



VANDERBILT
Alumni Association



Italian Walks

October 7-17, 2024

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION
TO Florence
October 5-8, 2024

POST-TRIP EXTENSION
TO Rome
October 17-20, 2024



(THIS PAGE) SIENA (COVER) TUSCANY

Dear Vanderbilt Alumni, Family and Friends,

Picture yourself on an intimate walking tour, meandering through the rolling hills and romantic landscapes of Tuscany and the Italian Riviera. As you pass silvery clouds of olive groves and come across a charming vineyard, why not stop for a taste of a Chianti and a chat with the locals. Feeling refreshed, continue to the winding lanes of a tiny village, where you dine al fresco at a quaint trattoria to relish the regional delicacy. And don't forget to save room for a gelato! This journey is all about embracing a slower pace, allowing you to savor the beauty and culture of the region, where every step leads to a new discovery.

With Florence, Montalcino, Colle Val d'Elsa, and Sestri Levante as home bases, you'll make your way on foot to explore towns like San Gimignano, Siena and Lucca in the heart of Tuscany. Then, you'll set your sights on the pastel-hued fishing villages adorning the cliffs of Cinque Terre, hiking from village to village, as well as along the spectacular Ligurian coast.

Each day, you'll hike between three to six miles, pausing often to soak in the boundless vistas and the stunning panoramas that will surely take your breath away. Your accommodations will be handpicked small hotels and inns, and there will be plenty of leisure time to explore in the towns where you stay.

Don't miss this opportunity to immerse yourself in the beauty and charm of Northern Italy and the Riviera. Join us for a journey that promises relaxation, exploration, and unforgettable memories.

Please reserve by contacting the Vanderbilt Travel Office by calling 615.322.3673.

With best wishes,

Cary DeWitt Allyn
Director,
Vanderbilt Travel Program

The Vanderbilt Travel Program strives to engage Vanderbilt alumni, parents and friends of all ages, keeping them connected with each other and Vanderbilt. Each carefully designed trip offers unparalleled learning opportunities for an exclusive "beyond the classroom experience."



CLOSEUP OF MADONNA AND CHILD BY FRA FILIPPO LIPPI

Itinerary

DAY 1 MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024

U.S. ✨ FLORENCE, ITALY

Depart U.S. on an overnight flight to Florence.

DAY 2 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2024

ARRIVE FLORENCE

We'll gather in Florence today where we'll explore the city on an afternoon walking tour, followed by a welcome reception at our hotel. Dinner is on your own. HOTEL EXECUTIVE

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024

VAL D'ORCIA

This morning we'll drive south to San Quirico d'Orcia, a quintessential Tuscan town in the Chianti region with views of rolling hills as far as the eyes can see. After a welcome lunch at a local trattoria, we'll make our first memories on a panoramic hike from Vignoni Alto to Bagno Vignoni, where its main central square is a large pool filled with hot springs water. Reach the Tuscan hill town of Montalcino, our home for the next two nights. HOTEL DEI CAPITANI (B, L, D) / 4 MILES HIKING, 2 HOURS

DAY 4 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024

VAL D'ORCIA

Following breakfast, we hike down past silvery clouds of olive groves and a patchwork quilt of vineyards to Sant'Antimo, a Romanesque Benedictine Monastery dating back to the 8th

century. We'll enjoy lunch and hospitality at a local farmhouse. In the afternoon, we'll reach the charming Renaissance village of Pienza, a UNESCO World Heritage site in the heart of the Val d'Orcia region. We'll return to Montalcino for a dinner on our own. HOTEL DEI CAPITANI (B, L) / 5 MILES HIKING, 3 HOURS

DAY 5 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024

SIENA

We'll spend the morning exploring the enchanting city of Siena, once a historic rival to Florence, and graced today with winding red-brick lanes, Gothic churches, fountains, and elegant palaces. We'll learn about the city's competitive *contrade* or districts. Enjoy lunch on your own at the great central square, Il Campo. We'll continue to Colle di Val d'Elsa, where crystal and glassware have been produced since the 17th century. After meeting with a local artisan, we'll proceed to our accommodation. PALAZZO PACINI (B, D) / 5 MILES HIKING, 3 HOURS

DAY 6 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024

SAN GIMIGNANO

We begin the day in San Gimignano—one of Tuscany's most beautiful hill towns and a UNESCO World Heritage site. At the height of its glory, San Gimignano's patrician families had built 72 towers as symbols of their wealth and power, of which 14 towers now remain. Explore the city's maze-like streets and fresco-adorned Duomo. A short drive takes us to the striking Abbey of Strove. From here a

scenic walk brings us alongside the Via Francigena, an ancient road and pilgrimage route through the Abbey of Isola, before reaching the unmistakable crown of towers of Monteriggioni, one of Italy's best known walled towns.

