



WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST

Travel Solo Together

ITALIAN SPRING

Rome - Tuscany - Florence - Venice

with Women of the Midwest

March 30 - April 10, 2025



Dear Women of the Midwest,

Imagine springtime in Italy - Piazzas, Gondolas, the Tuscan hillsides, flowers in bloom, fresh vegetables, longer days ...

I'm CarolAnn Condon, and I invite you along on a tour of Italy in 2025! 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 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! We will tour the Eternal City, walk, eat, and visit the famous Vatican museums. You will see Michelangelo's Pieta, housed in St. Peter's Basilica, and we will make our way to the Sistine Chapel, where it took Michelangelo four years to paint the frescoed ceiling.

Up next is the Tuscan region. 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 four nights in the heart of Tuscany amidst olive groves and vineyards, providing 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. Shop the famous leather, Florentine paper, jewelry, and handmade ceramic goods that Florence is renowned for. Take time to "slow down," grab a gelato and just sit outside and watch the world pass by!

Lastly, we are on to the Queen of the Adriatic, Venice, the floating city. Walking tours take 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.

CarolAnn Condon,
Ambassador, Women of the Midwest



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

Ciao Roma!



March 30, 2025 - Sunday

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.

March 31, 2025 - Monday

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 excellent welcome lunch at a very special restaurant ...for movie lovers only! B (during flight) | L

April 1, 2025 - Tuesday

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. The Colosseum refers to the "colossal" statue

Beautiful Ceiling Fresco



of Nero that once 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 2, 2025 - Wednesday

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 3, 2025 - Thursday

Rome - Assisi - Tuscany

After breakfast, we head north. Our first

Countryside Picnic



stop is the hillside town of Assisi, the birthplace of one of history's most popular Catholic saints. 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 4, 2025 - Friday

Tuscany

After a relaxed breakfast, we are off to nearby San Gimignano, a beautiful medieval town. 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 cobbled streets, taking in the sights, Piazza della Cisterna, the Piazza del Duomo, and much more. Next, we will drive to one of our favorite Tuscan farms for olive oil and wine tastings. Lunch is served outdoors; you will love it here! We will return to our hotel for a laid-back afternoon and evening. B | T | L

April 5, 2025 - Saturday

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

Assisi



to admire the majestic Duomo built in 1296, Giotto's Bell Tower, and the Baptistry with its renowned "Gates of Paradise" doors. We will follow the medieval streets to Florence's most striking square: 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

April 6, 2025 - 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 | D

April 7, 2025 - Monday

Venice

We say a fond "arrivederci" to Tuscany as we head north to Venice. After

Postcard from Venice



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 8, 2025 - Tuesday

Murano - Burano

We will enjoy a half-day excursion to Murano and Burano islands to discover the traditions and most unique 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 beautiful works of glass art with the certainty of it being an authentic piece! We continue to the island of Burano to stroll the picturesque streets of brightly colored houses and discover the 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 lunch

Venice Gondolas



at leisure, and the remainder of the day is yours to "get lost" and explore the labyrinth of narrow alleys, countless bridges, and small squares! B

April 9, 2025 - Wednesday

Venice

Today is yours to 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 will enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. B | D

April 10, 2025 - Thursday

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:

ExecutiveTravel

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www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

Via our website www.WomenoftheMidwest.com/journeys

Package Price:

Per person in a shared double room: \$4,595

Per person in a single room: \$5,595

Triple rooms are not available on this trip.

We offer "Pair & Share"-service. Ask us to assist in finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. Deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. The balance is due on November 30, 2024, and is non-refundable. The balance can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payment(s) (any payment applied to the tour after the deposit) will access a 3.5% fee.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT:

Register at least eight (8) months prior to departure and receive a **\$200 DISCOUNT!**

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.

Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3+ 4

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking (city sightseeing by foot), some stairs, longer periods of standing, outdoor activities, and steep areas within the places visited. We walk between 3-4 miles over the course of a day. Add to this the walking you do outside the group activities. This trip is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties.

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: Becomes available by the end of May 2024.

Hotel Accommodation (announced 30 days in advance):

Rome - Orazio Palace Hotel or similar

Tuscany - Villa Casagrande or similar

Venice - Rio Novo or similar

Included:

- 10 nights accommodations at moderate 4-star hotels
- Portage at hotels (one bag per person)
- 10 breakfasts
- 3 x lunch
- 2 x dinner
- 2 x hands-on cooking
- 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 director during the entire program
- Professional step-on guides where required
- All local taxes and fees as of February 23, 2024
- Women of the Midwest Ambassador, March 30 - April 10, 2025

Not Included:

- Airfare
- Airline baggage fees for your second checked bag (the first checked piece up to 50 lbs is free)
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Meals & beverages other than those mentioned in the tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than those mentioned in the tour program
- Gratuities (estimate \$15 per day in total)
- Professional fee, \$75 per person, due at the time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions



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Travel Solo Together

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Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions of this tour found at executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours

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2/23/2024