

Bel Viaggio

Group Organizer: Ms. Lisa Wells

Tour Includes

Departure Date

July 10, 2023

Overnights

Rome 2 • Florence 2 • Venice 2 • Lucerne 2

Accommodations

Accommodations in centrally-located three-star or four-star hotels. Rooming on a double basis.

Transportation

Round-trip transportation on scheduled airline. Deluxe touring motorcoach.

Meals

All breakfasts. All dinners. Stadtkeller Swiss folklore dinner and show on Day 9.

Tour Director

Services of a specially-trained **passports** Tour Director throughout.

Travel Protection

passports provides and pays for a Post-Departure Travel Protection Plan that provides coverage for Trip Interruption, Trip Delay, Baggage Loss or Delay, Medical Expense and Evacuation and more.

Investment

\$4594
\$230 / month

Program Cost \$4869
-\$275 Early Enrollment Discount
Total \$4594

Monthly payments are based on the E-Z Pay payment schedule with \$0 deposit. Early Enrollment Discount expires February 1, 2022. Final payment is due 3/22/2023 or, with E-Z Pay, 6/10/2023. Tour cost is based on a group size of 20 participants. Departure from Albany, NY.

For More Information

- 1 Visit our website
passports.com/enroll
- 2 Enter Tour ID
LWELLS2023

Bel Viaggio

Departs: July 10, 2023



Days 1-2: Arrival Rome

Arrival transfer

Day 3: Rome

Rome City Sightseeing: Local Guide, Visits to the Colosseum and the Roman Forum, Visit to the Vatican Museums, Headset receiver for the Vatican sites, Visit to the Sistine Chapel, Visit to St. Peter's Basilica, Stroll on Piazza Navona, Visit to the Pantheon

Optional Dinner with music

Day 4: Rome - Florence

Local Guide, Visit to the Basilica of St. Francis

Day 5: Florence

Guided walking tour in Florence: Local guide, Visit to the Accademia, Visit to the nave of Florence's *Duomo* (time permitting), Visit to the church of Santa Croce and its Pazzi Chapel, Stop at Leonardo's Leather Workshop

Optional Visit to the Uffizi Gallery

Optional Excursion to Pisa: Photo stop at the *Leaning Tower of Pisa*, Visit to Pisa's *Duomo*

Day 6: Florence - Venice

Water bus

Venice Guided Walking Tour: Round-trip water bus to St. Mark's Square, Local Guide, Glassblowing demonstration

Day 7: Venice

Day 8: Venice - Lucerne

Water bus, Lake Lugano sightseeing stop, Travel through the St. Gotthard Base Tunnel

Day 9: Lucerne

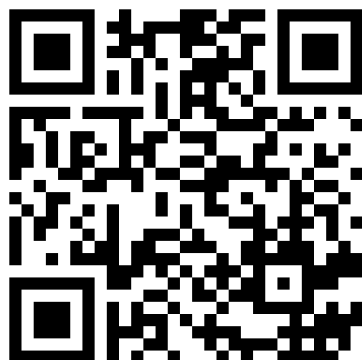
Tour director-led walking tour in Lucerne

Excursion to Mt. Pilatus: Cable car and cog railway ascent to summit, Lake cruise to Lucerne

Stadtkeller Swiss folklore dinner and show

Day 10: Lucerne - Home

To enroll or view full text itinerary, point your camera here:



Detailed Itinerary

Monday 7/10 - Tuesday 7/11

Arrival Rome

Arrival transfer

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight: Rome

Wednesday 7/12

Rome

Rome City Sightseeing: Local Guide, Visits to the Colosseum and the Roman Forum, Visit to the Vatican Museums, Headset receiver for the Vatican sites, Visit to the Sistine Chapel, Visit to St. Peter's Basilica, Stroll on Piazza Navona, Visit to the Pantheon

Optional Dinner with music

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Optional: Dinner with music

Overnight: Rome

Days 1-2: Arrival

Rome is your destination; a wide-bodied jet is your vehicle. Swoop down over the Alps and touch down on the wide concrete runway at Fiumicino Airport. You've arrived in Italy!

