

LORD BYNG SECONDARY SCHOOL
10 DAY CULTURAL TOUR TO ITALY
MARCH 9 – 18, 2018 (tentative)
Revised Itinerary – June 26, 2018

*Note: It is the responsibility of all participants to be in possession of the correct documentation to travel out of the country. Failure to do so will result in participants being denied entry/boarding and returned home at the expense of the individual. **Canadian Citizens require a valid passport** (authorities at your destination require that passports are valid for **3 MONTHS** beyond your return date). Ellison Travel & Tours recommends passports are valid for 6 months beyond your return date. **Groups are advised to obtain witnessed letters of consent for persons under 18 years of age.** Non-Canadian travellers should contact Ellison Travel & Tours at traveldocuments@ettravel.com so we can check entry and transit requirements and confirm that they have the correct travel documentation and/or visa requirements.*

Day 1 – Friday, March 9 - DEPARTURE TO ITALY

M

- meet as a group at **Vancouver International Airport**
- proceed to check in at the **airline counter**
- *groups are requested to check in 3 hours prior to scheduled departure*
- scheduled departure of your **flight from Vancouver, BC to Rome, Italy (connections)**
- **meals** served en route at the discretion of the airline

Day 2 – Saturday, March 10 - ARRIVAL ROME

B/D

- **breakfast** served in flight
- scheduled arrival at **Rome's Fiumicino Airport**
- change watches to local time
- proceed through Passport Control, collect luggage and clear Customs
- meet your **local tour manager** in the Arrivals Hall who will take you to your waiting **coach**
- transfer to your **centrally located hotel** and check in for **4 nights**
- **group dinner**
- after dinner return to your hotel and retire to your rooms for the evening

Day 3 – Sunday, March 11 – SIGHTSEEING ROME

B

- **breakfast** included at the hotel
- today you have use of a **72 hour metro pass** for travel around the city
- meet your tour manager in the lobby and travel to meet your **local guide(s)**
- meet your **local guide(s)** in front of **metro stop "Colosseo"** for a **3 hour guided tour** with **headphones**
- arrival at the ticket office of the Colosseum
- **reserved entry time** to the **Colosseum**
- enjoy a visit of Rome's greatest amphitheatre – commissioned by Emperor Vespasian in AD 72, it was used to stage wild animal fights and many deadly gladiatorial battles for the wealthy citizens of Rome
- visit The Piazza del Campidoglio – built on one of Rome's seven hills, the Campidoglio was the site of government in Rome throughout its history. Michelangelo designed the Piazza and the steps and the square includes the Capitoline Museum, a powerful statue of Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius and a reproduction of the famous statue of Rome's founders Romulus and Remus being suckled by a wolf

- see the remains of the **Roman Forum** as you walk up Via dei Fori Imperiali from the Colosseum
- tour ends; time to purchase lunch in chaperoned groups
- travel with your tour manager in the afternoon to explore other parts of Rome
- travel to the Trevi Fountain (this imaginative, theatrical, baroque fountain completed in the 18th century is one of the most romantic sites in Rome. Legend has it that tossing a coin into the fountain assures a return to Rome.), the Pantheon (this well-preserved temple to the gods dates back to the 2nd century CE and must be seen to be believed. The structure boasts 6 meter thick walls of concrete and features an opening in the roof 9 meters in diameter. Buried inside are united Italy's first King Victor Emmanuel II and famous Renaissance artist Raphael) and Piazza Navona (this famous baroque square was once the site of Domitian's stadium. The outline of the chariot course may still be seen in the oval shape of the Piazza. The Piazza includes many outdoor cafes and a famous fountain designed by Bernini along with the church of Sant'Agnese with a façade by famous baroque architect Borromini) to name a few
- time to purchase dinner in chaperoned groups

Day 4 – Monday, March 12 – SIGHTSEEING ROME

B/D

- **breakfast** included at the hotel
- meet your tour manager in the hotel lobby and depart using your **metro pass** to **Vatican City**
- arrive at the **Vatican Museums** and meet your **guides** (please split your group into two for the visit)
- **reserved entry time to the Vatican Museums** – during your tour of the Vatican Museums which were actually built as papal palaces, you will see such treasures as the Laocoon, Raphael's Stanzas, including the famous painting "*the School of Athens*" and the **Sistine Chapel**. In St. Peter's Basilica you will see not only glory in the largest church in Christendom, but you will see treasures like Michelangelo's Pieta, various works by the sculptor Bernini, including his famous Baldacchino (canopy) and the bronze statue of St. Peter by Arnolfo di Cambio.
- visit St. Peter's Basilica
- tour ends; time to purchase lunch
- make your way to **San Pietro in Vincoli Church (St Peter in Chains)**
- enjoy a visit to **San Pietro in Vincoli** a minor Basilica in Rome that houses St. Peter's Chains and Michelangelo's famous statue of Moses
- time to explore in chaperoned groups; you may wish to visit the Quadraro and Tuscolano district; this is a real open-air museum where contemporary art is perpetually in close contact with the local residents thru amazing murals; the initial works of art dating back to 2010 were provided by the artist Davide Diavù; a series of many others followed in thousands of different colours and in dimensions that at times, seem almost three-dimensional
- travel with your tour manager to this evening's location
- **pizza making lesson begins!** after learning how to make your dough and create your special pizza, you get to enjoy them for **dinner**
- after dinner, return to your hotel

