



Educational Tours

Italy and Spain

A private tour designed by Chris Coltrin, in conjunction with EF Customized Tours

Requested departure date: Thursday, March 7, 2013

(Dates below are subject to change. Required date flexibility of 2 days on either side of requested departure date)

Day 1

Thursday, March 7, 2013

Board your overnight flight to Rome!

Day 2

Friday, March 8, 2013

Arrive in Rome

Welcome to Rome, the Eternal City. The city is an incredible mix of archeological gems, Roman genius, Renaissance art and religious treasure. As Italy's capital, it is also the bustling heart of this exciting country. With its fashionable shopping and café-culture, Rome really is a unique European experience.

Overnight in Rome

Day 3

Saturday, March 9, 2013

Guided Sightseeing of Rome

Your guided sightseeing of ancient Rome takes you past the ancient Forum Romanum, once the heart of the Roman Empire. You will also visit the Colosseum, where gladiators once battled for their lives in front of 50,000 spectators. During a guided walk, stroll through the Piazza Venezia and view the Pantheon, the temple to "all the gods." End at the Trevi Fountain, a favorite meeting spot for tourists and locals alike.

Free Time in Rome

You might want to sit on the grassy banks of the Circus Maximus and imagine what it was like to watch chariot races there. Rome also has some of the most fashionable shops to be found anywhere, a trip along the Via del Corso confirms this. If not, just find a café, order a soda and watch the noise and bustle of this fascinating city go by.

Dinner is not included this evening.

Overnight in Rome

Day 4

Sunday, March 10, 2013

Guided Excursion to Pompeii

Learn how wealthy Romans lived 2,000 years ago on an excursion to Pompeii, one of the richest archaeological sites in the world. When neighboring Mt. Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79, volcanic ash completely buried the Roman resort. Now it is fully excavated, and you can see the ruins of villas, ancient temples, and Stabian Baths.

Dinner is not included this evening.

Overnight in Rome

Transfer to Florence via Assisi

As you head north into Lazio you will see some of Italy's most enchanting countryside. Shortly afterwards, stop in Assisi, birthplace of both St. Francis and St. Clare. On your visit to the basilica of St. Francis, follow the life of one of Italy's most beloved saints through Giotto's frescoes. Continue north to Florence, home of the Renaissance.

Arrival in Florence

Set deep in the heart of Tuscany is one of Italy's jewels. The city of Florence has delighted visitors for centuries with its remarkable architecture. Whether sitting by the River Arno, strolling the beautifully housed streets or viewing the renaissance masterpieces that fill the city's churches and museums, one can only be astonished by the feeling of true beauty.

Overnight in Florence

Guided Sightseeing of Florence

Fall under the spell of the powerful Medici family on your guided tour. See Giotto's Bell Tower and the imposing marble cathedral in the Piazza del Duomo. Stand before Ghiberti's legendary Gates of Paradise (so dubbed by Michelangelo), and pass the classical statues of the Piazza della Signoria- here you can see where Michelangelo's David originally stood. Later, watch local artisans at work at a local leather workshop.

Free Time in Florence

You might take a moment to soak in the cobblestone birthplace of the Renaissance with a cup of Cappuccino in one of the small cafes throughout the city.

Dinner is not included this evening.

Overnight in Florence

Free Day in Florence

Take some time to peruse the luxurious shops of the Ponte Vecchio, or take a stroll up through the Boboli Gardens to Forte di Belvedere, where you might chance on a sculpture exhibition as you take in the spectacular panorama of Florence.

Transfer to Livorno and Board Night Ferry to Barcelona

This evening, transfer to Livorno where you will board a ferry that will take you through the Mediterranean Sea on your way to Spain. Arrive the next evening in Barcelona

Dinner is not included this evening.

Overnight on Ferry

Day 8**Thursday, March 14, 2013****Arrive in Barcelona**

Disembark your ferry in Barcelona, Spain's second-largest city. As the capital of fiercely nationalistic Cataluña, Barcelona was the hotbed of resistance under the rule of General Franco and celebrates its unique identity through its language, its increasingly influential government, and most recently on the global stage as host to the unforgettable 1992 Olympic Games.

