



The great dome of Santa Duomo, Florence

Florence Nightingale Fellowship Tour to Florence

15 – 18 September 2021





Ponte Vecchio, Florence

This nursing study tour, run in conjunction with the Florence Nightingale Fellowship, is designed to commemorate the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth with a visit to the historic city that is both her namesake and her birthplace. Explore the beautiful Renaissance city of Florence on a three-night tour, which includes two dinners to enjoy the cuisine of Florence.

Arrive in Florence and transfer to the Hotel Villa Royal. After check-in take a private orientation walking tour of this lovely city, perched on the banks of the Arno River in Tuscany, with your art historian guide. The whole of the city centre is a Unesco World Heritage Site, with an extraordinary density of art and architecture crammed into this relatively small city. The layout of the old town has barely changed since the Renaissance era, with narrow cobbled streets winding through centuries-old palaces, chapels, churches and museums that contain treasures by revered artists such as Botticelli and Michelangelo.

Discover the Roman origins of Florence and wander its medieval and Renaissance streets through to Piazza della Signoria. See the famous Duomo and the Basilica di Santa Croce, where Galileo is buried. After your sightseeing tour, enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant in the evening.

Next morning drive to Villa Colombaia, the elegant villa where Nightingale was born in 1820 to a wealthy family during a lengthy tour of Europe. In the afternoon visit La Specola, one of the oldest scientific museums in Europe. This superb natural history museum can be traced back to the Medici family and contains the world's largest collection of eighteenth-century anatomical wax works. Continue to the ornate pharmacy of Santa Maria Novella – one of the oldest pharmacies in the world, where treatments for the dreaded Black Death were once mixed - and see historic equipment that was used for creating medicine and perfume centuries ago. Today it is a stunning boutique perfumerie that produces award-winning scents and beauty products.



Santa Maria Novella Pharmacy



Inside the gracious Villa Colombaio

The next morning is dedicated to exploring the great symbol of Florence at the Museum of the Duomo, which is attached to the 600-year old cathedral and includes some masterpieces of Italian art history. See the Basilica of Santa Maria del Fiore, the third largest European basilica, after St. Peter's in Rome and St. Paul's in London; the Baptistry with the gates that Michelangelo described as the "Gates of Paradise"; and the Crypt of Santa Reparata. Climb the 400 steps to reach the top of Giotto's Bell Tower for wonderful views.

Spend the rest of the day at leisure before a traditional Tuscan farewell dinner. Transfer to the airport next day.

Itinerary 15 – 18 Sept 2021

15 Sept (Wed) Florence D

Am If taking flight package depart London City Airport

Pm Arrive and transfer to the Hotel Villa Royal. Private walking tour with an art historian guide through narrow streets, past the fortified houses and towers of the medieval town, to the Piazza della Signoria. See the Duomo and the Basilica di Santa Croce

Eve Welcome dinner at a local restaurant

16 Sept (Thur) Florence B

Am Drive to Villa Colombaia, the birthplace of Florence Nightingale

Pm Visit La Specola Museum, which contains the world's largest collection of eighteenth-century anatomical wax works. Continue to the ornate pharmacy of Santa Maria Novella

17 Sept (Fri) Florence B D

Am Private walking tour to the Museum of the Duomo, which contains some of the greatest masterpieces of Italian art history

Pm At leisure

Eve Traditional Tuscan farewell dinner

18 Sept (Sat) Florence B

Am If taking flight package transfer to the airport for return flight to London

NB: All itineraries are subject to change according to local conditions.

This tour involves walking and requires a good level of fitness. If you are unsure, or have any special requirements, please contact us.

Sunset over Florence city





Hotel Villa Royal (left); The pool and gardens (above)

Hotel

Hotel Villa Royal

This splendid Florentine villa, built in 1700, provides a large garden and swimming pool less than a mile from the Duomo. It is set in a leafy area and tastefully decorated with period furnishings. This family-run hotel guarantees a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and attentive service.

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The cost of the tour is USD \$1,008 per person

The cost includes:

- 3 nights' accommodation at the Hotel Villa Royal sharing a twin/double bedded rooms with private facilities

The single supplement is USD \$245

- Breakfast daily
- Arrival and departure airport transfers (if taking group flight)
- Welcome dinner and farewell dinner with water, soft drinks, half a bottle of wine per head and tea and coffee
- Specialist English-speaking local guide
- Transport as per the itinerary
- A programme of cultural sightseeing as per the itinerary, including admission fees
- ATOL bond and financial protection insurance

The cost excludes:

- International flights and transfers
- Meals not mentioned
- All personal extras such as portage, laundry, inoculation fees and drinks not included
- All optional tours, excursions and visits
- Travel insurance and tips

We will be organising a flight and transfer package. Flights will be with British Airways from London City Airport. Please contact us in advance if you would like to receive details of the flight package.



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tours