Day 5 – Tuesday, March 13 – SIGHTSEEING ROME

B/D

- **breakfast** included at the hotel
- meet your tour manager in the hotel lobby and depart to the Piazza di Spagna
- arrive and meet your **local guide(s)** at the entrance of the **Galleria Borghese**
- enjoy a **2 hour guided tour** of this fabulous treasure-trove of masterpieces including Bernini's *Apollo and Daphne*, Titian's *Sacred and Profane Love*, Raphael's *Deposition*, and Caravaggio's *Jerome*. The collection began with the gallery's founder, Scipione Borghese, who by the time of his death in 1633 had accumulated some of the greatest art of all time...although it was not always obtained in a strictly "above board" manner – enjoy the tour!
- following your visit, walk to Piazza di Spagna (Spanish Steps) where you will purchase lunch
- this afternoon enjoy **admission with audio-guides** to the **National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art**

- the building, made up of some 55 rooms, houses the largest collection of contemporary Italian art, with over 4,400 works of painting and sculpture and about 13,000 drawings and prints by artists – mostly Italian – from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; on display, among others, there are works by Canova, Hayez, Fattori, Segantini, Medardo Rosso, the great French masters (Courbet, Rodin, Degas, Van Gogh, Monet), Duchamp, Man Ray, Carrà, Sironi, and Morandi, exponents of abstract American expressionism of the 1950s and 1960s (Pollock, Tapies, Fautrier, Hartung, Burri, Capogrossi, Fontana, Arnaldo and Giò Pomodoro, Mastroianni) and the post-informal period (Festa, Schifano, Angeli)
- some time to do last minute shopping and sightseeing on your last afternoon in the ‘Eternal City’
- depart to **Le Terme del Colosseo Restaurant**
- singers in costume will entertain you this evening. Their repertoire includes all the most famous Italian folk songs and poems and are well-known to not just Italians. The environment, the involvement with the show and the kitchen, help to ensure a brief but unforgettable memory of the evening spent in the heart of Roman history ...
- return to your hotel and pack for tomorrow’s departure

Day 6 – Wednesday, March 14 - TO FLORENCE

B/D

- **breakfast** included at the hotel and check out
- **coach** arrives for loading of luggage
- board your coach and depart to **Florence** (285 kms; estimated 3.5 hours drive time)
- arrive in Florence at your **centrally located hotel** and check in for **2 nights** (if rooms are not ready, store your luggage)
- with your tour manager, purchase lunch in the area
- meet your **professional English speaking guide, at the entrance of Galleria Dell Accademia** for a **3 hour guided walking tour of Florence - whispers** are included
- your first stop will be at the **Galleria dell’ Accademia** to view Michelangelo’s “David”, easily the most famous sculpture in the world, which was created out of a single piece of Carrara marble between 1501 and 1504
- your tour will also include a stop at The Duomo
- continue on with the walking tour of Florence...the Renaissance city, which is also home to Botticelli's *Birth of Venus*, and Raphael's *Madonna*. It's where Fra' Angelico painted delicate *Annunciations* in bright primary colors and Giotto frescoed monks wailing over the *Death of St. Francis*. Your tour will take you past the Baptistery, Piazza della Signoria, Palazzo Vecchio, and The Ponte Vecchio
- an **interior visit** to the **Church of Santa Croce** is included in this afternoon’s tour...designed by Arnolfo di Cambio, the exterior is a significant example of gothic church architecture, but it is the interior that contains the fresco *The Death of Saint Francis*, by Giotto, and the burial sites of Galileo, Machiavelli, Rossini and Michelangelo
- time permitting make a stop at *Vivoli Gelateria*, where you can purchase what is reputed to be the best gelato in Florence - the locals have been coming here since its opening in 1937
- make your way to the restaurant
- **group dinner**
- after dinner return to your hotel to check in if you were unable to earlier
- retire to your rooms for the evening

Day 7 – Thursday, March 15 - FLORENCE

B

- **breakfast** included at the hotel
- following breakfast, walk to the **Uffizi Gallery** (Piazza del Grano) - formerly an administration office building, it now contains some of the most famous works of art in the world, such as Botticelli’s *Birth of Venus* and *Primavera* along with works by Raphael, Michelangelo, and others
- enjoy **admission with audio-guides** to one of the world's great museums, and the single best

introduction to Renaissance painting, with works by Giotto, Masaccio, Paolo Uccello, Sandro Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Perugino, Michelangelo, Raphael Sanzio, Titian, and Caravaggio....please note that this museum is deceptively small and what looks like a small stretch of gallery space can easily gobble up half a day, as many rooms contain nothing but Masterpieces!

