

RUINS, RENAISSANCE, AND REVOLUTION



Day 1

Depart from home city.

Day 2: Ancient Rome

Arrive in Rome. Get acquainted with the Eternal City on a **motorcoach overview tour** highlighting major sites such as **St. Peter's Basilica**, the **Pantheon**, **Trevi Fountain**, the **Colosseum**, the **Piazza Venezia**, the **Spanish Steps**, and the **Piazza Navona**. Your **Focus Director** will familiarize you with the area around your hotel and share practical information such as banking, mail services, phone, personal security, and health care.

Ancient Rome represents one of the benchmarks of Western Civilization. A symbol of great beauty and unmatched opulence, this is where many political and legal systems find their roots. Start your discovery by visiting the **Colosseum** and the **Roman Forum**, the commercial, political, and religious center of ancient Rome. In fact, much of the current political system in the United States is derived from the Roman political system first established under Caesar.

Day 3: Roman Faith and Feast

Step into **Vatican City**, the spiritual center of the Roman Catholic faith and the world's smallest independent state. Tour the extensive collection of art housed in the **Vatican Museums** – nearly two dozen galleries and period rooms, plus its grand finale, the **Sistine Chapel**.

It seems bigger is better in Rome, and **St. Peter's Basilica** is no exception.

Measuring two football fields in length, it can hold 60,000 worshippers. The gold-encrusted dome, designed by Michelangelo, is one of the largest in the world. **Climb up the dome's spiraling walkway** for breathtaking views of **St. Peter's Square** and the city of Rome.

📌 Eyes on the Pies

Get ready to roll up your sleeves and **prepare your own pizza**. Stretch out the dough, add fresh Italian toppings, and bake them in wood-fuelled ovens.

After a Roman feast, take a **night tour of Rome**. The best way to appreciate the Eternal City and its ancient past is to see it in the evening, when dramatic lighting illuminates the buildings, fountains, and squares.

Day 4: The Ancient City of Pompeii

📌 Pompeii

Leave Rome and drive south to **Pompeii**, a once thriving city whose infamous demise preserved a wealth of information about life in the ancient Roman Empire. The Roman world was stunned when the eruption of **Mount Vesuvius** buried the city in 79 AD. Pompeii was literally frozen in time as ash mummified the entire city. A visit serves as a window into the past, with sites like the forum center, various temples and villas, and the tomb of Vestoria Prisco.

Day 5: Florence – Cradle of the Renaissance

Depart Rome for Florence, home to the original changes associated with the Renaissance. The city's economy, writers, painters, architects, and philosophers united to form a model of Renaissance culture still evident in Florence today.

Begin at the Roman Catholic cathedral **Santa Maria del Fiore**, known for its red, green, and white color palette and distinctive 45-meter dome. Then head to the **Piazza del Duomo** to visit the **Battistero di San Giovanni**, an octagonal baptistery once believed to be a Roman Temple to Mars. Don't miss the detailed bronze panels of the baptistery's gorgeous **Gates of Paradise**, which took a total of 55 years to complete.

Created in 1784, the **Gallerie dell'Accademia** has lived up to its original purpose as a place of study for art students and helped to transform Florence into an art capital of the world. It houses some of the world's most famous art masterpieces, such as Michelangelo's *David*.

Day 6: The Florentine Lily

From the middle ages to modern day, **Piazza della Signoria** has been the political heart of Florence. It is named after its focal point, the **Palazzo del Signoria**, a palace constructed at the turn of the 13th-century.

Navigate through the works of Botticelli, Rembrandt, da Vinci, and Raphael in the **Uffizi**, one of the oldest and most renowned art museums in the world.

Bon Appetito! Long meals of delicious food and warm conversation are a staple of the Italian lifestyle. Relax after a full day with an **authentic dinner at a traditional Italian trattoria**.

Enjoy a night aboard the train as you travel from Florence to Paris.

Day 7: Early Paris

Arrive in Paris. Enjoy a **motorcoach overview tour** highlighting notable landmarks like the **Eiffel Tower**, the **Champs Élysées**, the **Arc de Triomphe**, the **Louvre**, and **Notre Dame**. Your Focus Director will familiarize you with the area around your hotel and share practical information about Paris.

After experiencing Florence at the age of Renaissance, step into the early years of Paris during the Roman, Medieval, and early Renaissance eras. On the island of "**La Cité**," visit the majestic **Notre Dame Cathedral** and the bustling flower market.

