

# THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

## *Florence Getaway*

**7 DAYS: Saturday, May 16-Friday, May 22, 2026**

Florence, a stunning medieval city considered to be one of the world's most beautiful and captivating, seamlessly blends history, art and culture. Explore iconic landmarks with the Duomo, topped by Brunelleschi's stunning dome. Visit the masterpiece-filled Uffizi Gallery. Stroll the Ponte Vecchio, a magnificent stone bridge lined with charming shops. Indulge in authentic Tuscan cuisine at local trattorias. Don't miss the **Boboli Gardens**, a serene escape filled with sculptures and stunning views. The **Oltrarno** district offers artisan workshops where you can witness the craftsmanship of local artisans. Take a wander to San Lorenzo Market which is divided into the indoor Central Market – dedicated to food with very affordable lunches – and the outdoor market where you'll find leather goods, clothing and souvenirs. Be sure to enjoy the espresso cafés along the Piazza della Repubblica.

### **Includes**

- Round-trip regularly scheduled ITA Airways flights from Boston to Florence, via Rome (land only pricing available if you prefer to make your own air arrangements)
- Five nights' four-star accommodations: Hotel Glance, Florence (or similar)
- Continental buffet breakfast daily
- Full-day guided walking tour including the Cathedral, Piazza della Signoria, Santa Maria Novella, Santa Croce and San Lorenzo
- Escorted, private, round-trip airport/ hotel transfers

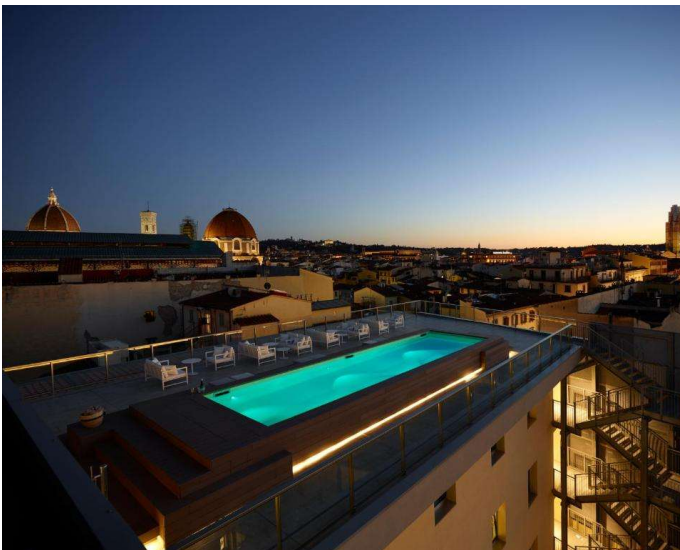
### **Rates**

**\$2759 per person double occupancy**

Includes round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. **Single supplement is \$860.** Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$500.

### **HOTEL GLANCE**

Located in central Florence, 1312 feet from Fortezza da Basso, the 4-star Hotel Glance offers a lounge bar, a rooftop outdoor pool with panoramic views of the city. It also features free WiFi access. With a contemporary décor, the rooms come with a flat-screen TV with cable channels. All rooms are equipped with a private bathroom fitted with a walk-in shower or bathtub, free toiletries and a hairdryer. A buffet breakfast with sweet and savory items, fresh fruits and vegetable extracted juices is served each morning at the hotel.





### **Day 1: Depart Boston**

Depart Boston Logan Airport, on ITA non-stop, direct service to Rome. Dinner is served with complimentary wine/beer. Relax and enjoy the inflight entertainment while crossing the Atlantic.

### **Day 2: Arrive Rome - connecting flight to Florence**

Continental breakfast will be served before landing. In Rome, clear immigration and proceed to our connecting flight to Florence. After passport control and immigration, proceed to baggage claim and retrieve our luggage. We will then pass through customs and meet our representative who will assist with boarding the transfer vehicle to the **Hotel Glance**.

### **Day 3: Full-day guided visit of Florence**

Today we'll enjoy a guided walking tour of Florence including the Cattedrale, Piazza della Signoria, Santa Maria Novella, Santa Croce and, San Lorenzo **(B)**



### **Day 4 - Day 5 - Day 6: Free days to explore Florence on your own**

Enjoy breakfast before setting off on your own exploration.

You have two days to explore this extraordinary and vibrant city at your own pace. Falling in love with Florence at first sight is easy. Because the historic center of Florence is relatively small, it's best discovered on foot. Florence also offers great shopping opportunities—look for traditional Florentine leather and also fine jewelry. The exquisite work of skilled goldsmiths dates back to Cellini, a great artist of the Renaissance. You can find his bust on the Ponte Vecchio where many jewelry shops are found. If you're looking for designer boutiques you can indulge on **Via Tornabuoni** and **Via Calzaionuli**. If you are looking for bargains you can shop the colorful open-air market of **San Lorenzo** and practice the art of bargaining. You may also consider heading to Pisa by train to explore this city on your own. **(B)**







### **Day 7: Return flight to Boston**

This morning transfer by motorcoach to the Florence airport for our return flight to Boston via Rome. **(B)**

## **Best Things to Do in Florence**

### **#1 The Florence Cathedral aka the Duomo**

The Duomo, also called Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore, is the centerpiece of Florence. If you do one thing in Florence, it should be a visit to the Duomo.

