

Taste of Tuscany Convention for Group Coordinators



Explore the rolling Tuscan countryside, including its vineyards and olive groves.

DAY 1: FLIGHT TO ITALY

Your trip begins with a regularly scheduled overnight flight to Florence aboard an internationally recognized airline.

DAY 2: ARRIVAL IN ITALY

Welcome to Italy! A Go Ahead representative welcomes you at the airport and escorts you to your hotel. The rest of the day is free for strolling along the cobbled streets and stone bridges of Florence or just relaxing in your hotel. Become acquainted with your fellow travelers as well as the region's famed cuisine at this evening's Welcome Dinner. Included meals: breakfast (in flight), dinner

DAY 3: FLORENCE SIGHTSEEING AND TUSCAN COOKING CLASS

Discover the timeless city of Florence, birthplace of opera and the Italian language. Today's guided tour introduces you to the city's Renaissance splendor. Marvel at Brunelleschi's masterpiece—Florence's massive pink, white and green Duomo. Then enter the church of Santa Croce, where the tombs of Galileo and Michelangelo as well as the Dante Memorial are displayed. This evening, learn to make cuisine the Italian way at a private Tuscan cooking class. Then enjoy the freshly prepared meal with your fellow chefs.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Included entrances: Santa Croce, cooking class

DAY 4: CONVENTION MEETING

Today's meeting is designed with Group Coordinators' questions, experience and interests in mind. Begin with a keynote address by senior members of Go Ahead Tours, followed by an insider's view of our company and tours. You'll also get a chance to discuss tour planning and recruiting with other Group Coordinators. Finally, you'll get an overview of the world of benefits available to you as a Go Ahead Group Coordinator. Lunch is included during the convention workshop. This afternoon, join an included excursion to the walled city of Lucca. Tonight, enjoy dinner at a historic trattoria-style restaurant in the heart of Florence's old town. Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 5: SAN GIMIGNANO AND TUSCAN WINE TASTING

En route to the enchanting city of Siena, stop in San Gimignano, "the city of beautiful towers." Take in views of glorious scenery before continuing to a local wine tasting, where you'll have the opportunity to sample some of the region's fine wines. Arrive in Siena for this evening's included dinner. Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Included entrances: Tuscan wine tasting

DAY 6: SIENA AND BRUNELLO WINE TASTING

This morning, travel through vineyards and olive groves to the hilltop town of Montalcino, famous

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INCLUDED IN CONVENTION ITINERARY

- Round-trip air transportation with a major airline, airport transfers
- The services of a bilingual Go Ahead Tour Director
- A licensed local city guide in Florence, Siena and Perugia
- 3 wine tastings in San Gimignano, Montalcino and Orvieto
- 8 nights accommodations in comfortable and well-located hotels with twin beds and a private bath or shower
- All hotel service charges and tips, baggage handling and local taxes included
- Buffet breakfast daily; 2 light lunches and 1 convention lunch; 5 featured, three-course dinners, highlighting local Italian specialties
- Private deluxe motorcoach

GUIDED SIGHTSEEING & SPECIAL INCLUDED EVENTS

DAY 2: Welcome Dinner in Florence

DAY 3: Florence, private Tuscan Cooking Class, including dinner

DAY 4: Convention Meeting

DAY 5: Wine tasting in San Gimignano, local dinner in Siena

DAY 6: Siena, wine tasting in Montalcino

DAY 7: Traditional Umbrian Dinner

DAY 9: Wine tasting in Orvieto, Farewell Dinner in Rome

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel Protection
- Beverages and meals not specified in the itinerary
- Transportation costs during free time
- Customary gratuities for your Tour Director and driver

PLEASE NOTE:

Itinerary subject to change.



