



Culture and Food in Italy and Spain

Designed by Aleem Ebrahim | 10 days | May 2024

The experience of a lifetime is waiting for you. Every detail from the cities you'll stay in to the cultural discoveries you'll make have been customized by your teacher for your group. Take a look at your personal itinerary for a sneak peek of what's in store.

Included on tour



Round-trip flights on major carriers; full-time Tour Director; project-based learning program, EF's personalized learning experience; hotels with private bathrooms; breakfast and dinner daily; lunch on day 9.

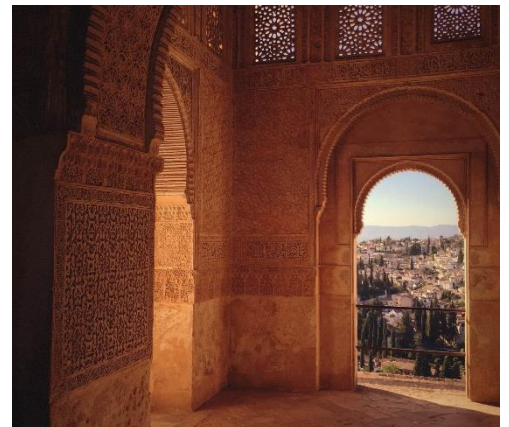
Sightseeing: Pisa; Florence; Barcelona; Sagrada Família; Cordoba; Granada.

Entrances: Gelato-Making Demonstration; Pisa Baptistery & Cathedral; Florence Duomo; Leather-Making Demonstration; Tuscan Cooking Class; Parmesan Cheese Factory; Ferrari Museum (Maranello); FICO World Eatery; Park Guell; La Sagrada Família; Palau Guell; La Mezquita; Flamenco Show and Dinner; Alhambra; Moorish Teahouse.

Overnights: Florence (2); Bologna (1); Barcelona (2); Seville (1); Granada (1); Madrid (1).

NOT INCLUDED ON TOUR:

Optional excursions; Insurance coverage; Beverages and lunches (except where specified); Transportation to free-time activities; Customary gratuities (for your Tour Director, bus driver and local guide); Porterage; Adult supplement (if applicable); Weekend supplement; Any applicable baggage-handling fee imposed by the airlines; High-Season Surcharge; Single-Date Departure Supplement; Expenses caused by airline rescheduling, cancellations or delays caused by the airlines, bad weather or other events beyond EF's control; Passports, visa and reciprocity fees.



Your Itinerary

Please note that the following is a sample timed itinerary for this EF tour with approximate activity durations and transfer times. Exact timing will vary based on available flights, hotel location, scheduled activity bookings, traffic, etc. Your EF Tour Director is available to the group 24/7 while on tour.

Day 1: Markham | Toronto

15:00: Transfer to Toronto Pearson Airport (by chartered bus)

19:00: Fly to Rome (by airplane)

Day 2: Rome | Florence

10:00: Arrive in Rome and Transfer to Florence (by chartered bus)

After clearing customs and meeting your tour director in Rome, you will head to Florence, one of Italy's jewels, set deep in the heart of Tuscany. The city of Florence has delighted visitors for centuries with its remarkable architecture. Whether sitting by the River Arno, strolling the beautifully housed streets or viewing the renaissance masterpieces that fill the city's churches and museums, one can only be astonished by the feeling of true beauty.

12:00: Free Time for Lunch in Small, Supervised Groups (on foot)

15:00: Gelato-Making Demonstration (pending flight arrival time) (on foot)

Sample location: Gelateria Vivoli, Via Isola delle Stinche 7, 50122 Florence, Italy

One of Italy's most beloved sweet treats, gelato is its own unique type of ice cream. It is made with the finest and freshest ingredients and comes in a dizzying array of flavors. Enjoy a private demonstration of how it is made.

16:30: Visit the Mercato Centrale (pending flight arrival time) (on foot)

Piazza del Mercato Centrale, Via dell'Ariento, 50123 Florence, Italy

Be sure to bring your appetite as you have time to wander through the famous 'Central Market' of Florence.

