



# Aardvark Israel

## Italy – Sample Itinerary

### Day One

Arrive in Venice and take a speed boat ride from the airport to our hotel. Once checked in, we will head out to lunch and sink our teeth into the best pizza and pasta we've ever tasted. In the afternoon, we will explore the city on a fabulous walking tour which will include Piazza San Marco, Saint Mark's Basilica, Doge's Palace, Bridge of Sighs, Rialto Bridge, the Grand Canal, and more! Along the way, our guide will explain to us how Venice was constructed as a unique city of waterways. Capping off our day, we will visit the Jewish Ghetto and synagogue.

### Day Two

We will travel from Venice to Florence by train enjoying the countryside view along the way. Once in Florence, we will visit the Great Synagogue of Florence and the Jewish Museum. One of the most important synagogues built in Europe in the age of Jewish emancipation, it is truly magnificent. In the afternoon, we will visit the famous Duomo Church and enjoy time in the Piazza Della Signoria. As we explore Florence we will also see the Orsanmichelle and the Santa Croce Steps and Façade. Finally, we will visit the Piazzale Michelangelo and enjoy the unbelievable view of the city as the sun sets.

### Day Three

In the morning, we will visit the amazing Duomo, the Academy where Michelangelo's famous sculpture of David resides. Then we will take a trip to the Tuscany countryside where we will visit the walled medieval hill town San Gimignano (famous for its towers) and have lunch at a beautiful family-run winery. We will then tour the town of Siena and its synagogue and finally end our day in the town of Pitigliano including La Piccola Gerusalemme, an ancient synagogue, Jewish market, and ghetto area.

### Day Four

Traveling further south we will arrive in Rome and immediately delve into the culture of what was once the mightiest empire on earth. Visit the Coliseum and the Roman Forum. Walk to the Pantheon, Piazza Navona, and the Fontana dei Trevi. Taste more of the delicious Italian cuisine and enjoy a special evening strolling through the Piazza San Pietro.



## Day Five

In the morning, visit the central synagogue in Rome and its adjacent Jewish museum to learn about the history of Italian Jewry and the ghetto. Visit Vatican City and try to get a glimpse of the Pope... Good luck! Wander through the extensive Vatican museums filled with priceless artwork, the highlight of which will be a visit to the Sistine Chapel and Michelangelo's masterpiece. Finally, we will meet a member of the Jewish community who survived the Holocaust and learns why he continues to live in Rome. Before heading to the airport, we will make sure to toss a coin backward over our shoulders into the Trevi Fountain to ensure we will visit Rome again one day.