

PAUWELS TRAVEL BUREAU LTD.
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“FLORENCE IN DEPTH”

Wednesday, February 22 to Friday, March 03, 2017

Proposed Itinerary:

Day 1 - Wednesday, February 22:

Evening departure from Toronto to Paris with Air France. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board.

Day 2 -Thursday, February 23: (D)

Early morning arrival at Charles De Gaulle Airport and brief connecting flight to Florence and coach transfer to the comfortable centrally located three-star Hotel Corona d'Italia (www.hotelcoronaditalia.com). Time to settle in, a light late lunch and rest after the overnight flight before a late afternoon orientation walk in the local community introduces us to the city's renowned cathedral, the *Duomo*, capped by Brunelleschi's massive Dome, the adjoining Baptistery with Ghiberti's famous bronze doors and the nearby Medici Chapel, Palazzo, San Lorenzo and the Leather Market! Dinner in a nearby typical trattoria.

Day 3 - Friday, February 24: (L)

A full day of exploration begins after breakfast. Our Florentine introduction continues through its foods...we visit and graze the sites, tastes, smells and experiences of the pleasures of a Tuscan cuisine...up close and personal! In the afternoon we travel by local bus from the city's centre following the Florentine *Passeggiata Ai Colli*. This nineteenth century road, flanked by rows of pines and cypresses and interspaced with magnificent mansions, passes through the city's southern hills. Enroute we stop at the *Piazzale Michelangiolo* where the eye is given a marvelous view of the Arno River, the *Ponte Vecchio* and the city's roofscape. A brief walk brings us to the site of the 11th C Benedictine monastery now a superb setting for the exquisite Church of San Miniato. We return to the city by way of the *Porta Romana* with opportunity to stroll and absorb the atmosphere of the Oltrarno area with its antiques and alleyways before crossing the *Ponte Vecchio*, the medieval bridge spanning the Arno River, lined with goldsmith shops to the *Piazza della Signoria*, traditional focal point of the city's political and social life. The pedestrian Via del Calzaioolo will take us to the Piazza della Repubblica for perhaps a late afternoon latte or gelato before we return to our hotel. Dinner at leisure.

Day 4 - Saturday, February 25:

A brief walk and tour of the Dominican preaching church of *Santa Maria Novella* before an excursion - by city bus! - to nearby Fiesole, a small town set high above the Arno Valley, filled with Roman and Etruscan ruins, monasteries, villas, gardens, and wonderful views of Florence below... to be enjoyed over a late lunch! Individual return to Florence at any time in the afternoon but a visit to the Archeology Zone with its excellent Museum and Roman Theatre is well worth the time! Evening for individual activities and choices: possible opportunity to attend an optional concert of classical music, an opera, or a ballet performance in the prestigious Teatro Comunale. (Details to be advised later.) Michael will be available for options including local Florentine dining venues.

Day 5 - Sunday, February 26:

Full day excursion into the Tuscan countryside where we begin our day with a stroll through the unique hilltop town of San Gimignano, whose skyline is dominated by a multitude of tall towers and its shops filled with art, artifacts and products of the community. As we leave and weather permitting, an alfresco tasting of Vernaccia- the region's delicious white wine. On to *Siena*, the superb Tuscan city with an almost mystical atmosphere, featuring a magnificent black-and-white marble clad cathedral and one of the finest squares in all of Italy, the breathtaking *Piazza del Campo*. Late afternoon departure to our hotel via the Chianti wine country, stopping briefly (time permitting) in the medieval hilltop fortress of *Monteriggioni*, mentioned by Dante in his Divine Comedy, to taste a glass of that most famous of Italian wines. Evening at leisure.

Day 6 - Monday, February 27:

We begin our day with a visit to the *Ognissanti*, the parish church of the Vespucci family. Here we find a family portrait that includes a young Amerigo, whose Christian name will be forever identified with America! Also close by in a side altar, the tomb of the great Renaissance painter, Botticelli. And in the adjoining Refectory a truly magnificent Ghirlandaio masterpiece, the superb *Last Supper* fresco. Later, a brief walk will take us to the 14thC Palazzo Davanzati. Built for the Davizzi family, it provides a rare example of the architectural shift from Mediaeval tower residence to Renaissance palace. The visit

will give a very real glimpse into life in that time. After lunch, perhaps in the *pied à terre* cellar of the famous Antinori wine family we briefly visit the Strozzi home before entering the vibrant local shopping scene from the elegant Via Tornabuoni with its full spectrum of possibilities ranging from Gucci, Versace, Feragamo et al. to the market bargains of nearby San Lorenzo. Dinner at leisure.

