



## WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST

Travel Solo Together

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# IRRESISTIBLE ITALY

Rome - Tuscany - Florence - Venice

with Women of the Midwest!

April 15-26, 2024



Dear Women of the Midwest, Ciao!

Piazzas, Gondolas, and the Tuscan hillsides, "Oh my!"

I'm Susan Hanson, and I invite you along on a tour of Italy in 2024! Give yourself the gift of travel and immerse yourself in the Italian way of life. Join me and go back in time to where art and culture began - the birthplace of the Renaissance! Florence! That is day five of our tour, but first, let me tell you how our adventure begins ...

We start our journey by arriving in Rome for a 3-night stay and where we will follow the path of the ancient Romans. You will have the opportunity to try making fresh pasta and tiramisu from secret recipes passed on for generations! While we tour the Eternal City, we walk, eat, and tour the famous Vatican museums, where you will see Michelangelo's Pieta, housed in St. Peter's Basilica. We make our way to the Sistine Chapel, where it took Michelangelo four years to paint the frescoed ceiling.

We are next on our way to the Tuscan region of Italy. The revered patron saint of animals and founder of the Franciscan order, Saint Francis of Assisi's birthplace will be explored, and we will spend our next four nights in the heart of Tuscany. Ah, Tuscany! Acres of olive groves and vineyards provide us with many tasting opportunities!

Located a short drive away is Florence, the home of the Renaissance, which started here in the early 15th century. Don't forget to shop the famous leather, Florentine paper, jewelry, and handmade ceramic goods that Florence is renowned for. And take time out to "slow down," grab a gelato and just sit outside and watch the world pass by!

Next, we are on to the Queen of the Adriatic, Venice, the floating city. A walking tour takes us to the legendary Piazza San Marco, St. Mark's Basilica, the Doge's Palace, and the Rialto Bridge, and we can't visit Venice without taking a Gondola ride and a visit to the islands of Murano, home of glassworks, and Burano, the home of handmade lace.

Reserve your place now for this fabulous trip to Italy. Come, join me, solo or two-by-two.

Bellissima!

Susan Hanson, Ambassador, Women of the Midwest



Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.

## Ciao, Roma!



### April 15, 2024 - Monday Traveling to Rome

Our charming adventure begins as we take an overnight flight to Rome. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you start your Italian dream vacation.

### April 16, 2024 - Tuesday Rome

Welcome to Rome! Upon arrival, we meet our private tour guide and take a short drive to the center of Rome to enjoy a walking tour through the most impressive settings in Rome. This is a unique chance to experience Federico Fellini's classic "La Dolce Vita" (The Sweet Life) and then take in the atmosphere of the famous movie "Eat, Pray, Love." See for yourself the top sites in Rome, including restaurants, fountains, piazza (squares), and neighborhoods featured in the books and movies. Retrace the footsteps of Elizabeth, played by Julia Roberts, who spends her time in Rome searching for beauty and exploring Italian food. Your first day in Rome will be celebrated with an amazing welcome lunch at a very special restaurant ...for movie lovers only! B (during flight) | L

### April 17, 2024 - Wednesday Rome

After a hearty breakfast, we are ready to step back in time and visit "Ancient Rome," including the Roman Forum and the Colosseum. Its real name was the Flavian Amphitheatre, after the emperors who built it in the first century AD. Colosseum refers to the "colossal" statue of Nero once

## Pretty Vespa



stood at the entrance. A fun afternoon awaits. Love Italian food? Today we will make fresh pasta and tiramisu with secret recipes straight from "nonna" (grandmother)! A truly unique experience as we learn to create fresh pasta with our favorite flavors, topped with a selection of Italian cheeses ... and love! Held in a 17th-century Palazzo near Piazza Navona, this interactive class is led by our enthusiastic Italian chef. We will complete our cooking experience by making Italy's "numero uno" dessert, tiramisu! Layered with delicious cream, coffee, sugar, and cocoa, it's no wonder that tiramisu is so sought-after. Now, that's "Amore!" B | C

### April 18, 2024 - Thursday Rome

After a delicious breakfast, we are off to another country! A few minutes from our hotel, and we are in Vatican City! We will tour the Vatican museums, a treasure trove of ancient Greek sculptures, medieval tapestries, and Renaissance paintings. Our visit culminates at the Sistine Chapel, the room where the Pope is elected. Next, we visit St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in Christendom. We will see Michelangelo's Pieta, sculpted when he was just 24, and Bernini's seven-story bronze canopy above the main altar. The afternoon is at leisure. Time for shopping, ladies! B

