

Tour Code:  
GVIT24



# Discovering Italy

*May 29 - June 8, 2024*

*Hosted by:  
Gene Van Galder*



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### Wednesday, May 29, 2024 • Depart

Our journey begins today with our trans-Atlantic flight to Venice, Italy.

### Thursday, May 30, 2024 • Venice/Mestre

Upon our arrival in Venice, we meet our tour manager and travel to **Murano**—a cluster of small islands connected by bridges and the center of the Italian glassmaking industry since 1291. But our destination today is fabulous Venice—La Serenissima, the “Serene One.” Built upon 117 islands, Venice is a mosaic of canals, plazas, fascinating markets, and chaos! **D**

### Friday, May 31, 2024 • Venice/Mestre

We begin our day in Venice with an excursion to **St. Mark’s Square**, including a cruise along the serpentine **Canale Grande**. Here we see the **Bell Tower** and the impressive **St. Mark’s Cathedral**. There is time in the afternoon to explore and shop in the famous market area around the **Rialto Bridge** or to enjoy a coffee and some people-watching at St. Mark’s Square. **B/D**

### Saturday, June 1, 2024 • Montecatini Terme

Departing Venice, we now journey southward into the region of **Tuscany**, often described as the “heart of Italy.” Our home for the next four nights is Montecatini Terme. Situated between Florence and Pisa, the city is one of the world’s most famous health spas. Our sightseeing today includes the famous **Leaning Tower of Pisa** and a lunch break in **Lucca**—a Roman-style city surrounded by massive red brick walls. The rest of the day is free to relax and explore Montecatini. **B/D**



Florence



### Sunday, June 2, 2024 • Montecatini Terme

This morning we have time free to explore Montecatini on our own. Early in the afternoon, we drive into Chianti country and visit **San Gimignano** with its thirteen towers. The main item on our agenda today, however, is the lovely city of **Siena**. A locally-guided tour of this fabulous Gothic city acquaints us with its sunken **Piazza del Campo** and the **Duomo**—perhaps the finest Gothic cathedral in Italy! Before returning to Montecatini this evening, we enjoy a wine-tasting dinner in the gentle hills of the Chianti countryside. **B/D**

### Monday, June 3, 2024 • Montecatini Terme

Our entire day is devoted to **Florence**, the Cradle of the Renaissance. We begin with a stop at the **American Cemetery of Florence**. Here we see the graves of thousands of GI’s who fell while fighting their way “up the boot” of Italy. Florence is home to the **Duomo** with its famed **Baptistry**, **Giotto’s Tower**, the **Pitti Palace**, the **Accademia** with Michelangelo’s incomparable **David**, and the **Uffizi Gallery** with the finest collection of paintings in all of Italy. We take time for exploring the sprawling **San Lorenzo Leather Market** and the shops along the **Ponte Vecchio**. We return to our hotel in time to relax before dinner. **B/D**

### Tuesday, June 4, 2024 • Rome

This morning we continue in a southerly direction and enter the region of Umbria, where we arrive at its most beautiful town, **Assisi**. Here a local guide acquaints us with the life of Saint Francis and shows us the magnificent **Basilica di San Francesco** where he is buried. We drive on to Rome for our overnight. **B/D**



San Gimignano



**Wednesday, June 5, 2024 • Rome**

Today we drive through the beautiful Italian countryside to **Pompeii**. **Mount Vesuvius** is an archaeological treasure trove and an insight into the ancient world. A local guide will take us through the ruins of Pompeii with explanations of how the city was before being destroyed by the volcano. Then we take a drive along the beautiful Amalfi coast before returning to Rome. **B/D**

**Thursday, June 6, 2024 • Rome**

This morning we visit the **Vatican City** and **St. Peter's Cathedral**, home of the Roman Catholic Church and the largest building in Christianity. Also included is a visit to the **Vatican Museum** and the **Sistine Chapel**. We have free time to visit the city center in the afternoon. Dinner tonight is on our own. **B**