PALAZZO PACINI (B, L) / 5 MILES HIKING, 4 HOURS

DAY 7 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2024

LUCCA & SESTRI LEVANTE

At the Tuscan town of Lucca, we'll have the opportunity to enjoy a bicycle ride along its unique Medieval walls and to explore its historical and artistic treasures and gorgeous public squares (electric bikes are available on request). We examine with our guides the striking Cathedral as well as the hidden gem of Palazzo Pfanner, before proceeding to the seaside town of Sestri Levante, our base for delving into the Riviera di Levante, on one of the most attractive stretches of coastline in Italy. Unwind with a seafood dinner by the waterfront. HOTEL VIS-A-VIS (B, L, D) / 4 MILES CYCLING, 2 HOURS

DAY 8 MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2024

PORTOFINO

This morning we'll take a short train ride to Santa Margherita Ligure. From here we walk the coastal path to stunning Portofino, one of the most romantic places in Italy and considered "one of the eight wonders of the world": an incredibly well-preserved fisherman's village in the heart of a natural park. It offers a breathtaking landscape, spectacular views of the coast and sea, and amazing food and wine. This afternoon, we'll



return to Santa Margherita Ligure by ferry boat and take the train back to Sestri Levante. Enjoy your evening at leisure. HOTEL VIS-A-VIS (B) / 3 MILES WALKING, 1.5 HOURS

DAY 9 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024 CINQUE TERRE

Today we explore memorable Cinque Terre, a string of fishing villages perched high on the Italian Riviera. Take a short train ride to Monterosso al Mare, one of the five villages that make up the Cinque Terre. Clinging to cliffs above the Mediterranean, these hamlets dazzle with clusters of pastel-hued homes overlooking harbors dotted with fishing skiffs. Depending on the trail conditions, we'll hike along the trail that links the neighboring villages of Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola, and Riomaggiore, or enjoy a scenic train and boat ride from village to village. HOTEL VIS-A-VIS (B, L) / 5-6 MILES HIKING, 5 HOURS

DAY 10 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024 LIGURIA

Fresh air and pure nature, towns nestled amidst mountain rocks, and terraced vineyards welcome us as we hike the Ligurian coast towards Moneglia. The itinerary winds through a silent and intimate Liguria with unforgettable scents and colors and remarkable testimonies of peasant culture. Forests of holm oak, centenary specimens of cork, Mediterranean scrub, and stunning maritime pines grace the coast. As we walk, the views are striking and span from the coast of Tuscany to the French

Riviera. Return to Sestri Levante and gather for our farewell dinner. HOTEL VIS-A-VIS (B, L, D) / 4 MILES HIKING, 3 HOURS

DAY 11 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024 GENOA ✨ U.S.

Private group transfer to catch your flight home from Genoa airport. Those continuing on the Rome post-trip extension will take a short flight to Rome today. (B)

OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION TO FLORENCE ✨ October 5-8, 2024

Arrive two days early in Florence and discover with your art historian guide the treasures of this city, the cradle of the Renaissance. On a walking tour investigate the many historical plazas, the Duomo, the Ponte Vecchio and marvel at Michelangelo's David. Walk to the historic center and visit the Baptistery of San Giovanni and then enjoy a tour of the Uffizi Gallery which houses masterpieces of the Renaissance of artists such as Leonardo Da Vinci, Giotto, Botticelli, Tiziano and Michelangelo. Additionally, there is some free time to explore the city at your own pace. *Extension includes 2 nights' accommodations, portage, city taxes, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner, private group transfer from the airport, entrance fees, and all tips. Extension price is based on a minimum of 8 participants.* HOTEL EXECUTIVE

OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION TO ROME ✨ October 17-20, 2024

Few cities can outshine Rome, the Eternal City. No matter if you have visited Rome before, you will discover that the further you go, the deeper it is. Surrounded by antiquity, encounter over two thousand years of history as well as the latest fashion trends. Start your extension with a transfer to Genoa airport and board a flight to Rome where you will spend 3 nights. On this post-trip extension, see the glories of Roman emperors, splendid Renaissance and Baroque churches, plazas, cafes and gelaterias, shops, and fountains. Visit the Colosseum and tour the Vatican, including the peaceful Vatican gardens. You will see Ancient and Baroque Rome, including Piazza Navona, Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, the Spanish Steps, the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's Basilica. In addition, there will be some free time to leisurely walk the streets, see the latest fashion trends before stopping for a gelato or a café. *Extension includes 3 night's accommodations (taxes included), airfare between Genoa and Rome, one dinner, one lunch, buffet breakfast every day, entrance fees, transfers including private individual transfers from hotel to Rome airport (FCO) on day 4, leadership including professional art historian guides, skip-the-line entrances to the Roman Forum and Colosseum, special early entrance to the Vatican Museums, and all tips to guides, hotel staff, waiters, servers and local drivers. Extension price is based on a minimum of 8 participants.* HOTEL STENDHAL

Accommodations



HOTEL EXECUTIVE

Superbly located 350 feet from the River Arno in Florence's historic center, Hotel Executive is a former nobleman's residence dating back to the 18th century, filled with original frescoes and antique furniture. The warmly decorated rooms feature air-conditioning, satellite TV, a mini-

bar, Wi-Fi, hairdryer and toiletries. The hotel also boasts a variety of amenities, including a garden, an inviting bar and lounge with a grand piano, a delicious breakfast buffet to start your day, and attentive concierge services to enhance your visit to Florence.

HOTEL DEI CAPITANI

The charming 18th-century building is set in the beautiful Tuscan countryside, between the valleys of Arbia and Orcia, in the historic center of Montalcino. The 29 rooms retain the flavor of their ancient Tuscan setting while providing modern amenities such as air-conditioning, flat screen TVs, in-room safes and hairdryers. The hotel offers a range of amenities, including a gourmet restaurant serving breakfast and lunch, outdoor terrace overlooking the lush gardens, and a captivating setting that invites exploration of the rich local history. Spend an afternoon relaxing on the sun terrace overlooking the breathtaking views before taking a cooling dip in the refreshing pool.



PALAZZO PACINI

Situated in the historic area of Colle Val d'Elsa, the Palazzo Pacini offers a welcoming atmosphere of elegant grace and charm, in the peace and quiet of Colle's "Borgo" neighborhood. This meticulously restored former residence boasts an exquisite façade, adorned with intricate frescoes and stucco work, providing a true immersion into Italy's rich cultural heritage.

The charming guest accommodations offer all the modern amenities one can expect, including air-conditioning and hair dryers. Guests can also take advantage of the charming garden and terrace, perfect for relaxation and al fresco dining. The hotel's proximity to cultural treasures and vineyards makes it an ideal base for exploring the enchanting Tuscan countryside.

HOTEL VIS-A-VIS

Vis-a-Vis Hotel in Sestri Levante is a coastal retreat that embodies the essence of Mediterranean charm and luxury. Perched on the magical Italian Riviera, the hotel offers breathtaking views of the Ligurian Sea and the enchanting Bay of Silence. Each room at Vis a Vis is a haven of comfort and style, featuring stunning views overlooking the azure waters and picturesque hillsides. Room amenities include plush bedding, modern en-suite bathrooms with premium toiletries, air conditioning, a flat-screen TV, and complimentary Wi-Fi. The hotel also offers a wealth of amenities, including a rooftop terrace with a panoramic bar, a Mediterranean restaurant specializing in seafood, an outdoor swimming pool, and a wellness center for ultimate relaxation.



