ART OF ROME, FLORENCE & PARIS
THE ART OF
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11 OR 14 DAYS
Italy • France

PROGRAM FEE INCLUDES:
■ Round-trip airfare, bus transfers, overnight train (TGV train with extension)
■ 8 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms, plus 1 night couchette accommodations (plus 3 nights with extension)
■ European breakfast daily
■ 3 dinners (plus 1 dinner with extension)
■ Full-time EF Tour Director
■ Audio guide for Vatican City
■ Select guides and entrances to special attractions as per itinerary

OPTIONAL:
■ Giverny
■ Caravaggio Art Tour

* PLEASE NOTE: Itineraries are subject to change. Experiential learning activities will be scheduled subject to availability and confirmed prior to departure date.

The rich history of Europe’s renowned centers of art comes alive as you explore the masterpieces in France and Italy. Admire the treasures in the Accademia, Uffizzi, Louvre and Vatican museums. Study the revolutionary style of Giotto’s frescoes in Assisi. Wander Florence and Rome to admire Renaissance art in its glory. Perfect your skills at a painting or drawing workshop in the City of Light and enjoy an art-themed tour of Florence.

Day 1 Flight
Overnight flight to Rome • Relax as you fly across the Atlantic.

Day 2 Rome
Arrival in Rome • Arrive in bella Roma, the Eternal City. Here, Charlemagne was crowned by the pope in A.D. 800. After clearing customs, meet your EF Tour Director, who will accompany you to your hotel.

Day 3 Rome
Guided sightseeing of Rome • Pass the grassy ruins of the ancient Forum Romanum, once the heart of the Roman Empire, and admire the enduring fragments of Rome’s glorious past. It was here that business, commerce and the administration of justice once took place. Then visit the mighty Colosseum, Rome’s first permanent amphitheater whose three tiers are approximately equal to a 12- to 15-story building. At one time, as many as 50,000 cheering spectators would flock to watch gladiator battles unfold inside. During the staged fights here, as many as 10,000 slaves, prisoners and volunteers were killed. Persecuted Christians were also murdered—spectators saw them mauled by lions. After A.D. 404, gladiator battles ended, but animals were still massaged in the name of sport until the 6th century. Later, visit the legendary Forum Romanum, once the heart of the Roman Empire and the place where ancient Romans once sacrificed their victims. Even though many of the temples that once stood here are in ruins as (the Forum was used as a quarry for many years), it is not hard to imagine Caesar delivering great speeches here.

Walking tour of Rome • Continue on to the legendary Trevi Fountain and make sure to toss in a coin to ensure your return to Rome. Then view the Pantheon, one of the best-preserved ancient buildings in the city, commissioned by the Emperor Hadrian around A.D. 120. This temple to “all the gods” features the second-widest dome in Rome. It was built using the exact proportions of an egg. Finish off in the Piazza Navona, the popular square where you will see Bernini’s impressive Fountain of the Four Rivers.
Day 4 Rome
Visit to Vatican City • Today, you will explore Vatican City, the world’s smallest country. Begin at the Vatican Museum, where elaborate galleries filled with one artistic masterpiece after another lead you directly to the Sistine Chapel. Between 1508 and 1512, Michelangelo painted some of the world’s finest pictorial images on the chapel’s ceiling. This was his first attempt at working in fresco, which he did by standing up and craning backward from a scaffold. Next, tour St. Peter’s Basilica, erected on the site where the saint was martyred. Enter the basilica under the watchful eyes of the brightly dressed Swiss Guard. Inside, admire Michelangelo’s Pieta, the only sculpture he ever signed.
Optional Caravaggio Art Tour • Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio had a formative influence on the Baroque school of painting, and this tour visits three churches featuring the Italian artist’s work. At Santa Maria del Popolo you will see “Conversion of St. Paul” and “The Crucifixion of St. Peter.” San Luigi dei Francesi is home to the Matthew trilogy: “The Calling of Saint Matthew,” “St. Matthew and the Angels,” and “The Martyrdom of Saint Matthew.” At Chiesa di Sant’Agostino, behold the painting “Madonna di Loreto” and learn more about the artist as an actor portrays Caravaggio.

Day 5 Assisi • Florence
Transfer via Assisi • 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 artful frescoes.
Arrival in Florence • Arrive in Florence, birthplace of the Italian language, the Renaissance, and opera.

Day 6 Florence
Art and Architecture tour of Florence* • Take a tour of Florence today with an expert local guide. As the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance, Florence is home to some of the world’s most exquisite art and architecture. Explore the ideas of power and patronage during the Renaissance, and discuss the social, political and artistic implications of the era.
Visit to the Accademia • Admire Michelangelo’s original statue of David inside Florence’s acclaimed Accademia Gallery. The museum also houses the artist’s four famous unfinished statues, the Prisoners, as well as hundreds of busts created by Michelangelo’s contemporaries.

Day 7 Florence • Paris
Visit to the Uffizi Gallery • See Botticelli’s famous “Birth Venus” painting up close. Study the details of Leonardo da Vinci’s “Annunciation” while you stand right in front of the masterpiece. The Uffizi is one of the oldest and most renowned art museums in the world, with a collection of paintings and statues that includes original masterpieces by such artists as Titian, Botticelli, Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. The collection, which also boasts an impressive number of classical statues, was started in the 1500s by the powerful Medici family. The building that houses the art is also a fine work of art, with corridors that are just as interesting and beautiful as exhibit rooms.
Night train to Paris • Board an overnight train for your transfer to Paris.

