



Venice



Florence



Rome

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

The Three Pearls of Italy

October 24 - November 6, 2010 14 Days

Hosted by Pastors Scott Searl and Hub Nelson

Tour Highlights

- Discover the historical, cultural and culinary delights of Italy, the cradle of European Christian society
- Delight in the romantic allure of Venice, the City of Canals
- Tour Florence, the cultural capital of Italy and home to countless artists, sculptors and architects
- Explore Rome, the Eternal City, and all its glories
- Enjoy ample time for independent exploration in each city.
- Relax in First Class, city center hotels selected for easy access to local sites.



Group Travel Directors
Enriching Lives Through
Travel Since 1982

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

SUN 24 OCT

Depart USA

Depart Minneapolis/St. Paul and connect at JFK Airport with the transatlantic, overnight flight to Venice via Delta Airlines. (Meals in-flight)

MON 25 OCT

Arrive Venice

Upon arrival in Venice meet your tour escort and transfer to the hotel via private motorcoach and private motorlaunch. The rooms will be ready at mid-afternoon, so store your luggage and enjoy a stroll. After check-in take some time to relax and freshen up before joining the group for a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant within walking distance of the hotel. Hotel Gabrielli Sandwirth (Meals in-flight, D)

<http://www.hotelgabrielli.it/en/>

TUE 26 OCT

Venice

Founded in 811 A.D., Venice is built on 117 islands, with 150 canals, and has over 400 bridges. The protector and patron saint of Venice is St. Mark the Evangelist. His remains were brought to Venice from Alexandria in 823 A.D. Notable Venetians include: explorer Marco Polo; musician Vivaldi; artists Titian, Veronese, and Tintoretto; and Goldoni, Casanova and D'Annunzio. Many writers have lived in Venice: Byron, Keats, Goethe, Musset, and Georges Sand. William Shakespeare wrote of Venice in "Othello" and "Merchant of Venice." On a 1.5 hour walking tour your local guide will introduce you to the highlights of Venice including an inside visit of St. Mark's Basilica. Private motorlaunch for roundtrip transfer. Hotel Gabrielli Sandwirth (B)

WED 27 OCT

Venice

Enjoy a free day for independent exploration in Venice. Hotel Gabrielli Sandwirth (B)

THU 28 OCT

Venice/Florence

Transfer by private motorlaunch and meet your private coach, which will be with you through tomorrow. Travel overland to Florence today stopping in Ravenna en route. Hotel Ambasciatori (B, D)

www.hotelambasciatori.net

FRI 29 OCT

Florence

No one knows whether it was a miraculous coincidence or simply in the nature of the

We are excited at the prospect of traveling to Italy with you. One never fails to be inspired by the sites and art and monuments of one of the great centers of early Christianity. We have designed our travel experience so that each traveler can customize her or his experience out of three major cities, Venice, Florence and Rome.



There will be more than enough options for exploration within each city, but we will also provide side trip options to visit places like Pompeii, Capri, Naples, etc.. Monthly meetings and newsletters will help whet your appetites for planning your trip for maximum growth and pleasure.

—Pastors Scott Searl and Hub Nelson

surrounding countryside that Dante, Giotto, Brunelleschi, Donatello, da Vinci, Michelangelo, Galileo, Machiavelli, and so many other giants were all Florentines. Start this morning with a locally guided tour of the city. See the Cathedral (Duomo, 1296) with its dome by Brunelleschi, its bell tower by Giotto, and the Baptistry with the bronze "Doors of Paradise" cast by Ghiberti in the middle 1400s. Continue to the Piazza della Signoria with views of the Loggia Lanzi and the Palazzo Vecchio. Hotel Ambasciatori (B)

SAT 30 OCT

Florence

Full day at leisure for independent activities. Be sure to visit the Accademia to wonder at Michelangelo's magnificent statue of David. Hotel Ambasciatori (B)

SUN 31 OCT

Florence/Rome

Meet your private coach, which will be with you through tomorrow. Travel to Rome stopping in Siena along the way. Upon arrival check in at your hotel followed by dinner at a local restaurant within walking distance of the hotel. After dinner, say goodbye to your tour escort. The ancient city of Rome, traditionally founded on April 21 (753 B.C.), was already known as the "Eternal City." It was the capital of the Roman Empire and the cultural center of Europe for over 1500 years. Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio (B, D)

www.bettojahotels.it

MON 01 NOV

Rome

Begin the day with a locally guided tour of the Vatican City, including the Vatican Museums, which occupy part of the palaces built by the Popes from the 13th century onward. A visit to the Raphael Rooms, the Pinacoteca, and the Sistine Chapel will provide you with a glimpse of some of the world's greatest art treasures. Continue to St. Peter's Square, designed by Bernini (1656-1667), and the Basilica begun by Emperor Constantine (324 A.D.). Michelangelo's Pieta and Dome of the Basilica are evidence to his creative genius. This afternoon tour Imperial Rome. View sites such as, Piazza della Repubblica, Trajans Market, Piazza Venezia, Capitoline Hill, panoramic view of the Roman Forum, Arch of Constantine, Circus Maximus, and the Colosseum. Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio (B)



