



the art of living

TUSCANY

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The Association
OF FORMER STUDENTS®
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY®

Traveling Aggies

JUNE 24-JULY 16, 2016



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Enjoy **three weeks of fully furnished accommodations** in a historic palace that has been renovated to offer modern amenities.
- ▶ See the **highlights of Florence** during an in-depth walking tour.
- ▶ Explore the **Accademia** and the **Uffizi** galleries with an expert guide.
- ▶ Visit the Castello di Monsanto winery in **Chianti** and enjoy a wine tasting.
- ▶ Embark on included group excursions to the **historic Tuscan towns** of San Gimignano, Colle di Val d'Elsa, Siena, Cortona and Lucca.
- ▶ Attend an **Italian cooking demonstration**.
- ▶ Customize your journey by adding one, two or three **Optional Enrichment Tracks**.



Active Travel for Cultural Explorers

This program is moderately paced with a good balance of included activities and excursions and time to explore on your own. Travelers should be physically fit, able to walk distances of up to three miles and navigate stairs, hills and uneven terrain.

Our International Explorations programs are not for the average tourist.

They are designed to give curious travelers an extended, customizable experience abroad. With an itinerary that takes you to must-see sites as well as off-the-beaten path treasures, you can enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime introduction to *the Art of Living* in unparalleled destinations. These unique journeys are limited to 36 travelers and feature three weeks' apartment-style accommodations with modern amenities.

Howdy, Ags!

Join us for three weeks in Florence, a city pulsing with history, art and culture in the heart of Tuscany.

Whether or not this is your first time living abroad, you will feel right at home here. Stroll the narrow cobbled streets and stop for a cappuccino on the picturesque Piazza del Duomo. Step off the beaten tourist path to feast on inimitable Florentine steak. Learn about the city's history and its incredible collection of cultural monuments, from the 11th-century Romanesque cathedral to the statues and paintings crafted by the fathers of the Renaissance.

Enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with a group and, during your ample free time, feel the thrill of making your own discoveries!

We have arranged for apartment-style accommodations in a fully furnished residential hotel that was originally a 16th-century palace. Your home away from home is situated on Via delle Mantellate, just blocks from Florence's historic Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

In addition to the base program, you also have the option to customize your experience by adding one, two or three Optional Enrichment Tracks based on your individual interests.

Don't miss this groundbreaking program. Space is limited, so make your reservations today!

Gig 'em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.

Director, Travel Programs

The Association of Former Students

"The Traveling Aggies provide trips that are interesting and well planned. They use experienced, reliable tour operators and they group you with similarly aged, likeminded people who are genuinely Texas Aggie Fans. It is a great experience."

**Leroy '60 and
Barbara Machemehl**

Italy ... the most beautiful and friendly country on earth!

Tony Gaudio '62

"Beautiful scenery, educational lectures, well-prepared guides and entertaining events made this a very enjoyable and informative trip."

Emilie Sullivan '71

800-633-7514

AggieNetwork.com/Travel

Tuscan countryside





San Gimignano

Tuscany is one of the world's most beloved destinations, and for good reason: The wine, food, historic landmarks and art are second to none.

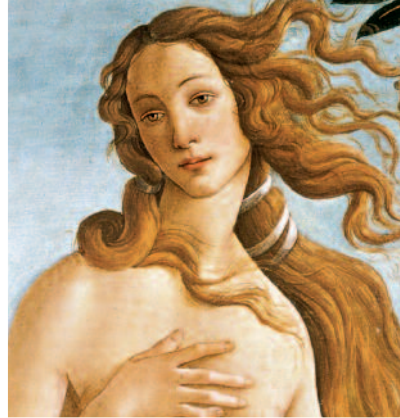
Step off the beaten path and experience Tuscany as few travelers have before. On this unique journey, explore the buzzing piazzas and picturesque countryside at your own pace. Dine in restaurants that no tourist could hope to stumble upon. Buy your own groceries at an outdoor market. Take in a music or theater performance. Linger in medieval villages, sip Chianti among the rolling hills and glean tips from a Tuscan chef. Immerse yourself in the Tuscan way of life and feast your eyes on both world-famous landmarks and hidden gems, from Florence's iconic Ponte Vecchio to the quintessential Tuscan town of Cortona.



Ponte Vecchio, Florence

| UNESCO |

The historic centers of Florence, San Gimignano and Siena are UNESCO World Heritage sites featured in this program.



Masters of the Renaissance

For Florentines, art is not mere decoration. The city's streets and piazzas, paintings and sculptures, churches and palaces reflect a singular civic identity, as the great masters of the Renaissance wove their realistic, linear perspective and classical influences into the very fabric of the city.

Florence's reputation as the birthplace of the Renaissance can be taken quite literally, as an astounding number of great men were born in Tuscany in the 13th and 14th centuries. Early luminaries like the painter Giotto di Bondone and the poet Dante Alighieri were followed by the prolific work of literary masters Francesco Petrarca and Giovanni Boccaccio and the architecture of Lorenzo Ghiberti, who designed the bronze doors of the Florence Baptistery, and Filippo Brunelleschi, who engineered the dome of the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore.

At the time, money and art went hand in hand. Artists made a living through commissioned works, so the rise of Florence's mercantile and banking classes set the stage for a uniquely large community of benefactors, particularly on the part of the Medici family. Florence reached a new level of artistic abundance in the 15th century under the patronage of Lorenzo the Magnificent, a Medici and an artist himself who helped foster the careers of Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo Buonarroti, Sandro Botticelli and many others.



