its alumni: Dmitri Mendeleev, the creator of the modern periodic table of elements; Robert Schumann, the famous classical composer; and Wilhelm Wundt, a pioneer of modern psychology.
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- Ride a funicular up to the Renaissance-era Heidelberg Castle. Protecting the city below from its perch on the slopes of the Königstuhl, this rose-colored ruin ranks among the area's most iconic features. Then, cross into Switzerland this afternoon and take the rest of the day for yourself.

### Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Lucerne

*Included meals: breakfast*

Set out into lakeside Lucerne (one of Switzerland's most populated cities) for a guided sightseeing tour and enjoy a taste of Alpine life—complete with clear views of Pilatus, Rigi, and the rugged ridges of other neighboring mountains.

- View the Lion Monument, a tribute to the Swiss Guards who sacrificed their lives in Paris during the French Revolution.
- Pass the hand-painted facades that line the cobbled streets of the Old Town—the traditional core of the city that dates to medieval times.
- Cross the famous wooden Kapellbrücke (say it “ka-PELL-broo-kuh”), a 14th-century covered bridge that spans the Reuss River, and view the adjacent Water Tower. Octagonal in shape and made of stone—with a complicated past as a sentinel's post, state treasury, and prison—it predates the Kapellbrücke by roughly 100 years.
- See the Jesuit Church, the first large Baroque building of its kind to be built north of the Alps in Switzerland.

If you'd like, add an afternoon journey to the top of Mount Pilatus and explore Lucerne's surroundings by ferry, cogwheel railway, and cable car. Alternatively, hang back in town and treat yourself to some rösti: Pronounced “REU-shtee,” this dish centers on grated, fried potatoes—kind of like a Swiss hash brown. Top it with eggs or sausage to elevate it from a satisfying snack to a hearty meal.

+ Mount Pilatus

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## Lake Como Region → 1 night

### Day 11: Villa Carlotta & Lake Como cruise

*Included meals: breakfast*

This morning, head out to explore the beautiful architecture, breathtaking views, and turquoise waters of the Lake Como area.

- Start the day with a visit to Villa Carlotta, a lush botanical garden and art museum with striking, sparkling vistas of Lake Como. Built

at the end of the 17th century by the marquises Clerici of Milan, it boasts fragrant rose gardens, splashy azalea bushes, and a pair of citrus-rimmed tunnels that date to the first occupants of the villa.

- Take to the glittering waters of Lake Como and float by some of Italy's most sumptuous residences and gardens, draping the hillsides in their regal splendor.
- Pass charming lakeside towns and arrive in Bellagio, a village blessed with an unbeatable view of the lake and mountains.
- Enjoy free time in Bellagio to grab lunch, shop, and walk along its meticulously landscaped waterfront promenade. For a great view and even better pictures, take the steep streets—the village's pedestrian thoroughfares made of paved steps—to the upper part of the village.

Return to your hotel in the Lake Como region and enjoy a free evening. Ask your Tour Director for dinner recommendations and remember that Italians typically eat late and linger over their meals.

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## Venice → 2 nights

### Day 12: Venice via Verona

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

It's easy to fall in love in—and with—Verona's maze of ancient Romanesque, Gothic, and Byzantine architecture, tucked into the bends of the Adige River. (No wonder it served as the backdrop for *Romeo and Juliet*.) Join your Tour Director for a walk through its UNESCO-recognized center.

- Imagine your own "Oh, Romeo, Romeo" moment with a visit to Casa di Giulietta, site of the famous balcony built in honor of Shakespeare's ill-fated lovers.
- Soak in the history of the oldest square in Verona, Piazza delle Erbe, then enjoy some free time to explore the less-crowded Gothic surrounds of Piazza Dante—named for famed Italian poet Dante Alighieri of *The Divine Comedy* fame.
- Marvel at the grandeur of the 2,000-year-old Verona Arena—still in use today—whose pink and white stones have stood witness to gladiator shows, opera productions, and modern concerts.

Enjoy free time to swoon through the streets of Verona before continuing to Venice, where you'll sit down for an included group dinner, served with beer or wine.

### Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Venice

*Included meals: breakfast*

Surrender to the beauty of Venice's labyrinthine canals, elegant bridges, and ornate Gothic and Renaissance architecture. Close your eyes and let the sound of lapping water and passing gondolas soothe you, but not for too long—there's so much to see! You'll meet up with your local guide and explore the heart of Venice on foot and (if you'd like) by vaporetto, or water taxi.

- Feel the energy of St. Mark's Square, with its thriving cafes and sumptuous buildings, and marvel at the domes, mosaics, and arches of St. Mark's Basilica—one of the symbols of Venice.
- See the windowed Bridge of Sighs, named after the legend that prisoners would sigh at their final view of their beloved city before being taken down to their cells in the New Prison.
- Watch a Murano glassblowing demonstration, where artisans keep the Venetian glasswork tradition alive. Observe as they skillfully use the distinctive millefiori technique to create intricate patterns by fusing tiny glass rods.

Spend a free afternoon exploring Venice on foot or board a gondola and cruise down the city's famous canals on today's optional experience.

+ Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise

+ Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

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## Rome → 2 nights

### Day 14: Train ride to Rome & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel to Rome by train, crossing the Apennine Mountains and basking in views of the Italian countryside. Upon arriving in the Eternal City, take a guided walk to discover its centuries-old squares and fountains.

- Stroll past the Spanish Steps, where Pietro Bernini's Baroque-style Fontana della Barcaccia has stood since the 1600s, and head to the intricately carved Trevi Fountain. The latter, a Baroque beauty carved of

Travertine marble, has served as the dreamy backdrop to *La Dolce Vita* and *Roman Holiday*. Legend says that if you throw one coin into the fountain, you're bound to return to Rome.

- Step inside the Pantheon, home to the world's largest unenforced concrete dome. There, you'll learn about the engineering skills of the ancient Romans and how they created this well-preserved temple.
- End at Piazza Navona and see Gian Lorenzo Bernini's Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi, commissioned by Pope Innocent X in the 17th century. It symbolizes the four major rivers of the four continents where papal authority had spread at the time.

### Day 15: Free day in Rome

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

On your free day in Rome, you can discover the hidden gem of Trastevere, a bohemian (and mostly car-free) neighborhood filled with narrow streets and delectable trattorias.

Need a moment of respite? Visit the picturesque Aventine Hill, home to the peaceful Giardino degli Aranci (Orange Garden) and the famous keyhole view of St. Peter's Basilica—which you can visit by adding the guided tour of Vatican City to your day. Here, you'll also experience the grandeur and serene beauty of the Vatican Museum, as well as the Sistine Chapel's venerated ceiling fresco. The day is yours to seize.

Then, join your group at tonight's farewell dinner. As you dine, you'll be treated to a multi-course, traditional Italian meal with a side of live music.

+ Iconic Sights: Vatican City

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## Flight Home

### Day 16: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your time in Italy with a few days in Florence—the beating heart of the Renaissance period—and final resting place of luminaries such as Galileo, Michelangelo, and Machiavelli.

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## + Florence extension

Not ready to say *arrivederci*? Continue your trip under the Tuscan sun in Florence, where Renaissance beauty and really (really) good food are practically everywhere. You'll have plenty of

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opportunities to explore Tuscany's lush, cypress-dotted medieval hill towns.

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## Florence → 2 nights

### Day 16: Transfer to Florence & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast*

Cross through the Apennine Mountains as you make your way to Florence, whose Renaissance treasures and hidden piazzas bathe in the golden glow of Tuscan sunlight. Set off on a culinary-themed walking tour of the city with a local guide once you arrive.

- Head to Florence's UNESCO-listed historic center and view its exquisite 15th-century cathedral—the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore, or Duomo, which is the world's third-largest church.
- Learn about the cathedral's distinctive, marble-clad exterior and its instantly recognizable dome, the latter of which was built by Filippo Brunelleschi and has become a symbol of the Renaissance and Florence itself.
- Pass Giotto's Campanile, or bell tower, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture that rises nearly 280 feet above the city and features the same red, white, and green marble found on the Duomo's facade.
- Walk past the Piazza della Repubblica, one of Florence's main squares, to the medieval Ponte Vecchio, an iconic bridge that spans the Arno River and has been lined with shops since the 13th century.
- Stroll along the riverbank and through the Uffizi Gallery's courtyard to the Piazza della Signoria—a beautiful square that's situated just outside the Palazzo Vecchio. It's home to several notable statues, including a replica of Michelangelo's *David* and the 16th-century Fountain of Neptune.

