

Day 1 (4/14) > Overnight flight to Rome

Day 2 (4/15) > Transfer to Montecatini Terme

Our base for the next three nights is Montecatini Terme which is a famous spa town located in the centre of the Tuscan countryside. Locals pour in in the evenings to enjoy an ice cream on the main square or to walk down the main street and admire the art nouveau architecture of the town. In 1387 hot springs were discovered, and since then spas have flourished, particularly over the last 200 years. There are nine spas in the town, where you can practise various types of natural therapy in a relaxing and luxurious setting, plus there are more than 50 hectares of park and gardens. You can also find all kinds of sports facilities, including an 18-hole golf course, a racecourse, a stadium, several Olympic size swimming pools and lots of tennis courts.

- Welcome dinner

Day 3 (4/16) > Montecatini Terme

- Morning & Afternoon Football Practice

Day 4 (4/17) > Florence Excursion

- Morning Football Practice

Immerse yourself in the charms of old-world Firenze, a red-brick splendor set in the rolling green hills of Tuscany. The birthplace and focal point of the Italian Renaissance, Florence still has the masterpieces to prove it. Brunelleschi's elegant Duomo (dome) dominates the skyline, and around every corner is an architectural triumph filled with wall after wall of incomparable art. Your local licensed guide will take you to Giotto's Bell Tower and the aptly named Gates of Paradise, the bronze east doors of the Baptistery that spurred the burgeoning Renaissance. The boy guarding the Palazzo Vecchio with his slingshot is just a copy of Michelangelo's David; the real statue is over at the Accademia. Don't overlook the tombs of Michelangelo, Galileo, and Machiavelli at the Chiesa di Santa Croce, and definitely don't overlook Florence's amazing leather goods. Check them out when you visit one of the area's famed workshops.

Day 5 (4/18) – Rome (Ostia) via Basilica of St Francis of Assisi

- Morning Football Practice

A small town of narrow streets and medieval walls, Assisi might never have been famous had it not been the birthplace of St. Francis, the founder of the Franciscan order. Today it is a major destination for religious pilgrims and art lovers alike. You'll explore the Basilica of St. Francis, built in the 13th century to hold the saint's body. Ironically, the body was hidden so well in the basilica that it took 600 years of digging to find it.

Ostia is said to have been established by the fourth king of Rome (Ancus Marcius) in the 7th century BC. It was also once at the very centre of Roman commerce. This little-disturbed ancient harbour city will be our base near Rome for the next 4 nights so enjoy exploring this wonderfully preserved Roman amphitheatre and amazing mosaics

Day 6 (4/19) > Ancient Rome - Coliseum

- Morning Football Practice

The ultimate symbol of ancient Rome, the Colosseum still dominates the modern city. Tour the amphitheater with your local licensed guide. Built by the emperor Vespasian in A.D. 72, the structure held almost 50,000 spectators but was so well organized that the entire place could be emptied within 15 minutes. Inside, the spectacles varied from gladiator battles to immense naval contests that required the flooding of the amphitheater to wild beast shows, in which thousands of exotic animals like giraffes and ostriches were popped into the stadium through trap doors and left to fight Roman hunters. See the system beneath the floor that operated the trap doors and housed the animals, then continue on to the relative calm of the Forum. Rome's commercial, religious, and political center, the Forum held markets, temples, and the Senate House.

Day 7 (4/20) > Holy Rome - Vatican

Don a state-of-the-art headset for a space-age tour of St. Peter's Basilica with a licensed local guide. Outside the church, four rows of columns radiate out like welcoming arms (if you stand on the circles marked on the ground, the rows will line up and look like a single row); inside, the church seems enormous enough to embrace the entire world. The dome, partially designed by Michelangelo, rises 452 feet above the ground. Michelangelo's mark is everywhere here, from the costumes worn by the Swiss Guards to his exquisite "Pietà" sculpture (the only sculpture he ever signed -- look for his name carved into the Madonna's sash) to the amazing frescoes of the Sistine Chapel. Because he considered himself a sculptor and not a painter, Michelangelo hated working on these paintings, now considered masterpieces.

- Football Practice

Day 8 (4/21) > Game Day

- Game against the Italian National U19 Team
- Farewell Dinner & visit the Trevi Fountain & Pantheon

Day 9 (4/22) > Return to USA