

## Performing Travel Experience Designed Especially for Shawnee Mission East Sr High School



# From Florence to Rome 30514-0-22

March 9 - March 18, 2018

### ITINERARY OVERVIEW

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- DAY 1 DEPARTURE FROM KANSAS CITY
- DAY 2 ARRIVE ROME - ORVIETO - MONTECATINI TERME AREA (3 NIGHTS)
- DAY 3 FLORENCE - CONCERT PERFORMANCE
- DAY 4 SAN GIMIGNANO, PISA & LUCCA - CONCERT PERFORMANCE
- DAY 5 MONTECATINI TERME - SIENA - ASSISI (2 NIGHTS)
- DAY 6 ASSISI - CONCERT PERFORMANCE
- DAY 7 ASSISI - ROME (3 NIGHTS) - CONCERT PERFORMANCE
- DAY 8 DAY TRIP TO POMPEII
- DAY 9 ROME (CITY OF THE POPES) - CONCERT PERFORMANCE
- DAY 10 DEPARTURE FROM ROME

## ITINERARY

Italy calls to people in a unique way. The rich and colorful culture melts into a warm atmosphere filled with light and life. Ancient traditions combine with a spiritual pride expressed in the art and food that epitomize what we have come to know as La Bella Vita. From Roman ruins to the richness of the Renaissance, from the ruins of war to the peace of country life, experience the world in a new way in beautiful Italy.

 Educational Tour/Visit	 Cultural Experience	 Festival/Performance/Workshop	Tour Services
 Recreational Activity	 LEAP Enrichment	 Match/Training Session	    



### DAY 1 Friday, 09 March 2018

-  Relax and enjoy our scheduled flight from Kansas City to Rome, Italy

### DAY 2 Saturday, 10 March 2018

-  Our 24-hour Tour Director will meet us at the airport and remain with us until our final airport departure.
-  We will have use of a private coach and driver, while touring for the next eight days.
-  Set atop a high volcanic plateau, Orvieto is hidden from the rolling farmlands of southern Umbria. Believed to have originally been a large Etruscan city of many temples, Orvieto is more famous today for its impressive Duomo and for its white wine.
-  Our coach will drop us off in the new city from where we will take a Funicular ride to the historical city centre.
-  Visit the Duomo, Orvieto's most striking sight. With the sun glinting off the gold mosaics, pointed arches, and intricate Gothic stone detailing, the cathedral has led some to call it a precious gem, and others to dub it the world's largest triptych. Our visit will include the Cappella Nuova, also known locally as the Capella San Brizio, featuring frescoes by Fra Angelico that influenced the works of Michelangelo. The Cappella del Corporale houses a cloth on which the blood of Christ is said to have miraculously appeared.
-  Our hotel in Montecatini Terme (area), will be our base for the next three nights. While here, we will enjoy breakfast and dinner at the hotel.
-  Montecatini Terme is a picturesque town in Tuscany that has hosted visitors since its famous spa baths were created in the 16th century. Situated near Florence and Lucca, the town is a perfect base for exploring.

### DAY 3 Sunday, 11 March 2018

-  Florence is so deeply connected to the Renaissance movement in art and literature that it is often called the "Cradle of the Renaissance." A walk through the peaceful piazzas reveals the architecture and sculpture that have made this beautiful city one of the world's greatest artistic capitals.
-  Spend time at the American Military Cemetery and Memorial, where the headstones of 4,402 of the military dead are arranged in symmetrical curved rows upon the hillside, representing 39 percent of the US Fifth Army burials originally made between Rome and the Alps. Most died in the fighting that occurred after the capture of Rome in June 1944. Included among them are casualties of the heavy fighting in the Apennines shortly before the war's end. During the course of our tour we will gain from the knowledge and insight of seven half-day local guides while we are here in Italy.
-  Visit the Accademia Gallery, where we will view Michelangelo's statuary masterpiece, David, and Boticelli's Madonna and Child.



