



XAVIER CATHOLIC COLLEGE BALLINA



Educational tour of France & Italy

✧ ITINERARY 4 ✧

5th April to 20th April 2020

By EF on 20 NOV

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, PL = Packed Lunch, D = Dinner

Please note that all times for visits and coach schedules stated in this provisional tour program are **INDICATIVE** only. Confirmed times will be provided in the final tour itinerary.

ATTRACTION ADMISSION: To enter sites at a reduced group rate, schools are required to present a Namelist printed on the school letterhead with the stamp of the school, signed by the Principal. The Namelist should have a header “Educational School Tour of France” and include the names and date of birth for all participating staff and students. We have indicated the relevant sites throughout the itinerary.

SECURITY CHECKS AT THE ENTRANCE: To ensure the safety of the visitors, museums are strictly enforcing the security measures decided by the French government. Suitcases, travel bags and backpacks (exceeding 55 cm x 35 cm x 20 cm) are not permitted in the museums, and cannot be left in the cloakroom. Please be prepared for delays, as all bags will be checked by security staff at the entrance.

Day 1 – Sunday, 5th April 2020 **Brisbane** **(flights)**

Today the group assembles at Brisbane International Airport for their flights to France. We recommend that the group meets three hours prior to departure.

Depart Brisbane **Flight** **at TBA**

Day 2 – Monday, 6th April **Arrive Paris** **(D)**

Arrive TBA **at TBA**

Depart TBA **Flight** **at TBA**
Arrive Paris CDG – Terminal TBA **at TBA**

Upon arrival at CDG Airport, pass through Immigration, collect your luggage and proceed through Customs. Then you meet your **Airport Assistant.**

Your Airport Assistant will be waiting in the Arrivals area to meet the group. He/she will have a sign with the school name for easy identification. You will then be escorted to your coach.

Contact details for Airport Assistant: TBA

Transfer to your accommodation in central Paris and drop your luggage in the luggage storage room (*rooms are not available before 3:00pm*).

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Each participant receives 2 metro tickets for the afternoon

PM: Make your way to the “**Ile de la Cité**” and discover the island by foot; explore the streets and see the many famous buildings. Take time to visit the magnificent **Cathedral of Notre Dame**. Then walk to the “**Quartier Latin**”. Explore this famous district of Paris with your teachers leading the group. See the **Place St Michel** with its baroque fountain of St. Michel killing a demon, the **Sorbonne University** and the **Panthéon**, the remains of the **Roman arenas of Lutèce**, the **Church of Saint-Germain-des-Prés** (*oldest church in Paris*) etc.

At TBA, make your way to the docks of the Bâteaux Parisiens - Port de la Bourdonnais - Paris 7th (RER Line C – Station “Pont de l’Alma”) where you have an appointment at TBA. Then at TBA enjoy a 1-hour cruise on the Seine to gain another perspective of Paris.

Dinner at a local restaurant

1st night accommodation in Paris

Day 3 – Tuesday, 7th April

Versailles

(B)

Use your daily Carte Mobilis (Zones 1-4) pass on all Paris metro, bus and train services today only

AM: After breakfast, make your way to **Versailles** by RER. Spend the day exploring this beautiful **Château of Versailles**. At TBA, show your “**e-ticket**” (*Transaction n°TBA- Name list required*) at the “Group Access” (*see the map in your travel documents*). Then you collect your audioguides at the “audioguide desk” in front of the Chapel (*no booking required and no charge*). At TBA, you enjoy a self-guided tour of the “Grands Appartements”.

After the tour, enjoy visiting the surrounding garden where you arrange your lunch.

PM: Walk to the **ASTEL company desk**, which is close to the Grand Canal. You collect your bikes for the 2 hour bike ride inside the park. Return to your hotel by RER in the late afternoon.

Own arrangements for dinner

2nd night accommodation in Paris

Day 4 – Wednesday, 8th April

Paris

(B)

Use your daily Carte Mobilis (Zones 1-2) pass on all Paris metro, bus and train services today only

AM: Make your way to the **Eiffel Tower** by metro. Your visit has been booked for TBA. Then, take the lift up the Parisian icon, the Eiffel Tower.

