

TOUR PRICE: \$3,495.00 per person* (triple occupancy)

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return air transportation from Toronto**
- Private motorcoach transfers throughout
- 4 nights accommodation in a centrally located hotel in Athens
- 3 nights accommodation in a centrally located hotel in Rome
- 2 nights accommodation in a centrally located hotel in Montecatini
- 3 nights accommodation in a centrally located hotel in Florence
- Buffet breakfast daily
- Dinner daily
- Lunch on cruise
- Guided sightseeing specified in the itinerary with an English speaking guide
- All admission fees to sites and museums specified in the itinerary
- 8 metro tickets in Rome
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Georgia Hardy Tours representative accompanying the group

TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Lunches (except for 1 on cruise), snacks and beverages
- Gratuities: \$70.00
- Departure taxes: \$400.00 as of May 19, 2011
- Mandatory All Inclusive Insurance Premium: \$100.00 (due at the time of deposit)

* Based on air fares, land tariffs and currency exchange rates as of May 19 2011 and a minimum of 45 participants. Please note the possibility of increases in air fares and land costs prior to departure. Any increase must be borne by the individual participant.

** Based on current flight schedules.

PAYMENT AND BOOKING CONDITIONS:

Please refer to separate application form.

It is the responsibility of all participants to ensure that no additional travel documents are necessary. Georgia Hardy Tours Inc. is not responsible for inadequate travel documents.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:

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**EARL HAIG
SECONDARY
SCHOOL**

**ATHENS,
ROME,
TUSCAN
COUNTRYSIDE
& FLORENCE**

MARCH 3 - 16, 2012

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Itinerary

AS WE WITNESS OUR WORLD CHANGING ALMOST DAILY, IT SEEMS THAT NOW, MORE THAN EVER BEFORE, WE MUST LEARN TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF OTHERS. WHAT BETTER WAY THAN THROUGH TRAVEL CAN STUDENTS AND STAFF COLLECTIVELY LEARN FROM OTHERS AND WITH OTHERS. TRAVEL, IN ITSELF, IS BOTH AN EXCELLENT WAY TO LEARN AS WELL AS TO HAVE A GOOD SOCIAL EXPERIENCE.

THIS TRIP IS DESIGNED FOR ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES 11 AND 12 WITH INTERESTS IN SENIOR SOCIAL SCIENCE (HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, BUSINESS) AND THE ARTS (MAJORS AND ELECTIVES - DANCE, MUSIC, DRAMA AND VISUAL ARTS).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT STUDENTS WILL ENRICH THEIR CLASSROOM LEARNING EXPERIENCES WHILE ENCOURAGING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTERRELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER SUBJECT AREAS. THIS HOLISTIC EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL OPPORTUNITY IS EXCELLENT FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE SERIOUS LEARNERS.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3 TORONTO / ATHENS

Departure this afternoon on an overnight flight to Athens.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4 ATHENS

Athens, the birthplace of democracy, is one of the world's first 'cities' and a spectacular introduction to the ancient Greek civilization. Upon arrival, we transfer to our centrally located hotel. We will check in and go to the Acropolis Museum for a visit. After dinner, we will be walking to Plaka, the historic city centre, in Teacher-led groups.

MONDAY, MARCH 5 ATHENS / SARONIC GULF / ATHENS

The stretch of sea from the Attica coastline to the Peloponnese shores is called the Saronic Gulf. We will enjoy a one day cruise to three of its most important islands; Aegina, Poros and Hydra. The island of Aegina, is a favourite among holidaymakers for its beaches and archaeological sites. On the thickly wooded island of Poros we will visit the town and the Monastery. Finally we will visit Hydra, a historical and picturesque island with characteristic traditional architecture and local colour. A buffet lunch is served on board your ship with a classical Greek Floor Show including lively audience participation.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6 ATHENS

An orientation tour of Athens will introduce us to its principal sights. We will visit the Acropolis, antiquity's most splendid group of monuments, once a sanctuary of religious worship and by the middle of the 5th century B.C. the pedestal for artistic creations of the Classical Era. Our tour will visit the magnificent Doric Parthenon, the Theatre of Dionysus, the small Ionic temple of Athena Nike and the ancient Agora, the civic, religious and commercial centre of Athenian life. In the afternoon, we will visit the famous Archeological Museum with exhibits from the Classical, Hellenistic and Roman periods. Dinner will be in typical Greek Taverna.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7 ATHENS / DELPHI / ATHENS