**Three additional opportunities that require travel outside of Florence are also available. for today.

- **The Mall Luxury Outlet:** Return by Bus - Euro 10.00 **Full or half day excursion.**
- **Pisa:** the *Campo dei Miracoli* with the world famous Leaning Tower, the *Duomo* and Baptistry as well as the *Camposanto*, a fascinating medieval cemetery Return Train -Euro 20.00 approx. **Full day excursion.**

If interested, please contact the Bureau a week prior to departure for either Pisa or the Mall. Confirmation can be completed onsite.

- **Cinque Terra:** Please advise Bureau by January 31 in order to ensure mode of transportation availability. Minimum 2 persons - maximum 4. **Full day excursion.**

Day 7 - Tuesday, February 28: (D)

Today you will receive a three-day museum pass valid for admission not only to the Uffizi but also to a wide range of Florentine museums, art galleries, and monuments including: the Accademia, the Bargello, Gallery of Modern Art, the homes of Dante and Michelangelo, the Boboli Gardens...several have been chosen for group visits over the next three days. The Pass begins to-day and is valid for Wednesday and Thursday. Michael will be available to assist with planning personal visits/choices to museums, galleries, shops and restaurants over the next three days. The pass is also valid for local transit.

Our focus today will be Michelangelo. A walk to the Galleria dell' Accademia where not only his masterpiece, the magnificent marble statue of *David* awaits, but also the unfinished *Slaves*, clearly demonstrates his sculpting vision and genius. On, by way of Dante's House, to the home of Michelangelo. After lunch in the neighbourhood, the Church of Santa Croce where we find not only the tomb of this dominant Renaissance artist but also other famous Florentines, such as Ghiberti, Galileo, Machiavelli and modern day Fermi! Shoppers may want to linger in the Santa Croce district, where many establishments specialize in leather goods. Remainder of the day for individual pursuits. Dinner this evening in a local *ristorante*.

Day 8 - Wednesday, March 01:

This morning is reserved in its entirety for our obligatory self-directed visit to the Uffizi, truly one of the greatest art galleries in the world, with works by many of the great Italian (and other) masters of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Baroque periods. Ample time and opportunity to contemplate according to one's own artistic pleasures. Following lunch we gather in the *Piazza della Signoria* and walk to the centre of Medici religious life; the family church of *San Lorenzo* with its exquisite refined interior, the richly

decorated *Cappelle Medici* Mausoleum, the Cloister for a glimpse of the *Laurentian Library* (if re-opened to the public) and its spectacular Michelangelo designed monumental staircase, designed for Pope Leo X, son of Lorenzo the Magnificent. Remainder of afternoon and early evening for additional individual Pass choices.



Day 9 - Thursday, March 02: (D)

Following breakfast, we cross into the Oltrarno district to view the church of *Santa Maria del Carmine* featuring its Brancacci Chapel and the superb Masaccio frescoes before returning by way of *Santo Spirito* and its Brunelleschi designed interior to the Ponte Vecchio. Remainder of the day is free in order to accommodate museum, church, or monument visits of personal interest using the Florence Pass. Strongly recommended are:

- The Bargello Museum.
- The Pitti Palace (the magnificent Renaissance residence of the Medici rulers of Florence).
- The wonderful Boboli Gardens, considered to be among the finest horticultural creations in Europe.
- Archaeological Museum with its Etruscan treasures.

Again I will be available to assist with planning personal visits/choices to museums, galleries, shops and restaurants for this day.

But tonight, our “*Arrivederci*” dinner in a typical Florentine trattoria

Day 10 - Friday, March 03:

After breakfast, coach transfer to Peretola Airport and our domestic flight to Paris in time to connect with the transatlantic flight to Toronto. Lunch and snack will be served before the late afternoon arrival at Pearson International.



Tour Cost Land only: \$2,375.00
Single Supplement: \$275.00

Optional group airfare available for \$298.00 + taxes \$618.00 = \$916.00 total.

