



# ITALY FAMILY JOURNEY: VENICE TO ROME

8 days, Venice to Rome

Trip code EIVNF

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your Expedition Leader and Group
- Your Family Journeys Moment: Venetian Mask Making For Kids, Venice
- Your Foodie Moment: Florence Pasta Cooking Class, Florence
- Your Discover Moment: Florence
- Your Family Journeys Moment: Gladiator School Lesson, Rome
- Arrival transfer
- Guided Venice city tour and glass blowing demonstration
- Leonardo Da Vinci museum
- Walking tour of Florence
- Visit Spanish Steps and Piazza del Popolo
- Entrance to Colosseum
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing October 11th, 2024 and onwards

# ITINERARY

---



## Itinerary Notes

Prices are based on double occupancy; all other room configurations are on request and cannot be guaranteed. We will accommodate triples/quads whenever possible.

Please call for further details.

Family Journeys are designed for groups traveling with children between the ages of 7 and 17. Your group must include a child in order to book, and anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

**NOTE:** Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

## VENICE

Welcome to Venice—your arrival transfer to the hotel is included. Check in and get excited to meet your fellow travelers during a welcome meeting this evening where all families can bond before the Journey ahead.

If you are interested in taking part in the optional Venice Food Tour, we recommend arriving the day prior to ensure sufficient timing.



### ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Principe (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Shuttle Venice Marco Polo Airport – Venice

Travel from the airport to your hotel and get ready for an unforgettable journey.

#### ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your National Geographic Expedition Leader and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.



## Optional Activities - Day 1

Venice Food Tour

Venice

Immerse yourself in Venice's rich culinary heritage with a guided food tour through Cannaregio and the historic Jewish Ghetto. Savor a progressive meal that embodies authentic Venetian flavors – from the city's signature spritz to locally produced wines paired with creamy risotto. Enjoy traditional cicchetti such as baccalà mantecato, sarde in saor, and polenta, among other local delights, then raise a glass of crisp prosecco to your journey. As you wander through Venice's hidden alleyways and canals, uncover the stories, culture, and centuries-old influences that have shaped its unique cuisine. End your culinary adventure with a seasonal sweet finale, a classic tiramisù or artisanal gelato.

Day 2

## VENICE

Take a walking tour of Venice, discovering winding lanes, marble palaces, and cobblestoned squares aflutter with pigeons. Then visit a glass-blowing workshop to watch a master craftsman at work. We'll learn about the ancient technique of glass production while watching the creation of a unique piece. Afterwards, opt to hop aboard the city's preferred mode of transportation: the gondola. This afternoon, try your hand at the centuries-old art of Venetian mask making. Watch how the mask mold is constructed and wrapped with papier-mâché, then use the tools of the trade to create your very own masterpiece.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Principe (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Venice Guided Tour Venice 1h30m

Explore the city's off-the-beaten-path hotspots and hidden gems with your guide who knows all the insider tips. Immerse yourself in the city's vibrant culture and see Venice from a unique perspective. Get ready for a memorable, energetic experience in one of the world's most romantic cities!

Glass-Blowing Demonstration Venice

Learn about the fascinating art of Venetian glassmaking from skilled local artisans. Watch a master craftsman in his factory as he turns something rather ordinary into an exquisite work of art. Visit the gift shop on your way out to take a piece of Venice home with you.

#### ACTIVITY

Dive into the atmosphere of the legendary Venetian Carnival and its traditional papier-mâché masks. What were the most popular masks? How were they made? This is a highly creative activity where kids get to choose their favourite mask shape and then decorate with colourful paints, elegant pearls, bright feathers, and much more!



## Optional Activities - Day 2

Gondola Ride Venice 80EUR 30m-45m

Sit back and enjoy a different point of view as you glide through the historic canals of Venice on a gondola.

Day 3

## VENICE TO FLORENCE

Catch a train to Florence—celebrated as the birthplace of the Renaissance. In Piazza della Repubblica—site of the city’s forum during ancient Roman times—take a spin on an antique wooden carousel, riding atop galloping horses and gilded carriages. Channel your inner inventor with a visit to the Leonardo da Vinci Museum, dedicated to the famed Italian artist and engineer. Explore da Vinci’s creativity and genius as you interact with an astonishing array of machines, brought to life from drawings the artist created hundreds of years ago. Cap off the day with a gelato treat!