Today's excursion takes us to Delphi, site of the famous Pythian Oracle by coach. Considered to be a sacred valley by the ancient Greeks, legend contends that Delphi was "the navel of the earth"; the mythical god Zeus determined that the valley was the centre of the earth. While touring the archeological site, we will see the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Theatre, the Tholos, the Stadium, the Museum and finally the Osios Loukas Monastery.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8 ATHENS / ROME

Late morning transfer to the airport for our flight to Rome. En route to our hotel we will stop for an amazing visit to the Ancient Catacombs of Rome. After settling into our hotel in Rome, we will introduce ourselves to the city with a guided walking tour. Starting from the world-renowned 18th Century Spanish Steps, our walk will take us to the Piazza of Trevi with its spectacular fountain, through the Piazza Colonna distinguished by the Marcus Aurelius column in its centre to the Pantheon built by Agrippa in 27 B.C. and finally to the Piazza Navona, a 17th Century square that traces the oval form of the underlying Circus of Domitian. This first view of the city will emphasize the great span of architectural styles which make Rome a true metropolis.



FRIDAY, MARCH 9 ROME

This morning our programme centres on the Vatican City and Papal Rome. The Vatican City, a 109 acre state, is bounded by a wall built in the 9th century and by the colonnade of St. Peter's Square. We will visit St. Peter's Basilica, one of the world's most majestic buildings standing over St. Peter's Tomb and the spot where he was martyred. We will also visit the Vatican Museum with its many treasures and see the Sistine Chapel where we marvel at the newly restored ceiling and the many splendid works of art. This afternoon, experience the Borghese Gardens with a visit to the Galleria Borghese, home to some of Italy's most famous sculptures.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10 ROME

Today's excursion into ancient Rome takes us to the Forum and the Colosseum. The Colosseum, opened by the Emperor Vespasian in AD 80 was where gladiator fights took place and where early Christians were thrown to the lions. Immensely impressive with a circumference of 530 metres and a height of 48 metres, the Colosseum was built to seat 50,000 spectators. The Roman Forum was the commercial, civil and religious centre of Roman life in the Republican Era.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11 ROME / ASSISI / MONTECATINI

Departure to Montecatini with enroute stop to Assisi. Assisi has hardly changed since St. Francis was born here in 1182. Little winding stone-paved streets lined with old houses lead from the base of the town to its various monuments. We will take a guided tour of the beautiful monastery of St. Francis and the medieval town.

MONDAY, MARCH 12 MONTECATINI / PISA / LUCCA / MONTECATINI

Today's excursion takes us to Pisa and Lucca. Our first stop is Pisa a town which contains some of the most magnificent buildings in Italy. The famous Leaning Tower, the cathedral and baptistery and the Campo Santo make up the Campo dei Miracoli (Field of Miracles) in the heart of Pisa. We continue to Lucca for a guided tour. Lucca is a small and compact town mostly contained within massive walls. It is notable for its magnificent churches and medieval fortifications. The town has long been famous for its silk factories and olive oil.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13 MONTECATINI / VENICE / FLORENCE

This morning we depart by private motorcoach to Florence with enroute stop to Venice. We will explore Venice, the most romantic of cities whose exceptional position threatens its very existence. Upon arrival, we will take a water taxi and take a tour around the Grand Canal before meeting our guide for a walking tour where we will explore St. Mark's Square, the Bridge of Sighs, St. John's and St. Paul's Square. We will also visit the Ghetto and the Rialto Bridge. We will return to Florence and check into our hotel in the evening.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14 FLORENCE

This morning, we will take a guided walking tour that will take us to some of the most important religious sites of the city. The Cathedral is a magnificent design begun by Giotto and crowned by the 351 foot high Brunelleschi designed dome. The octagonal Baptistery, well over a millennium in age, features the 15th century bronze Door of Paradise with its ten panels depicting Old Testament stories designed by Ghiberti. The Franciscan Church of Santa Croce is both a place of worship, an art museum featuring magnificent frescoes by Giotto and a burial ground of distinguished Italians including Michelangelo.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15 FLORENCE

This morning our tour takes us to the Uffizi Museum, the Renaissance palace designed by Vasari in 1560 which contained the offices of the Medici's administration. Today it is one of the finest museums in the world with rich collections of drawings, prints, paintings and sculptures. We will continue to the Accademia to see David, one of Michelangelo's masterpieces.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16 FLORENCE / TORONTO

Morning transfer to the airport for our flight home.