**DAY 3 Sunday, 11 March 2018**

-  Enjoy the Piazza del Duomo, where the cathedral, tower, and baptistery exhibit the traditions of Florentine art from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. We will observe the massive and detailed facade of the Duomo before viewing the baptistery's bronze doors, designed by Ghiberti and which Michelangelo commented were worthy to be the "Gates of Paradise." After a brief visit inside the Duomo, we will have the opportunity to ascend the Bell Tower; climb the narrow steps to the top of the Red Dome or visit the spectacular interior of the Baptistery.
-  Stroll along the Ponte Vecchio, the oldest of Florence's six bridges and one of the best-loved sites of Florence. Lined with numerous shops, visitors often do not realize they are on a bridge until they reach the center arches that look out over the Arno.
-  We will give a concert performance in Florence today. Sacred venue options include the great Santa Maria del Fiore (the Duomo of Florence), the Church of Santi Apostoli, San Miniato al Ricci, the Tempio Maggiore (the great Orthodox Jewish Temple), the Convent of Montedomini, and San Miniato al Monte. The American International School and St. James Church would serve as ideal joint performance venues, while secular venues include the United States Consulate General and the Tuscan American Association's elegant senior home, the Casa Di Riposo.

**DAY 4 Monday, 12 March 2018**

-  The striking skyline of San Gimignano is one of the most familiar views of Tuscany. The town is noted for its thirteen towers, built by various noble families in the 12th and 13th centuries, which dominate the scene and impart a unique character to this idyllic location.
-  Take a Walking Tour and view the Piazza della Cisterna, the Piazza del Duomo, and the People's Palace. Both spaces are guarded by the tall medieval towers that have made San Gimignano, "city of the beautiful towers," the poster child for Italian hill towns everywhere.
-  Experience a bit of Italy's agriturismo with a visit to Fattoria Poggio Alloro, a Tuscan farm at the base of San Gimignano. Enjoy a brief tour of the farm, including the vineyards, the wine vats, the cattle, and the gardens, all well marveling at the impressive views of San Gimignano. Continue with a three-course lunch in the farmhouse, featuring foods produced on the farm.
-  During the Middle Ages, Pisa's powerful navy and strong trading position brought enormous wealth to the city. Following several conquests and the silting of the harbor, however, it fell into decline. Now Pisa is primarily visited for its interesting architecture.
-  Visit the Duomo di Pisa, a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture. Begun in 1093, the cathedral is located in the heart of the Piazza del Duomo where it dominates the square. Inside are five naves and a 3-naved transept.
-  Depending upon the timing of today, we will stop in Lucca, whose peaceful narrow lanes wind among medieval buildings, churches, tiny piazzas, and Roman ruins. Founded as a Roman colony in 180 BC, the city center was shut off from traffic in the 17th century, making it a pleasant place to wander and explore.
-  Time permitting, take a Walking Tour through the old town to view the Renaissance and Gothic palaces, and the Piazza del Anfiteatro, where the amphitheater once stood.
-  Your concert performance will be today. Venue options include the Pisa Duomo and the surrounding Piazza

**DAY 5 Tuesday, 13 March 2018**

-  Today we will travel from Montecatini Terme to Assisi. En route, we will explore Siena.
-  Once a capital to rival Florence, Siena is Italy's prettiest medieval town, and still possesses the grandeur of the age when it was at its peak.
-  Visit the Duomo, highlighted by distinctive striped marble columns. Our visit will include the beautiful Piccolomini Library, designed to house the cathedral's collection of illuminated manuscripts. The magnificent room features an unrivaled ceiling and large frescoes depicting important events in the life of Pope Pius II.
-  Visit Chianti Sculpture Park. In the heart of Sienese Chianti, many internationally-renowned artists have created imposing contemporary sculptures in accordance with their own creative ideas and style, enhancing the sounds, colours and every other element of wood.
-  Our hotel in Assisi (area), will be our base for the next two nights. While here, we will enjoy breakfast and dinner at the hotel.



**DAY 5 Tuesday, 13 March 2018**

-  The medieval town of Assisi is heir to the legacy of its most prominent citizen, St. Francis. Although the town was damaged in the earthquake of 1997, it has been restored to its former glory with geranium-hung streets, lovely views, and fountain-splashed piazzas.