Proceed to your centrally-located hotel, settle in and get ready to explore your surroundings.

You may be tempted to walk across the River Tiber on the *Ponte Sisto* footbridge, which leads, logically enough, to the medieval district called *Trastevere* ("across the Tiber"). There, visitors stroll at leisure along picturesque streets, past typical restaurants and small shops, on their way to the central *piazza*.

Trevi Fountain

If your schedule allows, consider a visit to the Trevi Fountain, one of Rome's most celebrated sights, which was the terminus of the *Aqua Virgo* aqueduct. Throw a coin over your right shoulder and into the spray to ensure your return to this wonderful city!

Day 3: Rome City Sightseeing, Optional Dinner with Music

Set out on a sightseeing tour of Rome.

Local Guide

A full-day local guide, well-educated and specially-trained on the history and culture of Rome, will accompany your group.

Visits to the Colosseum and the Roman Forum

Walk through the best known monuments of Ancient Rome, the Colosseo and the Foro Romano. Once the heart of a vast empire, the Forum was filled with extravagant buildings and crowded with people from all over the known world

Visit to the Vatican Museums

Discover outstanding masterpieces collected for the Vatican Museums since the early 1500s. See exceptional statues from antiquity, such as Laocoön and His Son and the Apollo Belvedere, as well as stunning Renaissance paintings, notably the *The School of Athens* fresco in the Raphael Rooms.

Headset receiver for the Vatican sites

Marvel at Michelangelo's *Last Judgment* and brightly-colored ceiling frescoes in the *Cappella Sistina*.

Enter the sanctuary recognized as the world's largest church. The *Basilica di San Pietro* also houses priceless works of art, in particular Michelangelo's *Pietà* and Bernini's *Dove of the Holy Spirit*.

Stroll on Piazza Navona

Walk through the plaza built on the site of Domitian's Stadium. Lined with grand buildings and trendy cafes, this oblong square is adorned with statues and fountains, notably Bernini's *Fountain of the Four Rivers*.

Inside the "Temple to All the Gods," you will understand why it has been called one of the better-preserved and most harmonious monuments of antiquity.

Optional Dinner with music

Tonight, enjoy dinner while local singers and musicians entertain you with *O Sole Mio*, *Volare* and other favorite Italian songs.

Thursday 7/13

Rome - Florence

Local Guide, Visit to the Basilica of St. Francis

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight: Florence

Friday 7/14

Florence

Guided walking tour in Florence: Local guide, Visit to the Accademia, Visit to the nave of Florence's *Duomo* (time permitting), Visit to the church of Santa Croce and its Pazzi Chapel, Stop at Leonardo's Leather Workshop

Optional Visit to the Uffizi Gallery

Optional Excursion to Pisa: Photo stop at the *Leaning Tower of Pisa*, Visit to Pisa's *Duomo*

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight: Florence

Day 4: Assisi, Florence

Your coach takes you north to Assisi, where flowers overflow the window boxes that adorn the pink stone buildings typical of the town.

Local Guide

A half-day local guide, well-educated and specially-trained on the history and culture of Assisi, will accompany your group.

Visit to the Basilica of St. Francis

Step into the basilica built on the Hill of Paradise. It consists of two superimposed churches resting on a series of arches: the Lower Basilica, built over the crypt which contains the tomb of St. Francis, and the Upper Basilica, decorated with frescoes by 13th-century masters Giotto and Cimabue.

Travel to Florence

Travel up and over the rolling hills of Tuscany, to Firenze, the "Jewel of the Renaissance."

If time allows, stroll along the River Arno, or over it, using the shop-lined *Ponte Vecchio*, the oldest bridge in Florence. This medieval bridge (built in 1345) is especially attractive at sunset, when it reflects the warm Italian light.

