



Grand Tour Of Italy with Elizabeth Simcoe

15 days | 17 days with Rome extension | Oct 10 2026—Oct 24 2026

From wandering through medieval piazzas, to basking in postcard-worthy views of Naples and sampling antipasti in Umbria, a tour of Italy is a feast for the eyes—and your taste buds. Our enchanting two-week tour will guide you through the iconic cities you've been dreaming of, including Florence, Rome, and Venice, as well as the smaller treasures of Lake Como, Assisi, and Sorrento. Add a can't-miss excursion and venture to Tuscan hill towns or the island jewel of Capri or use your downtime to experience the Italian art of dolce far niente—the sweetness of doing nothing. Not ready to leave? We wouldn't want to, either. Take advantage of our two-day Rome extension—and take your time.



Your tour package includes

- 13 nights in handpicked hotels
- 13 breakfasts
- 6 dinners with beer or wine
- 7 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Lake Como
- Roman Theater of Verona
- Doge's Palace
- Florence Duomo
- Assisi's basilicas
- Pompeii ruins
- Colosseum
- Roman Forum

Tour pace

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

For more information, contact

<https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/grand-tour-of-italy-with-elizabeth-simcoe> | 1-800-438-7672

Grand Tour Of Italy with Elizabeth Simcoe

15 days | 17 days with Rome extension

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Milan today.

Lake Como Region → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Milan & transfer to Lake Como Region

Included meals: welcome dinner

Take a deep respiro, or breath—you're in Italy! After arriving in Milan, you'll transfer to your hotel in the Lake Como region. Relax and unpack before meeting your Tour Director and fellow travelers for a welcome dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 3: Lake Como

Included meals: breakfast

Start the day with a visit to Como town, where your Tour Director will introduce you to the waterfront city. Take in Como's eclectic Rationalist architecture, along with its glittering lakefront and staggering mountain scenery. Afterward, take to the glittering waters of Lake Como by adding a scenic cruise to your itinerary. You'll float by some of Italy's most sumptuous residences and gardens, and stop in the village of Bellagio for good measure.

+ Lake Como Cruise & Bellagio

Venice → 2 nights

Day 4: Venice via Verona

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

It's easy to fall in love in—and with—Verona. With its 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 city center, then continue to Venice. There, you'll wind down the day with your fellow travelers over an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 5: 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!

- Marvel at the Bridge of Sighs (or Ponte dei Sospiri in Italian), now a famous Venetian landmark that was built in 1600 to connect the Doge's Palace to a prison situated just across the canal.
- Enter the stately Doge's Palace, a masterpiece of Venetian Gothic style that was built in 1340 and served as both the residence of the Doge (the supreme authority of the Republic of Venice) and the seat of the Venetian government.
- Feel the energy of St. Mark's Square, with its thriving cafes and sumptuous buildings, and marvel at St. Mark's Basilica.
- Watch a 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.

You'll meet up with your local guide and explore the heart of Venice on foot and by vaporetto, or water taxi. After, spend a free afternoon walking along the city's canals, or add an excursion to take to the water aboard a gondola.

+ Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise

+ Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

Florence → 3 nights

Day 6: Florence via Ferrara

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Sulla strada per Firenze (that's Italian for "on the way to Florence"), stop in Ferrara—a city wrapped in defensive walls and surrounded by agricultural land—for a sightseeing tour. Then, end the day in Florence and linger with your fellow travelers over an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Florence

Included meals: breakfast

Florence was the beating heart of the Renaissance and is the final resting place of luminaries such as Galileo, Michelangelo, and

Machiavelli. Check out its highlights on a guided sightseeing tour, then enjoy free time in the city—or delve into its artistic heritage on an excursion to the world-famous Accademia Gallery.

- 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.
- Pass Giotto's Campanile. A masterpiece of Gothic architecture, this bell tower rises nearly 280 feet above the city and features the same red, white, and green marble found on the Duomo's facade.
- Walk the medieval Ponte Vecchio, an iconic bridge that spans the Arno River and has been lined with shops since the 13th century.
- Explore the Basilica of Santa Croce. Renowned for its magnificent frescoes depicting the life of St. Francis, this 13th-century Franciscan church also houses the tombs of Michelangelo and Machiavelli.

+ Accademia Gallery

Day 8: Free day in Florence

Included meals: breakfast

To strike out into the famous hills of the Tuscan countryside, add today's excursion to the medieval town of San Gimignano. Otherwise, hang back in Florence and revel in the remnants of the Renaissance that surround you.

