Florence

Art, Culture & People

Serene Season

Johns Hopkins University | JH 150 Years

October 30 – November 7, 2026

Dear Johns Hopkins Alumni and Friends,

Join us as we embrace Tuscany, a region cherished the world over for its spectacular Renaissance art, incredible cultural heritage and tantalizing cuisine. Tuscany's ancient ramparts, lively piazzas and sweeping vistas have a power that can reignite passions, shift perspectives and reacquaint us with the natural rhythms of history and daily life.

Stay in a peaceful 19th-century oasis in Florence and relish the walkability of this iconic city. Appreciate the rosy glow of Siena, the quiet charm of Colle di Val d'Elsa and San Gimignano, and the warmth of a Chianti winery. Live like a local as you experience meaningful, unhurried interactions and revel in la dolce vita, Italy's sweet life.

This remarkable journey combines the security, ease and value of group travel with ample opportunities for independent exploration during an off-peak time of year. Enjoy enrichment from expert guides and lecturers, the camaraderie of curious, like-minded travelers and the freedom a detail-oriented Travel Director provides. Hopkins Journeys is pleased to partner with AHI Travel (Gohagan, Orbridge) to operate this program. As our group of Hopkins travelers grows, we plan to include a Hopkins study leader or host to provide a uniquely Hopkins perspective and enrich the experience. Space on this exclusive journey is limited, so carpe diem! Let's seize the day!

Sincerely,

Marguerite Jones

Marguerite I. Jones, A&S '74, Bus '88
Travel Program Director, Office of Alumni Relations
The Johns Hopkins University

For Johns Hopkins related questions, please call 800-548-5481.
Note: A small portion of the cost of your trip supports the Johns Hopkins Alumni Travel Program.
Eligibility: At least one member of the traveling party is required to make a financial contribution of $50 or more to the Johns Hopkins Alumni Association within the calendar year. Please visit alumni.jhu.edu/support.

P.S. Johns Hopkins University proudly kicked off its 150th anniversary on July 1, 2025, launching an 18-month celebration through 2026. We invite you to join us in a series of exciting events and commemorations planned throughout the year.

UNESCO World Heritage

1. Historic Center of Florence
2. Historic Center of San Gimignano
3. Historic Center of Siena

Piazza della Signoria, Florence

Interior of cathedral, San Gimignano

Discovery begins here

Delve into captivating Florence more intimately at an off-peak time of year on this delightful seven-night stay! Italy's city of art shines with Renaissance jewels, from Michelangelo's David and the towering Duomo to stately palazzi and the Uffizi's masterpieces. You'll also venture into rural Tuscany to the medieval hill towns of San Gimignano, Colle di Val d'Elsa and Siena. Simply unpack once at your deluxe hotel and savor la dolce vita!

Top: San Gimignano in the Tuscan countryside | Above: Piazza del Duomo, Florence
Cover: View of Duomo from Piazzale Michelangelo, Florence
Mail panel: Ponte Vecchio, Florence | Detail of Duomo, Florence

Inspiring Moments

- Experience the true essence of enchanting Florence during a **quieter time of year.**
- Stroll through the city's intimate streets and beautiful piazzas, a veritable **outdoor museum of Renaissance glories.**
- Marvel at the breathtaking **Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore,** topped by Brunelleschi's magnificent dome.
- Appreciate **Michelangelo's David** and the centuries of priceless art in the **Uffizi.**
- Revel in the medieval brilliance of Tuscan towns **San Gimignano** and **Siena.**
- Sip Italy's iconic wine in the romantic **Chianti countryside.**
- Treat yourself to **irresistible Italian specialties** like handmade pasta and heavenly gelato.
- Enjoy three **UNESCO World Heritage sites.**

Uffizi Gallery

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Florence, Italy.

Day 2 | Florence, Italy

Arrive and transfer to the Sina Villa Medici.

Get acquainted with your fellow travelers at this evening's Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 3 | Florence

Florence Walk. See the premier city of the Italian Renaissance with an expert during this fascinating tour. Stand in awe of the majestic Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, crowned by Brunelleschi's red-tiled dome. See Giotto's impressive campanile, a 14th-century bell tower, and the Baptistery with scenes of the Old Testament on its doors. Explore the Piazza del Duomo, then cross the Arno River via the famous Ponte Vecchio, Florence's iconic stone bridge. At Piazza della Signoria, the city's political heart since the 14th century, take in the stately Palazzo Vecchio and the striking Fountain of Neptune.

Later, enjoy the neighborhood ambience during lunch with your fellow travelers.

Free Time: Follow your own path. Browse in the shops or visit one of the many museums.

Day 4 | San Gimignano | Chianti

San Gimignano. Soak up the beauty of the rolling Elsa Valley as you journey to San Gimignano, a lovely Tuscan hill town topped with 14 wonderfully preserved medieval towers. Stroll San Gimignano's red-brick lanes with a guide and learn about the Romanesque cathedral and the Piazza della Cisterna, where locals have gathered and traded since the Middle Ages.

After your tour, pick up some Tuscan cooking tips from a talented chef who will prepare lunch for your group.