Please note that the Leonardo Da Vinci Museum will be closed on Christmas day.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### ACCOMMODATION

Grand Hotel Mediterraneo (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY’S ACTIVITIES

Train Venice - Florence 2h30m 255km

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Piazza della Repubblica Visit Florence

Join your Expedition Leader for a walk to the Piazza della Repubblica - site of the city's ancient Roman forum - then ride on a unique wooden carousel maintained by the same family for five generations.

Leonardo Da Vinci Museum Visit Florence

With over 40 working machines recreated from da Vinci's notebooks, interacting is definitely encouraged at this museum - go ahead, spin those wheels, knobs and levers! Discover the genius of his highly engineered bridges, hydraulic machines, and artillery designs. See a life-size "ornithopter" - da Vinci's dream flying machine.

Day 4

## FLORENCE

Begin the morning with a walking tour of Florence's historic center, an enchanting warren of stone lanes bursting with treasures. Later, take part in a hands-on cooking class, where you'll learn how to make fresh pasta—then enjoy it for dinner!

Please note, same-day access to many museums and galleries in Florence may not be possible due to their popularity. We recommend purchasing tickets as far in advance as possible at their official websites, including [ticket.duomomilano.it](http://ticket.duomomilano.it) and [uffizi.it/en/tickets](http://uffizi.it/en/tickets).



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Grand Hotel Mediterraneo (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Guided Walking Tour of Florence Florence

Head out for a walk through the heart of Florence with your Expedition Leader, passing magnificent structures that truly bring the Italian Renaissance to life. Take a new approach to sightseeing by learning more about the artists behind the monuments than the monuments themselves.

Free Time Florence

Enjoy some free time to explore this historic city, home to many Renaissance treasures. Please note that free time will run between approximately 11:30 to 18:00.

#### ACTIVITY

Take part in the tradition of making fresh pasta in a real Italian kitchen, then enjoy your creations for dinner. Preparing delicious foods with simple ingredients and the right technique - it's a skill you can bring back home!



## Optional Activities - Day 4

Medici Chapels Visit Florence 9-32EUR 1h-1h11m

Admire the opulence of the two Medici Chapels. The Sagrestia Nuova was designed by Michelangelo and built as a mausoleum for the powerful Medici family.

Galleria dell'Accademia Visit Gallerie dell'Accademia 20EUR 1h-2h

Admire beautiful sculptures by the Renaissance master, Michelangelo, including the famous statue of David, at this beautiful art gallery. Check out rare musical instruments made by Stradivari (who made string instruments) and Bartolomeo Cristofori, the inventor of the piano, at Accademia Gallery's Museum of Musical Instruments.

Il Duomo di Firenze Visit Florence Free-30EUR 1h-2h

This green, pink, and white marbled 13th century basilica is one of Italy's largest churches and its brick dome is the largest ever constructed. Wander through the cathedral or choose to climb the 463 steps to the top of the dome and be rewarded with extraordinary views of the city!

Uffizi Gallery Visit Florence 25EUR 1h-2h

Head to the Uffizi Gallery to see spectacular Botticelli and Leonardo da Vinci paintings in person.

Day 5

## FLORENCE

Today is free to explore on your own or take part in optional activities. Choose to join an excursion by train to the city of Pisa and see just how far the tower leans. Those spending the day in Florence can visit the city's enormous, red-tiled cathedral—known as the Duomo—which took more than 140 years to complete; or marvel at Michelangelo's David in the Accademia Gallery; experience Medici court life at the Palazzo Vecchio; and more.

Please note that if you wish to visit the Galleria dell'Accademia, the Duomo or Medici Chapels, we highly recommend booking admission tickets online, prior to your departure. Many popular attractions in Europe have a timed ticketing system (i.e. morning & afternoon admission) so please keep this in mind while you are deciding on activities for this free day. Without reserved tickets, there is the risk of waiting in long queues - a little planning goes a long way!