Day 5: Florence City Sightseeing, Optional Uffizi, Optional Excursion to Pisa

Get acquainted with the Medici family and the art of politics!

A local guide, well-educated and specially-trained on the history and culture of Florence, will accompany your group.

Visit to the Accademia

View a wealth of artwork from the 15th and 16th centuries at the *Galleria dell'Accademia*, including the best known of all Florentine treasures, Michelangelo's monumental *David*.

Visit to the nave of Florence's Duomo (time permitting)

In the nave of the *Cattedrale Santa Maria del Fiore*, better known as the *Duomo*, visitors marvel at a cathedral begun in 1296 and consecrated in 1436 that remains one of the largest in Christendom. It houses precious masterpieces, notably Domenico di Michelino's 1320 painting titled *Dante holding the Divine Comedy*.

Visit to the church of Santa Croce and its Pazzi Chapel

Next on your program: the church that's the final resting place of luminaries such as Michelangelo, Machiavelli, and Galileo. *Santa Croce* is also famous for its art treasures, notably the *Cappella dei Pazzi*, a chapel attributed to Brunelleschi that's hailed as a masterpiece of Renaissance architecture.

Stop at Leonardo's Leather Workshop

Watch a craftsman demonstrate steps used in the manufacture of the world-renowned Florentine leather goods.

Optional Visit to the Uffizi Gallery

Visit the *Galleria degli Uffizi*, which is home to the world's most impressive private collection of Italian Renaissance art. See masterpieces by Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Lippi, Giotto, Raphael and Tintoretto.

Saturday 7/15

Florence - Venice

Water bus

Venice Guided Walking Tour: Round-trip water bus to St. Mark's Square, Local Guide, Glassblowing demonstration

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight: Venice

Free time in Florence

The remainder of the day is free to plan as you wish.

Don't miss a visit to *Vivoli*, the best place to purchase a cone of genuine *gelato*. See if this isn't the richest, creamiest and most flavorful ice cream you have ever tasted.

You may want to check out Florence's leather and jewelry shops, or the boutiques where you can acquire beautiful reproductions of Florentine artwork at reasonable prices.

Optional Excursion to Pisa

An excursion takes you to Pisa, the city whose navy once dominated the Western Mediterranean, before the Arno River silted up.

Photo stop at the Leaning Tower of Pisa

Just north of the city center, discover the *Campo dei Miracoli* and its trio of remarkable Moorish-style religious buildings. The most famous of the three is the *Leaning Tower*, now tilting nearly 13 feet from its vertical axis. Hear about the various solutions proposed to counteract the sinking of its foundation.

Enter the sumptuous Romanesque *Duomo*, a 900-year-old sanctuary consecrated in 1118 that remained Europe's largest cathedral for nearly 100 years. Inside, art treasures include notably 14th-century mosaics, the 17th-century wooden ceiling decorated with gold leaf, and Giovanni Pisano's outstanding 13th-century marble pulpit.

Day 6: Travel to Venice, Guided Walking Tour

Travel by coach across the rolling hills of Italy's hinterland on your way to the "Pearl of the Adriatic."

Remember Marco Polo, who set out from this magnificent harbor in 1271, at the age of 18, on a fantastic journey to Asia.

Venice Guided Walking Tour

After a water bus ride to the greatest square in the West, *Piazza San Marco*, enjoy a walking tour led by a local guide. You will see the Doges' Palace and St. Mark's Basilica.

Head to the Rialto area to visit the nooks and crannies of Old Venice and the lively Rialto Market.

A half-day local guide, well-educated and specially-trained on the history and culture of Venice, will accompany your group.

Glassblowing demonstration

Visit a glass workshop, where a skilled glassblower will demonstrate the techniques and artistic sense required to produce the world-renowned Venetian glass.

Enjoy some free time in Venice today.