**DAY 6 Wednesday, 14 March 2018**

-  Visit the Basilica di San Francesco, an incongruous memorial to a man who preached and lived an utterly simple life of poverty, abstinence, and the enunciation of worldly goods in search of greater spirituality. We will explore the bi-level basilica, including the Lower Church, the Crypt, and the Upper Church, with Giotto's famous frescoes of 28 scenes of the Life of St. Francis.
-  Explore the Church of Santa Chiara, resting place for St. Clare's bones, and home of St. Francis's miraculous crucifix. Our visit will include the Neo-Gothic Crypt and the Oratorio del Crocifisso, which preserves the venerated 12th century crucifix that spoke to St. Francis at San Damiano and set him on his holy path.
-  Visit the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli to see the small Porziuncola Chapel and the site where St. Francis died.
-  Your concert performance in Assisi will be today. Venue options include the Basilica de San Francesco or the Basilica di Santa Chiara, both particularly musically gratifying experiences. Other options include Santa Maria Maggiore, Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, and the Sala S. Gregorio and Sala S. Antonio concert halls.

**DAY 7 Thursday, 15 March 2018**

-  Today we will travel from Assisi to Rome.
-  Known to many as the "Eternal City", Rome is the capital of Italy, with an uninterrupted history spanning two and a half thousand years. As one of the founding cities of western civilisation, Rome is filled with incredible historical sites. It is a city with many faces, encompassing medieval, renaissance, and modern. To define Rome is an impossible task, but to enjoy Rome is a wondrous experience.
-  Enjoy a guided tour, through the spectacular remains of the Roman Empire. The Colosseum, considered to be the greatest symbol of Ancient Rome's power and glory, was completed under Titus in 80 A.D. The Colosseum could hold 55,000 spectators, on a par with many of today's modern sports stadiums. Among the sights included is the Arch of Constantine, a triumphal arch finished in 315 A.D., commemorating the victory of Constantine I over Maxentius in the year 312 A.D. We will also tour the ruins and excavations of the Roman Forum, which features the remains of magnificent temples, basilicas, and triumphal arches that once formed the heart of the Empire.
-  Visit the Pantheon, Rome's best-preserved monument. The Pantheon is a masterpiece of architecture with its huge hemispherical dome. It also contains the tombs of the kings of Italy and that of the artist, Raphael.
-  For the next three evenings we will enjoy the convenience of our centrally-located Rome hotel, where daily breakfast will be included.
-  This evening we will dine in the Piazza Navona area. Built on the foundations of Domitian's Circus, this magnificent square was designed by Borromini in 17th century. It is full of life and is highlighted by one of Rome's most spectacular fountains, the Four Rivers designed by Bernini. The square is often filled with local artists. The surrounding neighborhood is also one of the best places in Rome to get a tasty tartufo or gelato ice cream.



**DAY 7 Thursday, 15 March 2018**

-  Our concert performance in Rome will be today. Venues options include singing mass in St. Peter's Basilica, which is the ultimate experience for many groups. Other sacred settings include the Trinità dei Monti, which sits atop the Spanish Steps, the Church of Santa Maria del Popolo, San Lorenzo in Damaso, the Basilica Santa Maria in Trastevere, and the Basilica di San Nicola in Carcere. Sant'Anselmo is a smaller setting that allows groups to attend Gregorian Vespers, have supper with the monks in their refectory, and give a concert in the late evening with full repertoire. We may also perform in the Monastery Chapel of the American University of Rome.

Secular venues include the American Overseas School, where you can interact with the students, the US Embassy in the Vatican City, and the Piazza Navona.



**DAY 8 Friday, 16 March 2018**

-  Pompeii is a ruined and partially buried Roman town-city near modern Naples in the Italian region of Campania, in the territory of the comune of Pompei. Along with Herculaneum, its sister city, Pompeii was destroyed, and completely buried, during a long catastrophic eruption of the volcano Mount Vesuvius spanning two days in AD 79.
-  Explore the magnificent Roman ruins at Pompeii, which give a fascinating glimpse into Roman life. In 79 AD, the fury of nearby Mt. Vesuvius was unleashed upon this prosperous city, killing its 2,000 inhabitants and burying it under pumice and ash. Today, the excavations reveal the ruins of the city's amphitheatres, forum, baths, streets and splendid houses, some with their frescoes still visible. Finally we explore the Villa of the Mysteries outside the city walls.

 This evening, dinner will be provided in a local restaurant.



**DAY 9 Saturday, 17 March 2018**

-  Experience a specialist-guided tour of the Vatican City, including the Museums, home to one of the world's most impressive collections of art. Our tour includes the map tapestry rooms, the magnificent Raphael Rooms, and the spectacular Sistine Chapel, highlighted by Michelangelo's ceiling and his Last Judgment. We will continue into St. Peter's Square to visit St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the western world and the centre of Catholicism. Highlights of our visit include Michelangelo's Pieta and Bernini's magnificent Baldacchino over the high altar.