What to Expect

This exclusive Vanderbilt Alumni Association expedition is designed for those who are interested in exploring hillside towns, tranquil byways, and the culture and food that the regular traveler to Italy often misses. This is an active walking tour program. Walks are approximately 3-6 miles per day (sometimes over uneven terrain); walks can be longer at the participant's discretion. Typically, the weather is warm in Tuscany (mid-70s at noon) and a little cooler in the Italian Riviera where temperatures average (high-60s at noon). Since some travel will be in relatively remote areas, everyone must be flexible concerning time schedules and explore spectacular natural areas and small towns are musts. Travel is by private comfortable coach, ferry boat, and train. To avoid single-use plastic, please be aware that tap water is drinkable and perfectly safe in each destination of this trip. In addition to hotels and restaurants, most cities have public fountains where water bottles can be refilled.

PROGRAM COST INCLUDES

All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary

- Wine with all dinners
- All activities and entrance fees per itinerary
- Professional English speaking guides and tour director throughout
- Professional expert guide in Florence, Siena, and Lucca
- Transportation by private motorcoach
- Airport transfers for group flights
- All local train tickets in the Riviera
- Ferry boat tickets in the Riviera
- Cinque Terre Card
- Bicycles in Lucca (e-bikes available on request)
- Tips to local guides, drivers, and waiters at included meals
- Service charges and taxes
- Baggage handling
- Entrance fees
- Pre-departure information
- Coordination and administration.

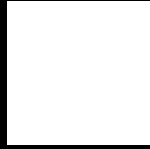
PROGRAM COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare (quoted separately) and departure taxes

- Excess baggage charges
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Personal items such as laundry, email, fax or telephone calls
- Alcoholic beverages except those mentioned above
- Dishes or beverages not included with meals
- Room service
- Passport fees
- Private transfers
- Covid-19 testing
- Quarantine expenses
- Medical expenses
- Travel insurance
- Optional extensions or deviations from the scheduled tour
- Tip to the tour director is not included and is at passengers' discretion.

Italian Walks

October 7-17, 2024



SCAN OR CLICK
ON THIS QR CODE
TO REGISTER ONLINE

Please sign and return this form
with deposit check payable to
"Royal Adventures" or credit card
authorization to:

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY ALUMNI RELATIONS
TRAVEL PROGRAM PMB 407735
2301 VANDERBILT PLACE
NASHVILLE, TN 37240-7735
1-615-322-3673 or ALUMNI.TRAVEL@VANDERBILT.EDU



Reservation Form

Enclosed is my check for _____ (\$1000 per person deposit plus \$100 per person for the Florence pre-extension and \$200 per person for the Rome post-extension, if applicable) payable to "Royal Adventures" to hold _____ place(s) on Vanderbilt Italian Walks, October 7-17, 2024.

Final Payment is due June 2, 2024 and is payable by check only.

NAME AS ON PASSPORT VANDERBILT YEAR DOB

NAME AS ON PASSPORT VANDERBILT YEAR DOB

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

HOME PHONE OFFICE PHONE

FAX E-MAIL

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Pay by check made out to "Royal Adventures"; OR
- Please charge my deposit of \$_____ per person (3% processing fee)
to: AMEX Visa MasterCard Discover Card

CARD NUMBER EXP DATE SEC CODE

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

- I/We wish to join the Florence optional pre-extension, October 5-8, 2024
- I/We wish to join the Rome optional post-extension, October 17-20, 2024

ACCOMMODATIONS:

- Double 1 Bed Double 2 Beds Single (limited availability)
- I will share accommodations with: _____

I/We have carefully read the Terms and Conditions and Responsibility sections of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE



Pricing (COST PER PERSON)

MAIN PROGRAM

\$6,795 Double occupancy

\$7,780 Single occupancy

FLORENCE PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

\$950 Double occupancy

\$1,140 Single occupancy

ROME POST-TRIP EXTENSION

\$2,150 Double occupancy

\$2,745 Single occupancy

SAMPLE COACH AIRFARE

\$1325 Nashville to Florence,
return from Genoa

*(Not included, quoted separately as of
October 2023, subject to change)*

Terms & Conditions

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, AND FINAL PAYMENT To reserve a space on this tour, please mail authorization of a credit card payment or a check made payable to "Royal Adventures" for \$1000 per person (plus \$100 per person for the Florence pre-extension and/or \$200 per person for the Rome post-extension, if applicable) with a completed reservation form to: Vanderbilt Travel Program, Office of Alumni Relations, PMB 407735, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37240-7735. Initial deposits may be charged to a credit card (3% processing fee applies). Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt. Final payment is due by June 2, 2024 and must be paid by check. Royal Adventures CST #2009579-40

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS Cancellations made in writing on or before June 2, 2024 will receive a refund less a cancellation fee of \$500 per person. No refunds are made after June 2, 2024. Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by Royal Adventures. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features.