Use your vaporetto ticket to ride along the Grand Canal aboard a water bus: take either the #1 water bus, which makes every stop along the way, or #82, which travels along the same route with fewer stops. You will pass under the Rialto Bridge, which was once the only link between the two sides of the Grand Canal. Completed in 1591, this shop-lined stone bridge is a lively gathering place for visitors and locals alike.

If the weather is favorable, you may want to arrange a gondola ride along the canals, past stately palaces. This is a uniquely Venetian experience, as extravagant and as unforgettable as the city itself.

Sunday 7/16

Venice

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight: Venice

Monday 7/17

Venice - Lucerne

Water bus, Lake Lugano sightseeing stop,
Travel through the St. Gotthard Base Tunnel

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight: Lucerne

Tuesday 7/18

Lucerne

Tour director-led walking tour in Lucerne

Excursion to Mt. Pilatus: Cable car and cog
railway ascent to summit, Lake cruise to
Lucerne

Stadtkeller Swiss folklore dinner and show

Meals included: Breakfast, Stadtkeller Swiss
folklore dinner and show
Overnight: Lucerne

Wednesday 7/19

Lucerne - Home

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7: Venice

Free time in Venice

Enjoy some free time in Venice today.

Day 8: Lake Lugano, St. Gotthard Tunnel, Lucerne

Travel to Lucerne via Lake Lugano and the St. Gotthard Tunnel

Today, travel through the Po Valley and the wine country of northern Italy to Italy's lake district.

Pause in a lovely city set on the shore of its namesake lake, in Switzerland's Italian Riviera. Lugano is known for its crystal-clear air, mountain scenery, and luscious white chocolate (check out the Laderach Chocolaterie for both white and dark chocolate!).

Travel across the Alps by way of the tunnel that was bored through the St. Gotthard mountain range. It was inaugurated in 2016 as the world's longest rail tunnel.

Drive into the heart of Switzerland. Your destination is the peaceful lakeside city of Lucerne, located in a region that is the homeland of William Tell.

Day 9: Lucerne Walking Tour, Excursion to Mt. Pilatus, Stadtkeller Dinner and Show

Tour director-led walking tour in Lucerne

Explore Lucerne's Old Town. You may want to feed the ducks from the ancient wooden *Kapellbrücke* (Chapel Bridge). Pause at Thorvaldsen's *Löwendenkmal* (or *Lion of Lucerne*), near the remarkable Glacier Gardens. See the large and noble *Jesuitenkirche*, one of the landmarks that show that the rural alpine areas in central and southern Switzerland remained Roman Catholic following the Reformation.

Excursion to Mt. Pilatus

This excursion takes you to the top of the world with the ascent to the summit of Mt. Pilatus, nearly 7,000 feet high. Up one side of this towering peak by cable car; down the other side, through mists and tinkling cowbells, by a narrow-gauge cog railway train (the steepest in the world for this form of traction).

Enjoy a 60 minute lake cruise across the "Lake of the Four Forest Cantons" from Alpnachstad to Lucerne.

Stadtkeller Swiss folklore dinner and show

A *fondue* dinner and folklore performance are included tonight at the *Stadtkeller*. Brightly colored skirts, yodeling, and ten-foot mountain horns set a joyous context you'll long remember.

Day 10: Zurich, Departure

Depart Lucerne for Zurich.

Board your jet bound for the United States. Your suitcase filled with memorabilia, you will arrive home later today, with tales to tell.

Cost Breakdown

Itinerary	Bel Viaggio
Departing	July 10, 2023
Departure City	Albany, NY
Rooming	Doubles
Program Cost	\$4,869
	-\$275 Early Enrollment Discount for enrollments before 2/1/2022
Total Cost	\$4,594
Monthly Payment	\$230 with \$0 deposit
Standard Final Payment Deadline	03/22/2023
E-Z Pay Final Payment Deadline	06/10/2023
Available Add-ons not included in price	Dinner with music: \$50 Visit to the Uffizi Gallery: \$35 Excursion to Pisa: \$75