17:30: Transfer to Hotel (by chartered bus)

18:00: Group Dinner at Hotel in Florence

Sample Hotel: Hotel California, Via Ricasoli 28, 50122 Florence, Italy

22:00: Group Leader-Arranged Room Checks and Lights Out

Overnight in a Florence City Hotel

Sample Hotel: Hotel California, Via Ricasoli 28, 50122 Florence, Italy

Day 3: Florence | Pisa

7:00: Wake-Up Call

8:00: Breakfast at Hotel

9:00: Transfer from Hotel to Pisa (by chartered bus)

10:00: Guided Sightseeing of Pisa (on foot)

Starting address: Piazza del Duomo, 56126 Pisa, Italy

Here your guide will lead you to the Field of Miracles, where you can see the six stories of white marble that form the 12th-century Leaning Tower of Pisa, along with the adjacent marble cathedral and the neighboring baptistery. The tower was re-opened to the public in 2001.

11:00: Visit the Pisa Baptistery & Cathedral (on foot)

Piazza del Duomo 23, 56126 Pisa, Italy

Italy's largest baptistery, the Battistero di San Giovanni is also slightly taller than the Leaning Tower across the square. As it shares the same unstable ground as the tower, the baptistery also has a slight lean of 0.6 degrees towards the cathedral. The baptistery's pulpit is a masterpiece carved in 1255-60 by Nicola Pisano. Begun in 1093, Pisa Cathedral (Duomo di Pisa) is a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture. Despite its proximity to the eye-catching and tourist-attracting Leaning Tower, the Duomo still dominates the monumental Piazza dei Miracoli.

12:00: Free Time for Lunch in Small, Supervised Groups (on foot)

Lunch area: Piazza del Duomo 23, 56126 Pisa, Italy

13:00: Exploration Time in Pisa (on foot)

Starting address: Piazza del Duomo 23, 56126 Pisa, Italy

Enjoy time to explore Pisa - be sure to get your photo with the leaning tower!

13:30: Return to Florence (by chartered bus)

14:30: Guided Sightseeing of Florence (on foot)

Starting address: Piazza del Duomo, 50122 Florence, Italy

Fall under the spell of the powerful Medici family on your guided walking tour of Florence. The Medici's dominated politics, banking and trade for generations in Florence, the capital of the Tuscany. See Giotto's Bell Tower and the imposing marble cathedral of the Duomo, the Cathedral that rises far above this city's otherwise low skyline. Stand before Ghiberti's legendary *Gates of Paradise* and pass the classical statues in the main square: Piazza della Signoria. Here you can see where Michelangelo's *David* originally stood.

16:30: Visit the Florence Duomo (on foot)

Piazza del Duomo, 50122 Florence, Italy

Visit the Duomo, which was commissioned in 1296 by the city fathers. Arnolfo di Cambio was given the assignment to erect a cathedral "with the most high and sumptuous magnificence" so that it would be "impossible to make it either better or more beautiful with the industry and power of man." The Duomo was not completed until 122 years later in 1418 after Filippo Brunelleschi developed the idea of double-shelled construction to build the Cathedral's dome. (Please note: during peak season the waiting time to enter the Duomo can be upwards of 2 hours.)

17:00: Attend a Leather-Making Demonstration (on foot)

Sample location: Borgo dei Greci 16A, 50122 Florence, Italy

Working with leather is an age-old art form in Italy and nowhere is it more famous than in Florence. Located in the center of the city, you will have the chance to stop at a leather goods workshop and listen to one of the employees explain the craft of working with leather to form wonderful objects. You will learn about the differences between fake and real leather and come to appreciate the skilled techniques and time it takes to create one of a kind, quality pieces of leather goods, like bags or jewelry.

18:00: Take Part in a Tuscan Cooking Class (Dinner is Included)

Sample location: Cordon Bleu, Via Giuseppe Giusti 7, 50121 Florence, Italy

Get true hands-on experience with Tuscan cuisine as you are trained in the art by a local chef. Learn to make traditional antipastos, a primo piatto, a secondo piatto, and a dessert. Be sure to take notes as you learn the tricks of the trade before dining on sumptuous creations!

