

CHRISTIAN TOUR OF FLORENCE, CENTRAL ITALY, & ROME

With Rio Vista Community Church

Dr. Tom Hendrikse
Tour Leader

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Tour Leader

📅 Oct. 22 – Nov. 2, 2024

✈️ Departing from **Miami (MIA)**

📍 Itinerary (subject to change)

Day 1: Tuesday, October 22 | *Depart the US*

Today we depart Miami International Airport (MIA) on an overnight journey to Florence.

Day 2: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 | *Arrive in Florence, Italy*

Today we arrive in Florence (FLR) in the midafternoon. We will transfer to our hotel for check-in and enjoy a welcome dinner together. D. Overnight Florence.

Day 3: Thursday, October 24, 2024 | *Florence*

Today we enjoy a walking tour of the highlights of Renaissance Florence, from the splendor of the famed Duomo to the Ponte Vecchio bridge. Other sites we will visit in Florence include the Basilica of Santa Maria Novella, which contains numerous works by important Renaissance artists, and the Galleria dell'Accademia, where we will see Michelangelo's renowned statue of David. We will end this day in the early afternoon to give you some free time to explore the city, grab an early dinner on your own, or rest from jetlag at the hotel. B. Dinner on own. Overnight Florence.

Day 4: Friday, October 25, 2024 | *Day Trip to Volterra & San Gimignano*

Today we take a day trip to the beautiful Tuscan hill towns of Volterra and San Gimignano. In Volterra we will visit the medieval center and the Roman theater. We will enjoy lunch and wine-tasting in a Tuscan Villa before moving on to San Gimignano. San Gimignano is a small, walled town known for its medieval towers, which transports visitors back to the 14th century. We will visit the Piazza della Cisterna and Piazza della Cattedrale, taking time to visit the Cathedral itself and (optional) to climb one of the towns towers: La Torre Grossa. B, L, D. Overnight Florence.

Day 5: Saturday, October 26, 2024 | *Day Trip to Siena*

Today we travel to Siena and the Chianti countryside. In Siena we visit the Piazza del Campo, surrounded by palaces, medieval buildings, and Siena's Clock Tower. We visit the Cathedral which is one of the most majestic and important Romanesque-Gothic churches in Italy. B, D. Overnight Florence.

Day 6: Sunday, October 27, 2024 | *Florence*

Today we enjoy our final day in Florence with an optional tour of the Uffizi Gallery, with entry to the Boboli Gardens included. The Uffizi Gallery is world-renowned for its collection of sculptures and paintings, including works by Botticelli, Dürer, Caravaggio, Rembrandt, Michelangelo and DaVinci. In the afternoon we will have free time in Florence, before gathering for a farewell group dinner at B-Roof Restaurant, with splendid views of the Duomo, or similar. B, D. Overnight Florence.

Day 7: Monday, October 28, 2024 | *Pienza, Montepulciano, Perugia*

Today we make our way towards Perugia, stopping at the beautiful, charming hill towns of Pienza and Montepulciano. Pienza is a quintessential Renaissance city known for its pecorino cheese. We visit the historic city center, the Cathedral, and the city walls. In Montepulciano we will enjoy a tasting of some of the wine for which the area is known. B, D. Overnight Perugia.

Day 8: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 | *Perugia, Cortona*

This morning we will experience a walking tour of Perugia, the capital of Umbria. We will see the medieval town center, the Palazzo dei Priori, the Piazza IV November, and the Roman aqueduct. In the afternoon there will be an optional trip to Cortona, of *Under the Tuscan Sun* fame, where we will enjoy a walking tour of the city. B, D. Overnight Perugia.

Day 9: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 | *Day Trip to Assisi*

Today we will travel to Assisi, where we will visit the Basilicas of St. Clare and St. Francis. At the Basilica of St. Francis we will have the opportunity to view the crypt, the frescoes, and some of the possessions of Francis of Assisi. Time permitting, we will explore the hill town of Gubbio at leisure this afternoon. B, D. Overnight Perugia.

Day 10: Thursday, October 31, 2024 | *Orvieto, Rome*

This morning we visit the magnificent hill town of Orvieto, where we will have a guided walking tour of this dramatically set city. We visit the medieval Duomo which features a chapel frescoed by Fra Angelico and Luca Signorelli's masterpiece, *The Last Judgment*. We continue to Rome, where we will have an optional afternoon tour of the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's Basilica. B, D. Overnight Rome.

Day 11: Friday, November 1, 2024 | *Rome*

Today we will experience a walking tour of the Roman Forum, the location of ancient Roman government buildings, the Colosseum, the largest of the ancient amphitheatres and the place of the martyrdom of early Christians like Ignatius of Antioch and Telemachus, and the Mamertine Prison, which is believed to be the site of the imprisonments of both Peter and Paul, and the place where they both lived their last days. Paul likely wrote the Epistle of 2 Timothy from here. In the afternoon we visit the Church of Peter and Paul on the Ostian Way. This evening we will enjoy a farewell dinner together. B, D. Overnight Rome.

Day 12: Saturday, November 2, 2024 | *Arrive Home*

After breakfast (time permitting) we will transfer to the airport for our flight home. Later today we will arrive back in Miami (MIA).

🔒 Your Tour Includes

- ✓ Roundtrip Airfare from MIA
(in economy class* with purchase of full land + air package)
- ✓ 12-Day Tour of Central Italy from a Protestant Perspective
- ✓ 5-night stay in Florence, 3-night stay in Perugia, & 2-night stay in Rome
- ✓ 5+ star hotel accommodations in central locations
- ✓ Private, motorcoach transportation on land
- ✓ Breakfast & Dinner served daily
(excepting 1 dinner in Florence, upon majority request, to give everyone an opportunity to visit personal restaurant picks in city)
- ✓ 1 Lunch with Wine-Tasting in a Tuscan Villa
- ✓ Entrance fees as per itinerary
- ✓ Dedicated Tour Manager
- ✓ Licensed guiding & admission fees
- ✓ All gratuities included
- ✓ Porterage service at hotels
- ✓ Whisper headsets when touring
- ✓ 9-5 PM (EST) reservation support
- ✓ 24/7 travel emergency support

*Flight upgrades available upon request

💰 **Cost Per Person \$5,649** Land Only Double Room **+\$1,000** Roundtrip Airfare from MIA in Economy **+\$1,800** Single Room (no roommate)



⚡ Make Your Reservation

➔ Visit christianexpedition.com/rio-vista

📄 or Scan the QR Code

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