**Friday, June 7, 2024 • Rome**

After breakfast, we continue sightseeing in the Eternal City of Rome and see the glories of the Caesars. We become acquainted with the city that was the birthplace for much of our civilization as we visit the **Capitoline Hill** area, from which we view the **Roman Forum**. We also see the **Colosseum**, the **Trevi Fountain**, and more. Tonight is a very special farewell dinner at a Rome restaurant. **B/D**

**Saturday, June 8, 2024 • Return**

Unfortunately, it's time to transfer to Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport for our return flight to the United States. We return with memories of rustic towns, walled cities, the grandeur of Rome, (as well as wonderful ice cream and pasta), and a wealth of new friends! Welcome home! **B**

**Abbreviations for Meals**  
**B=Breakfast D=Dinner**

***Please be aware:** this tour includes considerable standing and walking and some hiking. We recommend that tour participants be able to walk a mile or more at a moderate pace, navigate some uneven terrain, cobblestone streets, steps and hills. Caution is recommended for those with walking or breathing difficulties. If a guest requires mobility assistance, they must be accompanied by an able companion who is totally responsible for providing the guest's necessary assistance. Ed-Ventures does not provide personal attendant services.*

**TOUR COST: \$5,429\***  
*per person double occupancy*  
**Includes estimated air from Chicago**  
*(other gateway cities may be available)*

\*Price is based on a minimum of 15 paying participants, double occupancy

Single Occupancy: \$6,029 pp

**Your Tour Includes:**

- **Estimated Roundtrip Airfare** (Chicago to Venice, return from Rome) and related taxes, fees and fuel charges *(estimated at \$1,400)* Seat assignment fees may be in addition.
- **Land Transportation** via private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- **Accommodations** (double occupancy) in moderate 4 star hotels
- **Meals** per the itinerary
- **Admission** to all activities indicated in the itinerary except those listed as optional
- Services of **professional tour manager**
- Local **step-on guides** for city tours and major attractions
- **Luggage handling** of one piece per person
- **All taxes and tips** for provided services on land tour, except as noted below

**Your Tour Does Not Include:**

- Meals other than indicated above
- **Beverages**, except with breakfast
- End of tour gratuity for coach driver and tour manager
- Items of a personal nature such as passport fees. *(Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond return date.)*
- **Optional insurance** for health, baggage and cancellation. *(This insurance is available and recommended.)*

**Payment Schedule:**

A deposit of \$500 per person is due with reservation. Final payment is due 100 days prior to departure date. Invoice will be sent out prior to final payment. Passengers may add after this date subject to air and land availability. Generally airlines do not increase the price of a ticket after it has been contracted. However, prior to the issuance of a ticket, airlines may (and regularly do) impose fuel, tax, or security surcharges. In the event a surcharge is imposed after Ed-Ventures has received a final payment, Ed-Ventures will send an additional invoice for the surcharge amount. Early registration is encouraged.

**Currency:**

Currency exchange rates fluctuate constantly. In the event of a significant drop in the value of the dollar, we reserve the right to add a currency surcharge to the price of the tour.

**Refund/Cancellation Policy:**

All cancellations must be in writing. The date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit to 99 days before departure a \$100 administrative fee plus any airfare penalties will be assessed. From Final payment due date until 31 days before departure, a \$500 cancellation penalty plus lost airfare deposits and any unrecoverable deposits to ground suppliers will be assessed. Airline tickets once purchased are nonrefundable. Anyone canceling less than 30 days prior to departure will receive **no refund**.

***Purchase of health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption insurance is strongly recommended.***

## Terms and Conditions

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription. In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Extensions are usually available, but must be requested when booking the tour. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee. It may be possible, that due to unforeseen events, conditions, or changes in airline schedules, the land portion of the trip may be extended or shortened. Any savings realized by such occurrences will be refunded, however any extra expenses incurred must be borne by the client. Trip cancellation insurance is available. This low-cost protection can save you money if you are forced to cancel or alter your trip for a medical reason only. You will be mailed trip cancellation insurance information with the brochure or upon receipt of your deposit.

