



MOAMA ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

2016 ITALY TOUR - DRAFT ITINERARY

Day 1: Wednesday 14 September 2016:

Melbourne – Rome

Please meet at Melbourne airport ready to check in for your flight to Rome.

Day 2:

Rome

On arrival into Rome, board the private coach to the hotel. The remainder of the day is free for independent sightseeing. Modern and old, past and present, go side by side all the time in Rome. Be prepared to step into the world's biggest open air museum, and be dazzled by what this city has to offer.

Day 03: (B)

Rome

This morning, after breakfast, make your way to the Vatican for a guided tour through the priceless art collection of the **Vatican Museums** culminating beneath Michelangelo's famous ceiling in the Sistine Chapel.

Day 04: (B)

Rome

This morning after breakfast at your hotel, you will make your way to the **Colosseum** for an independent visit. The Colosseum is where gladiators fought to the death, Christians were fed to the lions and sea battles were staged. This afternoon board your coach to the **Catacombs** where you will enjoy a half-day guided tour. The catacombs are the ancient underground cemeteries used by the Christian and Jewish communities. Upon completion of the tour you will return to your hotel and enjoy the evening free for teacher supervised activities.

Day 05: (B)

Rome – Pompeii – Sorrento

Today after breakfast, board the coach for your journey to Sorrento with an en-route stop in Pompeii. On arrival in **Pompeii** enjoy a half day guided tour of the magnificent ruins. The eruption of Vesuvius wasn't the first disaster to strike the Roman port of Pompeii. In the 63 AD it was devastated by an earthquake. Following the rapid rebuild, it was just beginning to get back in the swing when lightning struck for the second time. In AD 79 Mt Vesuvius blew its top, burying the city under a layer burning fragments of pumice stone, and killing some 2000 of the city's 20,000 inhabitants. Most of the ancient city has now been unearthed but work continues and new finds are still being made. On arrival into Sorrento, enjoy the remainder of the day free for independent sightseeing. Sorrento is a picturesque village that clings to the cliffs overlooking the Bay of Naples.

Day 06: (B)

Sorrento

Today after breakfast, board the ferry to the Isle of **Capri**. Capri is an enchanting and picturesque island made of limestone rock. A favorite with Roman emperors, the rich and famous, artists and writers, it's still one of the Mediterranean's must-see places. The island's top attraction is the famous Blue Grotto, *Grotta Azzurra*.

Day 07: (B)

Sorrento – Florence

Today after breakfast at the hotel, board the coach to Florence. Florence is the regional capital of Tuscany and is a buzzing city which is often considered as the most beautiful city in Italy. It is busy with magnificent architectural achievements, works of art and was once the home of many household names. It is situated on the river Arno which is crossed by the famous Ponte Vecchio, the only Florentine bridge to not be destroyed in World War Two. Enjoy the remainder of the day free for independent sightseeing.

(B) – Breakfast (L) – Lunch (D) – Dinner

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Day 08: (BL)**Florence**

Enjoy participating in your first class of cooking/language/art/leatherwork/pottery (costing to be advised). A welcome lunch will also be provided today before an afternoon excursion to the town of **Fiesole**. Fiesole is located on a hilltop offering a very scenic view.

Day 09: (B)**Florence – Pisa - Florence**

Enjoy your second **language/art class**. This afternoon board the coach to Pisa. View the remarkable **Leaning Tower of Pisa** which leans at an angle of about 4 degrees making the top of the tower about 4 meters off centre. The rest of the afternoon is free for independent sightseeing; you may wish to visit the San Lorenzo Markets on your return to Florence.

Day 10: (B)**Florence**

After breakfast, partake in your final **Language/Art class**, before enjoying an independent visit to **Uffizi Gallery**. The Uffizi Gallery is one of the most famous Art Galleries not only in Europe but the World. The joys of Florence are varied so the remainder of the afternoon is free for your own personal exploration.

Day 11: (BD)**Florence - IL Grande Prato**

Enjoy the morning free before boarding the coach to Il Grande Prato, a spacious centuries old farm complex located in the beautiful Tuscan countryside. The original three story barn has been converted into a friendly open house, with an array of activities for its guests. This afternoon you will immerse yourself in the Italian culture by participating in an **Italian cooking class**. The remainder of the day will be free to enjoy the magnificent view that surrounds you.

Day 12: (BD)**IL Grande Prato – Lucca – IL Grande Prato**

This morning after breakfast, board your coach to **Lucca**, famous for its Renaissance-era architecture and city walls. On return to the Farm Stay enjoy the remainder of the day free to discover the Tuscan countryside.

Day 13: (B)**IL Grande Prato – Florence – Bassano del Grappa**

Board the coach this morning to Florence station for your journey to Bassano Del Grappa.

Day 14: (B)**Bassano del Grappa**

Today is free for teacher organised activities.

Day 15: (B)**Bassano del Grappa – Venice**

Today after breakfast, make your way to the station for your train journey to Venice. Venice is a dazzling blend of waterways, bridges, land and glorious architecture. This afternoon you may wish to visit St Marks Square where the city's former wealth and power is evidenced by the riches of St Mark's Basilica. Admire also the Doges' Palace and its adjoining Bridge of Sighs.

Day 16: (B)**Venice**

This morning after breakfast at your hotel, enjoy the day free for independent sightseeing. You may wish to use your **vaporetto pass** to visit the islands of Murano and Burano to view the glass blowing and lace making demonstrations for which the islands are renowned.

Day 17: (B)**Venice – Melbourne**

This morning after breakfast at your hotel, you will say "arrivederci" to Italy. Board the private boat to the airport.

Day 18: Saturday 1 October**Melbourne**

On arrival into Melbourne you will collect your luggage and clear customs.