The farm-fresh flavors of Tuscany will delight your tastebuds.



for its Brunello di Montalcino wine. Enjoy the opportunity to taste this local treasure and an included light lunch. Follow a local expert guide on this afternoon's tour of Siena, longtime rival of nearby Florence. Visit Siena's Romanesque Duomo, which houses major works of art by Donatello and Nicola Pisano, along with the famous Piccolomini Library. Walk along medieval streets to the Piazza del Campo. Each summer, daredevils race horses bareback around this main piazza during the famed Palio. Included meals: breakfast, light lunch
Included entrances: Brunello wine tasting, Siena Cathedral, Piccolomini Library

DAY 7: CORTONA AND PERUGIA

Continue your travels across the Italian landscape to reach Cortona, perched on a Tuscan hillside, for panoramic views of the plains below. Meander through the steep, narrow streets and look for the remains of the original city wall before a visit to the Museum of the Etruscan Academy of Cortona, home to an impressive collection of Etruscan artifacts. Cross over the Tuscan border into the Umbrian region, and arrive in Perugia. After checking into your hotel, venture into the Umbrian countryside for a dinner of regional specialties. Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Included entrances: Cortona Museum

DAY 8: PERUGIA SIGHTSEEING

A local guide introduces you to the vibrant streets and landmarks of Perugia, the medieval town symbolized by the Etruscan Arch. See the Palazzo dei Priori, the gorgeous medieval palace begun in 1298, and the Cathedral of San Lorenzo. Enjoy an optional excursion to the beautiful town of Assisi, a pilgrimage site and home to the church of St. Francis, and the lesser-known but equally picturesque Spello. Included meals: breakfast

DAY 9: ORVIETO & ROME

Journey across the Umbrian valleys today en route to Rome. Stop along the way in Orvieto, which you'll reach via funicular, for a wine tasting followed by a light lunch. Arrive in Rome, the Eternal City, in time for this evening's Farewell Dinner. Included meals: breakfast, light lunch, dinner
Included entrances: Funicular ride, Orvieto wine tasting

DAY 10: DEPARTURE

A Go Ahead representative accompanies you to the airport for your flight home. Included meals: breakfast
(In the case of early morning departures, breakfast may not be included.)

Travel Pace: 3

Travel pace levels are based on criteria such as length of tour, number of cities visited, number of included activities, as well as length of flights and land transfers.

- 1 - leisurely
- 2 - comfortable
- 3 - active
- 4 - challenging

Visit goaheadtours.com for:

- Enhanced destination information
- Fun traveler scrapbooks
- Featured Tour Directors
- Personalized "My Account" Page
- Tour planning
- Meeting fellow travelers and sharing travel tips in Trip Forums
- Suggested reading lists

How is a Convention different from a regular tour?

Go Ahead Group Coordinator conventions offer many of the same sight-seeing tours, included meals and itineraries as our standard guided tours. The difference is that Conventions both include more and cost less than our regular tours!

Your fellow travelers on a Convention are all Group Coordinators like yourself, and they all share an abiding love for travel. In addition to visiting some of our favorite destinations, Conventions also set aside time for Group Coordinators to network with one another, trade tips for making their tours the best they can be and to learn about trends in the travel industry.

Why should I be a Go Ahead Group Coordinator?

There are lots of reasons to be a Go Ahead Group Coordinator, but first and foremost, being a Group Coordinator offers you the chance to travel for free! You'll earn TWO free places when you recruit 12 full-paying travelers—that's the best free-place ratio in the travel industry! You'll also receive cash stipends and Global Rewards Points redeemable for airline tickets, consumer electronics and much more.

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Conventions offer a great opportunity to share ideas with other Group Coordinators. They also give you a chance to experience how a tour operates with sample itineraries, tours, meals and travel arrangements between airport and hotel. Just as important, though, is enjoying the sights and tastes of destinations around the world while meeting and interacting with people who share that same commitment. ”

Richard Cline

Group Coordinator
Paris Convention 2011



Delve into the rich history and unforgettable scenery of Tuscany and Umbria's hilltowns.

Pre-departure information

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

In order to enter Italy, U.S. and Canadian citizens need a valid passport. The expiration date must extend at least six months beyond the date of your return home. No visa is required for U.S. or Canadian citizens. If you are not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you must contact the Italian consulate for your specific entry requirements.

AIRPORT AND DEPARTURE TAXES

All airport and departure taxes for this tour are included in the total trip cost printed on your invoice.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Airlines have varying weight restrictions on luggage. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies. Bear in mind that your luggage will probably weigh more on your return trip due to souvenir shopping. We allow only one suitcase per person. One carry-on bag is also permitted, provided that it does not exceed 45 inches (length + width + height). There may be times when you will have to handle your own bags, and you'll find that lightweight luggage provides a distinct advantage. Make sure you label your baggage and carry valuables, medication and documents in your carry-on luggage.