 This evening we will dine near the spectacular Trevi Fountain where it is traditional to toss a coin into the fountain to ensure a safe return to The Eternal City. Spend time at Rome's meeting place, the Piazza di Spagna, home of the famous Spanish Steps. The piazza and steps are both named in reference to a 16th century Spanish ambassador who lived here. English poet John Keats lived and died in the house to the right of the steps, which is now a memorial.

-  Our concert performance in Rome will be today. Venues options include singing mass in St. Peter's Basilica, which is the ultimate experience for many groups. Other sacred settings include the Trinità dei Monti, which sits atop the Spanish Steps, the Church of Santa Maria del Popolo, San Lorenzo in Damaso, the Basilica Santa Maria in Trastevere, and the Basilica di San Nicola in Carcere. Sant'Anselmo is a smaller setting that allows groups to attend Gregorian Vespers, have supper with the monks in their refectory, and give a concert in the late evening with full repertoire. We may also perform in the Monastery Chapel of the American University of Rome.

Secular venues include the American Overseas School, where you can interact with the students, the US Embassy in the Vatican City, and the Piazza Navona.



**DAY 10 Sunday, 18 March 2018**

-  Our rewarding and enjoyable tour comes to an end as our Tour Director accompanies us to the airport on our final day.
-  Please note that the sightseeing content may be amended or eliminated in order to facilitate the best possible concert arrangements for your group.

**TOTAL PER PERSON TOUR COST BASED ON NUMBER OF FULL-PAYING PARTICIPANTS**

Shawnee Mission East Sr High School (Subject to final airfare confirmation)	Full Paying Participants	Free Place Entitlement	Price In USD
This proposal is valid until Thursday, 16 February 2017 and this tour cannot be operated in its present format with fewer than 10 participants.	<b>130</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3,399</b>
<b>EZ Pay Option</b>			
Enroll by <b>02/16/2017</b> and make <b>11</b> payments of <b>\$281.73</b> every <b>30</b> days by automatic deduction from your bank account. The final payment of the series will be deducted no later than 45 days before travel.			
**Based on the bolded pricing ratio from above. Tour Prices Guaranteed at Time of Enrollment!			
Our Price Guarantee: Once you have accepted this proposal, the dates have been confirmed and WorldStrides online registration portal (or equivalent paperwork) has been made available for your group's tour, the prices shown for the relevant group size level(s) will not change, regardless of any subsequent rate fluctuations (for example, on visits to attractions, airline fuel/taxes or currency movements on overseas programs).			

**What is Included:**

- Round trip airfare with a major carrier on scheduled flights and guaranteed dates
- All airport taxes and fuel surcharges (which will not change after time of enrollment for any participant)
- Accommodation in three and four star hotels in twin (or occasional triple) rooms with private facilities guaranteed throughout
- A filling breakfast everyday to get the day started well throughout your touring program
- A three course dinner daily reflecting local cuisine on every evening (usually in local restaurants in capital cities)
- A full-time WorldStrides OnStage Tour Director, familiar with our LEAP Educational Program, to accompany your group 24 hours a day from arrival to departure
- The expertise and perspective of local guides during your tour
- All excursions, cultural activities and (several pre-booked) admissions as per your itinerary
- Once overseas, all transportation by private coach while on tour
- All of the venue arrangement fees and promotional costs for the concert performances
- One semester HS performing arts credit option for students (online course provided by WorldStrides)
- Three college credits issued by University of California - San Diego for high school students (upon successful completion of online course work)
- A free place in a single room and provision of an international cell phone for the main Program Leader on your tour
- Additional free places in shared twin rooms (as determined by the number of full paying participants stated)
- Basic health insurance while on tour (including medical treatment on tour up to \$7,500) and \$50,000 of coverage for emergency evacuation and repatriation
- Free Professional Development Points/Credits (35 points or equivalent) for all faculty chaperones
- Tips and gratuities for the guide and driver
- TripMate Cancel for Any Reason Travel Insurance, valued at \$249

**This Does Not Include:**

- Lunches or beverages with meals
- Visas (if required)
- Any costs for the hire or transportation of equipment/instruments by land or air
- Any fees that might be imposed by the airlines at the airport for checked baggage