

Tour Code:  
GVIT26



# *Discovering Italy*

*June 1 - 11, 2026*

*Hosted by:  
Gene Van Galder*



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#### **Monday, June 1, 2026 • Depart**

Our journey begins today with our trans-Atlantic flight to Venice, Italy.

#### **Tuesday, June 2, 2026 • Venice/Mestre**

Upon our arrival in Venice, we meet our tour manager and travel to **Murano**—a cluster of small islands connected by bridges and the center of the Italian glassmaking industry since 1291. But our destination today is fabulous Venice—La Serenissima, the “Serene One.” Built upon 117 islands, Venice is a mosaic of canals, plazas, fascinating markets, and chaos! **D**

#### **Wednesday, June 3, 2026 • Venice/Mestre**

We begin our day in Venice with an excursion to **St. Mark’s Square**, including a cruise along the serpentine **Canale Grande**. Here we see the **Bell Tower** and the impressive **St. Mark’s Cathedral**. There is time in the afternoon to explore and shop in the famous market area around the **Rialto Bridge** or to enjoy a coffee and some people-watching at St. Mark’s Square. **B/D**

#### **Thursday, June 4, 2026 • Montecatini Terme**

Departing Venice, we now journey southward into the region of **Tuscany**, often described as the “heart of Italy.” Our home for the next four nights is Montecatini Terme. Situated between Florence and Pisa, the city is one of the world’s most famous health spas. Our sightseeing today includes the famous **Leaning Tower of Pisa** and a lunch break in **Lucca**—a Roman-style city surrounded by massive red brick walls. The rest of the day is free to relax and explore Montecatini. **B/D**



#### **Friday, June 5, 2026 • Montecatini Terme**

This morning we have time free to explore Montecatini on our own. Early in the afternoon, we drive into Chianti country and visit **San Gimignano** with its thirteen towers. The main item on our agenda today, however, is the lovely city of **Siena**. A locally-guided tour of this fabulous Gothic city acquaints us with its sunken **Piazza del Campo** and the **Duomo**—perhaps the finest Gothic cathedral in Italy! Before returning to Montecatini this evening, we enjoy a wine-tasting dinner in the gentle hills of the Chianti countryside. **B/D**

#### **Saturday, June 6, 2026 • Montecatini Terme**

Our entire day is devoted to **Florence**, the Cradle of the Renaissance. We begin with a stop at the **American Cemetery of Florence**. Here we see the graves of thousands of GI’s who fell while fighting their way “up the boot” of Italy. Florence is home to the **Duomo** with its famed **Baptistry**, **Giotto’s Tower**, the **Pitti Palace**, the **Accademia** with Michelangelo’s incomparable **David**, and the **Uffizi Gallery** with the finest collection of paintings in all of Italy. We take time for exploring the sprawling **San Lorenzo Leather Market** and the shops along the **Ponte Vecchio**. We return to our hotel in time to relax before dinner. **B/D**

#### **Sunday, June 7, 2026 • Rome**

This morning we continue in a southerly direction and enter the region of Umbria, where we arrive at its most beautiful town, **Assisi**. Here a local guide acquaints us with the life of Saint Francis and shows us the magnificent **Basilica di San Francesco** where he is buried. We drive on to Rome for our overnight. **B/D**



*Florence*



*San Gimignano*





#### Monday, June 8, 2026 • Rome

Today we drive through the beautiful Italian countryside to **Pompeii**. **Mount Vesuvius** is an archaeological treasure trove and an insight into the ancient world. A local guide will take us through the ruins of Pompeii with explanations of how the city was before being destroyed by the volcano. Then we take a drive along the beautiful Amalfi coast before returning to Rome. **B/D**

#### Tuesday, June 9, 2026 • Rome

This morning we visit the **Vatican City** and **St. Peter's Cathedral**, home of the Roman Catholic Church and the largest building in Christianity. Also included is a visit to the **Vatican Museum** and the **Sistine Chapel**. We have free time to visit the city center in the afternoon. Dinner tonight is on our own. **B**

#### Wednesday, June 10, 2026 • Rome

After breakfast, we continue sightseeing in the Eternal City of Rome and see the glories of the Caesars. We become acquainted with the city that was the birthplace for much of our civilization as we visit the **Capitoline Hill** area, from which we view the **Roman Forum**. We also see the **Colosseum**, the **Trevi Fountain**, and more. Tonight is a very special farewell dinner at a Rome restaurant. **B/D**

#### Thursday, June 11, 2026 • Return

Unfortunately, it's time to transfer to Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport for our return flight to the United States. We return with memories of rustic towns, walled cities, the grandeur of Rome, (as well as wonderful ice cream and pasta), and a wealth of new friends! Welcome home! **B**

#### Abbreviations for Meals

**B**=Breakfast **D**=Dinner

***Please be aware:*** this tour includes considerable standing and walking and some hiking. We recommend that tour participants be able to walk a mile or more at a moderate pace, navigate some uneven terrain, cobblestone streets, steps and hills. Caution is recommended for those with walking or breathing difficulties. If a guest requires mobility assistance, they must be accompanied by an able companion who is totally responsible for providing the guest's necessary assistance. Ed-Ventures does not provide personal attendant services.

