



Venice, Florence, Rome & Sorrento with Donna Kirkland

13 days | 16 days with Taormina Region extension

We've picked iconic cities at the pulse of Italy's vibrant culture, both past and present. Venice brings romance to the forefront, with sprawling Baroque palaces and meandering, gondola-dotted canals. The Renaissance is tangible in Florence, where the presence of the world's greatest artists can still be felt. In Rome, history is ever-present, from the crumbling Colosseum to the Forum. And along the Sorrento Peninsula admire the candy-colored villas and beautiful sea views. The people, the food, the way of life—experience what Italy is all about as you make your way from one city to the next.



Your tour package includes

- 11 nights in handpicked hotels
- Breakfast daily
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 wine tasting
- 5 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- St. Mark's Basilica
- Florence Duomo
- Ponte Vecchio
- Piazza della Repubblica
- world-famous Italian cuisine
- Assisi
- Colosseum
- Roman Forum
- Abbey of Montecassino

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including cobblestone streets, with few hills or stairs.

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Venice today.

Venice → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Venice

Included meals: dinner

Welcome to Italy! Transfer to your hotel and get settled in. Later, meet your fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Venice

Included meals: breakfast

Admire historic churches, winding canals, and picture-perfect piazzas on a guided tour of the city known as the Queen of the Adriatic.

- Step into the iconic St. Mark's Square and enter St. Mark's Basilica
- View the stately Doge's Palace, built in the Venetian Gothic style in 1340
- Marvel at the Bridge of Sighs, the link between Doge's Palace and the New Prison
- See a glassblowing demonstration to learn about the city's most celebrated art

Enjoy a free afternoon in Venice or add an excursion.

+ Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise

+ Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

Florence → 3 nights

Day 4: Transfer to Florence & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Cross through the Apennine Mountains as you make your way to Florence. Once you arrive, get to know the city with a local guide.

- View the legendary Florence Cathedral, known as the Duomo
- Pass Giotto's Campanile, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture
- Walk past Piazza della Repubblica to the medieval Ponte Vecchio
- Stroll along the Arno River and through the courtyard of the Uffizi Gallery to Piazza della Signoria, center of Florentine life

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 5: Free day in Florence

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a full free day to explore Florence at your leisure.

Day 6: Free day in Florence

Included meals: breakfast

Spend another free day in Florence or add an excursion.

+ Accademia Gallery

Rome → 3 nights

Day 7: Rome via Assisi

Included meals: breakfast

Drive through spectacular Umbria to hillside Assisi, where you'll enjoy a guided tour of the town's UNESCO World Heritage sites.

- Visit Assisi's lower and upper basilicas
- See Giotto's magnificent frescoes and other late-medieval art

Then, continue on to Rome.

Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Rome

Included meals: breakfast

Follow in the footsteps of the ancient Romans on a guided tour of the Eternal City.

- Soak up over 2,000 years of history in Imperial Rome, viewing the Arch of Constantine and the Arch of Titus
- Enter the Colosseum, the largest amphitheater of the Roman Empire
- Stop at the ruins of the Forum, once the setting of parades, elections, and trials
- Pass by Palatine Hill to see Circus Maximus, the stadium where ancient Romans raced chariots, and the Baths of Caracalla

Enjoy free time in Rome or add an excursion.

+ Pasta-Making Class & Dinner

Day 9: Free day in Rome

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day to explore Rome or add an excursion.

+ Iconic Sights: Vatican City

Sorrento Peninsula → 3 nights

Day 10: Sorrento Peninsula via Montecassino

& farmhouse dinner

Included meals: breakfast, dinner, wine tasting

En route to the Sorrento Peninsula, stop at Montecassino. You'll take a guided tour of the Abbey of Montecassino, which was completely destroyed during an American-led air raid and rebuilt after the war.

Later, take a short trip outside of Sorrento for a cultural experience at an agriturismo, or farm stay. Here you'll have a chance to explore the lush gardens, cultivated fields, and vegetation typical of many Mediterranean regions.

- After touring the farm, savor an aperitif of prosecco, meant to stimulate the appetite
- Indulge in a four-course dinner, complete with a wine tasting led by an experienced sommelier

Please note: Climbing stairs and walking is required in order to tour the farm.

