ITALY: ITALIAN ODYSSEY

Rome, Florence & Venice

10-DAY PROGRAM





Italy is calling! Discover delicious food, stunning architecture and rich history on this authentic Italian adventure through three of the country's most impressive cities: Rome, Florence and Venice.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Learn the age-old craft of creating your own Venetian carnival mask under the guidance of a skilled artisan
- Master the art of making pizza the authentic Italian way
- Take a scenic boat ride to the charming islands of Murano and Burano
- Visit Vatican City and discover the history of this magnificent site
- Wander the awe-inspiring Colosseum and toss a coin into the iconic Trevi Fountain
- Stay three nights in a Tuscan villa and enjoy farm-to-table meals!

ACTIVITY LEVEL

- Light

2027 PROGRAM DATES

- June 29 – July 08

GET IN TOUCH!

experiencegla.com
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OVERVIEW

Discover the timeless beauty of Italy, where every city tells a story rich in history, culture and tradition. Start your journey in Rome, where ancient wonders blend seamlessly with modern energy in Italy's heart and soul. Explore world-renowned sites like the Colosseum, Roman Forum, and Vatican City, while diving into the history that has shaped civilizations.

In Florence, take in the artistry of the Renaissance and let the golden hues of Tuscany's rolling hills inspire a deeper connection to the region's beauty and cultural significance. Take part in a pizza-making class and learn why Italian cuisine is famous world-wide.

No trip to Italy is complete without visiting Venice, a city like no other. Wander through its intricate canals, glide past iconic gondoliers and marvel at the architectural wonders of this city built on water.

Throughout your adventure, immerse yourself in Italian culture. Savor world-famous cuisine, connect with locals and gain a deeper understanding of what makes Italy's heritage so enduring and impactful.

Certified B Corporation









ITINERARY

Actual schedule of activities will vary by program session. The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather and specific needs of the student group.

DAY 1: WELCOME TO ITALY!

Welcome to Rome! Our GLA staff will meet you in the Rome airport wearing their GLA t-shirts. We will spend this first day settling into our accommodation and building connections with fellow travelers, our GLA staff and what to expect during orientation. Before we sleep off our jet lag, we will enjoy a local welcome dinner at a local restaurant

DAYS 2-4: HISTORY, GASTRONOMY & SERVICE IN ROME & VATICAN CITY

The Italian adventure begins with a visit to Rome, the heart and capital of Italy. Embark on a vibrant walking food tour through Rome's iconic landmarks and savor Italy's rich culinary traditions — discovering the heart of the country one bite at a time. Stand in awe at the grandeur of the Vatican City, where history and spirituality come together. Explore the storied Colosseum and the captivating Roman Forum, where we see traces of ancient civilizations. Indulge in the art of pizza-making in Rome, making your own creation. Check items off your bucket list with a visit to the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps.

We'll visit our partner organization that supports the migrant and vulnerable population in Rome. We'll hear some of their stories, lend a hand at the refugee center, and have some time to reflect on our lessons learned.

Next, we'll unwind with some much needed downtime with each other. Share laughter and moments of relaxation while connecting with your fellow travelers. Each night enjoy Italian cuisine at local restaurants to get the full Italian experience!

DAYS 5-7: TUSCANY UNPLUGGED IN FLORENCE & FARM LIFE

Assume a slower pace of life in Tuscany. Stay in a medieval villa nestled on a charming farm. Enjoy the pool and go on hikes in the surrounding forest. Spend time as a group reflecting on your time in Italy, as well as playing games and getting to know each other.

Visit Florence as a day trip. Take part in a pizza-making class and learn why Italian cuisine is famous world-wide. Stop for a gelato break before venturing to local museums and galleries. We will then finish our time in Florence with souvenir shopping before heading on our last leg of our Italian adventure!

DAYS 8-9: DISCOVERING VENICE BY GONDOLA

On to the final leg of our journey! Depart Tuscany for the beautiful city of Venice, a city woven with canals and bridges. Discover the Doge's Palace and the elegant clock tower. Wander through the captivating San Marco Square, where history echoes in every step.

Voyage to the charming islands of Murano and Burano, renowned for glassmaking and craftsmanship, and where picturesque canals and vibrant houses paint an idyllic picture.









DAYS 8-9: DISCOVERING VENICE BY GONDOLA - CONTINUED

Navigate Venice's labyrinth of canals aboard a traditional gondola and engage in a private Venetian mask-making workshop, crafting your own emblem of this enchanting city.

DAY 10: DEPARTURE DAY

Before we know it, our Italian adventure has come to an end.
Head to the airport with incredible memories, new friends, and confidence that will benefit you for life!

GLA staff will accompany travelers to the airport and check them in for their flights home. As you settle into your seat for the journey home, reflect on the things you saw, the people you met, and places you went. We'll see you on your next adventure!

NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES

While this program is being planned for this season, some activities or details may change between now and the program start date. Please note that references from past participants and previously published information may not accurately reflect every aspect of this program. Refer to the sample itinerary above or to the GLA website for the most up-to-date version of program activities, and please note that further updates may be made between now and the program start date.

