



The Traveling Professor Presents

FLORENCE AND THE VENETO

FLORENCE • VENICE • PADUA • VICENZA • VERONA

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

Day 1

Arrival in Florence. Begin with an early afternoon orientation walk with our professional guide through the old city center and the Saint John quarter of the city to see Piazza Duomo, the Campanile and the Baptistery, Piazza Signoria, and other notable sites followed by a visit to the Accademia Gallery to see the majestic David. There is plenty of time to linger in the Gallery to view more of the collection after the tour. The perfect way to finish the evening is an authentic Tuscan dinner in the center of old Florence.

Day 2

It's a glorious morning walk to see the panoramic view of Florence from majestic Piazzale Michelangelo. Wander down past the Boboli Gardens and the Pitti Palace. Our professional guide joins us to visit the Santo Spirito quarter of Florence, which many Florentines call home. Cross back over the Ponte Vecchio. Enter the Uffizi to view some of the major works of one of the most significant collections of Renaissance art in the world. After the tour is over, there is the opportunity to explore the gallery on your own.

Day 3

In the morning, visit the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo with our professional guide to see the exquisite collection of the works created by artists for the Duomo as well as Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise gilded bronze doors. We'll also make our way to the Ospedale degli Innocenti, designed by Brunelleschi and used as an orphanage. End our morning in the Santa Croce quarter of the city where life revolves around the breathtaking Basilica. Your afternoon is free to wander the back streets of Florence, take in a museum, visit the market, or take a walk to the Santa Maria Novella quarter of the city.

Day 4

Take a private van ride through the Tuscan countryside to San Gimignano. Stroll the medieval streets of this UNESCO World Heritage site. There is a stop to visit the vineyards of Tenuta Torciano in the rolling hills of the Tuscan countryside and enjoy a light lunch coupled with a wine tasting of young and old wines made by Pierluigi Giachi before returning to Florence.

Day 5

Wouldn't it be nice to stroll around Florence at your leisure, visiting sites like the Medici Chapel, Palazzo Strozzi, markets, and cafes, all on your own? This is the day to do it. Armed with your Firenze Card giving VIP admission to almost every attraction in Florence, enjoy the day out in this Renaissance city.

Day 6

In the early morning take in your last views of Florence before checking out of the hotel and heading to the train station. It is a 2-hour luxury high-speed train trip to Padua. We check into the Majestic Toscanelli Hotel, in the center of the historic town. After arrival, have lunch and then take a short orientation of the city center with our professional guide followed by a tour of Giotto's masterpiece, the Scrovegni Chapel.

Day 7

In the morning, take a seventy-five-minute train ride through the countryside to the Roman city of Verona. Our professional local guide walks us through the centuries starting with Piazza Bra then on to the ancient Verona Arena. We visit Juliet's balcony, pass through the Piazza Erbe, and pass by the Scaliger tombs, Torre dei Lamberti, and the Old Castle as well as markets, churches, monuments and much, much, more.

Day 8

In the morning, we'll take a twenty-minute train ride to Vicenza, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the home of Andrea Palladio. Vicenza is often overlooked by tourists but is considered a destination retreat for Italians. Take the opportunity to breathe in the architecture and art which abound. After a professionally guided tour of the city to view some of the most famous of Palladio's works including the Basilica Palladiana, visit the Teatro Olimpico. Afterwards, enjoy lunch in the shade of a Renaissance palace, stroll the banks of the river, or visit Querini Park.

Return to Padua where the afternoon is free explore on your own. You may want to visit the Palazzo della Ragione, the Duomo, the Botanical Gardens (a UNESCO World Heritage site), Prato delle Valle, the Diocesan museum of Padua, or enjoy one of the picturesque squares near the hotel.

Day 9

We always like to schedule in a free day for travelers to pursue their own interest, with the guidance of our tour leader. There is much to see and do in Padua. There are markets, there are neighborhoods, there are plenty of shopping opportunities. Armed with your Padua Card offering free VIP admission, there is a wealth of things to see and do.

Day 10

The perfect way to the last full day of the tour is with a trip to unique Venice. Only a 30-minute train ride from Padua, we will board a private water taxi for a grand tour down the Grand Canal to St. Mark's Square. We will be met by our private guide for a tour of St. Mark's Basilica and the Doge's Palace. There is plenty of free time on your own before returning to Padua.

Day 11

Departure Day. We will help get you to your next destination.

ABOUT OUR SMALL GROUP TOURS

Since each tour is planned with traveler input, your tour may be slightly different. We always add in "off the itinerary" sites of interest. Adjustments may be made for crowd management, weather, special events, or conditions beyond our control.

We travel with a small group of 8-15 active adults. This offers the 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. 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.

Extra nights in Venice or Padua are available upon request.

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