Due to the overwhelming demand for group bookings to climb the Tour Eiffel, we cannot guarantee a specific time slot or day for the visit. Depending on availability when bookings become available, we will book your visit and adjust the program for the rest of the day if necessary. Tickets are strictly subject to availability.

Organise your lunch (at own expense)

PM: Make your way to the **Musée du Louvre** by metro. At TBA, meet with your English speaking guide at the “Group Desk” - access by the “Passage Richelieu” or the “Galerie du Carrousel” (*Prepaid visit - Réservation n°TBA - Name list required*). Show your “**e-ticket**” and at TBA enjoy a guided tour of the Museum viewing its most famous artwork including Mona Lisa viewing its most famous artwork including Mona Lisa. Take time afterwards to stroll through the **Jardins des Tuileries** and onto **Place de la Concorde**, most famous placement of the guillotine during the French Revolution’s Reign of Terror years. Finally *walk* along the most beautiful avenue in the world. On the way, admire the windows at ‘La Duree’ and ‘Louis Vuitton’.

Own arrangements for dinner

EVENING: At TBA, climb on to the **Arc de Triomphe** (*Reservation n°TBA- payment is at your own expense: 30€ for the group of students and 1 adult + 9€ for the 2nd adult – Name List required*).

3rd night accommodation in Paris

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Opening hours

Daily 10 am - 6 pm

Closed Tuesday, and December 25

Last ticket issued 30 minutes before closing

Dinner will be organised at a local restaurant for your group.

First night's accommodation in Venice

Day 8 – (Easter) Sunday, 12th April Venice (B)

Please note that the program for today depends on the availability of group booking times at the sites below and therefore it is subject to change accordingly.

Breakfast. This morning you might like to use one of the famous water buses (*vaporetto*) or walk to Piazza San Marco. Meet your local guide in Piazza San Marco at 9:00am (time to be confirmed) and start your half day guided visit.

Next to the Lagoon, you will visit the Doge's Palace (*entrance fees included*), the residence of the Doge of Venice, the supreme authority of the former Republic of Venice. You will admire the unique Venetian Gothic style of the palace and the beautiful Byzantine architecture of the adjacent St Mark's Basilica. Enter the church to see the splendid mosaics. You will also see the Bridge of Sighs.

The Serenissima Republic of Venice was a maritime republic which existed for 10 centuries (8th – 18th century). It was a very important European economic and trading power during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

There will be some time for a snack or a quick lunch. Please ask your guide to recommend a café in the area.

Walk to the nearby CASERMA CORNOLDI pier, the closest boarding point to St Mark's Square. Board your private boat and transfer to Burano, one of the islands of the Lagoon (*boat excursion duration: 4 hours maximum*). Burano is well known for its lace making and its brightly coloured homes. Spend some time in Burano before boarding your boat to transfer back to CASERMA CORNOLDI / San Marco.

An alternative could be to go to Murano, with the possibility to include a visit to a glass blowing workshop. However, we cannot confirm the availability of the visit at the moment. Burano offers some picturesque spots that might interest Visual Arts students.

Spend the remainder of the day sightseeing in Venice with your teachers leading the group.

Own arrangements for dinner.

Second night's accommodation in Venice

Day 9 – Monday, 13th April Pisa, Florence (B, D)

After breakfast, check out and walk to your private boat pick up point. Transfer to Tronchetto tourist coach parking area where you will meet your driver.

Board your coach and transfer to Pisa at 8:30am (*times to be confirmed - length of journey: 4 hrs approximately*). Please organise a stop for a quick lunch and amenities directly with the driver.

Your coach will only be allowed to drop your group off at one of the tourist coach parking areas just outside the city centre. Walk to the beautiful Campo dei Miracoli. You will visit the Cathedral and climb the steps to the top of the iconic Leaning Tower (*entrance fees included*). After your visit, walk back to your pick up point, board your coach and transfer to your accommodation in Florence (*approx length of journey: 1.5 hrs*). On arrival, check in, drop off your luggage and walk to a local restaurant for dinner.