PROGRAM SPECIFICS

- **Tuition:** $5,599
- **Service Hours:** 5
- **Ages:** 14 - 18
- **Student-to-Staff Ratio:** 6-to-1
- **Accommodations:** Exclusive Hotel Block
- **Arrival and Departure Airport**
  - Rome (FCO), Venice (VCE)

GLA HOME BASE

This is a travel-intensive program. You'll stay at three different hostels and hotels across Italy, with rooming always shared with 2-6 beds in a room. All rooms have en-suite bathrooms.

GLA HOME BASE OVERVIEW

- Pool
  - Home Base 1 - Rome: No
  - Home Base 2 - Tuscany: Yes
  - Home Base 3 - Venice: No
- Air conditioning
  - Home Base 1 - Rome: Yes
  - Home Base 2 - Tuscany: No
  - Home Base 3 - Venice: Yes
- Remote
  - Home Base 1 - Rome: No
  - Home Base 2 - Tuscany: Yes
  - Home Base 3 - Venice: No

FOOD

Welcome to one of the best food capitals of the world! In cities like Rome, Florence, and Venice, we will enjoy fresh pasta like spaghetti or lasagna, wood-fired pizza with authentic toppings, and creamy gelato in a wide range of flavors. Street food like panini sandwiches and arancini (fried rice balls) are perfect for quick bites while exploring. Italy's rich food culture ensures that every meal, from pasta to pastries, will be a memorable experience for any teen traveler.

CLIMATE

In July, Italy experiences hot summer weather, especially in iconic cities like Rome, Florence, and Venice. Temperatures typically range from 75°F to 90°F (24°C to 32°C), with plenty of sunshine. Rome and Florence can get particularly hot! Venice is slightly cooler due to its proximity to the water, but still warm. July is perfect for enjoying outdoor activities, but it's wise to stay hydrated and seek shade during the hottest parts of the day.

LEADERSHIP

Global Leadership Adventures started as an educational institute, so we continue to think and act like educators—not tour operators—as we deliver life-changing programs. We intentionally weave a leadership curriculum into the daily experience on our programs. Through group discussion, meaningful service, workshops, speakers and excursions, staff guide students to reflect on program events through the lens of leadership, and celebrate outstanding examples of leaders they encounter in the local community. Lending this context to the experience creates opportunities for students to dig deep into their vision, purpose and knowledge of themselves and the world.

ABOUT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

Global Leadership Adventures was founded in 2003 by Fred Swaniker, a native of Ghana, TED Fellow and educational entrepreneur whose work has been praised by Barack Obama. Born as a global extension of the revolutionary African Leadership Academy, Global Leadership Adventures now operates programs centered around leadership, sustainable community service projects, and meaningful travel across Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas. Through life-changing adventures, we strive to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.

GLA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN:

The New York Times
USA TODAY
NBC NEWS
The Boston Globe
seventeen

OUR EXPECTATIONS

BE PRESENT | Our mission at GLA is "to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it." To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The environment may be different, sometimes shockingly so. GLA will challenge students as they are expected to work hard and be present physically and mentally for all activities. We also ask students to take a step back from regular use of technology - particularly their smartphones - so as to maximize their engagement with the program and their fellow participants. Students may get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their experience can transform their perspective. The goal is for each student to return home having had a life-changing experience.

NO TOLERANCE | GLA has a no-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, tobacco and disruptive behavior. Those who violate or are suspected of violating this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program at the sole discretion of GLA staff.

COMMUNITY-LED EXPERIENCES | GLA makes every effort to offer thoughtfully crafted programs for teens and young adults. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. However, occasionally service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and/or various cultural celebrations and customs. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, willing to embrace the experience when plans change. GLA makes every effort to communicate adjustments to students and families with advance notice. We expect you to be open-minded and flexible.

MENTORSHIP | GLA is not a therapy program. Our staff are highly skilled, professional, caring and fun, but they are not licensed therapists. GLA programs can be physically and emotionally demanding, and applicants should be in good physical and mental health.

ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

At Global Leadership Adventures, we welcome age-eligible teens who are excited about the opportunity to travel to apply for our programs. To ensure a safe and meaningful experience for everyone in the group, we follow essential eligibility criteria. While out intent is not to be exclusionary, it's important to note that GLA programs are not therapeutic programs and are not able to support struggling teens seeking behavior or mental health outcomes.

Applications are carefully considered and screened to align with these criteria. It is not uncommon for GLA to require supporting documentation or information in the application screening process to confirm eligibility or suitability for program participation. Failure to disclose full medical history may also result in the application not being accepted, additional fees, and/or removal from the program. Please discuss with our team for any further clarification or concerns and visit **https://www.experiencegla.com/policies/essential-eligibility-criteria/** to view the full essential eligibility criteria list.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

CONTACT US | Want to learn more about Global Leadership Adventures and our available programs? Our Admissions Team has expertise and insights into our slate of program offerings, and we're happy to answer any questions you might have. We have collectively visited or staffed many of our GLA programs around the world, and we have advice to share on everything from getting your travel documents together to what a typical day on a program is like. Call us at 1-858-771-0645 any time during office hours for assistance.

ENROLL NOW | We encourage you to enroll on your 1st choice program as early as you can! In fact, our most popular programs fill up early every year, and many students end up putting off the quick and easy application process only to end up on the waiting list. The best way to ensure that you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at **www.experiencegla.com/enroll.**