The Florence Cathedral is part of the Monumental Complex of Santa Maria del Fiore, which also contains Giotto's Bell Tower, the Baptistery, Santa Reparata, and the Opera del Duomo Museum. All of these sites are located around the cathedral and can be visited on the same ticket.

One of the best things to do in this complex of sites is to climb the the 463 steps to the top of dome of the cathedral. Along the way you will have marvelous views of the interior of the cupola. These paintings are The Last Judgement frescoes showing heaven and hell. They are very graphic and our kids were mesmerized by these, in particular the creepy portrayal of hell.

### **#2 Visit the Baptistery of San Giovanni**

The Baptistery is one of the oldest buildings in Florence. It stands in Piazza del Duomo across from the Florence Cathedral. The Baptistery is famous for its multiple sets of bronze doors, which were created by Lorenzo Ghiberti and Andrea Pisano. The original Gates of Paradise doors (created by Lorenzo Ghiberti) are located inside of the Opera del Duomo Museum. What you see at the baptistery is a replica. A visit inside of the Baptistery is relatively quick (10 to 15 minutes) and it is absolutely worth it to see the golden mosaic ceiling. Dante Alighieri and members of the Medici family were all baptized here.

### **#3 Climb Giotto's Bell Tower**

To get to the top, you will climb a long series of staircases and along the way, you can stop at several terraces for a break and a view of Florence

#### **#4 The Uffizi Museum**

Journey back into the Renaissance with a visit to the Uffizi Gallery. This museum contains thousands of Renaissance works of art, donated to Florence by the Medici family. The Uffizi is also one of the oldest museums in the world, opening in 1865. On display are works of art by Leonardo da Vinci, Botticelli, Cimabue, Michelangelo, Titian, Raphael, Caravaggio, and many more.

#### **#5 Climb the Tower of Palazzo Vecchio**

Palazzo Vecchio is the town hall of Florence and it sits on Piazza della Signoria. Things to do here include touring the museum, taking a tour of the Roman Ruins, and climbing the Arnolfo Tower for one of the best views of Florence. This is one of our favorite views of Florence, since this is one of the best places to get a great photo of the Duomo.

#### **#6 Stroll across Historic Ponte Vecchio**

Ponte Vecchio, which means “old bridge,” is a medieval stone bridge that spans the Arno River. For centuries, shops have lined the sides of the bridge. Now, most of these shops sell jewelry. This is a pedestrian bridge. Near the center of the bridge you get views looking in both directions along the Arno River. It is free to visit and open 24 hours a day.

#### **#7 Boboli Gardens and the Pitti Palace**

The Pitti Palace is a palace built in 1457 by Brunelleschi for the Pitti family. In 1550, it was purchased by Cosimo I de' Medici as the new Grand Ducal residence. Now, the palace contains five museums: the Museum of Russian Icons, the Treasury of the Grand Dukes, the Imperial and Royal Apartments, the Museum of Costume and Fashion, and the Gallery of Modern Art. Boboli Gardens sits behind the Pitti Palace. The gardens contain numerous Renaissance statues and fountains. From these gardens, you also get a very nice view of Florence.

#### **#8 Go Shopping at San Lorenzo Market and Mercato Centrale**

San Lorenzo Market is made up of two markets, an outdoor market and an indoor market located inside of the Mercato Centrale building. At the outdoor market, you can go shopping for leather goods, pottery, and souvenirs. It is open Tuesday through Saturday.

#### **#9 David at the Accademia Gallery**

The statue of David is a masterpiece, one of the most famous works of art in the world. Seeing the sculpture in person is an awesome experience and the amount of detail is astounding! We could clearly see the veins on David's arms, the definition of all of his muscles, and the expression on his face. In addition to the statue of David, there are more things to see inside of this art museum, such as other sculptures by Michelangelo and paintings from other Florentine artists.

#### **#10 Watch the Sunset from Piazzale Michelangelo**

Piazzale Michelangelo is the best spot to watch the sunset in Florence. As the skies grow dim, watch as the lights come on and illuminate the city in a magical glow.

#### **Rooftop Bars in Florence**

At the end of the day, consider visiting a rooftop bar in Florence. One of our favorite experiences in this city is to have a glass of wine or a cocktail with a view of the Duomo, Arno River, or Palazzo Vecchio. Several of our favorite rooftop bars are View on Art, Divina Terrazza, and SE·STO on Arno. You can see the full list in our guide to the best rooftop bars in Florence.

***Proof of Citizenship*** is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require a valid passport to travel; with at least 6 months' validity. All non-US citizens should check with the appropriate foreign consulate for additional entry requirements. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*