Price includes:

- Accommodation in an excellent, centrally located superior tourist-class (3-star) hotel, based on double occupancy (Single room supplement: \$275.00).
- Airport transfers in Europe.
- Meals: buffet-style breakfast daily and a total of *four* full-course dinners or lunches.
- Sightseeing, visits, and excursions as indicated in the itinerary, including admission.
- Hotel taxes and gratuities.

Not included:

- Optional group airfare available for \$298.00 + taxes \$618.00 = \$916.00 (Based on 10 minimum)
- All expenses of a personal nature.
- Coach driver gratuity approx. \$15.00 CAD
- Travel insurance, please call for rates.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

An history of the city:

- *Florence: A Portrait*. Michael Levey.

Art and society of the Renaissance, in Italy in general and in Florence in particular:

- *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy*. Jacob Burkhardt. A classic study
- *Renaissance in Florence*. Gene Adam Brucker, Recent.

The House of Medici:

- *The House of Medici: Its Rise and Fall*. Christopher Hibbert,

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Travel guides to the city and the region:

- *Baedeker's Florence*.
- The Michelin Green Guide, *Tuscany*.

A personal experience:

- *A Summer in Tuscany*. Sandra J. Swanson

Movies set in Florence:

- *A Room with a View*.
- *Tea with Mussolini*.

APPLICATION FORM

Please book ____ seat (s) on the "Florence in Depth" departing on February 22 - March 03, 2017.
Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.)
Please indicate with an X if you intend to travel on optional group flights ____ OR land
only_____.

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for an
interim payment of \$1000.00 followed by the balance invoice due 45 days prior to departure.

WE NOW REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (VALID FOR 3 MONTHS FROM THE
RETURN DATE) TO BE SENT WITH YOUR APPLICATION FORM AT TIME OF
REGISTRATION.

Name as on Passport. Indicate the appropriate title before each name (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)
NAME(S): _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name
tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth") _____

ADDRESS: _____
_____ Postal Code: _____

(Residence) _____ (Business) _____ (Fax/Email) _____

If traveling alone, please indicate your willingness to share accommodations: YES ____ NO ____
SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED: _____

(We will try to find a roommate for those willing to share, but cannot guarantee success in doing
so. For single travelers we are not able to match, the single supplement will apply.)

SPECIAL REQUESTS: (Dietary, wheelchair assistance, frequent flyer number, twin beds, etc.):
Please list here so we can do our best to assist you.

I/we agree to the "terms and conditions" attached to the program.

Insurance, I/we accept:

All-inclusive Package _____ Non-medical Package _____ Decline Insurance _____

Signature (s) _____

If purchasing travel insurance, we require your date of birth:

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

PAYMENT:

☐ Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ MasterCard

Amount Paid: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____ Security: _____

Signature: _____

Please forward this completed form, copy of passport and payment to:
PAUWELS TRAVEL BUREAU LTD.
95 Dalhousie Street, Brantford, Ontario N3T 2J1
Tel: 519-756-4900 / 519-753-2695 - Fax: 519-753-6376 - Ont. Reg. #1034992

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 is required at the time of registration. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and application form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed application form.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made in full if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 46 days before departure:	25% of tour cost
45 to 31 days before departure:	50% of tour cost
Within 30 days prior to departure:	100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. reserves the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, etc. February necessitate changes in the itinerary as outlined. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. Any savings realized by these changes will be passed on to the passengers, any resultant expenses shall be borne by the passenger. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. acts only as an agent in securing hotel, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotel, transportation and other travel services are provided to tour members subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. also reserves the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, in which case equitable refund will be made at their discretion.

AIR TRANSPORTATION:

Transatlantic economy flight by scheduled IATA carrier(s), based on an economy class group fare. All fares are subject to specific rules and regulations, to changes and to government approval. Deviations from the group flights are possible but subject to higher rates. Pauwels Travel will research any request for date or routing changes at the time they are requested. Should any individual rate be less than the group fare plus airline and administrative fees, the lower rate will be offered to the tour participant. Individual airfares are subject to immediate ticketing and the fare plus taxes must be paid at the time the ticket is issued by the participant requesting the change. Should the group airfare be the lowest available rate, an administrative fee of \$50.00 plus any airline charges will apply

