

ADDITIONAL SITES NOT ON THE ITINERARY

In Italy most of our tours will be in the morning, leaving you the opportunity to eat lunch and explore other sites on your own not on the itinerary. *Some of these sites may have entrance fees which are not covered by your tour cost.* The one's marked with \$\$ sign have a fee.

Make yourself a daily plan to make the most of your time. According to UNESCO, Italy houses over 60% of the world's art and architecture from various cultures including many within our deep Christian traditions. Most churches and their collections are free to enter but some may charge a small fee.

The DK Eyewitness Travel book page numbers may vary depending on your edition, but each of these suggestions can be Googled as well. You won't be able to do all of these suggested below, so research and pick which you are most interested in.

VENICE (Venezia):

- \$\$ Take the elevator to the top of the Bell Tower in San Mark's square.
- \$\$ Go to the second-floor museum of San Marco Basilica.
- FREE: Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari Church, pp. 98-99 DK
- \$\$ Visit the Scuola Grande di San Rocco, 41 paintings by 16th century artist Tintoretto, pp. 100-101
- \$\$ Gallerie dell'Accademia museum, founded by Napoleon Bonaparte, pp. 106-107
- FREE: Wander the streets and canals of Venice - a city 3 miles wide, 118 islands over 400 bridges. Venice is known for glass and textiles. We will be there during Carnevale (Carnival - the Italian Mardi Gras leading up to Lent - so you will see lots of masks and costumes being worn)
- Walk to the Rialto Bridge crossing the Grand Canal, pp. 88-89

FLORENCE (Firenze):

- \$\$ Climb the Duomo (468 steps - no elevator). Great view of the city where you can see firsthand the genius of Brunelleschi's design and engineering up close plus, you're rewarded with one the most spectacular views, pp. 280-281.
- \$\$ Climb Giotto's Bell Tower (+400 steps - no elevator). A spectacular view of the city from this 14th century monument.
- FREE: Mercato Centrale, the central food market and outdoor leather market, p. 295
- \$\$ Church of San Lorenzo and, in the same location, Chapel of the Medici (Michelangelo designs and tombs of the Medici)
- Florence is known for gold and leather. There are many shops especially jewelry shops on Ponte Vecchio.
- FREE: Walk from the hotel to Ponte Vecchio, a 10th century bridge.

- \$\$ Church of Santa Maria Novella, pp. 296-297
- \$\$ Bargello museum, where you can see Donatello's statue of David pp. 283

ROME (ROMA)

- \$\$ The Pantheon is a monument not to be missed. First built in 25 BC and rebuilt in 118 AD. Admire the 25' doors that weigh 8 tons, pp. 404; Over 25 years old - 5€, 18-25 years old 3€
- FREE: Piazza Navona, not far from the Pantheon, pp. 398
- FREE: Church Saint Ignazio di Loyola with its stunning illusionistic Baroque ceiling, p. 405
- FREE: Church of San Luigi dei Francesi – Houses Caravaggio's painting of The Calling of St Matthew, p. 400
- FREE: The Spanish Steps (Piazza Di Spagna), p. 408
- \$\$ Keats & Shelley Memorial House, English Romantic poet's museum – where John Keats died, p. 408
- FREE: The Trevi Fountain (throw a coin in!), p. 420
- FREE: Piazza del Popolo (The People's Square) visit Church of Santa Maria Del Popolo where there are two Caravaggio paintings: The Conversion of St. Paul and The Crucifixion of St. Peter.
- FREE: Climb the Stairs off Piazza del Popolo up to the Borghese gardens for a panoramic view of the city.
- \$\$ Borghese Museum to see Bernini's baroque statue of David.
- FREE: Church of Santa Maria Della Victoria to see Bernini's, Ecstasy of St Teresa, p. 412
- **\$\$ EXCURSION** to the **ancient catacombs of Saint Callixtus**, the fascinating underground burial chambers of Roman Christians, the Papal Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls and the Abbey of the Three Fountains. **This optional excursion, led by Dr. Jeanne Serrao, will cost \$55 per participant.**

So much to see, so little time. Although this list isn't exhaustive, it presents you with some options. If you don't want to spend money, explore the streets, looking at the architecture alone is stunning. In Rome you can find everything from Egyptian obelisks and ancient ruins to Renaissance art up to contemporary structures. Stop in every church whose doors are open (remember to be silent be respectful). Every church is a masterpiece. Strolling on your way to get your gelato in the evening is beautiful as well as the sites all lit up are spectacular.

Let your trip leaders know if you have any further questions.