For a taste of life in Tuscany, opt into the sumptuous dinner at Villa Machiavelli, the former home of Niccolò Machiavelli during his exile from Florence in the early 1500s. If you prefer to spend the evening on your own, you can't go wrong with a starlit walk on the Arno's banks.

+ Villa Machiavelli Dinner

### Day 17: Free day in Florence

*Included meals: breakfast*

The day is yours! Enjoy a free day in Florence or add an excursion to the Tuscan hill town of San Gimignano, home to a dramatic skyline punctuated by 14 soaring medieval towers. Need inspiration for your day in town? Escape the crowds and wander through the Boboli Gardens, located behind the grand Palazzo Pitti. Explore the extensive greenery, hidden pathways, and stunning sculptures of this peaceful oasis, then dive into the vibrant Mercato di Sant'Ambrogio, which has served locals for more than 100 years. Smaller than its more famous counterpart, the Mercato Centrale, it'll give you an intimate and authentic appreciation for how Florentines live. Browse through stalls bursting with fresh produce, regional delicacies, and traditional wares. After, join the locals for a coffee or a bite to eat at the market's lively cafes.

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ Siena & San Gimignano: Tuscan Hill Towns

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## Flight Home

### Day 18: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.



## Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: <https://groups.goaheadtours.com/groups/tours/grand-tour-with-kathy> | 1-800-438-7672

### Day 3: Windsor Castle

From \$125.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Led by a Blue Badge Guide, you'll travel to Windsor for a guided tour of the world's largest and longest-inhabited castle. Founded by William the Conqueror in 1070, Windsor has been the British Royal Family's preferred retreat for the past 900 years. Step inside the State Apartments and St. George's Chapel, where knighting ceremonies of the Most Noble Order of the Garter take place. View the exhibit of royal treasures within the castle. You'll then have time to stroll through the town of Windsor and have a look at Eton College, a prestigious prep school attended by Princes William and Harry. Please note: When the Windsor Castle excursion falls on a Wednesday, entrance will be replaced by an excursion to Hampton Court. For any departures where the Windsor Castle excursion falls on a Tuesday, the excursion will be moved to another day on tour or cancelled. Additionally, St. George's Chapel is closed to the public on Sundays.

### Day 4: Dinner in Paris & Seine River Cruise

From \$129.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Take in the nighttime allure of the City of Light on a special evening excursion. The event begins with dinner at a local restaurant. After you dine, board a boat cruise along the Seine. As you coast along the river and under Paris' bridges, you'll behold the illuminated monuments of the city glittering alongside the riverbanks. Please note: The dress code may vary depending on the restaurant for your dinner. Your Tour Director will advise you on what to wear, but shorts and sneakers are likely to be considered inappropriate attire.

### Day 5: Versailles Palace & Gardens

From \$139.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (5 hours, departure time varies)

The reign of Louis XIV, known as the "Sun King," set new standards for decadence among the crowned heads of Europe. It took 50 years and 35,000 workers to turn Versailles, once a small hunting lodge, into the most magnificent chateau in all of France and the envy of royalty worldwide. On this excursion, you'll see the palace in all its glory as you tour the State Apartments and the glittering Hall of Mirrors. Then, stroll through the lavish gardens to admire their fine statuary, splendid fountains, and colorful flowerbeds. Please note: Versailles Palace is closed on Mondays. The optional excursion may be moved to a different day on tour to accommodate schedules.

### Day 7: A Day in Charming Delft

From \$139.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (8 hours, departs in the morning)

Pay a visit to the world-famous flower market at Aalsmeer for a close-up look at one of Holland's best-known national exports: its brilliantly hued tulips. Continue to Delft, a charming town of canals, cobbled alleyways, and medieval architecture. Visit the Old and New Churches on a guided tour, and then enjoy free time to grab lunch and explore the town, perhaps visiting the former home of the famous painter, Vermeer. Please note: A visit to The Hague will replace the flower market on days when the market is closed.