### April 19, 2024 - Friday Rome - Assisi - Tuscany

After breakfast, we head north. Our first

## Gelato for Everyone!



stop is the hillside town of Assisi, the birthplace of one of the most popular Catholic saints in history. St. Francis of Assisi founded the Franciscan order and is better known as the revered patron saint of animals. We will spend time at this stunning church and enjoy the breathtaking views of the surrounding hills and villages. Lunch is served among the locals before we arrive at our Tuscan villa, where we will spend the coming four nights. We will enjoy an orientation tour of Figline Valdarno with our tour guide before we lean back and take in the peaceful atmosphere of our villa. B | L

### April 20, 2024 - Saturday Tuscany

The morning is dedicated to olive oil! After breakfast, we take a short drive to Reggello to tour a local olive oil mill. From the foundation date in 1426 to the year of purchase by the Gonnelli family in 1585, and up to the present time, this mill has played an essential role in the olive oil history of Italy. Today, the mill represents one of the most advanced realities in the world, both from the qualitative and technological points of view. Light lunch is served at a local farm before we take a walking tour of a nearby medieval town, San Gimignano. Fortified walls and watchtowers show power and prosperity in the Middle Ages, though only 13 of the town's original 76 towers still remain. Enjoy a stroll of the narrow cobble streets, taking in the sights, Piazza della Cisterna, the Piazza del Duomo, and much more. B | T | L

## Assisi



### April 21, 2024 - Sunday Tuscany

We are in Tuscany, the area of some of the most outstanding wines in the world, and it's time to sniff, sip and taste. A local winemaker will take us on a passage of grape to bottle as we enjoy a selection of Chianti Classico and Super Tuscans. This afternoon we will join Mamma Paola at our villa to learn the basics of traditional Italian pizza. We start with an introduction to the story of pizza and dough preparations, followed by fun pizza-making. B | T | C

### April 22, 2024 - Monday Florence

After breakfast, we will take a short drive to Florence. We begin our visit with a guided walking tour of the Cradle of Renaissance to admire the majestic Duomo built in 1296, Giotto's Bell Tower, and the Baptistery with its renowned "Gates of Paradise" doors. We will follow the medieval streets to the most striking square in Florence; Piazza della Signoria, an open-air museum. Then we head to the Academy Gallery for a visit and to take a closer look at the breathtaking statue of David! You will have free time in the afternoon to shop and discover the city's beauties. Stroll down the cobblestoned lanes, through majestic squares, and across ancient bridges. Enjoy the best arts and crafts, florentine paper, leather goods, and world-class museums! Return to our villa in the late afternoon/early evening to relax and unwind. B

## Postcard from Venice



### April 23, 2024 - Tuesday Venice

We say a fond "arrivederci" to Tuscany as we head north to Venice. After approximately three hours of driving, we arrive at the watery wonderland of islands seemingly laced together by delicate bridges; one of the most romantic cities in the world, but also a city where getting lost is a "must" and half the enjoyment. This is Venice! Our water taxi will take us to our hotel to check in before we head out for a walking tour, including the famous Piazza San Marco, the impressive St. Mark's Basilica, and the Doge's Palace, the official residence of Venetian rulers in the Middle Ages. Discover the mysterious labyrinth of alleys and waterways, the clock tower, the Rialto Bridge, and the mystique of the Palace of Prisons and the Bridge of Sighs. The walking tour ends with a fun 30-minute gondola ride. B

### April 24, 2024 - Wednesday Murano - Burano

We will enjoy a half-day excursion to Murano and Burano islands to discover the traditions and most special places in the Venetian lagoon. The first stop is at Murano, the homeland of glass. The old Murano glassworks guard secrets handed down from generation to generation. You will have the opportunity to purchase original and unique beautiful works of glass art with the certainty of it being an authentic piece! We continue to the island of Burano to stroll the unique streets of brightly colored houses and discover the

## Venice Gondola



masterpieces of lace made by experts. The lace houses are true gems, and a visit to those is an unforgettable experience. We head back to Venice to enjoy a lunch at leisure, and the remainder of the day is free to "get lost" and explore the labyrinth of narrow alleys, countless bridges, and small squares of this ohh-soo wonderful city! B