CLOTHING AND PACKING TIPS

Light, loose-fitting clothing that provides comfort when exploring the sights is essential for your tour. A sun hat, sunglasses and a sturdy pair of walking shoes are recommended for sightseeing. It's always a good idea to be prepared for any eventuality—a lightweight sports jacket and emergency rainwear are advised. If you plan to visit an especially elegant restaurant or attend the opera or theater, you will probably feel more comfortable in something more formal. Also, remember that it is preferable not to visit churches or other religious sites with bare legs and shoulders (entrance may be denied on this basis).

HEALTH

There are no major health risks when traveling to Italy. Travelers should be in reasonable health to take our scheduled walks, although we will make every effort to accommodate those who chose to stay behind. It is always advisable to check with your doctor or local health-care provider for the latest updates and personal travel requirements.

CUISINE

This tour is specifically designed to highlight the celebrated cuisine of the Italian countryside. Nevertheless, the itinerary also allows for plenty of free time for you to explore the Italian fare on your own. Be sure to try those less familiar pasta sauces and the vast range of cured hams, cheeses, rustic breads and desserts. Italian cuisine varies by region. Many cities and towns have their own specialties. Tuscany is known for its wine, oil, sauces and pasta, favoring subtle, lighter pastas and desserts (mostly cookies and breads) made with nuts, fruit and honey. For authentic meals, try local trattorias, small restaurants often with only a couple of open tables and hand-printed menus. Italians tend to indulge in long, often boisterous meals featuring wines and the occasional beer, followed by the requisite after-dinner drinks grappa or limoncello.

ARRIVAL & TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Round-trip flights arrive in Florence and depart from Rome. When you first arrive at the airport in Italy, a Go Ahead representative will meet you after you clear customs. Please remain in the arrival lounge, as the representative might be escorting one of your fellow travelers to the bus at the time of your arrival. All other included transportation on this tour is by private motorcoach. In your free time, you may wish to explore the major cities of Florence and Rome by public transportation. Florence is split up into two separate sections by the Arno River, with most of the attractions spread out around the Duomo. The city is walkable, although frequent local buses are also available. Purchase tickets at tobacconists or at vending machines. Rome has one of Europe's best metro systems, serving all the major attractions from the Roman Forum to Vatican City. Tickets can be purchased separately or in bulk and also cover bus and tram travel.

MUSEUMS IN FLORENCE

Steeped in culture and history, the museums of Florence are popular attractions that you might consider visiting during your free time in the city. However, Go Ahead recommends that you make reservations two months in advance if you would like to visit any of the museums in Florence, particularly the Uffizi or the Accademia. For more information about the museums, go to www.polo-museale.firenze.it/english/musei.

Please note: convention itineraries are very inclusive and active. Free time is limited.

ELECTRICITY

Italy operates on the European standard 220 volts.

TIME ZONES

Italy is one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and six hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (EST). When it is noon in New York, it's 6 p.m. in Florence.

CURRENCY

The euro is the currency you will be using on your tour. Better rates of exchange are usually available in Italy, although it is worth ordering some currency from your local bank to use when you first arrive. We strongly advise that you take debit/bank cards and credit cards, which can be used to access cash at local banks, as needed. You can use most debit/credit cards at ATMs on the international networks Cirrus and Plus, but make sure to check with your home bank about withdrawal fees. We suggest informing your bank and credit card company of your travel plans, so they don't confuse your international purchases for fraudulent charges. With the conversion to the euro, it has been increasingly difficult to exchange traveler's checks outside of Europe's major cities—both at banks and shops—and they often attract higher fees.

TIPPING

At the conclusion of your tour, it is customary to offer your Go Ahead Tour Director and driver a gratuity. We recommend tipping in your tour country's currency, the equivalent of \$3USD/CAD per person per day for your driver and \$6USD/CAD to \$9USD/CAD per person per day for your Tour Director. If applicable, we also recommend the equivalent of \$2USD/CAD per local guide. Tips can only be paid in cash. Please keep current local currency exchange rates in mind when tipping.

International travel is, by its very nature, unpredictable. We must therefore reserve the right to change this itinerary without advanced notice to meet with local conditions at the time of travel. We appreciate your understanding. Please refer to the current catalog for terms & conditions, dates and prices.