



W&J Football Italy Tour

10 Days/9 Nights - May 21st to May 30th, 2023

Venice - Bologna - Florence - San Marino - Adriatic Coast - Rome - Vatican City



The 'Best of Italy' Tour

Venice, Bologna, Florence, San Marino, Adriatic Coast & Rome
9-night / 10-day Tour May 21st – May 30th, 2023

DAY 1 – Sunday, May 21st – Departure Day

- Departure from Pittsburgh International Airport (or local international airport) destined for Italy. **Overseas flight** itinerary includes on-board dinner and entertainment. You will also be served a light on-flight breakfast before arrival.

DAY 2 – Monday, May 22nd – To Venice with Stop in Verona

- Flying forward in time, arrive at Milan Malpensa International airport in the early morning. After customs meet your bilingual tour manager. You will be provided time for the exchange or securing of Euros, rest room use to refresh and time to grab a snack.
- Subsequently load your motor coach and depart for Venice with scheduled stops at Sirmione for lunch then onto Verona for touring and dinner. The motor coach ride across northern Italy will allow for some needed sleep before you enjoy a spring afternoon in Italy.
- Upon arrival in **Sirmione**, an engaging peninsula that juts out into **Lake Garda**, you will be awed by the sheer natural beauty of this turquoise body of water at the base of the Italian pre-Alps. Stretch your legs strolling the charming streets, enjoy your first authentic Italian lunch and make sure you take in the impressive Castello Sagliero which seemingly sits on the water and if possible, the Roman ruins at Grotte di Catullo.
- By mid-afternoon the group will move on to nearby **Verona**, a World Heritage Site as declared by UNESCO. You will be immediately impressed with the remarkably well-preserved Roman amphitheatre – a mini-version of the Coliseum in Rome – that still hosts concerts and other productions. You will receive a **guided tour** through Verona's enchanting streets, known as the city of lovers, as this is **home to the Romeo and Juliet** legend as written by Shakespeare. Just as Romeo did, walk into the courtyard looking up to Juliet's balcony. You will have some free time to shop before the group gathers for dinner in a local restaurant.
- After dinner, transfer east to the Venice Mestre area to check-in to your overnight hotel. After a very full, introductory first day in Italy a good night catching up on sleep may be best to help you enjoy the absolutely unique city of Venice and the many tour days that remain.



Day 3, Tuesday, May 23rd – Venice – "The Floating City"

- Have a hearty breakfast then load your luggage on to your motor coach. You will then be driven to a private boat transfer where you will cross the Venice Lagoon to dock next to striking San Marco's Square.
- Enjoy a **guided tour of Venice**, the second most visited city in Italy. The unique atmosphere of the 'city of water' and its ever-present canals amazes all visitors.



- After your tour, you will have free time to enjoy lunch in small groups possibly in a quaint courtyard or on the **Grand Canal** looking upon **Rialto Bridge**. Afterward continue exploring the narrow streets and countless footbridges of Venice. You can be fascinated with a tour of a glass-blowing shop or climb the Campanile in **San Marcos Square** for a birds-eye view of Venice. It is strongly suggested you take a likely once-in-a-lifetime ride on a gondola that hopefully travels the canal under the Bridge of Sighs.
- In the late afternoon you will be return to your motor coach then transfer to Bologna (2 hours) which will be your base for three nights.
- Upon arrival in Bologna, check-in, refresh and immediately enjoy a delicious dinner.
- The evening is at your coach's instruction.



Day 4, Wednesday, May 24th – Bologna

- After breakfast become familiar with Bologna as you receive a **tour from a local guide**.
- Though overshadowed by the more famous cities of Italy, **Bologna** consistently thrills and charms visitors. Home to the oldest university in Europe and a high-percentage of students Bologna has a terrific, endearing vibe. Enjoying its distinctive on-going arcades, its own 'leaning tower' of Garisenda, outdoor piazzas, markets, it's passion for sports and *tremendous* cuisine that make Bologna a fabulous city to visit.
- After the late morning tour, Bologna will be yours to explore. Do so in a relaxing fashion as you assimilate into the more relaxed pace and *la vita dolce* – "the sweet life" – of Italy.
- At this tour stop there may be an opportunity to co-practice in the late afternoon or evening with the local American Football American Club, the Bologna Warriors.
- Around practice the team and tour group will have dinner. Should a practice take place a drink and food social with the Warriors would be a spectacular event.
- The later evening will be at your coach's instruction.



Day 5, Thursday, May 25th – Florence "Birthplace of the Renaissance" Excursion

- After breakfast the tour group will load its motor coach to take an excursion to Florence one of the most artistically beautiful cities in the world.
- Upon arrival you will be treated to a **guided walking tour of Florence** starting from Piazza della Signoria and its numerous sculptures, Ponte Vecchio and its old shops, Palazzo Vecchio to the Basilica of Santa Maria del Fiore and its imposing duomo.
- After the tour, enjoy a spectacular Florentine lunch ideally at an outdoor café. With advance planning you will have time to take in Michelangelo's David at the Accademia or parts of the other world-renowned art galleries located in the Uffizi or Pitti Palace. You may also choose to climb to the impressive view available from atop the duomo. In the alternative, you will have time to explore the fascinating outdoor markets of Florence that features leather and other fine Italian products at affordable prices – and certainly take time to relax with refreshment at a piazza café. At the end of the day, be certain to take in the remarkable artistic sites that Florence displays in abundance.
- In the early evening the group will gather to have dinner.
- After dinner the group will return to its hotel in Bologna.