📌 The Evolution of Revolution

Times may have changed from the blood and battle of the French Revolution, but you can get a feel for a much more recent revolt against the political and social climate. Take to the streets near **Sorbonne University** while walking through the **Latin Quarter**. Students will not only hear about the student protests and strikes of **May 1968**, but will deconstruct propaganda posters and reflect on the revolution's impact worldwide, then and now.

Let I.M. Pei's *Glass Pyramid* be your guide as you head to the world's most visited museum – the **Louvre**! Its collection of over 380,000 objects includes da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* and Michelangelo's *The Dying Slave*.



The great Pantheon of Rome



Students join in a group discussion led by their Focus Director



A beautiful view of the Eiffel Tower



Students exploring the ancient city of Pompeii

ROME, FLORENCE, AND PARIS PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

10 DAY PROGRAM

Landmarks

Vatican City including Sistine Chapel
St. Peter's Basilica *(with admission to top of dome)*
Colosseum
Roman Forum
Capitoline Hill
Spanish Steps
Pantheon
Trevi Fountain
Piazza Venezia
Piazza Navona
Santa Maria del Fiore
Piazza del Duomo
Battistero di San Giovanni
Gates of Paradise
Eiffel Tower *(with admission to 2nd level)*
Champs Élysées
Place de la Concorde
Arc de Triomphe
Rue de Rivoli
Les Invalides
Ile de la Cité
Notre Dame
Sacré Coeur Basilica
Jardin des Tuileries

Museums and Galleries

Vatican Museums
Gallerie dell'Accademia
Uffizi
Louvre
Carnavalet Museum

Interactive Insights

Eyes on the Pies
The Evolution of Revolution
Morning at the Market
From Eyesore to Emblem

Eye-opening Excursions

Pompeii
Versailles



A rooftop view of the Florence cityscape, including Giotto's bell tower and the city's Duomo

Day 8: Absolutism, Enlightenment, and Revolution

E Versailles

The Age of Absolutism takes its name from a series of European monarchs who increased the power of their central governments. Among them was Louis XIV, who moved the royal residence from the **Louvre** to the **Palace of Versailles**. Visit this immense palace and tour the grandiose bedrooms, gardens, and **Hall of Mirrors**.

The Age of Enlightenment's bold ideas were spread in Parisian salons by the great philosophers: Montesquieu, Voltaire, Rousseau, and Diderot. Political philosophies fueled revolution in the Americas and France. Walk through the **Marais** and stop at the **Carnavalet Museum**, 20 rooms dedicated to the Revolutionary era. Visit historical sites of the French Revolution like **Place de la Concorde** and **Les Invalides**.

Soak up the distinctive character and romance of Paris after dark as you glide along the **Seine River** on a **regal night cruise**.



Night falls on Paris' Montmartre

Day 9: A True Parisian

Begin your day with a taste of French delicacies by **stopping at a pâtisserie**.

I Morning at the Market

Join Parisians in a time-honored tradition and start your **morning at a French market**. Shop among locals while surrounded by aromatic cheeses, fresh vegetables, and high-energy merchants. This is a great chance to embrace the authentic French atmosphere.

During the 19th century France enjoyed the second largest global colonial empire, and the Industrial Revolution marked major shifts in technological, socioeconomic, and cultural conditions. Visit excellent examples of Paris' Golden Age of embellishment, such as the **Champs Élysées**, **Arc de Triomphe**, and **Rue de Rivoli**. End with a walk through **Le Jardin des Tuileries**.

Dive into the spectacular village atmosphere of **Montmartre**, a Mecca for artists, writers, and poets. In addition to its hilled ascent, small, lively streets, and vineyard, the area's **Sacré Coeur Basilica** is the highest point in Paris and offers a spectacular view of the city.

I From Eyesore to Emblem

Head up to the second level of the **Eiffel Tower** for a magical view of Paris at night! Find it hard to believe that many Parisians originally fought the construction of this 'eyesore'? After mapping out the height of the tower in comparison to Paris' other not-nearly as-tall buildings and reading the 1887 protest petition, students discuss and debate convention vs. invention in a city's architecture and identity.

Day 10: Arrivederci! Au Revoir!

Free time in the early morning for last-minute shopping at the Grand Magasins on **Boulevard Haussmann**, the **Forum des Halles**, or **Faubourg St Honoré**.

Coach transfer to airport for flight home.

Note: *This itinerary may be modified depending on your travel dates, arrival and departure times, national holidays, and hours of operation in the host country. Prices vary depending on departure city and duration of program.*