

## International Basketball Tour 2023 Itinerary St. Thomas University Men's Basketball Italy – Rome and Venice

### Travel dates:

August 22-31, 2023 (exact dates to be confirmed)

### Itinerary:

- August 22 Departure from NYC/JFK/Newark airport.
- August 23 Arrival Rome airport and transfer to your accommodation.
- August 24 Sightseeing Rome. Visit the Colosseum, the Arch of Constantine, the Palatine Hill, the most famous of the seven hills of Rome. Then, take a walk along the Via Sacra or 'Sacred Way', the main path through the Roman Forum that was used for triumphal processions, and visit the temple which houses the altar where Julius Caesar was cremated. Evening game vs. a local team.
- August 25 Morning practice session or shootaround. Additional sightseeing Rome – visit the Vatican and other famous sights like the Roman Forum, St. Peter's Basilica, Catacombs of San Callisto, Pantheon, etc.
- August 26 Day trip to Tivoli where you will find two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Villa d'Este and Hadrian's Villa. Evening game vs. a local club.
- August 27 Transfer to your accommodation in Venice.
- August 28 Day trip Venice. The famous city of gondolas built on small islands connected by bridges. See the famous Rialto bridge and the San Marco church and its vibrant plaza.
- August 29 Morning practice session or shootaround. Day trip to Verona – city of Romeo and Juliet and famous because of its Opera Building.
- August 30 More sightseeing Venice – suggested sights are Palazzo Ducale (Doge's Palace), Bridge of Sighs and the Santa Maria della Salute, and/or visit Murano, home of Venice's fabled glass workers. Evening game vs. a local team
- August 31 Transfer to Venice or Bologna airport and return flight back to Minneapolis.



Vatican City



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Milan



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\*The above itinerary is a provisional/suggested itinerary and can/will change depending on your group's specific wishes, the final game schedule for your team(s) and any pro game visit(s) incorporated for your group. Sightseeing admission fees are not included in the prices but can be added and pre-booked based on your group's specific wishes. Consult us for more information.

**Price per person:**

Number of people traveling	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Participant prices	\$3,786	\$3,564	\$3,416	\$3,309	\$3,225	\$3,164

**Price inclusions:**

- Round trip airfare departing from NYC and returning to Minneapolis, including airport taxes and fuel surcharges. Prices are always subject to availability of flights and fares at time of booking.
- Accommodations and meals as specified in this proposal – see below.
- Ground transportation – see below.
- Costs for arranging the sport program – see below.
- Services of a local tour assistant – see below.

**Sport program included:**

- We will arrange 3 games per team.
- We will also include court-hire for a court for two practice sessions or shoot-arounds with your own coaching staff.

**Accommodation and meals included:**

**Rome:** 4-star Hotel accommodation in Rome.

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Not far from the center of Rome.
- All rooms, triple rooms (3 people) have private shower, toilet and TV. The hotel has a lounge, restaurant and bar.
- Double rooms are available as well at a supplement of \$12.00 per person per night.

**Venice:** 4-star Hotel accommodation in Venice.

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Approx. 5-10 kilometers from the center of Venice.
- All rooms, triple rooms (3 people) have private shower, toilet and TV. The hotel has a lounge, restaurant and bar.
- Double rooms are available as well at a supplement of \$10.00 per person per night.

**Ground transportation included:**

During your entire stay a private bus will be available exclusively for your group – 10 hours a day.

**Local guide services included:**

A local bi-lingual tour manager will be assigned to be exclusively with your group full time each day during your stay in each destination to provide you with any assistance when necessary, and help plan or amend your daily schedule as needed.

## **Options available (not included in prices)**

### **Sport program options:**

- We can arrange tickets to pro basketball or soccer games, subject to availability. Ticket costs will depend on the game, but usually ticket costs range from approx. \$50-\$150 per person depending on the game.

### **Cultural/Sightseeing options:**

- We can try to arrange a classroom session or seminar, for example “the cultural impact of basketball in Italy”, or some other academic component while on the tour. Extra cost TBD depending on what kind of session.
- We can arrange a guided city tour of Rome or Venice – approx. costs \$40.00 per person or more (to be confirmed depending on availability and length of tour).

### **Travel insurance option:**

Your participants have the option to purchase accident, illness and trip cancellation/interruption insurance, including a Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (CFAR) – more information about this insurance is included on your team website page.

### **Not included in prices:**

- Beverages (soda) with meals.
- Gratuities for representatives and bus drivers.
- Admission fees to attractions unless specified above. This applies to per person admissions for sights and attractions as well as city admission fees (called ZTL fees) for the touring bus in Italy. These ZTL fees are approx. \$100.00 - \$250.00 when you enter a city ZTL zone. There are options to avoid these fees – consult us for more information on this.
- Single rooms in hotels. Single rooms are available at a supplement of \$40.00 per person per night on top of the double room supplements outlined in the accommodation description.