20:00: Transfer to Hotel (by chartered bus)

22:00: Group Leader-Arranged Room Checks and Lights Out

Overnight in a Florence City Hotel

Sample Hotel: Hotel California, Via Ricasoli 28, 50122 Florence, Italy

Your Itinerary

Day 4: Florence | Parma | Maranello | Bologna

7:00: Wake-Up Call

8:00: Breakfast at Hotel

9:00: Transfer from Hotel to Parma (by chartered bus)

11:30: Visit a Parmesan Cheese Producer (on foot)

Sample location: Via Casello Poldi 7, 43122 Parma, Italy

Today you will visit one of Italy's most prosperous cities, home of the great composer Toscanini and world renowned for its prosciutto and Parmesan cheese. During your guided tour of the Parmigiano-Reggiano factory, you will see and learn all about the process of producing this popular cheese.

12:30: Free Time for Lunch in Small, Supervised Groups (on foot)

Lunch area: Via Casello Poldi 7, 43122 Parma, Italy

13:30: Transfer to Maranello (by chartered bus)

14:30: Visit the Ferrari Museum in Maranello (on foot)

Via Alfredo Dino Ferrari 43, 41053 Maranello, Italy

Visit the Ferrari Museum and discover the history of this iconic car.

15:30: Transfer to Bologna (by chartered bus)

With a metropolitan population of one million people, Bologna is the 7th largest city in Italy, and the largest of the Emilia-Romagna Region. Bologna is also home to some of Italy's most famous culinary delights, including Bolognese sauce.

16:30: Visit FICO World Eatery (on foot)

Via Paolo Canali 8, 40127 Bologna, Italy

This massive food wonderland is home to working fields, stables, and vendors serving up tasty Italian cuisine such as mortadella, homemade pasta, and panettone.

17:30: Travellers will receive a €15 cash float for dinner

18:00: Transfer to Hotel in Bologna (by chartered bus)

22:00: Group Leader-Arranged Room Checks and Lights Out

Overnight in Bologna

Sample Hotel: Camplus Guest Bononia, Via Sante Vincenzi 49, 40138 Bologna, Italy

Day 5: Bologna | Florence | Barcelona

5:00: Wake-Up Call

6:00: Breakfast at Hotel

7:00: Transfer from Hotel to Florence (by chartered bus)

11:00: Fly to Barcelona (by airplane)

Arrive in Barcelona, Spain's second-largest city. It is an art lover's dream city and the place where masters like Miró, Picasso and Dalí flourished. As the capital of fiercely nationalistic Cataluña, Barcelona also celebrates unique identity through its language and increasingly influential government.

14:00: Arrive in Barcelona and Transfer to the City Centre (by chartered bus)

15:00: Free Time for Lunch in Small, Supervised Groups (on foot)

Lunch area: Rambla de Sant Josep, 08002 Barcelona, Spain

16:00: Walking Tour of Barcelona (on foot)

Starting address: Rambla de Sant Josep, 08002 Barcelona, Spain

Get to know Barcelona during your Tour Director-led walking tour. Together, you might see the historic Gothic Quarter, the unmistakable façade of a Gaudí's masterpiece or enjoy the Mediterranean boardwalk.

18:00: Enjoy a Tapas Dinner

Sample Restaurant: Tapa Tapa Rambla de Catalunya, Rambla de Catalunya 7, 08007 Barcelona, Spain

Tonight, you can enjoy the culinary delights of Spain's famous tapas. Coming from the verb tapar (to cover) you will sample local finger foods that range from the tame (breads and cheeses) to the adventurous (exotic meats and seafood). Feasting on tapas is the quintessential Spanish experience!

