



The Traveling Professor Presents

VENICE, FLORENCE and NORTHERN ITALY

FLORENCE • VENICE • PADUA • SAN GIMIGNANO • VICENZA • VERONA

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

Day 1

Arrival in Venice. It's been a long day of travel, so after check-in, do a relaxing guided walking tour of the beautiful Dorsudoro area of Venice followed by dinner. Hotel: Hotel American Dinesen

Day 2

In the morning, go behind the scenes, past the hordes of tourists to see a version of the historic city few tourists see like the Doge's Palace and the Basilica of St. Mark. In the afternoon, enjoy time on your own visiting sites like the nearby Peggy Guggenheim Collection. Return to St. Mark's Square in the evening, after all the tourists have gone away. Hotel: Hotel American Dinesen

Day 3

Departure from Venice. After breakfast, we are picked up at our canal-side hotel for a private water taxi ride to the train station for our departure to Florence. The 2-hour trip to Florence is by luxury high-speed rail service. Florence is the home of Michelangelo, the Médicis and Galileo. Check-in at the perfectly located [Il Guelfo Bianco Hotel](#). Join us for a VIP visit to the nearby Academia to see Michelangelo's David. How is that for a start? But wait, it only gets better. Live la dolce vita with an authentic Tuscan meal then do what the Italians do best – stroll down the wide pedestrian streets to the Piazza della Signoria and of course, stop for a gelato along the way. Now this is Italy!

Day 4

In the morning, a private van takes us on a spectacular excursion into Tuscany. Start with a deluxe wine tasting at Tenuta Torciano winery. Enjoy authentic vintages such as Brunello di Montalcino, cabernet, merlot, Super Tuscan, rosé, and Sangiovese. Olive oils and gold reserve balsamic vinegars will be sampled too. It's all accompanied by a true Tuscan-style lunch starting with appetizers of cheeses, quality salamis, and bruschetta. Truffle lasagna or the local ribollita are served as main courses. Finish with dessert wine, and of course, elegant cantuccini. But that's not all. Spend some time at your leisure in nearby San Gimignano, perhaps one of the most beautiful hilltop towns in Tuscany before returning to Florence. Hotel: Il Guelfo Bianco

Day 5

A free day in Florence. There is so much to see and do. There are sights to see like the Duomo, the Baptistry, Giotto's Tower, the Gates of Paradise, bountiful markets, Medici Palaces and Chapels. There is time in the afternoon to explore more museums and attractions, shop, or sit and sip coffee all afternoon watching the world go by in Piazza della Repubblica. Every traveler is armed with a 3-day "**Firenze Card**" offering free VIP admission to almost every museum and attraction. Hotel: Il Guelfo Bianco.

Day 6

After breakfast and check-out, we will taxi it over to the Florence train station. There we will board a high-speed luxury train to Padua, less than 2 hours away. After arrival we'll do a short orientation of the city followed by a tour of the Scrovegni Chapel. Perhaps more historically significant than the Sistine Chapel and in the opinion of many, more beautiful, this is a wonderful introduction to Padua. We then have an appointment at the Palazzo Bo to visit the University of Padua. Historically, it is one of the oldest and most significant universities in the world. During the tour, we'll see the anatomical theater where medical human dissections were first done. We'll see the podium where Galileo lectured. You will be amazed at the difference and authenticity of this city compared to touristy Rome or Florence. Hotel: Majestic Hotel Toscanelli

Day 7

The 75-minute train ride through the countryside of Italy brings us to the Roman city of Verona. An expertly guided walking exploration introduces us to Shakespeare's city. We will visit the Roman amphitheater, Juliet's house and balcony, and the Piazza Bra. This is a wonderful walking city full of markets, shopping, interesting churches and Roman ruins. Hotel: Majestic Hotel Toscanelli.

Day 8

Just a short ride from Padua is Vicenza. It is the home of Andrea Palladio, the most influential and most copied architect in the western world. After a guided tour of the city to view some of the most famous of Palladio's works, we visit the stunning Teatro Olimpico. Enjoy a delicious lunch at one of Vicenza's famous "self-serve" restaurants and be back in Padua after lunch. Hotel: Majestic Hotel Toscanelli.

Day 9

It is a well-deserved "free day" in Padua. There is the Duomo, Basilica of St. Anthony and Café Pedrocchi. You will love the markets, the shopping, and the restaurants. You even have time to make a repeat visit to Venice if you wish. Hotel: Majestic Hotel Toscanelli.

Day 10

It's getaway day. Enjoy breakfast at our luxurious hotel. Take a final stroll through one of the four squares in Padua. The Professor will make sure you get to your departure point or next destination quickly and safely. Arrivederci! The Venice (VCE) airport is only a short distance away.

ABOUT OUR SMALL GROUP TOURS

We travel with a small group of 8-10 active adults. This offers flexibility to do what we want to do, on our own schedule. Transportation is provided within each city and between cities as well as VIP admission to sites listed on the itinerary. Admission may be provided for sites off the itinerary.

Breakfast is included each day of the tour. Every day we plan a relaxing lunch and dinner, cost not included with the tour. Please join us or go out on your own - we are glad to offer our best recommendations.

Our guide is with us during the day. Tour leaders are with the group 24/7. Unless otherwise noted, we ask travelers to be ready to go at 9:30 a.m. for a full and active day of touring.

Well before departure date, each traveler is supplied with a “final” detailed itinerary along with a complete and detailed information packet. It has advice on packing, money matters, passports, weather, etc. We make sure travelers are well-prepared. And of course, we are always available to personally answer any questions you may have.

For more information, including travel dates and pricing, see
www.travelingprofessor.com