



CONNECTIONS BOUTIQUE GROUP JOURNEYS

Essence of Italy 2019

11 days from \$7,995

Limited to 24 guests

OFFER

Save 50% on the single supplement on select departures.

On this 11-day Italian adventure, discover the Eternal City of Rome, the Renaissance glories of Florence and Tuscany, and the dazzling Cinque Terre, indulging in unforgettable food and wine and experiencing Italian culture up close.

A&K Advantages

Traverse soul-stirring Italy on a journey to its most remarkable regions, including the fabled Cinque Terre

In Rome's historic Trastevere district, enjoy wine tasting and dinner at the home of a local resident

Learn the secrets of Florentine cuisine in an Italian cooking class guided by a chef

Get a taste of local life with a visit to the buzzy market district around Venice's Rialto Bridge

Tour a family-owned balsamic vinegar factory, sampling this regional favorite before lunch

19 meals, with 10 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 5 dinners

Itinerary

DAY 1 ARRIVE ROME, ITALY

Arrive in Rome, Italy's Eternal City, where you are greeted by an A&K representative and transferred to your hotel. In the evening, join fellow guests for a special welcome dinner.

Palazzo Navona Hotel | Meals: Dinner

DAYS 2-3 ROME | ANCIENT CITY & HOLY SEE

Journey through history with a morning visit to the Imperial Roman Forum and the Colosseum. In the afternoon, explore the charming Campo de Fiori; the Piazza Navona and its remarkable Fountain of the Four Rivers; and the Pantheon, one of the most widely copied buildings in the Western world. Later, stop at the iconic Trevi Fountain before taking in the Spanish Steps, which are said to comprise the widest stairway in Europe. The next day, explore Vatican City, where you view the magnificent Sistine Chapel with its legendary frescoes by Michelangelo, as well as St. Peter's Basilica. Tonight, venture out to Rome's Trastevere, where cobblestone streets meet with labyrinthian alleys, to connect with a welcoming local in her home for wine and a home-cooked feast.

Palazzo Navona Hotel | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (Day 2); Breakfast, Dinner (Day 3)

DAYS 4-6 FLORENCE | THE RENAISSANCE & TUSCANY

Travel north to the famed region of Tuscany and stop en route in medieval Siena. Here, your local expert introduces you to the Piazza del Campo, home of the famous Palio di Siena horse race. Dating back to the Middle Ages, the twice-yearly event honoring the Virgin Mary features a bareback horse race around the piazza. Continue to Florence, a vast and beautiful monument to the Renaissance and its art. The next day, in the company of a specialist art guide, visit the Galleria dell'Accademia to see Michelangelo's *David* and the Uffizi Gallery, home to some of the world's most important art treasures. On your last day, participate in a three-hour culinary class, where your chef shares the secrets of Florentine cooking.

Hotel Brunelleschi | Meals: Breakfast, Dinner (Day 4); Breakfast (Day 5); Breakfast, Lunch (Day 6)

DAY 7 LUCCA | ROMAN REMNANTS

Drive to Lucca, a city whose history predates the Roman Empire. Explore its historic center, its streets still mirroring the plan imposed by the Romans when they colonized the city. Visit the Puccini Museum, dedicated to the life and music of Giacomo Puccini, beloved composer of *La Bohème*, who was born in Lucca in 1858. Continue on to your next destination, the stunning Italian Riviera.

Grand Hotel Portovenere | Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8 CINQUE TERRE | BEAUTY ALONG THE COAST

Discover the extraordinary beauty of the Cinque Terre ("Five Lands"), five scenic villages built along the steep coastal cliffs of Liguria on the Italian Riviera. See Manarola, a fishing village set amid terraced vineyards, where you can walk to view the magical coast, and visit other villages nearby.

Grand Hotel Portovenere | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAYS 9-10 VENICE | PALACES & CANALS

Travelling by coach to Venice, stop en route to enjoy a private tasting of balsamic vinegar at a family-owned factory, with lunch to follow. Tonight, enjoy the incredible atmosphere at your boutique Venetian hotel set along the romantic Grand Canal. The next day, stroll through the famous Rialto Market before visiting St. Mark's Basilica, with its lavish decoration of marbles and golden mosaics, and the Doge's Palace. This evening, take in the atmosphere of a local *bàcaro* (wine bar) before gathering for a festive farewell dinner.

Hotel L'Orologio Venice | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (Day 9); Breakfast, Dinner (Day 10)

DAY 11 DEPART VENICE

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and board your flight home.



Extensions



Pre-Tour Extension: Amalfi Coast

4 days from \$2,995
Single Supplement from \$595

DAY 1

Arrive in Vietri sul Mare, Italy.

Hotel Raito | Meals: Dinner

DAY 2

Visit a ceramics museum in Vietri sul Mare. Cruise the Amalfi Coast to Positano, then drive back along the famous coastal road.

Hotel Raito | Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3

Marvel at the ancient Greek temples of Paestum. Meet a local organic mozzarella producer and learn how the cheese is made before enjoying a home-cooked meal at their farm.

Hotel Raito | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4

Travel to Rome to join your main journey, stopping first in ancient Pompeii, which was buried in volcanic ash when Mount Vesuvius erupted in AD 79.

Dates & Prices

Prices are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy.

Dates	Prices	Single Supplement	Availability
Sep 10 - Sep 20, 2019	\$8,395	\$1,698 (was \$3,395)	Waitlist - Call A&K
<i>Optional pre-tour extension available on this departure.</i>			
Sep 24 - Oct 04, 2019	\$8,395	\$3,395	Call for Availability
<i>Optional pre-tour extension available on this departure.</i>			
Oct 08 - Oct 18, 2019	\$7,995	\$3,295	Call for Availability
<i>Optional pre-tour extension available on this departure.</i>			

Journey Details

Minimum age is 10 years old.

First group event: welcome briefing at 6:00 p.m. on Day 1.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:15 p.m. on Day 10.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Special Offer Terms & Conditions

Offer subject to availability and can be withdrawn at any time. Cannot be combined with Marco Polo Club or any other single supplement discount.

Prices are per person based on double occupancy. Internal and international air not included. See complete terms and conditions [here](#).