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## GEEO ITINERARY

Italy 6/22/2025

### **Day 1: Rome Arrive in Rome at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.**

Arrive in Rome at any time. The main airport is **Leonardo da Vinci-Fiumicino Airport (FCO)**, but Rome is also served by **Rome Ciampino Airport (CIA)**, particularly by budget airlines. Due to the potential for flight delays or cancellations, we recommend that you plan to arrive in Europe at least a day in advance. This will also give you time to rest and adjust to any time difference. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Rome before the trip. **Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting** Please note that check-in at the hotel is usually around 2:00-3:00 p.m. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow. After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another. Please note that if Vatican City is on your must-see list, we highly recommend purchasing your tickets online several weeks prior to your trip. Same-day entrance to St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums (including the Sistine Chapel) cannot be guaranteed without advance tickets. We also recommend pre-booking a ticket for the Colosseum to guarantee entrance and avoid long lines. **Note:** All GEEO trips to Europe use public transportation. This means you will need to have luggage you can easily carry with you up and downstairs, on and off trains and buses, etc. **Joining Instructions** From Rome Fiumicino Airport (FCO), you can reach the city center in a few ways. You can take the train ([Leonardo Express](#)) or a [Terravision bus](#) to Termini Station. The Leonardo Express train (€14) and the Terravision bus (€6) both leave the airport approximately every half hour, and the journey takes around 30 minutes by train or one hour by bus. The hotel is about a 10-minute walk northeast of Hotel Termini (or a 5-minute taxi). From Ciampino Airport (CIA), take a [Terravision bus](#) to Termini Station. The hotel is about a 10-minute walk northeast of Hotel Termini (or a 5-minute taxi). You can also take a taxi directly from either airport to the hotel, but that is a much more expensive option (€55-75). Rates may vary based on the number of passengers in your taxi (maximum of 4) and the amount of luggage you are bringing. **Accommodation:** Hotel San Marco Rome (or similar) \* For the actual hotel your specific departure will be using, please check your voucher.

### **Day 2: Rome Enjoy a migrant led walk of Rome before having the rest of the day free to explore this amazing city. Opt to tour Vatican City, cross the river to charming Trastevere, eat some gelato in Piazza Navona, or swing by the Colosseum and Forum.**

Learn all about a different side of Rome with a newcomer to Italy as your guide with Migrantour, a social enterprise that trains immigrants to give tours of the city - with their own flair. Our travelers receive a unique experience as guides give them rare insight into Italian society through an immigrant's eyes. From ancient landmarks to the history of migration to Rome, expect this to be a guided tour like no other. There's plenty to see and do in Rome, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like visiting the Colosseum, exploring the Pantheon, or sit down to a plate of pasta at a local trattoria. Your tour leader has more ideas if you need them. Just ask! Another option is opt to pre-book the Rome Vintage Vespa Tour. Live "la dolce vita" and hop onto a Vespa! Make your way around the city (like the locals do) on a vintage Vespa scooter. Visit Rome's must-see landmarks with a local guide, who will also be your Vespa driver, on this 3-4 hour afternoon excursion. Opt to add a photography package to your Vespa tour, so you can relax, immerse yourself in this ancient city, and still have all those unforgettable snaps from your classic Roman holiday. We can book this for you 90 days before departure. **Accommodation:** Hotel San Marco Rome (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

### **Day 3: Rome/Montepulciano Travel to Montepulciano in the heart of the Tuscan**

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## **countryside. Explore this medieval and renaissance hill town with an orientation walk.**

Travel to Montepulciano in the heart of the Tuscan countryside. Explore this medieval and renaissance hill town with an orientation walk. You will then have the rest of the day to explore on your own. Montepulciano is famous for producing delectable local pork, cheese, "Pici" pasta, and honey. It is also a major wine producing area. Take in the stunning vistas, wander cobbled lanes, or opt to sample the local delicacies in small, family-run establishments. We suggest you make your way to the Piazza Grande, the center of day to day life in Montepulciano. You'll find some of the town's most impressive architecture, such as the Palazzo Comunale, and Town Hall. Climb to the tower in the Palazzo Comunale for great views of Lake Trasimeno and Val d'Orcia. This region is known for Vino Nobile di Montepulciano (made with Sangiovese grapes), and the Montepulciano red. Step into one of the quaint wine shops on the hill to indulge in a sampling. Another option is renting a bike from a local shop and head out to explore.