+ San Gimignano: Medieval Sights & Tuscan

Flavors

Assisi → 2 nights

Day 9: Transfer to Assisi and sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Leave Florence behind and journey through the mesmerizing landscapes of central Italy. Your destination: Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis, one of the nation's patron saints.

Take in the serenity of this hilltop town on a guided sightseeing tour before ending the night with an included cena (that's Italian for "dinner"), served with beer or wine.

Please note: The Basilica of San Francesco d'Assisi is closed on Sundays for worship.

For more information, contact

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Day 10: Free day in Assisi

Included meals: breakfast

Looking to see more of Italy? Join our optional excursion to Perugia to immerse yourself in Umbrian art, architecture, and cuisine. You'll even visit a cave wine cellar—complete with a tasting, of course.

+ Perugia: City Highlights & Wine Tasting

Sorrento Peninsula → 2 nights**Day 11: Sorrento Peninsula via Pompeii**

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Leave Assisi and make your way to Pompeii—an ancient city, frozen in time, where excavated ruins unveil the daily routines and defining tragedy of a bygone civilization.

After touring the site, continue to the Sorrento Peninsula, where you'll sit down for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 12: Free day on the Sorrento Peninsula

Included meals: breakfast

Looking to fill your day with a group outing? Add our optional excursion to Capri. Known around the world as a playground for chic jet-setters, this famed isle's dramatic coastline is dotted with colorful cliffside hotels and lavish villas. You'll traverse crystalline waters by boat and spend time on the island before returning to the Sorrento Peninsula.

+ Capri: A Day on the Iconic Island

Rome → 2 nights**Day 13: Transfer to Rome & sightseeing tour**

Included meals: breakfast

Step into Rome, a living tapestry of contradictions where ancient ruins coexist with a vibrant, modern spirit. Lose yourself in a chaotic symphony of honking Vespas, busy markets, and secret alleyways.

Day 14: Free day in Rome

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

The day is yours to seize! Seeking a little extra grandeur? Add our guided tour of Vatican City to your day to experience the serene beauty of the Vatican Museum, as well as the Sistine Chapel's venerated ceiling fresco.

This evening, come together for an elegant multi-course dinner—served with beer or wine—at a local restaurant and say farewell to your groupmates as you enjoy live musical entertainment.

+ Iconic Sights: Vatican City

Flight Home**Day 15: Departure**

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or *resta ancora un po'*—Italian for “stay a little longer”—to relish more of Rome's unforgettable sites.

+ Rome extension

Rome wasn't built in a day and, if you ask us, it wasn't meant to be enjoyed in a day either. We know you'll want more time in the Eternal City. Whether you play time-traveler while hopping between historic sites or live out your best take on Roman Holiday, it's in your hands, and we're here to help. Ask your Tour Director for their favorite ways to savor the city—like their secret spot for pasta carbonara—and get going!

Rome → 2 nights**Day 15: Free day in Rome**

Included meals: breakfast

To see even more of Rome's timeless sights, add our optional excursion to walk the Spanish Steps, delight in the lushness of the Trevi Fountain, and more. Then, top it all off by signing up for a pasta-making class and ending the evening dining on your own fresh, sauce-laden creation.

+ Walking Tour of Rome's Iconic Sights

+ Pasta-Making Class & Dinner

Day 16: Free day in Rome

Included meals: breakfast

You won't want to skip our guided tour of St. Paul's Basilica—one of Rome's four major papal churches. Add it to your itinerary to view the final resting place of St. Paul and take a subterranean journey through Rome's ancient catacombs.

Celebrate your trip and raise your glass for a farewell drink with your fellow group members on your last night in Italy.

+ Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the

Catacombs

Flight Home**Day 17: Departure**

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early

morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Arrivederci e a presto—goodbye and see you soon.

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/tours/grand-tour-of-italy-with-elizabeth-simcoe> | 1-800-438-7672

Day 3: Lake Como Cruise & Bellagio

From \$115.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (5 hours, departs in the afternoon, aperitif)

Hop aboard a scenic cruise of Lake Como to soak in some of Italy's most beautiful estates and gardens. Float past charming lakeside towns to Bellagio, a village whose scenery has inspired poets and young lovers for centuries. You'll have time to take in Bellagio's classic beauty before heading to a local restaurant, where you'll enjoy a traditional aperitif. Please note: This excursion is weather-dependent.