*Overnight in Barcelona***Day 9****Friday, March 15, 2013****Guided Sightseeing in Barcelona**

Your guided tour takes you past the controversial and still unfinished La Sagrada Familia (the Church of the Holy Family). This masterpiece of twisting spires and colorful mosaics was designed by Gaudí, who estimated it would take 200 years to complete. You'll also stroll the narrow lanes of the 14th-century Barrio Gótico, the oldest surviving part of the city. Continue on to Gaudí's masterpiece, the fantasyland of Parc Guell, complete with a bright mosaic lizard fountain and the longest bench in the world. Then enjoy a marvelous harbor view from atop Montjuïc Hill, where much of the 1992 Olympics took place.

Free Time in Barcelona

Explore the Mediterranean charm of Barcelona. You might choose to ride the funicular to the stunningly modern Olympic stadiums on the hill at Montjuïc, and from there take the cable car across the water to the old maritime district of Barceloneta. On the same theme you could visit the excellent Museu Maritim, housed in the royal shipyards and also the largest civilian gothic building in the world.

Dinner is not included this evening.*Overnight in Barcelona***Day 10****Saturday, March 16, 2013****Free Time in Barcelona**

Spend your morning continuing to explore Barcelona on your own. There is an excellent aquarium in the revitalized old port, while the beautiful Palau de la Musica Catalana offers an exquisite architectural insight into Barcelona's passion for the musical arts.

Transfer to Madrid

Board Spain's high-speed train, dubbed the AVE-Alta Velocidad Española. The train will reach a maximum speed of more than 180 miles per hour before arriving in Madrid. At 2,100 feet, this is Europe's highest capital, a Mecca for art-lovers, the world-stage for bullfighting and home to the world's most famous soccer team! The city was elevated to capital status in 1561 at the instigation of Phillip II, and the lavishly opulent Palacio Real, built in 1738, is now an uninhabited but fascinating monument to Spain's much-revered monarchy.

*Overnight in Madrid***Day 11****Sunday, March 17, 2013****Guided Sightseeing of Madrid**

Your local guide introduces you to the sights of Madrid on a panoramic tour of the city. Continue with a visit to the extravagant Palacio Real (Royal Palace), built by Bourbon King Philip V. Once the seat of the most powerful court in the world, it was here that Spain officially joined the European Community in 1986. The palace boasts more than 2,000 extravagant rooms, including one encased in porcelain. Marvel at the splendor of the marble staircase, the golden Throne Room, and the incredible collection of priceless frescoes and chandeliers.

Visit to the Prado Museum

Explore the Museo del Prado which houses an astonishing 3,000 paintings collected by Spanish royalty. This massive building is constantly expanding in order to accommodate its impressive catalogue of Velazquez and Goya. It also boasts fine pieces by El Greco, Botticelli and many Flemish artists. Note: Museum is closed on Mondays

Dinner is not included this evening.

Overnight in Madrid

Day 12

Monday, March 18, 2013

Free Day in Madrid

Enjoy free time to become better acquainted with Madrid on your own. You might wish to visit museums, view the city's many monuments and churches, walk through outdoor plazas, or sample tapas at a café. Whatever you do, make sure to soak in as much as you can on your last day of tour.

Dinner is not included this evening.

Overnight in Madrid

Day 13

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Transfer to the airport for your return flight

Your tour director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

Itinerary is subject to change

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at www.eftours.com/bc.



Educational Tours

Tour Highlights and Details

Overnight stays:

Rome	(3)
Florence	(2)
Night Ferry Livorno-Barcelona	(1)
Barcelona	(2)
Madrid	(3)

Comprehensive sightseeing tours led by an expert local guide of the following:

Rome
Pompeii
Florence
Barcelona
Madrid

Entrances included to the following sites:

Colosseum
Forum Romanum
Pompeii Roman Ruins
Duomo, Florence
Leather-making demonstration
Parque Guell
Royal Palace, Madrid
Prado Museum

Included in the Program Fee:

- Round trip airfare
- Transfers to and from the airport and hotel and between destination cities (as per program itinerary)
- Overnight in hotels with private bathrooms
- Continental breakfast daily
- Dinner on days 2, 5, 8 & 10
- Full-time services of an EF Tour Director

Not included in the Program Fee:

- Customary gratuities for your tour director, local guide and driver
- Portage
- Personal Insurance
- Beverages and lunches
- Dinner on days 3-4, 6-7, 9 & 11-12
- Public transportation to free time activities