## Touristic information Rome

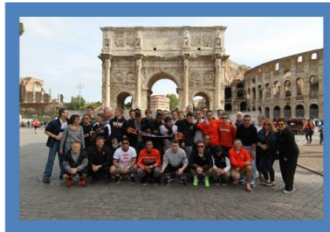
Rome, Italy's capital, is a sprawling, cosmopolitan city with nearly 3,000 years of globally influential art, architecture and culture on display. Ancient ruins such as the Forum and the Colosseum evoke the power of the former Roman Empire. Vatican City, headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church, has St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums, which house masterpieces such as Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel frescoes.

**Coliseum:** The Coliseum in Rome is a grand structure which was built over 2,000 years ago as an amphitheater to host legendary gladiator contests and other public spectacles. The Coliseum has been partly destroyed and damaged through the years, however, impressive ruins have been preserved and are open to visitors. This grand historic arena was originally built to hold over 50,000 and many of the original outer walls and facade still stand tall today.

**The Pantheon:** Dedicated to the worship of every god, the Pantheon was built by the Emperor Hadrian between 118 and 125 A.D. over the ruins of another temple dating back to 27 A.D. Statesman and General Marcus Agrippa were responsible for the construction of the original church, to which a dedicatory inscription is clearly visible over today's magnificent portico.



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**The Roman Forum:** The Roman Forum is a rectangular forum (plaza) surrounded by the ruins of several important ancient government buildings at the center of the city of Rome. Citizens of the ancient city referred to this space, originally a marketplace, as the Forum Magnum, or simply the Forum. Located in the small valley between the Palatine and Capitoline Hills, the Forum today is a sprawling ruin of architectural fragments and intermittent archaeological excavations attracting 4.5 million sightseers each year.

**St. Peters and Vatican City:** St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City is an iconic and popular landmark of Rome. Regarded as one of the holiest sites in the Christian world, many make a pilgrimage to the cathedral every year to celebrate Mass with the Pope. Building work for this grand structure originally began in 1506 and is the burial site of its namesake Saint Peter, one of the 12 apostles of Jesus. One of the key architects of the Basilica was Michelangelo and some of his original drawings for a section of the Dome were found as recently as 2007.

## Touristic information Venice

Venice is the capital of the Veneto region in Italy. It is situated across a group of 117 small islands that are separated by canals and linked by bridges. These are located in the shallow Venetian Lagoon, an enclosed bay that lies between the mouths of the Po and the Piave Rivers. Parts of Venice are renowned for the beauty of their settings, their architecture, and artwork. The lagoon and a part of the city are listed as a World Heritage Site.

**Basilica di San Marco (Saint Mark's Church):** This elaborate church sits on the popular piazza by the same name. The church was built in honor of Saint Mark the evangelist, whose remains were stolen from their home in Alexandria, Egypt, and hidden in barrels of pork by a couple crafty Venetians, intent on bringing him to rest in Venice.

**Piazza San Marco (St. Mark's Square):** St. Mark's Square, or Piazza San Marco, is considered by many to be the heart of Venice. As the largest square in Venice, St. Mark's Square is the only "piazza" in the city. All other squares are campis or campielli. Lining the square are multiple historical sites including St. Mark's Basilica, St. Mark's Campanile and Doge's Palace, as well as a number of restaurants, making it the perfect spot for leisurely people-watching and wine sipping. Along with intricate architecture and hearty plates of spaghetti carbonara, visitors will also be met with throngs of tourists, pigeons and vendors selling souvenirs. If you hoped to pick up a gondola hat or a carnival mask during your trip, this is the place you will find them.

**Rialto Bridge (Ponte di Rialto):** Several centuries ago, if you wanted to cross the Grand Canal, the Rialto Bridge was the only way. Now there are other options, including the Accademia Bridge. The bridge's current incarnation is the handiwork of Antonio da Ponte, whose name translates to "Anthony of the Bridge," is built entirely of marble after collapsing multiple times from previous wooden designs. Predicted to fail by critics, the bridge still stands and is considered an engineering marvel.

**Grand Canal:** Considered to be the main street of Venice, the 2-mile-long Grand Canal is one of the city's most popular and highly photographed attractions. Recent travelers recommend hiring a gondolier for a romantic (but expensive) row along the canal.

**Doge's Palace (Palazzo Ducale):** Views from the Venetian Lagoon give the Doge's Palace an ethereal look — almost like it's floating on top of water. But it's fitting, as the Doge's Palace (or Palazzo Ducale) has witnessed an intriguing history in its role as the residence of the doge (leader), the seat of government and the palace of justice. Everything from execution orders to the affairs of Venetian leaders was carried out here; and a web of secret passageways and hidden doors reveals a decidedly mysterious past.