19:30: Transfer to Hotel in Barcelona (by chartered bus)

22:00: Group Leader-Arranged Room Checks and Lights Out

Overnight in a Barcelona City Hotel

Sample Hotel: Catalonia Park Putxet, Carrer del Putxet 68, 08023 Barcelona, Spain

Day 6: Barcelona

7:00: Wake-Up Call

8:00: Breakfast at Hotel

9:00: Transfer from Hotel to the City Centre (by chartered bus)

10:00: Guided Sightseeing of Barcelona (by chartered bus and on foot)

Starting address: Calle de Mallorca 401, 08013 Barcelona, Spain

Your expertly guided tour will introduce you to the vibrant and culturally rich, Barcelona. Your bus will take you past Antoni Gaudí's unfinished La Sagrada Família, whose twisting spires and colorful mosaics have rendered it an unmistakable symbol of Barcelona. Enter into Gaudí's fantasyland of Park Güell, complete with a bright mosaic lizard fountain and the one of the longest benches in the world. Then enjoy marvelous harbor view from atop Montjuïc Hill, where much of the 1992 Olympics took place.

13:00: Guided Visit of La Sagrada Família (on foot)

Calle de Mallorca 401, 08013 Barcelona, Spain

Enter into this amazing skeleton of a cathedral. Gaudí began this church in 1882, and it remains unfinished. Construction continues and completion is slated for the mid-21st century, yet no one knows if the finished product will be what Gaudí intended. Take your time to explore this bizarre masterpiece by wandering around the base, marveling at the enormous statues of saints or basking in the sun streaming through the beautiful stained-glass windows. *(Please note that this visit is pending confirmation due to limited group reservations.)*

14:00: Free Time for Lunch in Small, Supervised Groups (on foot)

Lunch area: Calle de Mallorca 401, 08013 Barcelona, Spain

16:00: Visit Palau Guell (on foot)

Calle Nou de la Rambla, 3-5, 08001 Barcelona, Spain

18:00: Enjoy a Paella Dinner

Sample Restaurant: Els Porxos, Calle de Mallorca 410, 08013 Barcelona, Spain

This evening, enjoy a traditional Spanish dish, paella, which originates from Valencia.

19:30: Transfer to Hotel in Barcelona (by chartered bus)

22:00: Group Leader-Arranged Room Checks and Lights Out

Overnight in a Barcelona City Hotel

Sample Hotel: Catalonia Park Putxet, Carrer del Putxet 68, 08023 Barcelona, Spain

Your Itinerary

Day 7: Barcelona | Seville

6:00: Wake-Up Call

7:00: Breakfast at Hotel

8:00: Transfer from Hotel to the Barcelona – Sants Train Station (by chartered bus)

10:00: Travel by AVE Train to Seville (by train)

Arrive in Seville-capital of Andalusia, birthplace of Velázquez, and host of the 1992 World's Fair. If you're lucky enough to arrive in spring, Seville will greet you with the sweet fragrance of orange blossoms.

13:00: Time for Lunch while en route

17:00: Walking Tour of Seville (on foot)

Starting address: Av. de la Constitución, 41004 Seville, Spain

Join your Tour Director on a walking tour that will introduce you to Seville. Together, you might see the imposing Giralda Tower, the popular Plaza del Salvador or Seville's historic defensive tower, Torre del Oro, overlooking the Guadalquivir river.

18:00: Group Dinner at a Restaurant in Seville

Sample Restaurant: El Colmaito, Calle Francisco López Bordas 1, 41001 Seville, Spain

19:30: Transfer to Hotel in Seville (by chartered bus)

22:00: Group Leader-Arranged Room Checks and Lights Out

Overnight in a Seville City Hotel

Sample Hotel: Hotel Ribera de Triana, Pl. de Chapina, 41010 Seville, Spain

Day 8: Seville | Cordoba | Granada

6:00: Wake-Up Call

7:00: Breakfast at Hotel

8:00: Transfer from Hotel to Cordoba (by chartered bus)

Transfer to provincial Cordoba, once the heart of intellectual and cultural Europe and sacred capital of Moorish Spain. Home to the much-admired architectural masterpiece of the 8th century Moorish Mezquita, Cordoba is as eclectic in historical design as it is diverse in its gastronomy.

10:30: Guided Sightseeing of Cordoba (by chartered bus and on foot)

Starting address: Pl. de la Corredera, 14002 Cordoba, Spain

With an expert local guide, discover Cordoba, once one of the world's great centers of learning. At its height, Cordoba was home to 700 mosques, 900 public baths, and 70 libraries. Today, see the Patio delos Naranjos and visit the 8th-century Mezquita. Formerly the largest mosque west of Mecca, the Mezquita features 850 candy-cane columns.