### Meals included

Breakfast



### ACCOMMODATION

Grand Hotel Mediterraneo (or similar) **Hotel**



### Optional Activities - Day 5

Pisa Excursion **Pisa** **15-20EUR** **6h-8h**

Take the train to Pisa and check out its famous leaning tower. Wander the area and take photos to your heart's content. Opt to enter the Pisa Cathedral, or enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Medici Chapels Admission **Florence** **8-10EUR**

Admire the opulence of the two Medici Chapels. The Sagrestia Nuova was designed by Michelangelo and built as a mausoleum for the powerful Medici family.

Galleria dell'Accademia Admission **Florence** **9-12EUR** **1h-3h**

Admire beautiful sculptures by the Renaissance master, Michelangelo, including the famous statue of David, at this beautiful art gallery. Check out rare musical instruments made by Stradivari (who made string instruments) and Bartolomeo Cristofori, the inventor of the piano, at Accademia Gallery's Museum of Musical Instruments.

Il Duomo di Firenze Admission

Florence

Free

1h-2h

This green-pink-white marbled 13th century basilica is one of Italy's largest churches and its brick dome is the largest ever constructed.

Day 6

## FLORENCE/ROME

Ride the rails to Rome, home to one of history's greatest empires. Enjoy an Expedition Leader-led orientation walk of Piazza del Popolo—which features twin churches and a towering obelisk— Then head to a local gladiator school and learn how to become a Roman warrior! Delve into gladiatorial history and examine authentic artifacts including shields, swords, and armour. With the guidance of an instructor, venture into an arena to safely train and fight other new centurions—and feel the thrill of handling your own wooden sword and shield.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### ACCOMMODATION

Bettoja Massimo D'Azeglio Hotel (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Train

Florence - Rome

3h

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Spanish Steps

Rome

15m

Built to connect the hilltop Trinità dei Monti church with the Piazza di Spagna (or Spanish Square) below, the Spanish Steps are a colourful example of Baroque architecture from 18th century Rome. Opt to climb its 136 steps, or simply watch the crowds weave through this popular tourist attraction.

Piazza del Popolo Walk

Rome

Take a walk in the "peoples square" or Piazza del Popolo. Explore the oval "square" admiring the churches and gaze up at the ancient obelisk. This is a perfect place to people watch!

### ACTIVITY

Go back 2,000 years in time at the Gladiator School of Rome. First, visit the museum to see and touch authentic weapons and gear used by gladiators and Roman legionaries. Then, learn the basic techniques of gladiatorial sword fighting from a skilled instructor and challenge other new centurions, either in the outdoor arena (weather permitting) or indoors, using play-safe materials.

Day 7

## ROME

Step inside the ancient Colosseum, where gladiatorial contests took place before cheering crowds and fierce animals were once set loose. Later, join an optional walk to St. Peter's Square or choose to visit the Vatican or the Roman Forum. This evening, gather for a festive pizza dinner to celebrate our Italian adventure.

Please note if you would like to visit the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, you must purchase tickets as far in advance as possible. Please use the official website: [tickets.museivaticani.va](https://tickets.museivaticani.va).

In addition, please be aware that the timing of your Colosseum experience may vary throughout the day depending on seasonality and ticket availability.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Bettoja Massimo D'Azeglio Hotel (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Colosseum Visit Rome

Enjoy a guided tour of this famous spot, the scene of many bloody gladiator fights for the entertainment of ancient Rome's aristocracy. Learn from your expert guide and you wander the old venue—a UNESCO World Heritage site—and feel free to walk around on your own. No battles, please!



### Optional Activities - Day 7

Roman Forum Visit Rome 24EUR 1h-2h

Even with the bustle of modern day Rome whizzing past on Vespas, you can still lose yourself in the fragmented columns and ancient ruins of this plaza, conjuring images of the rich Romans sauntering

by in togas. Please note, this must be booked in combination with the Colosseum Visit and will include a visit to Palatine Hill.

Vatican Museum Visit

Vatican City

20-25EUR

3h-4h

The Vatican Museums near St Peter's Basilica contain priceless works of art from ancient to modern times. There are many different museums to choose from, but two of the most well known are the Sistine Chapel and the Raphael rooms.