Chianti. Get a taste of Tuscany's terroir in the splendid Chianti region known for its olive groves, woodlands and vineyards. At the Castello di Monsanto winery built in 1750, sip wines made from handpicked Sangiovese and Canaiolo grapes, among others.

Free Time: Dine at your leisure this evening. Try Florentine favorites such as tagliolini with truffles or pappardelle served with ragu sauce.

Day 5 | Florence

Accademia Gallery. Explore one of the city's most celebrated museums, which houses Michelangelo's larger-than-life, marble statue of David. Three times the size of a human being, it exemplifies Michelangelo's intricate knowledge of the human form. View Italian masterpieces from the 13th to the 16th centuries as well as an important collection of musical instruments,

Tuscan chef

Piazza del Campo, Siena

featuring pieces by Antonio Stradivari, one of the world's greatest luthiers, and Bartolomeo Cristofori, the inventor of the piano.

AHI Connects | ***Italian Coffee and Café Culture.*** Spend time in one of Florence's oldest cafés and relish a traditional drink and pastry as your guide discusses the social rituals behind Italy's delicious national pastime.

Free Time: The remainder of the afternoon is yours to plan. For stellar views, visit the hill-top Piazzale Michelangelo or the lesser-known Giardino Bardini, a peaceful green perch overlooking the city.

Enrichment: *Renaissance Art.* Broaden your understanding of Renaissance art during a lecture by an expert. Ponder the artists' shift to realism, the changing subject matter, a new emphasis on light and shadow and more.

Dine with your group tonight and share the day's highlights, from favorite Renaissance paintings to top picks of pastries and gelato.

Day 6 | Florence

Uffizi Gallery. Navigate this renowned art museum with a savvy guide. Its vast collection features thousands of masterpieces including the exquisite "Birth of Venus" by Botticelli, Caravaggio's gripping "Medusa" and Leonardo da Vinci's "Annunciation."

Free Time: Select a nice spot for lunch on your own during an afternoon at leisure.

Enrichment: ***Contemporary Italy and Life in Florence.*** Attend an engaging talk about Italy's place in the European Union and current political, economic and social trends affecting the city and country.

Day 7 | Colle di Val d'Elsa | Siena

Colle di Val d'Elsa. Travel into the Tuscan countryside today and get to know this intimate hill town famed for its centuries-old tradition of crystal glass production. Join your guide for a stroll down its picturesque streets and learn about Colle's position on the medieval trading and pilgrimage routes.

Relax over lunch at a restaurant in the area.

Siena. Feel the warmth of storied Siena, the

Wine cellar, Castello di Monsanto

Detail of Botticelli's "Birth of Venus"

Middle Age gem known for its rosy-pink hue. A guided tour takes you to see the acclaimed Piazza del Campo, notable for Torre del Mangia, Siena's iconic bell tower, and Fonte Gaia, the Joyful Fountain, supplied with water from ancient aqueducts. Visit the stunning Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, one of the best examples of the Italian Gothic style with an ornate sculptural façade.

Free Time: Meander down the atmospheric streets and perhaps sample sweet Sienese treats like panforte and ricciarelli, chewy almond cookies.

Day 8 | Florence

Free Time: Enjoy a full day to see more of Florence and its environs! Consider a visit to the illustrious, art-filled churches or the Pitti Palace's opulent galleries where the Medici, Lorraine and Savoy families once resided. Steps away, the serene Boboli Gardens invite you to picnic or unwind amid grand Renaissance statues, grottoes and fountains.

Tonight, over an aperitif in the hotel's garden, celebrate your marvelous sojourn with fellow travelers, then gather for a Farewell Dinner.

Day 9 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions. Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Activity Level

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this itinerary require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches

Included Features

Accommodations {with baggage handling}

- **7 nights** in Florence, Italy, at the deluxe Sina Villa Medici.

Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- **Free time** to pursue your individual interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Michelangelo's David

Colle di Val d'Elsa

Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, Siena

2026 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates ✈ **Oct. 30 – Nov. 7, 2026**

✈ Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates* **Oct. 31 – Nov. 7, 2026**

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Land Program

Full Price	**$5,045**
Special Savings	**$750**
Special Savings Price*	**$4,295**

***This Special Savings Price includes our $250 Early Booking and $500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is $750 per person.
Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single accommodations are an additional $1,295 (limited availability).

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at https://jhu.ahitravel.com/destinations/1964A?schoolId=72.

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

– **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
– arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
– **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
– **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

AHI Travel Expertise

Travel Consultants assist with the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides and **Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.

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Accommodations

Sina Villa Medici | Florence

Our travel experts have carefully selected this deluxe property based on its tranquil, convenient location and luxuries. This lush retreat within central Florence features an inviting garden, a cozy, convivial lounge and a wellness center. Enjoy strolling the neighborhood's intimate streets and receive attentive service during your stay.

Tripadvisor

Florence

Book your journey today!

AHI: 800-323-7373 **alumni.jhu.edu/alumnijourneys**

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Bask in beautiful Florence, the Cradle of the Renaissance!

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Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.

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