- time to purchase lunch in chaperoned groups
- this afternoon explore all that Florence has to offer; visit the Mercato del Porcellino – also known as the Straw Market – where you can find leather goods, scarves and other souvenirs; or the San Lorenzo Central Market
- the Central Market of Florence (near the San Lorenzo Market) is a historical building that has undergone restoration; on the mezzanine level, a carefully curated selection of 12 artisan brands nestle into workshops where contemporary architecture contrasts with ornate ironwork. Here you can buy or taste mozzarella, every kind of cheese, fresh pasta, pizza and bread, chocolate pralines, delicious ice cream, fruit and vegetables, fish, meat, the Florentine lampredotto and special organic sandwiches.
- some may wish to visit the Palazzo Vecchio and Tower (entrance at own expense); the Palazzo Vecchio offers Roman ruins, a Medieval fortress and amazing Renaissance chambers and painting; the entire construction rests on top of the ancient theater of the Roman colony of Florentia (dating back to the first century A.D.), whose ruins can be admired in the underground level; and in the Hall of the Five Hundred you can admire murals by Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo; if you dare, 416 steps will take you to the very top of the tower to enjoy a breathtaking view of Florence, passing through the guardian passages that also offer spectacular views of the city and entire valley
- time to purchase dinner in chaperoned groups
- return to your hotel and retire to your rooms for the evening

Day 8 – Friday, March 16 – TO VENICE

B/D

- **breakfast** included at the hotel and check out
- **coach** arrives for loading of luggage
- board your coach and depart to **Venice** (257 kms; estimated 3.25 hours drive time)
- arrive at **Tronchetto** where you take a **taxi boat** to central Venice, disembark and walk to your **hotel**
- check in for **2 nights**; if rooms are not ready store your luggage
- time to purchase lunch
- make your way to San Marco
- meet your **guide(s)** under the obelisk with the Lion of Venice in Piazza San Marco
- enjoy a **2 hour guided tour of Venice**; unique and internationally renowned, this marvelous city dates back to the 5th century and has mesmerized visitors for centuries
- your tour will feature the exteriors of the Piazza di San Marco, famous the world over with its covered galleries, the Basilica San Marco, built in 1063 – 1073 with its great variety of styles, the Campanile – a 325 ft. bell tower and **Doge's Palace (entrance fee included)** with its pretty facades of pink and white marble
- make your way to the restaurant
- **group dinner**
- after dinner return to your hotel; check in if you were not able to do so earlier

Day 9 – Saturday, March 17 - VENICE

B/D

- **breakfast** included at the hotel
- walk into **central Venice**
- arrive at the **Gallerie dell'Accademia** and check in for your **guided tour**
- the Accademia is Venice's great art gallery, containing a superb selection of paintings by masters who came from, or to, the city during its years of wealth and importance. The paintings here date from the period between the fourteenth and the eighteenth century, from

altarpieces to family portraits. Some of the most famous works include Giorgione's mysterious Tempest, Carpaccio's St. Ursula cycle and Veronese's Christ in the House of Levi, as well as works by Piero della Francesca, Titian, Tintoretto, three different Bellinis (Jacopo, Giovanni and Gentile), Guardi and Canaletto.

- time to purchase lunch
- this afternoon explore all that Venice has to offer in chaperoned groups
- OPTIONS: (additional cost) - mask making workshop at Ca' Macana, gondola ride, Peggy Guggenheim Collection, go to the top of the Campanile
- meet as a group at the restaurant
- **farewell group dinner**
- dinner ends; return to your hotel
- pack for tomorrow's departure

Day 10 – Sunday, March 18 – DEPARTURE HOME

B/M

- **breakfast** included at the hotel and check out
- **taxi boat** arrives for loading of luggage
- depart to **Venice International Airport**
- arrive and say goodbye to your tour manager
- check in at the **airline counter**
- *groups are requested to check in 3 hours prior to scheduled departure*
- scheduled departure on your **flight from Venice, Italy to Vancouver, BC (connections)**
- **meals** served en route
- *remember to change your watches to local time at destination*
- scheduled arrival at **Vancouver International Airport**
- welcome home!

**B - Breakfast / pB – Packed Breakfast / L – Lunch / pL – Packed Lunch / D - Dinner /
M – Airline Meal / S – Snack - denote meals included in tour cost**

Please advise your group leader in advance of any allergy and/or dietary restriction, so that we can advise our suppliers of the request. Not every location may be able to accommodate allergy and/or meal requirements for unique circumstances.

Itinerary is tentative and subject to final confirmation

Ellison Travel & Tours is giving away four \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS. Are you a secondary school student who has travelled on an Ellison Travel & Tours school trip and are graduating from secondary school in the current year? See our website <http://ettravel.com/scholarships-sponsorships> for more details.