TUE 02 NOV

Rome

Free day for independent activities. We will suggest optional day trips from which you can select. Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio (B)

WED 03 NOV

Rome

Free day. Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio (B)

THU 04 NOV

Rome

Free day. Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio (B)

FRI 05 NOV

Rome

Free day. Gather for an early evening farewell dinner at a local restaurant. Roundtrip transfers are included. Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio (B, D)

SAT 06 NOV

Return to USA

Transfer to the Rome airport for the homebound flights. (B, Meals in-flight)

Code: **B** Breakfast, **L** Lunch, **D** Dinner
Itinerary subject to change.



TOUR CONDITIONS

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Your reservation and deposit of \$400 per person are requested immediately to fulfill the group deadline requirements. Note that space is limited and reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. A second payment of \$1000 is due June 21, 2010. Final payment is due August 20, 2010. For credit card payment Group Travel Directors accepts Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

REFUND POLICY: All cancellations must be in writing. There is no refund for partial or unused land arrangements. Note: Airline tickets will be issued well in advance prior to departure and may be nonrefundable. The following penalties will apply: Up to June 20, 2010 - \$100 per person administrative fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; June 21 - October 8, 2010 - Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; October 9, 2010 or after - No refund.

CHANGES TO GROUP FLIGHTS: The group airfare contract for this tour may not allow travelers to make any date or itinerary changes. If you are considering other dates or cities, please submit your request in writing well in advance to secure the best rates and schedule, but no later than June 21, 2010. A minimum fee of \$175 per person will apply for changes to group flights in addition to a possible airfare increase.

LATE BOOKINGS: Passengers registering within thirty days of tour departure will be charged a \$50 per person fee. Tour payment in full is required before we can request and confirm space. This fee does not cover any additional airline or ground service charges.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- AIRFARE:** Round-trip economy class airfare from Minneapolis/St. Paul via Delta Airlines or other ARC/IATA approved scheduled carrier.
- ACCOMMODATION:** Twelve nights accommodation in first class hotels, double occupancy, with private facilities. Hotels as listed or similar.
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily and four dinners as outlined in the itinerary.
- GROUND TRANSPORT:** Transfers and transportation by private deluxe motorcoach and private motorlaunch in Venice.
- SIGHTSEEING:** Locally guided sightseeing in Venice, Florence and Rome with basic entrance fees included.
- PORTERAGE:** Luggage handling of one piece per person.
- EXPERT GUIDES:** An experienced English-speaking tour guide from arrival in Venice through arrival in Rome with local assistance upon departure.
- GRATUITIES:** Gratuities to drivers and guides (for your convenience, \$71 per person has been included).
- TAXES:** Airport/foreign departure taxes (currently \$325 per person).
- ALL THE INFO YOU NEED:** Comprehensive documentation including travel accessory, bag tags, name tags, flight and land itineraries, destination literature, customs information, travel tips and more.

COST SUMMARY

\$4149

Group Flights From Minneapolis/St. Paul
 Tour Gratuities (\$71)..... Included
 Airport Taxes (\$325)..... Included
 *Costs per person based on double occupancy in USD

Optional Individual Supplement

Single Room*..... \$779
 *In addition to base tour cost
 Very limited availability on request basis.
 GTD can assist in finding roommates;
 however, this cannot be guaranteed

Costs: The tour cost is per person based on current airfare from Minneapolis/St. Paul (other cities available), double occupancy, tariffs and currency valuations as of December 2009, a minimum of 30 travelers, and subject to confirmation. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed price and/or itinerary, they are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. Single room supplements may have limited availability and are on a request basis only.

Items Not Included

- Optional excursions on free days.
- Fuel surcharges and/or tax increases levied since the pricing of this tour.
- Beverages other than coffee/tea at breakfast.
- Any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Optional insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption is not included and highly recommended. Please refer to the Travel Insurance section.
- Passport fees. A passport valid six months beyond date of re-entry to the U.S. is required.
- No visa is required for U.S. citizens; non-U.S. citizens may require a visa.