TRAVEL INSURANCE We highly recommend the purchase of trip-cancellation insurance including "Cancel for Any Reason" (CFAR) because the cancellation penalty listed in the brochure will apply. Trip-cancellation insurance can be purchased by an agency of your choice or through Royal Adventures recommended provider, travel Insured International; click here to get a quote or call 800-243-3174 and mention Royal Adventures #53140. Most insurance plans need to be purchased within 14 days of paying the initial deposit in order to waive preexisting medical conditions as well as to purchase CFAR. Neither the Alumni Relations Office of Vanderbilt University nor Royal Adventures accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for the trip.

PHYSICAL HEALTH Participation on the program requires that passengers be in generally good health. This is an active walk-

ing tour program, often over uneven terrain. It is essential that persons with any medical problems and related dietary restrictions make them known to us well before departure.

QUESTIONS Please contact Cary Allyn or Clay Krebs, Vanderbilt Travel Program, (615) 322-3673 or alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu or Royal Adventures (925) 820-6260 or 1-800-453-4754 or info@royaladventures.com.

RESPONSIBILITY Royal Adventures (CST #2009579-40), its owners, and employees act only as agents for the various independent suppliers and contractors providing transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant, and other services connected with this tour. Such travel and services are subject to the terms and conditions under which such accommodations, services, and transportation are offered or provided, and Vanderbilt University and the Alumni Association of Vanderbilt University (collectively referred to herein as "Vanderbilt University") and Royal Adventures and their respective employees, agents, representatives, and assigns accept no liability therefor. Vanderbilt University and Royal Adventures assume no liability for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or other irregularity which may be caused by the defect of any aircraft or vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages, or expenses of any kind due to sickness, epidemics, pandemics, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, quarantine, force majeure, animal or insect bites, or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. Vanderbilt University and Royal Adventures reserve the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour participants. Vanderbilt University and/or Royal Adventures shall not be deemed to be in breach of these terms and conditions or otherwise be liable to you, and shall

not provide any refund, by reason of delay in performance, or by non-performance, of any of our obligations hereunder to the extent that any such delay or non-performance is due to this Force Majeure Event. A Force Majeure Event, in relation to this tour, shall mean any circumstances beyond our control, including, but without limitation, acts of God, explosion, flood, forceful wind, fire or accident, war or threat of war declared or undeclared, acts of terrorism, sabotage, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil disturbance, sickness, epidemics, pandemics, quarantines, government intervention or other unforeseeable events. Limitations on travel arising from the COVID-19 pandemic shall be considered a Force Majeure Event. If this tour is affected by a Force Majeure Event, Vanderbilt University and Royal Adventures shall be entitled to, and may in their sole and absolute discretion, vary, cancel, or postpone any itinerary or arrangement in relation to this trip. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to substitute another qualified leader or special guest. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. The price of the program is given in good faith based on current tariffs and rates and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, security surcharge, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Neither Vanderbilt University nor Royal Adventures accepts the liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for the tour. The air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. Participants agree not to hold Royal Adventures or Vanderbilt University and/or its employees or agents responsible for any expense or loss caused by their failure to purchase trip cancellation insurance. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release, assumption of risk, and hold harmless agreement.

SAN GIMIGNANO



PIAZZA ANFITEATRO, LUCCA





VANDERBILT
Alumni Association

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Italian Walks

October 7-17, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

Create a lifetime of memories from the intimate experience of walking in Tuscany and the Italian Riviera

See impressive and lovely scenery

Dine in charming trattorias and ristoranti that only seasoned travelers know

Bicycle in Lucca and explore Portofino

Discover the cliffside villages of Cinque Terre and savor the exquisite tranquility of quaint hill towns