### Day 10: Mount Pilatus

From \$135.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (4.5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

This scenic excursion begins with a cruise on Lake Lucerne. After docking, ascend 7,000-foot Mount Pilatus on the world's steepest cogwheel railway. Legend holds that the mountain was named for Pontius Pilate, blown here by the devil after the Crucifixion. From the peak, the views of the Alps are stunning; on a clear day, you can see for 200 miles. Toward the end of your trip, you'll return to the base of the mountain via gondola. Please note: The cruise and cogwheel railway only run from mid-May through October. During the winter months, this excursion includes the cable car ride only. If the cogwheel railway is unavailable, you'll enjoy lunch on the mountain.

### Day 13: Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise

From \$89.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (25 minutes, departure time varies)

More than 100 canals crisscross Venice, and boarding a sleek, black gondola to explore them has become a time-honored tradition. On this memorable excursion, join your fellow travelers for a tour through the canals of Venice, with a gondolier deftly guiding your boat along. Please note: This excursion runs as weather permits, and travelers should feel comfortable getting into and out of the gondolas. A private, two-person gondola ride is available for an additional cost.

### Day 13: Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

From \$165.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (25 minutes, departure time varies)

More than 100 canals crisscross Venice, and boarding a sleek, black gondola to explore them has become a time-honored tradition. On this memorable excursion, you'll enjoy a private gondola cruise for two through the canals of Venice, with a gondolier deftly guiding your boat along.

Please note: This excursion requires two passengers. Cost is per person, and each traveler must book the excursion. Travelers should also feel comfortable getting into and out of the gondolas. This excursion runs as weather permits.

### Day 15: Iconic Sights: Vatican City

From \$135.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (3.5 hours, departure time varies)

This guided tour takes you inside Vatican City—a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most sacred places in Christendom. This independent city-state within Rome serves as the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church and is home to the Pope. Upon arrival, turn on your pre-distributed headset and dive into the Vatican's rich history with your local guide. First, visit the Vatican Museums, which are more than 500 years old and house many of the world's most important Classical- and Renaissance-era sculptures. Next, step inside the Sistine Chapel, whose frescoed ceiling is arguably Michelangelo's greatest masterpiece. Finally, pay a visit to the enormous St. Peter's Basilica, the epicenter of the Roman Catholic faith. The artists who have contributed to its glory are some of the best Italy has ever known—Bramante, Peruzzi, Raphael, and Michelangelo. Masterpieces await at every turn, from Bernini's magnificent bronze canopy to Michelangelo's Madonna della Pietà. Please note: Should this excursion fall on a Sunday, it'll be moved to another day of the tour. Backpacks aren't allowed in the Vatican, and shorts and sleeveless shirts are strictly prohibited. Due to closures of certain entrances and pathways, wait times may extend to several hours during busy travel months.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 16: Villa Machiavelli Dinner

From \$99.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Nestled in the Tuscan countryside, just outside of Florence sits the majestic Machiavelli Villa, a historic 14th-century villa perched on a hill surrounded by lush vineyards and olive groves. Home to Niccolò Machiavelli during his exile from Florence in the early 1500's, this sprawling estate-turned-museum not only boasts an impressive history but also produces award-winning wines and olive oils. Start your evening with a glass of Prosecco before touring the villa rooms. Then, enjoy a refined multi-course Italian dinner with local wine, taking in the landscape and beauty of Tuscany surrounding you. Please note: This excursions is seasonal and runs from March–October.

### Day 17: Siena & San Gimignano: Tuscan Hill Towns

From \$125.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (10 hours, departs in the morning)

Discover the essence of Tuscany on a full-day excursion. In Siena, a local guide introduces you to the town and its black-and-white marble duomo, where you'll find brilliantly colored 16th-century frescoes in the Piccolomini Library. You'll have some free time to explore the Campo, the square that serves as the center of civic life in Siena. Then, journey through the countryside to the town of San Gimignano, where you'll have some free time to explore the city's medieval towers or simply admire the Tuscan hills. Later, you'll head to a nearby vineyard, where an included wine tasting awaits. Please note: This excursion involves a

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.com/terms](https://groups.goaheadtours.com/terms)

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moderate amount of walking.

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