First night's accommodation in Florence

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Day 10 – Tuesday, 14th April **Florence** **(B)**

After breakfast walk to San Lorenzo Market (Monday-Friday 7.00-14.00; Saturday 7.00-17.00 but not in the summer months). Visit the indoor market, known as Mercato Centrale, for its selection of gourmet Tuscan local produce. In the outdoor section, which expands in the streets surroundings Mercato Centrale building, you will find leather, clothing and souvenirs. Opportunity to have lunch at the market (not included).

In the afternoon, meet your guide at nearby Piazza del Duomo and enjoy a 2-hour guided tour of Florence. You will admire Santa Maria del Fiore and the Baptistery (*entrance fees not included*). The site includes also Giotto's Bell Tower. The three buildings are part of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The dome of the Duomo was one of the most remarkable projects of the Renaissance.

The Renaissance deeply influenced European intellectual life in the early modern period. The Renaissance began in Florence, in the 14th Century, under the patronage of its dominant family, the Medici.

Walk to the Galleria dell'Accademia with your guide. The Gallery is particularly famous for its sculptures by Michelangelo especially the Prisoners and the masterpiece statue of David. End of guided tour.

Own arrangements for dinner.

Second night's accommodation in Florence

Day 11 – Wednesday, 15th April **Florence** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Spend the morning exploring Florence with your teachers leading the group.

Possible visit for students with an interest in fashion design:

Walk to the Salvatore Ferragamo Museum. Your visit has been booked for (TBA). The museum was opened to the public in 1995 by the Ferragamo family to illustrate Salvatore Ferragamo's artistic qualities and the important role he played in the history of international fashion and shoe design. The museum boasts a collection of 10,000 design drawings from the end of the 1920's until 1960. Within the collection are also photographs, patents, sketches, books and other fascinating fashion exhibits and documents.

Walk to of the Uffizi Gallery early in the afternoon. Meet your guide at 1.00pm (**to be confirmed**) for a guided tour of Piazza della Signoria and Ponte Vecchio and the Gallery (*2-hour guided tour; entrance to the Uffizi Gallery in the morning is included*). Your group will learn about the symbols in Florentine Renaissance Art and its close connection to the establishment and the power of the Medici family.

After your visit, we recommend walking or taking a local bus ride (*tickets not included*) to Piazzale Michelangelo and enjoy some magnificent views of the city (sunset time is about 7.30pm in this period of the year). Walk back to central Florence.

At **6:30pm (to be confirmed)** enjoy a cooking class in the area of Palazzo Pitti. Participants will be guided by a Chef who will explain the method of preparation for two different types of fresh pasta, two sauces, and a dessert. It is a hands-on class. At the end of the lesson, all participants will sample the dishes they have prepared.

Class duration: approximately 1.5 hrs.

Third night's accommodation in Florence

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Day 12 – Thursday, 16th April **Orvieto, Sorrento** **(B, D)**

Breakfast and check out. Meet your driver and transfer to Orvieto by private coach (*length of journey 2.5 hrs approx*). Depart Florence at 8:00am (to be confirmed).

Orvieto is a beautiful small medieval town perched on a rock cliff in the Region of Umbria.

Orvieto is filled with monuments, important churches, museums and attractions of historical interest. The town has been inhabited since Etruscan times. An existing underground network of caves and passages is still there to remind us of the town's Etruscan roots. Many artefacts from the pre-Roman era are on display at the National Archaeological Museum of Orvieto. The famous and magnificent Gothic Duomo dates from 1290. Orvieto rises above a fertile surrounding countryside, well known internationally for its food and wine.

Upon your arrival, meet your local guide for a tour of Orvieto. Visit the magnificent Gothic Duomo and the Chapel of San Brizio. Have a quick lunch or a snack before boarding your coach and transfer to Sorrento (*length of journey 4.5 hrs approx*). Depart Orvieto at 1:30pm at the latest (to be confirmed). Please arrange an amenity stop directly with the driver.

Upon arrival at your accommodation, check in, drop your bags and have dinner at the hotel.