### April 25, 2024 - Thursday Venice

A day to get lost! Explore the city of Venice or join an optional mask-painting workshop class, offering insight into an important Venetian craft (sign up for this during your journey in Italy). Under the guidance of a resident artist, you'll choose a mask from more than 50 different styles and decorate it according to traditional techniques. While you work, your guide tells stories of masks' importance and function in Venetian society. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. B | D

### April 26, 2024 - Friday Traveling Home

All too soon, your vacation has ended. Transfer to Venice airport with plenty of time to check in for our flight and clear security. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before boarding and flying west across the Atlantic Ocean back to the United States. B

*Itinerary subject to change.*

B = Breakfast C = Cooking Class  
L = Lunch T = Tasting D = Dinner



To register contact:



1212 O Street • Lincoln, NE 68508  
 Phone: 402-435-8888 (ask for Group Department)  
 Fax: 402-435-2735  
 GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com  
 www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

Via our website [www.WomenoftheMidwest.com/journeys](http://www.WomenoftheMidwest.com/journeys)

**Package Price:**

Per person in shared double room: \$4,495  
 Per person in a single room: \$5,495\*

\*Limited single rooms.  
 Triple rooms are not available.

We offer "Pair & Share" service for our Solo travelers. Ask us to assist in finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. The deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. The balance is due on December 15, 2023, is non-refundable, and can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payment (any payments after the deposit) will access a 3.5% processing fee.

**EARLY BIRD BONUS - ZERO CREDIT CARD FEES:**

Pay for your tour in full upon registration and minimum six months prior to departure using your credit card!  
**SAVE 3.5%!**

**Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3+ 4**

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking, stairs, longer periods of standing, outdoor activities, and steep areas within the places visited. This trip is **not** recommended for guests with walking difficulties. Comfortable, sturdy shoes/boots are recommended.

**Travel Insurance:**

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us. *Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.*

**Group airfare:**

Group airfare becomes available by the end of June 2023. All registered travelers will be notified.

*This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 22 travelers. Should the number fall below 15, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.*

**Included:**

- 10 nights accommodations at moderate 4-star hotels
- Porterage at hotels (one bag per person)
- 10 breakfasts
- 2 dinners
- 2 lunches + 1 light lunch (April 20)
- 2 hands-on cooking
- 2 tastings (olive oil, wine)
- Private motor coach transportation as per itinerary
- Sightseeing program as per itinerary
- All admissions as per itinerary (skip-the-line where available)
- Professional English-speaking tour manager and local guides during entire program
- All local taxes and fees as per May 23, 2023
- Women of the Midwest Ambassador, April 15-26, 2024

**Accommodations** (final accommodation 90 days prior):

Rome - Orazio Palace Hotel or similar  
 Tuscany - Villa Casagrande or similar  
 Venice - Palazzo San Lorenzo or similar

**Not Included:**

- Airfare
- Additional baggage fees (first checked bag FREE, 50 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities for local tour manager and driver (estimate \$10-\$12 in total per day)
- Personal expenses
- Meals other than mentioned in tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than mentioned
- Professional fee, \$75 per person, due at time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions



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Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions found at [executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours](http://executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours)

Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.

## JOIN OUR GROUP AIRFARE!

We offer group airfare with United Airlines:

|                |                      |                                    |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| April 15, 2024 | Omaha* - Chicago     | 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM                  |
| April 15, 2024 | Chicago - Washington | 1:12 PM - 4:01 PM                  |
| April 15, 2024 | Washington - Rome    | 5:35 PM - 8:15 AM (April 16, 2024) |
| April 26, 2024 | Venice - Frankfurt   | 6:40 AM - 8:05 AM                  |
| April 26, 2024 | Frankfurt - Chicago  | 12:45 PM - 3:00 PM                 |
| April 26, 2024 | Chicago - Omaha*     | 7:52 PM - 9:29 PM                  |

\$1,550 per person including taxes and fees, economy class.

\*We are happy to assist with airfare from a different airport than Omaha. Please reach out to us to assist you. A small supplement may occur. If you travel from a different airport, we aim to have you meet your fellow travelers in Chicago or Washington on April 15 and return from Venice around the same time as the rest of the group on April 26.

### **Important notes about seat assignments and upgrades:**

Group airfare comes with seat assignments 30 days prior to departure. Premium seating (upgrades) can be purchased and confirmed at this time. Women of the Midwest/Executive Travel cannot confirm precise seat numbers earlier than 30 days prior to your departure, and therefore cannot guarantee the availability of specific seating on the aircraft.

## RESERVE YOUR AIRFARE WHEN SIGNING UP!