**Approximate travel time:** 2.5 hrs by train, 30 minutes by bus. **Accommodation:** Albergo Duomo (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

## **Day 4: Montepulciano Spend the day in the Italian countryside. The famous wine-producing region is the perfect place for an optional vineyard tour and wine tasting, or a bike ride in the rolling hills.**

Spend the day as you choose! The Tuscan region is known for natural hot springs, so you may opt to travel further afield to the thermal springs of Bagni San Filippo. Take a 30-minute ride out of town and find yourself in a picturesque setting of calciferous formations, waterfalls, and natural pools; this scene is made more spectacular by the vivid color of the water made bright blue by the effect of the hot springs meeting the cool river water. Sit back, relax, and be healed. Another option is to travel outside of Montepulciano through the rolling vineyards to one of the surrounding wineries, such as the legendary Avignonesi estate or Cantina Fattoria della Talosa. Enjoy strolling through the hectares of greenery, indulging in a sample of local wines, and a guided tour of the cellars. **Accommodation:** Albergo Duomo (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

## **Day 5: Montepulciano/Siena/Florence Travel to vibrant Siena. After an orientation walk around this medieval city, opt to visit Torre del Mangia, Battistero, il Campo, or the Duomo. Or take a "passeggiata" and meet the Sienese locals. Continue to Florence at the end of the day and enjoy an evening walk to Piazzale Michelangelo for a fantastic panoramic view of the city.**

Enjoy a day trip to vibrant Siena. After an orientation walk, wander this medieval walled city where options abound! You may opt to visit Torre del Mangia, Battistero, il Campo, or the Duomo or to take a "passeggiata" and meet the Sienese locals. The Piazza del Campo is the main public square in the center of Siena. One of the best examples of medieval European squares, the architecture of this area is striking. The Torre del Mangia is in the center of the shell-shaped piazza and is worth climbing for the beautiful views it affords. Twice a year, the tiny square is transformed by the ancient Palio horse race. In the evening, continue to the incomparable Firenze. Join your tour on a walk over the Arno to Piazzale Michelangelo, catching a glimpse of the Duomo, Piazza Indipendenza, Piazza della Signoria, and the Ponte Vecchio along the way. The medieval Ponte Vecchio epitomizes the romance of Florence, with jewelers, art dealers, and souvenir shops running the length of the bridge, which is featured in many master paintings. Upon your arrival at Piazzale Michelangelo, enjoy the most famous and photographed panorama of the city, including the Duomo. The green-pink-white marbled 13th-century basilica is one of Italy's largest churches, and its brick dome is the largest ever constructed. **Approximate travel time:** 2.5-3 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Hotel Meridiana (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

## **Day 6: Florence Go on a guided walking tour of Florence followed by a free afternoon.**

Immerse yourself in the splendor of Florence on a guided walking tour this morning. See the incredible

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Renaissance architecture that makes Florence a favorite for travelers from around the world, and better understand the rich history and modern local way of living. The afternoon is yours to explore. There's plenty to see and do in Florence, but feel free to relax or create your own adventure. Check out the Mercato Centrale or any number of cafés and trattorias. If you came to shop, start at one end of the city and just keep going. There's beautiful architecture, famous museums, Renaissance art pieces, and charming cobblestone streets everywhere. If you wish to go further afield, take a wine-tasting bike tour up to Fiesole and the vineyards of Chianti. For a truly local experience, indulge your inner gastronomer on a culinary tour of the city. **Accommodation:** Hotel Meridiana (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

### **Day 7: Florence With a free day, the choices are endless. Opt to visit the Duomo, David, Uffizi Gallery, medieval Ponte Vecchio, or the Medici Chapels.**

Enjoy a full free day in Florence. See the Optional Activities section below for some recommendations. If you want to visit the Duomo, consider the [Brunelleschi Pass](#). If you wish to visit popular museums like the Uffizi and Accademia Galleries, we **strongly** advise reserving tickets in advance to avoid waiting in line for a long time (especially during the high season from May to September, when the line can take several hours). Advance tickets can be reserved online directly with the museums or through sites like <https://www.weekenditaly.com/en/florence>. **Accommodation:** Hotel Meridiana (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

### **Day 8: Florence/Cinque Terre Visit Pisa en route to the coast. Settle into the colorful, charming town in the Cinque Terre.**

Board a train to Pisa and stop for a visit at the Field of Miracles to see the famous leaning tower (~€18 entrance fee not included). Wander the area and take photos to your heart's content. Opt to enter the Pisa Cathedral, or enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant. Later, continue to the coastal paradise of Cinque Terre by train. **Approximate travel time:** 2 hrs by local train **Accommodation:** Hotel Genova (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

