

Florence

Art, Culture & People



| SERENE SEASON |

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Traveling
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HARDIN-SIMMONS
UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI & FRIENDS TRAVEL

Hardin-Simmons University
April 9-17, 2027

Traveling Range Riders



HARDIN-SIMMONS
UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI & FRIENDS TRAVEL

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join us in embracing 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 allure of the Chianti countryside. 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.

Space on this exclusive journey is limited to 28 travelers. Seize the day! Book soon and share this brochure with family and friends who may be interested in traveling with you.

Carpe Diem!

Britt (Yates) Jones '84
Director, Traveling Range Riders
Hardin-Simmons University
325-670-1377 | travel@hsutx.edu



P.S. Don't miss this opportunity to explore Florence and the Tuscan region of Italy via this unique "hub-and-spoke" tour. Call today to confirm your reservation..

All members of HSU's community – alumni, families, friends – and like-minded travelers are welcome to explore the world with HSU's Traveling Range Riders.

UNESCO World Heritage

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

Piazza della Signoria, Florence



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: Chianti countryside | Ponte Vecchio, 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** at the renowned Accademia and wonder at centuries of priceless art in the **Uffizi**.
- Revel in the medieval brilliance of Tuscan towns **San Gimignano** and **Siena**.
- Delight in the picture-perfect scenery of the **Chianti countryside**.
- Treat yourself to **irresistible Italian specialties**, from handmade pasta to 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, 14th-century bell tower, and the Baptistery with scenes of the Old Testament on its doors. After exploring in the Piazza del Duomo, linger in the Piazza della Signoria, the city's political heart since the 14th century, and take in the stately Palazzo Vecchio and the Fountain of Neptune. Then, make your way across the Arno River via the Ponte Vecchio, Florence's famous bridge lined with gold shops. 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, vineyards and woodlands. Enjoy an afternoon exploring in this region.

Free Time: Back in Florence later, 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

Tuscan cooking demonstration





of the human form. View Italian masterpieces from the 13th to the 16th centuries as well as an important collection of musical instruments, 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 acclaimed art

Italian coffee and pastry



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. In the Tuscan countryside, get to know this picturesque hill town famed for its centuries-old tradition of crystal glass production. Join your guide for a stroll and learn about Colle's position on the medieval trading and pilgrimage routes. On your walk, visit a crystal factory workshop and watch a glassblowing demonstration.

Relax over lunch at a restaurant in the area.

*Detail of Botticelli's
"Birth of Venus"*





Siena. Feel the warmth of storied Siena, the Middle Age gem known for its rosy-pink hue. A guided tour takes you to see the 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.

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 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 AHF 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; plus tea or coffee with all meals.

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

2027 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates † **April 9-17, 2027**

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

Tour dates* **April 10-17, 2027**

* 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 **\$5,145**

Special Savings **\$750**

Special Savings Price* **\$4,395**

***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 \$1,000 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 150 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 \$1,695 (limited availability).

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://hsu.ahitravel.com/destinations/2001A?schoolId=714>.

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 guide you through the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators offer 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.



Accommodations

View over Florence from Sina Villa Medici



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

Book your journey today!

325-670-1377 (HSU) | 800-323-7373 (AHI)

www.ahitravel.com

Traveling
Range Riders



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Bask in beautiful Florence, the Cradle of the Renaissance!

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our website for the
most current program
information, discounts
and pricing.**

Book your journey today!

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