PRE-EXISTING medical conditions and other circumstances are covered when insurance is purchased at the time of reservation / deposit. Contact Travel Insured for more info. 800-243-3174

RESERVATION APPLICATION • APPLY ONLINE AT: WWW.GTD.ORG G#101004 • OR CLIP AND MAIL

Searl/Nelson Italy • October 24-November 6, 2010 • (G#101004) • Group Travel Directors • 2000 W 98th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55431

Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____
(Name as it appears on passport) FIRST MIDDLE LAST

Address (no P.O. boxes please) _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone/Day () _____ Phone/Evening () _____ E-Mail _____

Date of Birth _____ Roommate _____ I will pay the supplement for a single room.

Advise if we can assign you a roommate or single supplement. GTD can assist in finding roommates; however, this cannot be guaranteed and the supplement may apply.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS (please check one)

- I/We will take the group flights from Mpls/St. Paul.
- I/We will need assistance with flight arrangements from _____ airport to join the group.
- I/We will make all of my own flight arrangements.
Please contact GTD for land- only rates.

DEPOSIT/TRAVEL INSURANCE (please check one)

Please reserve _____ space(s) for me/us; we choose the following deposit option:

\$ _____ **\$595 per person inclusive of travel insurance.**

\$ _____ **\$400 per person without travel insurance.**
 I/We decline now, but understand it can be purchased later without the pre- existing waiver.

Form of Payment

- Check
- Charge my deposit(s) to
 Credit Card # _____

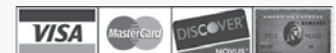
- Exp _____
- Security Code _____
- Name as it appears on credit card:

Please make checks payable to Group Travel Directors G#101004

I/We have read and understand the conditions of this brochure. Parent or guardian signature is required for travelers under age 18.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____



101004/152 C/J/W

GTD TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is included as an option with the initial tour deposit and is highly recommended. GTD offers a competitive policy from an independent company. By purchasing insurance at the time the tour deposit is made, you can be covered for events that may cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip, i.e., pre-existing medical conditions (certain restrictions apply). If you decline travel insurance at the time of reservation, you may purchase it within 14 days with the pre-existing conditions waiver or you may purchase it later without the pre-existing conditions waiver. You may contact Travel Insured International for further information before making your decision: 800-243-3174.

GTD TRAVEL INSURANCE INCLUSIONS

- Trip Cancellation.....up to Tour Cost*
- Trip Interruption.....up to 150% of Tour Cost**
- Travel Delay.....\$750
- Missed Connection.....\$300
- Baggage.....\$1,000
- Baggage Delay.....\$200
- Medical Expense.....\$50,000
- Evacuation/Repatriation.....\$500,000
- Accidental Death.....\$10,000
- Assistance Service.....included

* a maximum of \$4500 per person
** a maximum of \$6750 per person

Cost of this optional GTD Travel Insurance is \$195 per person. Additional coverage provided as needed; the full cost of your tour must be covered.

CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Group Travel Directors (GTD) provides customized travel planning throughout the world for group travelers who have a variety of reasons and goals for travel. The goals and/or opinions of these groups do not reflect or imply the position of GTD in any matter. Brochure contents may not be duplicated without permission from GTD. In offering these travel arrangements, Group Travel Directors, Inc. (GTD) acts solely as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel related services. GTD maintains no control over the personnel, equipment or operations of any entity furnishing services, products or accommodations. GTD assumes no responsibility or liability for, and shall not be expected, asked or required to pay for any injury, damage, expense, personal injury, property damage, inconvenience or any other loss experienced by reason of: (1) any intentional, wrongful, negligent or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any supplier, its agents or employees; (2) any defect, breakdown or other failure of any vehicle, equipment, service, product or other instrumentality which is owned, operated or otherwise used by a supplier; (3) any intentional, wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any other party not under the direct control of GTD; (4) financial problems causing nonperformance by any supplier; or (5) any other cause, condition or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of GTD. GTD cannot guarantee any rates, bookings or reservations of any supplier. Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute a consent to the foregoing provisions. All prices quoted are subject to change if airlines or ground operators increase their prices, the U.S. dollar is devalued significantly against foreign currencies, the group falls below minimum numbers, or a fuel surcharge, government tax or user's fee is imposed. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. GTD reserves the right to withdraw from any tour any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the interests of the group as a whole. The above Conditions and Responsibility also covers the group leader(s) and their respective organizations.

NOTE TO OUR TRAVELERS:

Please be assured that GTD continually monitors industry events, such as airline strikes and bankruptcies, etc. If any such events affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed there was not a U.S. State Department Travel Warning in effect for this destination; please refer to the following website for current information or call Group Travel Directors. http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw_1764.html

For more information, contact:

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