The University Of Queensland
AUSTRALIA

UQ ALUMNI TRAVEL

ITALY, 2026

6 September—16 September



UQ ALUMNI TRAVEL

Your academic host



Associate Professor Andrea Bubenik

Associate Professor
School of Communication and Arts

Associate Professor Andrea Bubenik will accompany you throughout your journey, offering exclusive insights into Italy's most iconic sites—providing a depth of knowledge and perspective you won't find on any other tour

She is an expert in Renaissance and Baroque art and the continued reception of early modern visual culture.

Associate Professor Bubenik teaches the UQ course 'Art & Architecture in Venice', a field school for art history students which is offered biennially in Venice, Italy. She is a celebrated author and art curator at the UQ Art Museum.

If you love art, history and big ideas, Associate Professor Bubenik will make this tour unforgettable for you.

Wonders of Italy

Travel highlights and inclusions:

- UQ expert as your academic host
- Travel with fellow UQ alumni
- A curated range of hotels, all tried and trusted
- Daily breakfast, a lunch and 4 evening meals
- Must-see sightseeing and surprise extras
- Exclusive luxury air-conditioned coach, travel director and professional driver provided by Trafalgar
- All hotel tips, charges and local taxes
- All porterage and restaurant gratuities
- Audio headsets for flexible sightseeing



Day 1 highlight: Basilica Santa Maria

What's not included:

- International, domestic and internal airfares
- Travel insurance (essential), visas and items of a personal nature
- Early check in and/or late checkout
- Gratuities to the travel director, coach drivers and local experts
- Expenses of a personal nature, beverages and incidentals at the hotel
- Transportation, sightseeing and admissions other than those specified

Day 1 | 6 September

Buongiorno Rome

Benvenuti a Roma! Open your heart to a whirlwind of fiery passion, antiquities and hearty flavours crafted by Italian chefs over centuries.

Join your UQ academic host and travel director for an introduction to the 'Eternal City' on an orientation drive to view some of the sights which await us tomorrow. Arrive at Basilica Santa Maria in Cosmedin for a private after-hours visit to the 'Mouth of Truth' without the crowds. See the church, crypt and relics of the famous saint of love, Valentine, and learn about the legend of the Mouth of Truth.

In the evening, enjoy a light supper with your UQ academic host and travel companions.

Included meal/s Dinner

Hotel A.Roma Lifestyle Hotel

Day 2 | 7 September

Discover Ancient Rome and Vatican City

Enjoy a sightseeing tour at the Vatican Museums. Admire the magnificent frescoed ceiling in the Sistine Chapel and the sorrowful Pieta inside St. Peter's Basilica. In Ancient Rome, you'll see the Circus Maximus and visit the mighty Colosseum before enjoying a free afternoon.

Included meal/s Breakfast

Hotel A.Roma Lifestyle Hotel



Day 2 highlight: Vatican City

Day 3 | 8 September

Journey to Lucca

Travel north to Lucca for a sightseeing tour to admire the 14th-century San Martino Cathedral and Piazza dell'Anfiteatro, built on the site of an ancient Roman arena.

In your free time, relax in Piazza San Michele or ascend one of the city's ancient towers for panoramic views.

Included meal/s Breakfast

Hotel Best Western Grand Hotel Guinigi Lucca

Day 4 | 9 September

Explore Cinque Terre and Pisa

A sea of pastel pink, yellow and blue houses cling dramatically to the Ligurian cliffs in the villages of the Cinque Terre UNESCO World Heritage Site, which we will explore today on our included excursion. Delve into daily life in these picturesque fishing villages.

Later, visit Pisa and its UNESCO-listed 'Square of Miracles' to view the architectural feat that is the Leaning Tower.

Included meal/s Breakfast, dinner

Hotel Best Western Grand Hotel Guinigi Lucca



Day 4 highlight: Cinque Terre

Day 5 | 10 September

Onwards to San Gimignano and Florence

The gentle Tuscan landscape leads us to our next destination, the hilltop town of San Gimignano, famed for its stunning medieval architecture and historic towers, which stand today as a testament to the wealth and power of aristocratic families who lived here centuries ago.