St. Peter's Square Walk

Rome

3-5EUR

With your Expedition Leader, explore St. Peter's Square, located in Vatican City. Created in the 17th century by Bernini, the square has an elliptic shape, surrounded on two sides by colonnades before St. Peter's Basilica. Statues sit atop the colonnades. At the center of the ellipse stands an Egyptian obelisk that was transported from Egypt to Rome during the reign of Emperor Augustus.

Day 8

## ROME

Depart at any time.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your Expedition Leader can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

## What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your Expedition Leader and Group
- Your Family Journeys Moment: Venetian Mask Making For Kids, Venice
- Your Foodie Moment: Florence Pasta Cooking Class, Florence
- Your Discover Moment: Florence
- Your Family Journeys Moment: Gladiator School Lesson, Rome
- Arrival transfer
- Guided Venice city tour and glass blowing demonstration
- Leonardo Da Vinci museum
- Walking tour of Florence
- Visit Spanish Steps and Piazza del Popolo
- Entrance to Colosseum
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

## What are the main highlights of this trip?

Explore Venice's mazelike canals, create your own Venetian mask, experience the genius of Leonardo da Vinci at a museum dedicated to his fantastic inventions, follow in the footsteps of gladiators at the Roman Colosseum, learn to make pasta from scratch at a cooking class in Florence.

## Itinerary Notes

Prices are based on double occupancy; all other room configurations are on request and cannot be guaranteed. We will accommodate triples/quads whenever possible. Please call for further details.

Family Journeys are designed for groups traveling with children between the ages of 7 and 17. Your group must include a child in order to book, and anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

## What are the main highlights of this trip?

Explore Venice's mazelike canals, create your own Venetian mask, experience the genius of Leonardo da Vinci at a museum dedicated to his fantastic inventions, follow in the footsteps of gladiators at the Roman Colosseum, learn to make pasta from scratch at a cooking class in Florence.

## **Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?**

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you view a final copy of your Trip Details a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## **Is there a travel disclaimer for my itinerary I should review before booking this trip?**

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, 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 Trip Details document 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. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

## **Are there Itinerary notes?**

Prices are based on double occupancy; all other room configurations are on request and cannot be guaranteed. We will accommodate triples/quads whenever possible. Please call for further details.

Family Journeys are designed for groups traveling with children between the ages of 7 and 17. Your group must include a child in order to book, and anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

## What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

All parents/guardians are required to supervise their children at all times throughout the tour and may not leave their child under the supervision of the Expedition Leader, local guides, drivers, etc. Children are not to be left unattended.

Please note that on all Family Adventures one adult can only accompany up to two minors. If you have over two minors planning on travelling then a second adult will be required to attend.

### YOUR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITION LEADER

It is important to note that in Europe, all guiding is based around local guides all of whom are licensed to work only in a particular city. As such, our leaders are able to provide orientation walks which will show you the layout of each town and city as well as the location of local services, but are unable to legally share historical facts and figures in public places.

### LUGGAGE

In Europe it is very rare to find elevators in train stations, hotels or other public places. We use public transport on this trip, which means you will need to carry your luggage from platform to platform, in and out of trains and also possibly up several flights of stairs. The carrying of your luggage remains your responsibility at all times.

### RESERVE TICKETS

Please note that if you wish to visit popular museums such as the Vatican Museums (Sistine Chapel) and Villa Borghese in Rome, to avoid waiting in line for a long time (especially in high season May-September when it could be a question of hours!), it is advisable to reserve tickets in advance. Tickets can be reserved online at various websites including [www.tickitaly.com](http://www.tickitaly.com). There may be the possibility of arranging tickets on arrival on Day 1, with the help of your Expedition Leader, but availability cannot be guaranteed at such short notice.

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES NOTE:

During high season in Europe (May-October) we highly recommend booking reservations for any popular optional activities/museum tickets etc. in advance to avoid encountering sold-out activities on the ground while on tour.