Day 6, Friday, May 26th – Pre-game Practice and Adriatic Beaches

- If practice with the Bologna Warriors is not able to be scheduled, after breakfast the team will head to a local athletic field for their pre-game practice. Dust-off the skills and schemes that W&J Football will display with excellence in the upcoming very special international game of American football. Parents and other family members can sleep in – or get up for a morning cappuccino and stroll on a beautiful Italian spring morning.
- After practice the team will return to the hotel for a quick shower then check-out departing for an excursion to **San Marino** – the second of three nation-states to be visited on this tour.
- Upon arrival in mountain-top San Marino receive an efficient tour then have time for lunch and to then stroll taking in the magnificent views afforded this unique ariel perch.
- In the later afternoon, reboard your motor coach for final transfer to the resort town of **Senigalia**. This 'halftime' of your tour is built such that you can simply relax and enjoy the sand and surf of Italy's beautiful Adriatic coast.
- Dinner will be provided with the evening at coach's instruction. Keep in mind that tomorrow is International Game Day.



Day 7, Saturday, May 27th – Relaxing Morning then International Game Day

- Sleep in a bit longer this day. Breakfast will be available then enjoy a little more time strolling along or wading in the Adriatic Sea.
- Around noon the team will load its motor coach to take the short ride down the coast to **Ancona** where you will have a pre-game meal then gear up to represent the USA and W&J in an international game of American Football.

Approximately 3:30pm Kick-off – Go Time!

USA W&J Presidents

vs.

Ancona Dolphins



- After the game enjoy a festive meal and social time with the players and staff – tremendous hosts - from the Ancona Dolphins American Football Club.
- Return to your hotel after a very exhilarating day and festive evening.

Day 8, Sunday, May 28th – "The Eternal City" of Rome

- Upon arrival in Rome, your tour managers will acclimate you to the popular and beautiful **Piazza Navona** area where you will find countless outstanding choices for lunch.
- Afterward the group will gather at a designated meeting point to begin a **guided tour of the 'Eternal City'**. You will see the famous piazzas and fountains of Rome, countless churches and on-going fascinating architecture that goes back centuries. See and walk into **the Pantheon**, toss your coins into the **Trevi Fountain**, climb **the Spanish Steps** and **marvel at so much more** that Rome has to offer.
- Following the afternoon tour, there should be free-time for personal exploration before transferring to your Rome-based hotel. Check into your room and freshen up for dinner.
- After dinner the evening is at your coach's instruction.



Day 9, Monday, May 29th – The Roman Coliseum and Vatican City

- After breakfast the group will transfer to Vatican City – an independent state, to receive a **guided visit** of the well-known **Vatican Museums**. Learn more of the fascinating heritage of the Popes and Roman Catholic Church, witness the beautiful **Sistine Chapel** by Michelangelo then be awed by the immense nature and beauty of **St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the world**. Exiting the basilica you will have time in St. Peter's Square.
- Time for lunch will be provided then in the mid-afternoon the group will proceed to have a guided tour of the **Roman Coliseum** where the original gladiators did battle years ago. Professional bilingual guides will take you through one of the most recognizable structures in the world as well as the nearby **Roman Forum** where western civilization was shaped and influenced for centuries.
- There will be some time for last-minute souvenir shopping then in the early evening the group will move toward a location to enjoy a final Italian meal and reminisce as to all the tremendous sites seen and remarkable experiences enjoyed.
- After a festive meal the group will return to the hotel to pack for your return flight home.



Day 10, Tuesday, May 30th – Return to USA!

- Be packed, have breakfast and load your motor coach for Rome Fiumicino Airport.
Ciao Italia! Grazie for the Tremendous Experiences and Memories!

SERVICES INCLUDED:

- **Round-trip flight from Pittsburgh (or nearby city) and flight meals, etc.**
- **Land Only Package Available**
- **8 Nights Accommodations 4-star hotels** in Venice area (1 night), in Bologna (3 nights), Senigallia/Adriatic Resort (2 nights), Rome (2 nights)
- **Meals in Italy: Daily buffet breakfasts** (including juices and coffee), and **all Dinners** (only water included), **Pre-Game Meal/Lunch**
- **Motor coach** available daily (max. 8/ 9 hours per day):
 - *All Driver Expenses (except tips – recommended)*
- **Full-time bilingual tour manager** at your disposal 24 hours daily (*tips recommended*)
- **AFW Football Operations Representative** on tour
- **Up to 3 hour guided visits of: Verona, Venice, Bologna, Florence, San Marino, Rome, Vatican Museums, Colosseum & Forum** with local bilingual tour guides
 - **Admission ticket to the Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel** and guided visit with local professional guides; earbud microphone pieces for select tours
 - **Admission ticket to the Roman Colosseum and Roman Forum**
- **1-2 practice site rentals as requested / potential co-practice with Bologna Warriors**
- **Game vs. Italian Football League Division I team Ancona Dolphins**
- **Celebration and Farewell dinner in Rome**
- **AFW International Electrical Adapter**
- **American Football Worldwide Tour Souvenir** (players & staff)
- **All tour land taxes**
- All parking costs, all city entries fee, land taxes

FOR TOUR QUOTES

Contact: jb@americanfootballworldwide.com / 309-781-7274