Day 11: Free day on the Sorrento Peninsula

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day exploring the Sorrento Peninsula or add an excursion.

+ Capri: A Day on the Iconic Island

Day 12: Free day on the Sorrento Peninsula

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Enjoy one last free day exploring the Sorrento Peninsula on your own, or add an excursion.

Later, rejoin your group to celebrate your trip during a farewell dinner this evening.

+ Scenic Amalfi Coast

Flight Home

Day 13: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the Naples airport for your flight home or extend your trip to explore the Taormina region of Sicily.

+ Taormina Region extension

"Picturesque" is the word that springs to mind when we think of the Taormina region's pretty piazzas and ocean vistas (although "jaw-dropping" and "mesmerizing" work, too). Fly to Sicily and explore this lovely locale with an

expert guide in the lead.

Taormina Region → 3 nights

Day 13: Flight to Catania

Included meals: breakfast

Fly to Catania, Sicily. Then, transfer to the Taormina region.

Day 14: Sightseeing tour of Taormina

Included meals: breakfast

Meet up with a local guide who will introduce you to Taormina, a scenic town perched high above the sea.

- Enjoy views of Mount Etna, Taormina Cathedral, and Palazzo Corvaja, seat of the first Sicilian parliament
- Visit the town's 2nd-century Greek theater

Spend a free evening in the Taormina region or add an excursion.

+ Traditional Sicilian Dinner & Wine Tasting

Day 15: Free day in the Taormina Region

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in the Taormina region or add an excursion.

This evening, raise a glass and toast to your trip with a farewell drink.

+ Mount Etna: Sicily's Volcanic Landscapes

Travel Home

Day 16: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the Catania 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: goaheadtours.com/ZHK | 1-800-597-0350

Day 3: Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise

\$79/\$89* (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 3: Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

\$159/\$169* (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 6: Accademia Gallery

\$59 (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. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 70 days prior to departure.

Day 8: Pasta-Making Class & Dinner

\$115/\$125* (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 9: Iconic Sights: Vatican City

\$115 (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 Pietà.

Please note: Should this excursion fall on a Sunday, it will be moved to another day of the tour. Backpacks are not 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. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 45 days prior to departure.

Day 11: Capri: A Day on the Iconic Island

\$115/\$125* (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 12: Scenic Amalfi Coast

\$139/\$149* (8 hours, departs in the morning)

Join a local guide and drive along the Amalfi Coast, enjoying views of lemon groves growing on terraced cliffs and whitewashed villas clinging to the rocky shores. Stop along the way at the Madonnina viewpoint. This scenic spot offers stunning views of the sea and overlooks Positano, one of the most famous towns on the Amalfi Coast. You'll also see the region's beauty up close during a visit to the town of Amalfi. Here, you'll admire picturesque streets and historic sites, including the architecturally stunning Cathedral of St. Andrew. This unique, 13th-century cathedral houses relics of St. Andrew the Apostle, and you'll enjoy free time to step inside, do some shopping, or relax over a leisurely lunch. End your time in Amalfi with a taste of *delizia al limone*, a local lemon dessert.

Extension excursion options

Day 14: Traditional Sicilian Dinner & Wine Tasting

\$99/\$109* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Venture into the foothills surrounding Mt. Etna for dinner and a wine tasting at a local vineyard. Like Sicily itself, Sicilian cuisine has been profoundly influenced by the myriad cultures that have made this island their home.

Day 15: Mount Etna: Sicily's Volcanic Landscapes

\$89/\$99* (7 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Travel from Taormina to the base of Mount Etna, Europe's largest and highest active volcano. Here, a local guide will board your bus and you'll ascend up to 5,000 feet, stopping at a scenic vantage point to snap photos and learn about the mountain's long history of eruptions, as well as its native flora and fauna. Continue up to 6,600 feet, where you'll have free time to walk among the volcanic craters and peruse the mountainside shops before sampling local delicacies at an included three-course lunch. Please note: Comfortable shoes and layered clothing are recommended. Temperatures on the mountain are cool in the summer and can be quite chilly the rest of the year.

*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