### **Day 9: Cinque Terre Walk the coastal path between Corniglia and Manarola or opt to take the train. Visit charming, colorful towns along the way.**

Walk the Cinque Terre coastal path from Corniglia to Manarola (approximately 3-4 hrs of hiking), giving you the best taste of the villages and countryside, terraced hills, and vineyards sloping down to the sea. The national park pass and a daily unlimited train ticket are included; opt to take the train if you don't feel like hiking. You'll follow your tour leader along centuries-old footpaths and mule tracks leading through olive groves, vineyards, and orchards on an exhilarating hike, or hop on and off the train, experiencing each town on your own. Choose to visit each of the five villages by train and sample delicacies like local pesto, espresso, or delicious gelato. After the hike, set out to explore Riomaggiore, a quaint village nestled on the coastline of this beautiful region. Take in views of colorful houses, steep cliffs, and terraced vineyards. Please note that some popular hiking paths along the Cinque Terre have been temporarily closed due to water erosion and damage caused by landslides in 2016. Your tour leader will guide you on the best, most accessible path for the hike. Approximate travel time: 30 min local train, 3-4 hrs hiking **Accommodation:** Hotel Genova (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

### **Day 10: Cinque Terre/Lake Como Travel to Lake Como, a perfectly picturesque region laden with villas and lush gardens. Arrive in the late afternoon and hop on the historic Como-Brunate funicular.**

Set out from Cinque Terre on a train journey with a few changes en route, passing through Milan and on to elegant Varenna, located on the shores of Lake Como. After arriving at Lake Como on the border with Switzerland, enjoy the spectacular backdrop of the snowy-peaked Alps while riding the historic Como-Brunate funicular, with stunning panoramic views of the surrounding scenery. The quick 7-minute ride ascends to the charming hilltop village of Brunate, known in Italy as Balcone delle Alpi or the "balcony of the Alps." In operation since 1894, the historic lift is the best way to get a bird's eye view of the stunning region. **Approximate travel time:** 5 hrs by local train **Accommodation:** B&B Hotel Como City Center

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(or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

**Day 11: Lake Como Spend the day on Lake Como, enjoying the scenery via ferry. Return to town in the late afternoon and spend the rest of the day at leisure.**

Lake Como is made up of small towns nestled along the coast of this Mediterranean-Alpine retreat. Set out by ferry to explore the lake and the elegant towns of Menaggio and Bellagio, with its shops, restaurants, and fine residences. In the afternoon, there is plenty of free time for soaking up the elegant atmosphere in one of the lakeside cafés or restaurants. Take some time for shopping — some of the finest Italian designers are to be found in Como's chic boutiques. **Accommodation:** B&B Hotel Como City Center (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

**Day 12: Lake Como/Venice Travel to Venice, the "city of canals," and enjoy an orientation walk over bridges and canals and view Piazza San Marco.**

Travel east to captivating Venice, the unique "city of canals," full of magnificent monuments. Enjoy a guided walking tour over bridges and canals, and view Saint Mark's Square and Basilica. With the massive, ornate basilica standing tall at one end of the square, pigeons gathering and flying around, and violinists playing a Vivaldi tune at a café table — this is Venice. Wander the square and people watch or duck inside the glittering basilica for more Venetian inspiration, before departing Piazza San Marco on one of the many winding alleyways. There will be plenty of time to wander the narrow cobblestone streets and wide piazzas, crossing hundreds of tiny bridges and, of course, getting lost in Venice's labyrinth. **Approximate travel time:** 3.5–4 hrs by local train **Accommodation:** Albergo Marin (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

**Day 13: Venice Enjoy a full day to explore Venice as you choose. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like exploring the waterways on a gondola ride, watching a Venetian glass blowing demonstration, or sitting down for a catch of the day meal at a canal-side restaurant.**

Spend the day getting lost in Venice. Opt for a vaporetto (water taxi) ride to the islands of Murano and Burano, take a gondola under the Ponte Rialto (Bridge of Lovers), explore the Doge's Palace and Bridge of Sighs, or get lost in the twisting maze of the city. Your tour leader has more ideas if you need them. Just ask! **Accommodation:** Albergo Marin (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

**Day 14: Venice Depart at any time.**

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart at any time. The tour ends in Venice, and the nearest airport is **Marco Polo Airport (VCE)**. If you wish to extend your stay in Venice, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEEO program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book. **Meals included:** Breakfast

*\*Itinerary Disclaimer: While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*