#### TOUR COST:

**\$6,959\* per person, double occupancy**

*Optional Insurance: \$505*

**\$7,909 per person, single occupancy**

*Optional Insurance \$570*

*(Insurance premium needs to be paid at time of initial deposit)*

*Includes land package and estimated air from Chicago*

*\*Price is based on a minimum of 15 paying participants.*

#### Your Tour Includes:

- **Estimated Roundtrip Airfare** (Chicago to Venice, return from Rome) and related taxes, fees and fuel charges *(estimated at \$1,400)* Seat assignment fees may be in addition.
- Group Transfer from Beloit area Wisconsin (pick up and drop off at three locations) to Chicago ORD and return.
- **Land Transportation** via private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- **Accommodations** (double occupancy) in superior three and moderate 4 star hotels
- **Meals** per the itinerary
- **Admission** to all activities indicated in the itinerary except those listed as optional
- Services of **professional tour manager**
- Local **step-on guides** for city tours and major attractions
- **Luggage handling** of one piece per person
- **All taxes and tips** for provided services on land tour, except as noted below

#### Your Tour Does Not Include:

- Meals other than indicated above
- **Beverages**, except with breakfast
- End of tour gratuity for coach driver and tour manager
- Items of a personal nature such as passport fees. *(Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond return date.)*
- **Optional insurance** for health, baggage and cancellation. *(This insurance is available and recommended.)*

#### Payment Schedule:

A deposit of \$500 per person is due with reservation. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure date. Invoice will be sent out prior to final payment. Passengers may add after this date subject to air and land availability. Generally airlines do not increase the price of a ticket after it has been contracted. However, prior to the issuance of a ticket, airlines may (and regularly do) impose fuel, tax, or security surcharges. In the event a surcharge is imposed after Ed-Ventures has received a final payment, Ed-Ventures will send an additional invoice for the surcharge amount. Early registration is encouraged.

#### Currency:

Currency exchange rates fluctuate constantly. In the event of a significant drop in the value of the dollar, we reserve the right to add a currency surcharge to the price of the tour.

#### Refund/Cancellation Policy:

All cancellations must be in writing. The date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit to 99 days before departure a \$100 administrative fee plus any airfare penalties will be assessed. From Final payment due date until 46 days before departure, a \$500 cancellation penalty plus lost airfare deposits and any unrecoverable deposits to ground suppliers will be assessed. Airline tickets once purchased are nonrefundable. Anyone canceling less than 45 days prior to departure will receive **no refund**.

## Terms and Conditions

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription. In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Extensions are usually available, but must be requested when booking the tour. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee. It may be possible, that due to unforeseen events, conditions, or changes in airline schedules, the land portion of the trip may be extended or shortened. Any savings realized by such occurrences will be refunded, however any extra expenses incurred must be borne by the client. Trip cancellation insurance is available. This low-cost protection can save you money if you are forced to cancel or alter your trip for a medical reason only. You will be mailed trip cancellation insurance information with the brochure or upon receipt of your deposit.

**Responsibility:** GVG Tours, Inc, Ed-Ventures, Inc., their officers and employees, tour hosts, or any other persons or vendors connected with the tour shall not under any circumstances accept liability, provide refunds or pay compensation where the performance of our contractual obligations is prevented or affected, or you otherwise suffer any loss, injury, death, inconvenience or damage as a result of circumstances amounting to "force majeure". This means any event or circumstances which we or our suppliers of the services in question could not foresee or avoid. Such events and circumstances may include, acts of God, actual or threatened, war, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil action, decisions by governments or governing authority, technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes of schedules or operational decisions of air/transport carriers, terrorist activity or the threat thereof, industrial action, natural or nuclear activity, epidemic, pandemic, illness, physical injury, quarantine, medical or customs or immigration regulation, delay, or cancellation, adverse weather conditions, fire and all similar events outside our control.

Due to COVID-19, we reserve the right to adjust the tour in order to follow the guidelines and policies set by the CDC and the local governments.

The airline(s) concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on their planes or conveyances. The passenger's contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall not have nor incur any responsibility to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers. Air and land costs are subject to change without notice. **Air transportation is via special, non refundable airfare. Any additional airfare assessments made by the airlines for any changes whatsoever shall be the responsibility of the client.** Other rules may also apply. Services of any A.R.C. or I.A.T.A. carrier may be used in conjunction with this tour. If there is a change in air prices and/or currency exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust prices.

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I agree that Ed-Ventures may use such photographs or videos of me with or without my name for any lawful purpose, including publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content.



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