Enjoy traditional Italian hospitality in a beautiful family-owned vineyard overlooking the rolling Chianti Hills. You will join the Lenzi family for lunch and wine and olive oil tasting on their farm located on the ancient road between Siena and Florence. Later arrive in Florence for an evening at your leisure.

Included meal/s Breakfast, lunch

Hotel Grand Mediterraneo or equivalent

Day 6 | 11 September

Uncover the treasures of Florence

Discover Renaissance treasures, extraordinary art and exquisite architecture in one of the cultural capitals of the world.

Walk along narrow lanes into expansive piazzas, viewing the magnificent marble Duomo and a replica of the David statue in Piazza della Signoria. View the Ponte Vecchio, almost 700 years old, and admire the spectacular panorama from Piazzale Michelangelo. You'll also learn about the quality and workmanship of 2 of this city's historic industries at demonstrations of Florentine leathercraft and hand-crafted gold jewellery.

The rest of the day is yours to explore the 'cradle of the Renaissance'. Visit the masterpieces of Michelangelo, wander through the architectural wonder of Palazzo Pitti or shop for high-quality leather and gold.

Included meal/s Breakfast

Hotel Grand Mediterraneo or equivalent



Day 6 highlight: Ponte Vecchio

Day 7 | 12 September

Admire Verona and on to Venice

Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers will be remembered during our visit to the romantic city of Verona where you'll view the 1st-century Roman arena, still used today to host spectacular operatic performances, and wander along historic cobbled streets.

Then, venture to Venice, spending your leisure time searching for hidden treasures. Watch the sun set over the Venetian lagoon or join an optional experience.

Included meal/s Breakfast

Hotel Hampton by Hilton Venice

Day 8 | 13 September

Discover the Floating City

Witness the centuries-old tradition of Venetian glassblowing that has been passed down from generation to generation. You may wish to buy a souvenir to remind you of the talent and skill of the master craftsmen who delight in sharing with visitors how they're preserving this local craft.

You'll see St. Mark's Basilica, the ornate Doge's Palace and the Bridge of Sighs next, imagining how prisoners felt when they gazed over Venice for the very last time.

Cruise by private launch to see the city's most iconic attractions before enjoying free time to explore the city on your terms. Wander through alleys, over ornate bridges and into quiet campi as you indulge your inner explorer and get lost in this enchanting city on water.

Included meal/s Breakfast

Hotel Hampton by Hilton Venice

Day 9 | 14 September

Off to Bologna and Assisi

Travel through scenic countryside to the mystical town of Assisi, stopping en route in the city of Bologna to view its Kissing Towers that lean towards one another, seemingly poised to embrace.

Included meal/s Breakfast, dinner

Hotel Hotel Cenacolo Assisi



Day 9 highlight: Kissing towers, Bologna

Day 10 | 15 September

All roads lead to Tivoli and Rome

Discover the legacy of St. Francis of Assisi in his home town on the slopes of Mount Subasio. Visit the Basilica of St. Francis, renowned for its beautiful frescoes depicting the life of this beloved saint.

Then, continue to Tivoli for a guided visit of the UNESCO-listed terraced hillside Renaissance gardens of Villa d'Este. Wander past bubbling fountains, manicured hedges and ornate statues as you soak up the tranquil atmosphere of this historic hill town.

This evening, enjoy a final dinner with your fellow travellers and UQ academic host.

Included meal/s Breakfast, dinner

Hotel Precise House Mantegna



Day 10 highlight: Villa d'Este

Day 11 | 16 September

Farewell Rome

It's time to say a fond arrivederci to Italy and your newfound friends after a memorable journey.

Included meal/s Breakfast



Day 4 highlight: Leaning Tower of Pisa

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