Day 8 Paris
Arrival in Paris • Welcome to Paris, cosmopolitan City of Light. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.
Guided sightseeing of Paris • Discover the city on the Seine, beginning with the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon’s Grande Armée. Take a drive down the elegant Champs-Élysées to the Place de la Concorde. Pass the Conciergerie, where prisoners of the Revolution spent their final days, and see Les Invalides, Louis XIV’s grand retirement home for wounded soldiers. You’ll also see the École Militaire, where Napoleon graduated to lieutenant and was told he’d go far if circumstances allowed. Next, make a photo stop at the Eiffel Tower to marvel at the 6,000-ton centerpiece for the 1889 World’s Fair. You’ll hear the story of how this impressive—but once highly controversial—symbol of Paris was spared the wrecking ball in 1909. Pass the Opéra Garnier, where the famous Phantom of the Opera haunted his dear Christine, and marvel at Église de la Madeleine, designed as a temple of glory for Napoleon’s army. Continue past the geometric gardens of the Tuileries as you make your way to the Place Vendôme, a vast square surrounded by elegant 17th-century façades.
Visit to Notre Dame Cathedral • Built between 1163 and 1361 over the remains of an ancient Roman temple, it was here that Napoleon crowned himself emperor in 1804. Victor Hugo once described the sculptured façade of Notre Dame as “a vast Symphony in stone.” However, had it not been for the creation of his famous hunchback, Quasimodo, the cathedral might never have returned to its former glory. Hugo’s novel, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, helped inspire a 23-year restoration of the cathedral that began in 1841. Step inside to admire the stained-glass rose windows and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

Day 9 Paris
Guided visit to the Louvre • An expert guide will share insights about the artwork and artists represented at the incomparable Louvre during a guided tour for your group. Built to defend the city in the 13th century, the Louvre today safeguards one of the world’s greatest art collections. Enter the museum through world-renowned architect I.M. Pei’s glass pyramid, constructed in 1989. Inside, discover priceless antiquities from Asia, Greece and Rome. You’ll also see precious objects from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, as well as iconic European paintings such as the Mona Lisa.
Visit to an atelier • See where working Parisian artists draw their inspiration on your visit to an atelier. You can find everything from potters’ wheels to fashion mannequins to canvases that stretch to the ceiling inside. Dedicated to creative reflection, these studios are sanctuaries for artists of all mediums.

Day 10 Paris
Guided visit of the Musée d’Orsay • Today, an expert guide will introduce you to the Musée d’Orsay’s highlights. Part of this museum’s draw is the building itself, not just the artwork that adorns its walls. Built for the 1900 Universal
Exposition, the Gare d’Orsay functioned as a train station until 1939 and was converted into a museum in 1986. The high, arched ceiling and enormous wall clocks hint at the days when trains zipped in and out of the spacious structure. The museum is noted for its collection of Impressionist paintings—a walk through the upper gallery will reveal works by Monet, Renoir, Degas, Sisley, Pissarro and countless others.

Optional excursion to Giverny • Join an optional half-day excursion to the village of Giverny, where impressionist painter Claude Monet lived and worked for more than 40 years. As you explore Monet’s home you will not only see his other artistic work, but you’ll also see his personal collection of Japanese paintings as well as his studio. Make your way through the extensive gardens to the pond where Monet’s art comes to life as you stand on the wooden footbridge that spans the pond. You might recognize the view from the artist’s famous Water Lilies series. Enjoy free time to stroll through the gardens and visit the quaint village. (Please note: This optional excursion is only available April 1 through October 31. Monet’s home is closed Mondays except for Easter Monday. Participants must enroll in this excursion no later than 50 days prior to departure.)

Day 11 Home
Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you’ll check in for your return flight home.

EXTENSION

Day 11 Provence

TGV to Avignon • Board the TGV (train à grande vitesse, or “fast train”) to Avignon, capital of the Provence region.

Tour director-led sightseeing of Avignon and visit to the Popes’ Palace • Join your tour director for a tour of Avignon, capital of the Provence region. Pope Clement V, a native of France, moved the seat of the papacy to Avignon in 1309. Stroll through the sprawling Palais des Papes in which he and his six successors resided. View the stunning Italian frescoes in the chapel, step inside the papal vestry, and see the hidden vaults where the church’s riches were stored.

Pont du Gard • See the astonishing Pont du Gard aqueduct. Dating back 2,000 years, it once supplied Roman villas with running water.

Day 12 Provence

Tour director-led sightseeing of Arles • Your tour director introduces you to the city of Arles—and reminds you that the “s” in Arles is silent (so practice your accent if you want to blend in). Walk through the winding streets that once inspired Vincent van Gogh and visit one of the largest gladiator arenas, built by the Romans in 46 B.C. You’ll also visit the Roman Theater, another example of ancient Roman architecture that earned Arles its historical nickname, “the Little Rome of Gaul,” and its recognition by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

Day 13 Nice

Transfer to Nice via Aix • Transfer by way of Aix-en-Provence, the oldest Roman settlement in Gaul. This city of abundant fountains derives its name from the Latin word for water, aqua, and was home to painter Paul Cézanne. Continue to glamorous Nice, Queen of the Riviera. Many believe the name of the town, which was founded by Greek mariners in 350 B.C., derives from a great territorial victory realized here (the Greek word for victory is “niké”).

Tour director-led sightseeing of Aix-en-Provence including Atelier de Cézanne • Your tour director shows you the artistic and historical charm of Aix-en-Provence, the oldest Roman settlement in Gaul. This city of abundant fountains derives its name from the Latin word for water, or aqua. You’ll also visit Atelier Cézanne, a hilltop studio built between 1901 and 1902 to the famous painter’s specifications. In spite of family objections, Cézanne pursued painting over a “more sensible” law degree. See some of his skilled and uniquely rendered watercolors and oils that earned him posthumous fame and recognition.

Day 14 Home

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

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.