*Overnight accommodation in central Sorrento (**subject to availability**) OR the area surrounding central Sorrento*

Day 13 – Friday, 17th April **Sorrento, Pompeii, Rome** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel and check out. Leave your bags in the hotel storage room and explore central Sorrento with your teachers leading the group. Walk to the Villa Comunale, the public gardens near the cloister of San Francesco to enjoy some breathtaking views of Marina Grande. You might have the time to walk through the picturesque streets to Piazza Tasso where you could have a quick lunch or a snack at one of the many cafes before returning to the hotel to pick up the bags.

Board your coach at the hotel at 1:00pm and travel to Pompeii (*times to be confirmed*). At 2:00pm, meet your guide and enjoy a 2 hour guided tour of the archaeological site. Explore the homes and lives of the ancient Italians, who were victims of the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD. After your visit, transfer to your hotel in Rome (*length of journey 3 hrs approx*).

On arrival, check in, drop your bags and start exploring the Eternal City with your teachers leading the group.

Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant (3 course set menu; soft drinks and/or mineral water are not included and to be paid on the spot).

First night's accommodation in Rome

Day 14 – Saturday, 18th April **Ancient Rome and The Vatican** **(B)**

After breakfast meet your local guide at the hotel (full day service). Purchase your tickets and use the Metro to reach the Flavian Amphitheatre, more commonly known as the Colosseum. The amphitheatre accommodated games of great popular demand, such as gladiatorial fights, and was a site of great importance to the Roman community.

Current ATAC tickets and fares:

- BIT (€ 1.50) valid for 100 minutes from the first validation
- ROMA 24H (€ 7,00) valid for 24 hours from the first validation

Enjoy a guided walking tour of Ancient Rome, including visits to the Colosseum and the Forum, the political, social, commercial and religious centre of the Roman Empire. Your guide will explain what the role of the forum was in ancient Rome everyday life.

See also the Arch of Constantine, which celebrates the triumphs of the emperor Constantine. The inscriptions over the main arch tell us that the monument was dedicated to the emperor by the Senate on the occasion of the decade of the Empire.

With your guide, take the Metro to the Vatican, the centre of Christianity. Time for lunch. Your guide will recommend a café where you can have a light lunch or a snack.

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In the afternoon visit the Basilica and the Vatican Museums, which house the magnificent Sistine Chapel. The Conclave for the election of the new Pope is held in the Sistine Chapel. You will admire the unique style of the architecture, inspired by the Biblical descriptions of Solomon's Temple in the Old Testament. The Sistine Chapel decorations, frescoes were crafted by the greatest Renaissance artists, including Michelangelo. The ceiling of the Chapel is legendary. End of the guided service.

We recommend a walk through Baroque Rome with your teachers leading the group. Have a gelato at Piazza Navona while you admire its beautiful 17th century fountains. You might also like to walk to the Pantheon (*admission: € 2 per person – not included; opening times Monday-Saturday: 8.30 am - 7.30 pm, last admission 7:15 pm. Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 pm, last admission 5:45 pm. Public holidays: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, last admission 12:45 pm*). Built by the Romans as temple consecrated to all gods, since the Renaissance the Pantheon has been used as a tomb for illustrious people. Brunelleschi used the Pantheon as an inspiration when designing the dome of the Duomo of Florence. The Pantheon is in use as a Catholic church nowadays.

After dinner you might like to walk to Piazza di Trevi to admire the splendid fountain.

Own arrangements for dinner (there are many good restaurants in the area of the Pantheon/Piazza Navona).

Second night's accommodation in Rome

Day 15 – Sunday, 19th April **FLIGHTS** **(B)**

This morning have breakfast and check out. Board your private coach at the hotel and transfer to Fiumicino Airport for your flights to Brisbane via TBA.

Depart Rome **Flight** **at TBA**

Arrive **at TBA**

Please note that you will pass through a security checkpoint in transit. Your hand luggage will be checked again at the boarding gate and you will not be able to carry any liquids/ beverages with you onto the next flight, regardless of where these were purchased.

Day 16 – Monday, 20th April **(C)**

Depart **Flight** **at TBA**

Arrive Brisbane **at TBA**

Upon arrival, complete custom procedures. Board your coach and drive to Ballina (coach transfer organised by Xavier College Ballina – **to be confirmed**).

Welcome back home!

Please refer to our quote for a detailed list of the services included in our price.

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BUON VIAGGIO! BON VOYAGE!