

VENICE, TUSCANY, & THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME

Autumn greetings from your fellow Adventurers at WAI!

It's time to start getting ready for a Classic Adventure, exploring the history, culture, scenery—and cuisine—of Italy!

The Adventure begins in Venice, with a full day to walk and explore this romantic city of canals and bridges. Two nights in timeless Cinque Terre, on the picturesque shores of the Ligurian Sea, are followed by another two nights in magical Florence, capital of the Renaissance and studio of creativity to artistic giants like Michelangelo and Giotto. We've added an additional night to this year's Adventure in Bolsena, allowing us more time to explore Florence and the charming medieval hill towns of Siena, Orvieto, and Civita in Tuscany and Umbria. We spend our last three nights in the eternal city of Rome. An unforgettable visit to the Vatican Museum, with the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica, will be followed by a walk providing up-close and personal exposure to all the sites of renown that you associate with Rome: Piazza Navarone, Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, the Spanish Steps, the Ancient Forum, and of course, the Colosseum!

In addition to Classic Italy, we've included an optional pre-tour which features the Alps in Northern Italy. Our journey through this beautiful area of the Alps will include a 2-night stay in scenic Selva Gardena, a walk along gorgeous Lake Garda, some time to enjoy the scenery and culture of this South Tyrolean region of Italy, one of our oldest walk routes among the Dolomites with our Italian friends, and an extra day to explore Venice on your own before all the fun begins with Classic Italy!



Two is Sometimes Better than One

WAI is also offering *Spain, Andorra, and the Basque Coast of France* in 2010, and it just happens to start right after our Classic Italy finishes. Travelers who decide to maximize their airfare by doing both trips, back to back, will receive a free connecting flight from Rome, Italy to Barcelona, Spain. Stay tuned for details on our brand new Spain Walking Adventure!

How do I lock in my place on this Adventure?

If you are among the travelers who have submitted an Early Bird deposit, your spot on the list is secure until **September 25**. Travelers who have submitted Early Bird deposits will be accepted in the order in which they submitted their deposit. After September 25, we will begin filling any open spots that have become available. A maximum of 30 travelers will be accepted on any one departure.

Cancellation policy:

Due to the changing contract policies of our vendors, we have adjusted our cancellation policy for 2010. Please see the General Tour Conditions sheet for more details.

How is airfare arranged?

The official start point for this tour is the Marco Polo International Airport in Venice, Italy, and we finish the Adventure in Rome. We recommend that you contact the travel agent we work with to help book your flight arrangements. In this age of airfare complications and airport uncertainty, using a travel agent is a good investment! More details about flight arrangements and travel agent contact information will be provided in the *Adventure Advice* flyer, enclosed with your first invoice after you register for the Adventure. ***Please do not book your airfare prior to receiving the Adventure Advice flyer!***

Travel Insurance

Walking Adventures has negotiated with an insurance carrier to provide travel insurance in the form of a Preferred Benefits™ policy. We are pleased to make this package available and believe that it will provide travelers with an important element of security at a reasonable price. (See the enclosures for more detailed information.)

IMPORTANT: The insurance policy includes time-sensitive coverage provisions for pre-existing conditions, provided you purchase the insurance at the time you register for the trip, or within 14 days of your registration. Should you choose to add the cost of your airline tickets to your insurance policy, contact our office after you purchase your airfare.

Group Travel Credit

If you are part of a Group, remember that your full deposit of \$500 is still required to hold your spot on this Adventure. Your group leader is responsible to submit your name in writing to us before you make any deposits, qualifying you for the Group Travel Credit, but a full registration payment is needed to officially reserve your place.

What Happens Next?

Upon registering for this Adventure, you will receive a welcome letter and an *Adventure Advice* flyer with important information about steps to take in the months before your trip. The final payment for the program is due 90 days before departure, and you will receive a final billing about 2 weeks prior to that point, along with a factsheet of additional information about the Adventure to help you get prepared! Then, about 3 weeks before departure, you will receive a final packet with all the details of the program, including hotel names and contact information, a list of fellow travelers, and a more detailed daily schedule.

Now is a great time to begin planning your travels through this storied region of the Mediterranean! Be prepared to get off the coach with us and experience a walking program that will open your eyes to a side of Italy that few travelers experience! We look forward to taking in the wonders of Classic Italy with you next spring!



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