### COLOSSEUM NOTE:

If your booking for this trip is confirmed with less than 45 days prior to departure, we will do our best to secure a ticket for the guided Colosseum experience. However, please note that due to high demand for tickets, we are not able to guarantee this inclusion if your booking is confirmed within this time period.

## What is the role of the group leader during this trip?

All National Geographic Family Journeys with G Adventures group trips are accompanied by two of our Expedition Leaders. The aim of the Expedition Leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense; you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting- we think it's the best of both worlds.

## How large will the group be?

Max 20, avg 18

## What meals are included in this trip?

7 breakfasts, 2 dinners

## What are the meals like on this trip?

Eating is a big part of traveling and we encourage you to experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Its important to remember, that food may be different from what you are used to at home and that some things may not be available in other countries.

Some meals are included in the trip price, while others are not, to allow flexibility and choice to you and your family. For non-included meals our Expedition Leaders will still make arrangements for the group to eat together, which allows you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and approximate budget (per person) for meals not included.

Throughout this trip, breakfast is included daily (ranging from continental to buffet depending on the trip), as are healthy, local snacks. Tap water is safe and drinkable everywhere. Please remember to bring your own refillable bottle and refill at the start of each day.

Note that any special meal requirements or dietary restrictions need to be specified at time of booking.

## What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Train, boat, taxi, metro, walking

## What transportation will we take on this trip?

Trains are used on this trip. The train systems in Italy are generally good, with seat reservations and toilet/snack facilities on longer journeys. Keeping to schedules is notoriously not one of the Italian transport system's specialties, so pack in your iPod, a good book and some Italian phrases, and kick-back and enjoy the views with the locals.

Please note that you MUST be comfortable carrying your own luggage as there will be a lot of up and down stairs on this trip due to the nature of station layouts in Italy (very few are equipped with escalators or elevators). Between public transport and hotels you may be required to carry your luggage short distances (up to 15mins walk), in larger cities you may travel by metro or city bus, and occasionally the group will take taxis to and from hotels.

## Are local flights included in the cost of the trip?

If required all local flights are included in the cost of your tours unless otherwise noted. It is important that we have your passport information at the time of booking in order to process these tickets. Internal flight tickets are issued locally and will be given to you prior to the flight departure.

## Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Odd number adult travellers in your family will be paired in twin accommodation with another adult traveller of the same sex for the duration of the trip.

## Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotels (7 nts)

## Will I get my own room?

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops.

Please be aware that single room accommodations in European hotels are often smaller, and may not be to the same service level as double-occupancy rooms.

## What kind of accommodation can I expect on this trip?

Rooming is based on double occupancy (2 passengers / 2 beds per room); all other room configurations are on request and cannot be guaranteed. We will try to accommodate triples/quad requests whenever possible and it's important to note that rooming configuration can change from city to city and 2 single beds are the standard configuration in a room.

Please remember that hotel/lodge standards can be different from what you are used to in your home country, which is part of the appeal of adventure travel.

It is important to note that accommodations in Europe tend to be quite different to other areas of the world you may have travelled in. Buildings and rooms are generally old and may not have been renovated or maintained to the highest standard. Downtown hotels in Europe were not built to be hotels but houses of the rich, which have been changed into hotels. Therefore unusual or small room sizes are common as large rooms have been partitioned in the past, resulting in rather "thin" walls. Reception areas, rooms and bathrooms tend to be very small as they were often added into an existing room, and may have a hand nozzle rather than a conventional shower head.

On this trip you can expect to stay in hotels which will vary a little in standard and facilities: some may not have elevators, air-conditioning or English-speaking staff, but have traditional character, and are in central locations to give you maximum time for exploring the sights. You can expect to find clean, safe, simple accommodation in convenient locations. Staff can occasionally demonstrate less than perfect customer service, but a smile and a thank you can go a long way.

## What are the joining instructions?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

An arrival transfer is included when you arrive on Day 1, or if you arrive up to three days prior provided that you have booked your pre-accommodation through National Geographic Journeys in our joining hotel. Due to customer experience and quality considerations, all services related to the tour must be continuous.

Our driver will be waiting for you with a National Geographic Journeys sign with your name on it outside the luggage hall. There most likely will be many signs, so please check carefully for your name.

Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned on this day.

Upon arrival to your Joining Hotel (note that check-in time will be in the afternoon), look for a note or bulletin board in the reception with a note from your Expedition Leader. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 1 (usually between 5pm and 7pm), where you will get a chance to meet your Expedition Leader and other travellers, as well as learn more about how the tour will run. If you don't see a note, please ask reception for details!

If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your Expedition Leader will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

## What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

## Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

### AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change or flight cancellation within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, please call the emergency contact number to advise of your new arrival flight information. If you do not, we will not be able to rearrange your arrival transfer and you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel at your own expense. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Office London, United Kingdom

During Office hours (Weekdays, 9am-5:30pm Local Time)

+44 20 7243 9870

For absolute emergencies after office hours please contact: +44 18 5837 8000

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

## Are there any additional packing suggestions I should consider?

You will be on the move a lot, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible. Your baggage should be clearly labelled and restricted to one soft compact suitcase, sports bag, or backpack. A daypack is also essential for carrying everyday items. Space is limited on transportation, so there is a limit of one main piece of luggage per person. Porters are not often available, so be prepared to carry your own bags up and down stairs, on and off transportation, and to hotels (max 15-20 mins.)

# What should be on my packing list?

## Cold Weather:

- Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- Scarf
- Warm gloves
- Warm hat
- Warm layers
- Warm waterproof jacket

## Conservative Dress:

- Modest clothing that covers knees and shoulders (Long pants, long skirts, shirts that cover shoulders)
- Shawl or scarf (for temple visits)

## Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

## Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

## Health & Safety:

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)

## Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear Note: In Europe it is very rare to find elevators in train stations, hotels or other public places. We use train transport on this trip, which means you will need to carry your luggage from platform to platform, in and out of trains and also possibly up several flights of stairs. You will also need to be able to stow your luggage safely on trains. It is therefore essential that you pack light and bring luggage which is compact and lightweight. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage on trains. During the colder months (Nov-Apr) please make sure you pack warm clothes. During summer (Jun-Sep) temperatures tend to be very hot and humid. Lightweight breathable clothing is recommended. It is important to pack clothes for warm days and cool evenings, as well as a light waterproof jacket. Layering is essential. We're working with our accommodation partners to reduce single-use plastic on our tours by providing safe drinking water for refillable bottles wherever possible. Find out more about our Plastics Partnership Project [here](https://www.gadventures.com/about-us/responsible-travel/plastics-partnership-project/).

## **When can I do my laundry on this trip?**

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge or ask your Expedition Leader where the closest laundromat is. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry, so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

# What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

For other nationalities, travelling in Europe has been simplified with the introduction of the Schengen visa. As a visitor to the Schengen area (Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Portugal, Finland, Italy, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Sweden, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland) you will enjoy the many advantages of this unified visa system. Generally speaking with a Schengen visa, you may enter one Schengen country and travel freely throughout the Schengen region during the validity of your visa. There are limited border controls at Schengen borders, if any at all.

Please note that the UK and Ireland are NOT part of the Schengen agreement.

A Schengen visa is applied for at the Embassy or Consulate of the Schengen country in which you will be spending the most nights on your trip to the Schengen space. If you are only visiting one country on your trip then you apply for your visa at the Consulate of this Schengen country.

## VENICE ACCESS FEE:

On April 25th 2024, Venice introduced a new tourist entry requirement. Travellers who are only visiting Venice for the day are charged a tourist fee imposed by the city.

We kindly request that you visit the [Venice Access Fee Homepage](#) to complete the form prior to travel. Completing this form stating you are staying overnight will exempt you from this fee. Please check the specific dates on the link above - if your departure is affected, please follow the steps below:

- If your tour STARTS in Venice (this includes arriving into Venice prior to tour start date) you will need to complete this form prior to arrival.
- If your tour TRAVELS THROUGH Venice, your Expedition Leader will assist with this requirement on tour.
- If your tour FINISHES in Venice (this includes staying in Venice after the tour finish date), your Expedition Leader will assist with this requirement on tour.
- Once you have clicked on the above link, you will find a specified announcement with the concerned dates. Double-check if your stay in Venice happens to fall into one of these dates.
- Click on Exemptions.
- Choose "I am a guest of an accommodation facility located in the municipality of Venice".
- Continue to Request Exemption.
- Put the start and end date of your Venice stay.
- Fill all the requested information of the "Main Holder" - (which is you!). Read the privacy policy before going to the next step.
- Fill the Main Holders personal data (Name - Surname - Place of Birth - Date of Birth) as per passport.
- Enter your contact number.

