



OFF THE BEATEN CANAL...

SEPTEMBER 14 - 24, 2015

\$3995 per person from Detroit

Surprising sights in Florence, Venice and Lake Como await you on this journey...a trip designed for women and by women. This small group tour will allow you to experience local cuisine and wine, historical sites, and unique activities that will give you memories to cherish forever because as you will discover...

*"Italy is a dream that keeps returning
for the rest of your life"*

Anna Akhmatova



Savor the camaraderie of women traveling together and join us as we embark upon a remarkable adventure, seeing the sights and sounds of Florence, Venice and the Lake Como region. On this trip, you will experience a real taste of Italy, from her art and history to her markets and gardens, cuisine and much, much more.

Our adventure begins when we step off the plane in Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance. Florence is located in the center of Italy on the shores of the Arno river which is spanned by the famous Ponte Vecchio bridge. Florence is also home to Brunelleschi's Dome and Michelangelo's most famous statue of David. We will also explore the Tuscan countryside with a visit to the medieval city of Siena. Our day in the country will include lunch and of course, a wine tasting in Chianti, the picturesque region known for its red wines. Our venture north will take us to Venice. Venice with her gondolas, canals and amazing ambience is definitely a city for one's bucket list. Waterfront palazzos and churches make drifting down the Grand Canal feel like you are cruising through a painting. You can shop for fine glass and hand-made lace when we visit the islands of Murano and Burano and even learn to take the perfect vacation photos when a professional photographer leads us on a tour of this fabled "Floating City". You will experience first-hand that there is nowhere else on Earth quite like this enchanting island! But our adventure does not stop here, our route will take us to the romantic Lake District which lies in the shadow of the Alps. Lake Como with her endearing Old World elegance is Italy's most famous lake. It is surrounded by mountains and is lined with amazing villas and charming villages.

Our group will be small, limited to only 16 women. We will be staying in first-class, 3 star hotels, near to the places we will visit. While we will be using a private motor coach several times, we also will be traveling by train to cut down on expenses where possible.

Please join us for this exclusive travel experience, a journey out of the ordinary. A trip you will remember for a lifetime, not just because of the places you will visit, but because the time you will spend with your daughter, mother, sister or best friend. The memories that you share will be cherished forever! Simply complete the reservation form and forward your deposit to secure your place with us on this tour, or if you prefer, register online at www.gowithfootprints.com.

Footprints Travel is proud to donate all profits to Gianna House Pregnancy and Parenting Residence. www.giannahouse.org. A loving, supportive home for pregnant adolescents.

Andiamo!



Siena, Florence and Bellagio

Hurry, space is limited...Sign up today at www.gowithfootprints.com

Monday, September 14 - Depart USA

Board our overnight flight to Florence!

Tuesday, September 15

Arrival in Florence.

After clearing customs in Florence, we will board a bus for our transfer to our hotel in Florence. There will be time to relax this afternoon before our welcoming dinner. (D)



Wednesday, September 16

Today after breakfast we will begin to explore the cradle of the Renaissance and the crown jewel of Tuscany. Our guide from Through Eternity Tours describes our day as "Walking through the less known streets of Florence where we will talk about grand-duchesses like Eleonora de Toledo and Bianca Cappello, writers like Elizabeth Barrett-Browning and George Eliot (who was a woman indeed...) up to Emilie d'Oultremont, a nun who mothered four children! The streets and palaces of Florence have incredible stories to tell! We will break at midday for lunch and afterwards visit to the Accademia to see Michelangelo's sublime David. Then a visit to the Duomo with its stupendous dome by Brunelleschi. At the end of the tour we will visit the Leather School of Florence, producing the finest Leather goods in Florence". There will be plenty of time to shop. The evening and dinner will be on your own. (B,L)

Thursday, September 17

Today is a free day! Explore the Uffizi or venture further. We can help you plan your day's adventure. (B) Please see the attached sheet for optional excursions.