**Responsibility:** Ed-Ventures, Inc., their officers and employees, tour hosts, or any other persons or vendors connected with the tour shall not under any circumstances accept liability, provide refunds or pay compensation where the performance of our contractual obligations is prevented or affected, or you otherwise suffer any loss, injury, death, inconvenience or damage as a result of circumstances amounting to "force majeure". This means any event or circumstances which we or our suppliers of the services in question could not foresee or avoid. Such events and circumstances may include, acts of God, actual or threatened, war, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil action, decisions by governments or governing authority, technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes of schedules or operational decisions of air/transport carriers, terrorist activity or the threat thereof, industrial action, natural or nuclear activity, epidemic, pandemic, illness, physical injury, quarantine, medical or customs or immigration regulation, delay, or cancellation, adverse weather conditions, fire and all similar events outside our control.

Due to COVID-19, we reserve the right to adjust the tour in order to follow the guidelines and policies set by the CDC and the local governments.

The airline(s) concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on their planes or conveyances. The passenger's contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall not have nor incur any responsibility to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers. Air and land costs are subject to change without notice. **Air transportation is via special, non refundable airfare. Any additional airfare assessments made by the airlines for any changes whatsoever shall be the responsibility of the client.** Other rules may also apply. Services of any A.R.C. or I.A.T.A. carrier may be used in conjunction with this tour. If there is a change in air prices and/or currency exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust prices.

I grant Ed-Ventures, Inc and its agents the right to take photographs and videos of me during the tour and any meetings related to the tour before or after the tour. I authorize Ed-Ventures Inc, its assigns and transferees to copyright, use, and publish in print and/or electronically.

I agree that Ed-Ventures may use such photographs or videos of me with or without my name for any lawful purpose, including publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content.



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# Discovering Italy

Please register me for:

- GVIT24: May 29 - June 8, 2024 • \$5,429**  
(per person, double occupancy)
- Single Occupancy • \$6,029

## Passenger Information (1<sup>st</sup> Traveler)

Please record information exactly as it appears on your passport. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport. *Include a photocopy of the picture page of your passport with your application.*

**Legal Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Name for name badge): \_\_\_\_\_

**Passport #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Passport Exp. Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Passport Authority:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gender:**  Male  Female

**Dietary Needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Passenger Information (2<sup>nd</sup> Traveler)

Please record information exactly as it appears on your passport. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport. *Include a photocopy of the picture page of your passport with your application.*

**Legal Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Name for name badge): \_\_\_\_\_

**Passport #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Passport Exp. Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Passport Authority:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gender:**  Male  Female

**Dietary Needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Work phone/cell:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sleeping Preference** (circle one): Double bed (1 bed) Twin Beds (2 beds)

**Roommate name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **OR Single supplement:** \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

## Travel Insurance (7.2% of tour cost; policy must be purchased at time of initial deposit to cover pre-existing medical conditions)

- I wish to purchase Travel Guard insurance and have included the premium with my deposit.
- I wish to decline the travel insurance offered. I understand I am solely responsible for any cancellation penalties and out of pocket expenses occurred should I have an emergency before or during the tour.

## Deposit Payment Information (please check one)

Enclosed is my \$ \_\_\_\_\_ deposit and insurance premium (if applicable). **Make check payable to Ed-Ventures, Inc.**

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ deposit and insurance premium (if applicable) to my Discover/MasterCard/Visa

**Credit Card Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp. Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Card ID Code:\*** \_\_\_\_\_ \*last 3 digits in signature box on the back of the card

\_\_\_\_\_ Initial to acknowledge you understand that Federal law prohibits the carriage of certain hazardous materials in your luggage or on your person aboard aircraft and could result in a fine or imprisonment. Visit [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) for more information.

Prices in this brochure were effective on 4.13.23. By signing below, I understand that price changes are possible at the time of final invoicing, due to exchange rates, an increase in carrier charges, fuel costs, taxes and tariffs, and the number of passengers traveling in the group. I agree to the terms and conditions of this tour.

**Signature of 1<sup>st</sup> traveler:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of 2<sup>nd</sup> traveler:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



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