Day 5: Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise

From \$95.00 . 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 5: Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

From \$169.00 . 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 7: Accademia Gallery

From \$75.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (2 hours, departure time varies)

Home to Michelangelo's masterpiece David, the Accademia Gallery is one of the most famous museums in Florence. Skip the ticket lines, and join a local guide on a tour of the museum as you learn about Renaissance art history and view a variety of pieces, including the marble statue of David.

Day 8: San Gimignano: Medieval Sights & Tuscan Flavors

From \$115.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (6 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Travel through the beautiful Tuscan countryside to discover the medieval village of San Gimignano. During the Renaissance, the rival Guelph and Ghibelline political factions flexed their muscles by constructing tall towers throughout San Gimignano; fourteen of those towers survive today. Later, visit a local winery for

a taste of the area's wines and a sampling of olive oil and balsamic vinegar that you won't find anywhere else. Then, enjoy lasagna during a light lunch. Please note: This excursion involves a moderate amount of walking across hilly terrain with some steep inclines.

Day 10: Perugia: City Highlights & Wine Tasting

From \$115.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (6 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Discover Perugia on a guided tour. While the city is the capital of the Umbria region, it still maintains a charming feel thanks to its rich collection of Renaissance art and sweeping countryside views. You'll see Perugia Cathedral, Palazzo dei Priori, Fontana Maggiore, and the shops of Corso Vannucci. Enter the Collegio del Cambio, home to the historic exchange guild. The building dates back to the 13th century and you'll step inside to view famous, well-preserved frescoes by Renaissance painter Pietro Perugino. Then, head to the Rocca Paolina fortress for a lunch of typical Umbrian cuisine that incorporates seasonally fresh ingredients. Warm, hearty foods like lentil soup will be served in the fall and winter. Whereas summer will bring fresh, bright pasta dishes. You'll also visit a cave wine cellar to enjoy a tasting of three wines—a local white, red, and Vin Santo, or dessert wine.

Day 12: Capri: A Day on the Iconic Island

From \$145.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (8 hours, departs in the morning)

Travel by ferry to the fabled isle of Capri, a beloved resort since the days of the Roman Republic. Weather permitting, you'll enjoy a boat ride around the island. Later, you'll enjoy free time to discover why everyone from Roman emperors to Sophia Loren has spent their vacations in Capri. If the weather prohibits a boat ride, you'll travel to the village of Anacapri, which offers stunning views of the surrounding scenery. Please note: This excursion is weather-dependent. Travelers prone to seasickness should take the proper precautions.

Day 14: 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. From December 24, 2024, to January 6, 2026, the Jubilee may impact if and when this excursion can run—should your departure be impacted, Go Ahead will inform you.

Extension excursion options

Day 15: Walking Tour of Rome's Iconic Sights

From \$105.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (3 hours, departs in the morning)

Set out for a stroll through central Rome with a local expert. From the Spanish Steps, where Bernini's Baroque-style fountain has stood since the 1600s, head to the intricately carved Trevi Fountain. (Don't forget to toss in a coin and wish for a return trip to Rome!) Enjoy a gelato tasting before entering the Pantheon, the best-preserved ancient Roman temple. Your walking tour ends at Piazza Navona, the city's most famous square, where you'll view Bernini's stunning the Fountain of the Four Rivers. Please note: Comfortable shoes are recommended, as this excursion involves a moderate amount of walking on cobblestone streets. Entrance is not guaranteed to the Pantheon depending on the day of the week and public holidays.

Day 15: Pasta-Making Class & Dinner

From \$119.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

In this hands-on cooking class led by an experienced Italian chef, you'll learn to make pasta—perhaps pillowy ravioli or castellane, a ridged shell pasta that's rolled into a long, oval shape—using traditional techniques you can keep on practicing when you get back home. Then, sit down for dinner and enjoy the dishes you've prepared, along with wine.

Day 16: Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs

From \$95.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (4 hours, departure time varies)

Descend into Rome's ancient catacombs, where early Christians buried saints and popes alongside commoners. A local guide will lead you through the burial chambers before your visit to St. Paul's Basilica, one of the four most important basilicas of Rome. Originally founded by Constantine the Great, the Basilica also houses the tomb of St. Paul. Please note: Shorts and sleeveless shirts are not permitted within the Basilica. Also, this excursion involves extensive walking and may be challenging for claustrophobic travelers.

*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. Go Ahead Tours 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 <https://www.goaheadtours.com/about/terms>.