13:00: Free Time for Lunch in Small, Supervised Groups (on foot)

Lunch area: Calle Cardenal Herrero 1, 14003 Cordoba, Spain

14:00: Continue on to Granada (by chartered bus)

Journey to Granada, which was once the capital of Moorish Andalusia. It is now an architectural masterpiece and thriving university city. Strategically located between the foothills of the imposing, snow-peaked Sierra Nevada and the beautiful Mediterranean coast, Granada boasts an eclectic cuisine of sweet Moorish desserts. It also boasts one of Europe's most romantic buildings, the exquisite Arabian palace of the Alhambra.

17:00: Flamenco Show and Dinner

Sample Flamenco Show: Cueva La Rocio, Cam. del Sacromonte 70, 18010 Granada, Spain

19:30: Transfer to Hotel in Granada (by chartered bus)

22:00: Group Leader-Arranged Room Checks and Lights Out

Overnight in a Granada City Hotel

Sample Hotel: Barcelo Allegro Granada, Av. de Pulianas 10, 18012 Granada, Spain

Day 9: Granada | Madrid

6:00: Wake-Up Call

7:00: Breakfast at Hotel

8:00: Transfer from Hotel to the City Centre (by chartered bus)

9:00: Guided Sightseeing of Granada & the Alhambra (by chartered bus and on foot)

Starting address: Calle Real de la Alhambra, 18009 Granada, Spain

With an expert local guide, tour one of Spain's most celebrated buildings: Granada's 14th-century Alhambra. See the exotic mosaics and richly ornamented courtyards of the country's last Moorish stronghold. Then, walk in the footsteps of sultans as you tour the Generalife-a 14th-century palace surrounded by magnificent rose gardens. *(Please note: Because of the Alhambra's extreme popularity, guided visits of the interior cannot be guaranteed during peak seasons. In this case, your group will hear a presentation from your guide before entering the Alhambra).*

11:00: Visit a Moorish Teahouse (Lunch is Included)

Sample location: Alfaguara Tea House, Calle Calderería Nueva 7, 18010 Granada, Spain

Granada is heir to the Moorish tradition of the 'tetería' or tearoom. The 'tetería' scene in Granada is a highly cultural experience, following the Arabic tradition of sipping exquisite aromatic herbal teas in an ambience mid-way between bohemian and luxurious. The décor, like the tea, has romantic and oriental flavors and is normally intimate, in cool, dimly lit rooms with low tables and chairs and scattered cushions in fabrics of rich Arabic colors.

14:00: Travel by AVE Train to Madrid (by train)

Welcome to Madrid! At 2,100 feet, this is Europe's highest capital, a Mecca for art-lovers, and home to one of the world's most famous soccer teams.

18:00: Walking Tour of Madrid (on foot)

Starting address: Puerta del Sol, 28013 Madrid, Spain

Your Tour Director will introduce you to Madrid during a walking tour. Together, you might see the impressive Puerta del Sol, stand in Madrid's historic Plaza Mayor or stroll down the chic and trendy Gran Vía.

19:00: Group Dinner at a Restaurant in Madrid

Sample Restaurant: La Cana, Calle de Albuquerque 8, 28010 Madrid, Spain

Overnight in Madrid

Day 10: Madrid | Toronto | Markham

7:00: Wake-Up Call

8:00: Breakfast at Hotel

9:00: Transfer to the airport for your return flight (by chartered bus)

Your tour director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you will check in for your return flight home.

15:00: Arrive in Toronto and Transfer to Markville Secondary School (by chartered bus)

Itinerary is subject to change.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at www.eftours.ca/bc.

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The first milestone on any trip is watching students and adults who have never flown during their first take off. I usually film the new flyer's. By the time we get to the first stop they're strutting through the airport like seasoned travellers. It's fun watching that confidence being built as they learn to navigate through new experiences

—Rachel K, Group Leader



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