

## ITALY PERFORMANCE TOUR

From the canals of Venice, to the hills of Tuscany, to the ruins of the capital city, groups can explore art, history, and culture while taking part in clinics and performing at iconic locations such as the Pantheon and the Colosseum.

### *Why Brightspark?*

#### **Safety And Security**

We regularly conduct strict audits of our vendors, ensuring they act in accordance with safety, security, and quality standards.

#### **Our Tour Directors**

You deserve the best, so we only use experienced and enthusiastic Tour Directors who are experts on their destinations.

#### **Quality, Custom Tours**

Our programs are designed for you, by you. From STEM-based DC tours to performance trips to some of our country's top music cities, we have a destination for every budget and every passion.

#### **Industry Experience**

With over 50 years of experience providing custom tours, Brightspark is a leader in student travel.

#### **Travel Protection & Incident Coverage**

With our 24/7 emergency hotline and comprehensive travel insurance options, we've got you covered at home and abroad.



[brightsparktravel.com](http://brightsparktravel.com)





# ITALY

## PERFORMANCE TOUR

### Day 1: Board your flight to Italy.

### Day 2: Rome

- Meet with your tour director at **Leonardo da Vinci Airport**.
- Take a guided tour of the **Colosseum** and the **Roman Forum**. The ancient elliptical amphitheater opened in 80 AD with 100 days of games and fights. Its massive stone structure gives a glimpse into ancient Roman life and illuminates Rome's long history.
- Take a short walk up **Palatine Hill** to look down on the **Forum**, the center of Roman Parliament, and the **Circus Maximus**, the most famous stadium for chariot-racing during ancient times.
- Music groups can **perform** for fellow visitors at the **Colosseum** or the **Roman Forum**.

### Day 3: Rome

- Your first stop will be a tour of **Vatican City**, an independent state in the heart of Rome.
- Explore **St. Peter's Basilica**, a late Renaissance church that can hold nearly 60,000 people inside its intricately-decorated walls.
- The highlight of your tour will be the **Sistine Chapel**, with Michelangelo's masterful frescoes on the ceiling. Afterward, be sure to take a stroll through the Vatican gardens.
- Participate in a **performance** at an iconic Roman venue, such as **Piazza del Popolo**, **Piazza Navona**, or the **Pantheon**.
- Embark upon a walking tour of Rome's city center. Climb the **Spanish Steps** at **Piazza di Spagna**. Shop along **Via Condotti** and head to the **Trevi Fountain**, believed to hold mystical powers. Your tour ends at **Piazza Navona** near the **Pantheon**. Admire the **Fountain of the Four Rivers**, one of Bernini's Baroque masterpieces.

### Day 4: Tuscany

- Depart for **Siena**. Upon arrival, set out on a guided walking tour of the city center, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Nestled in the Chianti hills, Siena is known for its combination of medieval churches, Renaissance palaces, and charming homes.
- Stop at **Pisa**, known for its iconic **Leaning Tower**.
- Travel to **Lucca**, birthplace of Giacomo Puccini. Visit the **Puccini Birth Home** and the **Puccini Museum**. Today, the sites preserve musical scores and artifacts, including the Steinway & Sons piano on which he composed *Turandot* and other works.
- Explore the ancient city, famous for the Renaissance-era city walls that remain wholly intact. Inside the walls, **Piazza Citadella** and **Corte San Lorenzo** offer more ways to celebrate Puccini.

### Day 5: Florence

- Travel to **Florence**, birthplace of opera. Upon arrival, take a guided walking tour of the Tuscan city, still a center of Italian culture.
- Your excursion will take you to the **Piazza della Repubblica**, **Il Duomo**, and the **Piazza della Signoria**.
- Take a closer look at famous destinations with guided tours of the **Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore**, the **Baptistry of St. John**, and the **Ponte Vecchio**.
- Walk across the **Arno River** and explore the **Pitti Palace**.

### Day 6: Florence

- Explore the **Galleria dell'Accademia**, the famous home of **Michelangelo's David**. The **Museum of Musical Instruments** houses masterpieces by Stradivari and Bartolomeo Cristofori, the inventor of the piano.
- Step into the **Uffizi Gallery** for a guided tour of the museum.
- Hone your skills at a music or theatre **performance clinic**.
- Visit any landmarks you may have missed, like the church of **Santa Croce**. Built in 1294, it houses Giotto's frescoes and the tombs of Michelangelo, Galileo, and Machiavelli.

### Day 7: Bologna

- Travel to **Bologna** and enjoy a walking tour of the historic city center. The city's architecture is known for its distinctive red, orange, and yellow tones. Be sure to walk under one of the city's many "porticoes," or covered walkways.
- Before departing for Venice, explore the **Martini Museum & Conservatory**, originally founded in 1804 as a philharmonic school. In 1942, it became a conservatory of music named after famed composer Giovanni Battista Martini.

### Day 8: Venice

- Board a vaporetto (waterbus) to the island of **Murano** to witness their famous glass-blowing process.
- Return to **Venice** and enjoy a guided walking tour of the unique city, a series of more than 100 islands connected by canals and bridges. Visit the **Bridge of Sighs**, the **Rialto Bridge**, the **Basilica di San Marco**, and **Piazza San Marco** with its iconic clock tower. Grab a table at a local café to sample Venetian pastries and snacks.
- Music groups can **perform** at **Campo Santo Stefano**.

### Day 9: Depart to the airport for your flight home.