Friday, September 18

After breakfast we are off to explore the walled city of Siena, whose historic center is a UNESCO site and whose ochre-colored buildings and ancient ramparts evoke its medieval past. Fan-shaped Piazza del Campo is one of Europe's greatest public squares; its Duomo with pillars of black and white marble is one of Italy's finest. We will travel to an organic winery in the quaint town of Castellina in Chianti for lunch and a wine tasting! Only in this region is Chianti Classico produced. After our return, Florence is yours to discover and dinner is on your own. (B,L)



Saturday, September 19

This morning we are catching an early morning train to Venice! After checking in to our hotel and catching our breath, we will board the vaporetto for a ride to the island of Murano, home of the famous glass and then on to the island of Burano for dinner. (B,D)

Sunday, September 20

Today we have a professional photographer to lead us on our early morning walking tour of Venice. He will tutor us on how to take the best vacation photos as we explore Venice. Our tour will also include a gondola ride through some of the lesser traveled canals. This afternoon you'll have a chance to "get lost" in the city's labyrinth of canals, bridges and tiny piazzas. Being a small island, it's impossible to stray very far. But it won't hurt to master the phrase "Dov'e' Piazza San Marco?" Dinner will be on your own. (B,L)

Monday, September 21

After a leisurely breakfast you will have a chance to catch a last glimpse of Piazza San Marco before we take an early afternoon train to Milan. Once there we will be met and transferred by bus to Lake Como and the village of Varenna and our hotel. Majestic Villas and their luxurious gardens line the peaceful shores of this elegant lake, famous for attracting leisure-seekers for centuries. Tonight we will enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant. (B,D)

Tuesday, September 22

This morning after breakfast we will begin our day of cooking. We will enjoy lunch as we learn how to prepare some of the specialties of the region. Fresh foods and a passion for food will be the order of the day. Explore this lovely region as you enjoy dinner on your own tonight. (B,L)

Wednesday, September 23

Our last day begins with a boat tour of Lake Como. See for yourself the beautiful villas and charming villages that line this spectacular lake. Afterwards, you will have time to yourself to explore Bellagio or any of the other small villages scattered around the lake or if you are feeling more adventurous, please see the attached sheet for optional excursions. Tonight, join Roberta and Patti for our farewell dinner. (B,D)

Thursday, September 24

This morning we travel by bus to Milan to catch our return flight to Detroit as we say Ciao Bella Italia! (B)



Off the Beaten Canal...

Our trip includes:

- Round-trip economy class airfare and departure taxes on Delta Airlines from Detroit Metropolitan Airport to Florence Italy's Peretola International Airport, and from Milan Italy's International airport to Detroit on return
- All accommodations with private bath in superior charming hotels on a shared twin/double basis
- All continental breakfasts when specified
- Welcome gathering/(3)dinner and (4)lunches as specified on the itinerary
- All local guides and specialists as the itinerary states
- Historical walking tours as specified
- Boat tours as specified
- Wine tastings as specified
- Activities specified on itinerary
- Museum visits and entrance fees as specified on itinerary
- All other entrance fees and tours on itinerary
- Lessons/workshops/lectures as indicated
- Private transportation and transfers as specified
- First-class train transportation as specified
- All hotel taxes, government fees, all city tax and entrance fees
- Gratuities for meals as indicated on itinerary

Not Included:

Wine, alcoholic beverages, meals that are not specified in the itinerary, personal phone calls, laundry, room service, personal shopping and independent activities and choices, trip cancellation insurance, single accommodation surcharge and luggage fees imposed by airlines of any and/or all pieces of luggage carried or checked by passengers.

To Register, contact Patti Ralko or Roberta Simone at

FOOTPRINTS TRAVEL

(313) 212-7289

www.gowithfootprints.com

\$3995 per person

To make a reservation, please fill out, sign and send a trip application along with a \$1000 deposit to Footprints Travel, LLC, or you can register online at www.gowithfootprints.com. The deposit is required to reserve a spot. Full payment is due 60 days before departure. In case that 15 days before departure, the number of trip participants is less than 12 paying travelers, a \$250 (6%) additional payment will be required per person.