- Double-check the data summary before confirming it and going into the next step.
- You will now have to make a toll-free call to the number displayed on the screen, using the same phone number you filled beforehand. The call does not require a response.
- Once you have successfully verified the telephone number, you can now download your voucher containing a specific QR code.

As of 2025, various European countries are introducing ETIAS travel authorisation as an entry requirement for visa-exempt nationals.

We highly recommend you checking in advance how your nationality and country/s you are visiting may be affected. Further details can be found [here](#)

Last updated: January 27th 2025

## **What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?**

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

## **What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?**

Italy is in the Eurozone and the unit of the currency is the Euro.

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances but you must remember to bring your PIN number (be aware that many ATM machines only accept 4-digit PINs). Both Cirrus and Plus system cards are the most widely accepted debit cards. Visa cards are the most widely accepted credit cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work in Italy - check with your bank. You should be aware when purchasing products or services on a credit card, that a fee usually applies.

Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of Euros, traveller's cheques and cards is best. Avoid relying on traveller's cheques alone as these are less and less readily cashed as clients use them very little.

Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

## **How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?**

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

## **Do I need to pay a departure tax?**

Usually included in international air ticket.

## **Should I be tipping on my trip?**

Local tipping is included on this Family trip which covers local guides, drivers and gratuity for included meals. At the end of your trip if you felt your two National Geographic Expedition Leaders did an outstanding job, tipping is expected and appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline; per Expedition Leader €8-10 per person, per day can be used.

For non-included meals in restaurant, a guideline is 5-10% of cost of bill.

# What activities are optional on this trip?

## Venice

- Venice Food Tour
- Gondola Ride (80EUR per group)

## Florence

- Medici Chapels Visit (9-32EUR per person)
- Uffizi Gallery Visit (25EUR per person)
- Galleria dell'Accademia Admission (9-12EUR per person)
- Il Duomo di Firenze Visit (Free-30EUR per person)
- Medici Chapels Admission (8-10EUR per person)
- Il Duomo di Firenze Admission (Free)

## Gallerie dell'Accademia

- Galleria dell'Accademia Visit (20EUR per person)

## Pisa

- Pisa Excursion (15-20EUR per person)

## Rome

- Roman Forum Visit (24EUR per person)
- St. Peter's Square Walk (3-5EUR per person)

## Vatican City

- Vatican Museum Visit (20-25EUR per person)

## **Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?**

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that quite often we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the physical ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our Expedition Leader they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

## **What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?**

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Expedition Leader will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your Expedition Leader will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions. Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our Expedition Leaders to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s). Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. Read more about travel safety for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

## **What are the trip specific safety considerations?**

Always keep an eye on your belongings especially in major cities, bus and train terminals.

## What rules should I know before joining this trip?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our Expedition Leaders have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

## Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

## What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

## How should I dress to respect local customs during the tour?

In Italy, shoulders should be covered while visiting churches and cathedrals. Ask your Expedition Leader for more specific advice.

## How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

Earn 5% off your next G Adventures Tour (up to \$100 USD)\*

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us and to thank you for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% discount (up to a maximum of \$100 USD) off your next G Adventures holiday. All you need to do is submit the form within 4 weeks of the completion of your tour, and you'll be able to join the thousands of travellers who have taken 2, 3, 4 or even 10 or more tours with us!

Discount cannot be combined with other offers or applied to 'Independent' style trips. Maximum discount value is \$100 USD (or equivalent currency). Valid for new bookings only. G Adventures reserves the right to withdraw or modify this offer at any time without notice. Limited to one discount per person.

## How old must I be to join this trip?

Minimum age of 7 years for this trip.

## Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

## What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

## Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, 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 Trip Details document 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. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.