Duomo, Florence



Michelangelo's David



to one of the largest reserves of Chianti Classico in Tuscany. Admire the estate's vineyards and 37 acres of olive groves. Then, sample wines from hand-picked grapes.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch during the excursion.

Excursion: San Gimignano. Explore this historic hilltop town, which boasts 14 medieval towers and a wealth of original squares, palaces and fountains.

Days Ten - Twelve B

FLORENCE

The days are free to pursue your own interests.

Day Thirteen B | D

FLORENCE

Excursion: Uffizi Gallery. Visit the Uffizi Gallery, Italy's most visited art museum, to see works by da Vinci and Raffaello, among other artists.

Local Flavor: Enjoy dinner at a restaurant.

| ITINERARY |

Day One

IN TRANSIT

Depart for Florence, Italy.†

†Provided for AHI FlexAir passengers.

Day Two

D

FLORENCE

Transfer† to the Hotel & Residence Palazzo Ricasoli. Attend a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day Three

B | L

FLORENCE

Excursion: Florence. Embark on a guided walking tour of Florence. Learn the history of the emblematic Il Duomo, admire the cupola of the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore, stroll over the Arno on the fabled Ponte Vecchio.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch at a Florence restaurant

Day Four

B | L

FLORENCE

Local Flavor: Lunch will be served at a local restaurant.

Day Five

B | D

FLORENCE

Educational Focus: Renaissance Art.

Local Flavor: Join your



fellow travelers for dinner at a restaurant.

Day Six

B

FLORENCE

Excursion: Accademia Gallery. Marvel at Michelangelo's "David" and other artistic masterpieces during a guided visit of this renowned museum.

Day Seven

B

FLORENCE

Enjoy a day at leisure

Day Eight

B

FLORENCE

Enjoy another day at leisure.

Day Nine

B | L

CHIANTI

Excursion: Chianti. Journey to Castello di Monsanto, home



Florence



Siena

Day Fourteen B

FLORENCE

The day is at leisure

Day Fifteen B | L

COLLE DI VAL D'ELSA | SIENA

Excursion: *Colle di Val d'Elsa*. Explore Colle di Val d'Elsa, a lovely medieval commune known worldwide for its exquisite crystal glassware and art.

Cultural Event and Local Flavor:

Enjoy a lively chef's cooking demonstration at a restaurant in Colle. Then, sit down for a delicious lunch.

Excursion: *Siena*. Continue to Siena. This UNESCO World Heritage town is a labyrinth of Gothic architecture, remarkably unchanged since the Middle Ages.

Day Sixteen B

FLORENCE

The day is free to pursue your own interests.

Day Seventeen B | L

CORTONA

Excursion: *Cortona*. Admire the treasures of the hilltop Tuscan town of Cortona.

See the stunning Romanesque cathedral and visit the Etruscan Museum.

Local Flavor: Lunch is served at a restaurant in town.

Day Eighteen B

FLORENCE

The day is at leisure.

Day Nineteen B | D

FLORENCE

Local Flavor: Gather with your fellow travelers for dinner at a local restaurant.

Day Twenty B | D

LUCCA

Excursion: *Lucca*. Discover a wealth of relics in the medieval walled town of Lucca, a venerable time capsule of urban Tuscan architecture.



San Lorenzo market, Florence

Local Flavor: Enjoy dinner at a restaurant in Lucca.

Day Twenty-one B | L

FLORENCE

Local Flavor: Trade stories of your Italian adventure with your new friends during lunch at a restaurant.

Day Twenty-two B | D

FLORENCE

This evening, join your fellow travelers for a festive Farewell Dinner.

Day Twenty-three B

IN TRANSIT

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flights to your gateway city.*

Note: Days without specified activities are spent at leisure or on excursion as part of an Optional Enrichment Track. Itinerary sequence or scheduled events may change.



Lucca



Uffizi Gallery

| OPTIONAL ENRICHMENT TRACKS |

The Art of Living ~ Tuscany

offers increased choice and personalized experiences. The main program features the included excursions detailed in your itinerary, but you also may choose to upgrade your experience by adding one or more of the Optional Enrichment Tracks, which let you customize your adventure based on your interests.

This program has three Optional Enrichment Tracks:

1 LANGUAGE

This track includes 12 three-hour Italian language classes held Monday through Thursday at a language school near your apartment. Classes are typically small and tailored to your skill level, guaranteeing individual attention and a comfortable progression through the lessons. The school can accommodate beginning, intermediate and advanced students.

Leading your language classes will be a professional teacher who uses an established curriculum and teaching methods. The focus of your classes will be on oral communication. Using the immersion method, your teacher will provide instruction in Italian only. This may seem daunting at first, but soon you will find this a completely natural way of learning as your ears become attuned to listening to Italian. You will be surprised how much and how quickly you can learn this way!

\$850 per person



2 CUISINE

Italian cuisine was born in Tuscany, at the court of the Medici. The hearty, peasant-inspired dishes of the region, which today are known around the world, depend on simple, wholesome ingredients like olive oil, tomatoes and cheese, as well as fresh meats and seasonal fruits and vegetables.

Learn how to make some of Italy's favorite dishes from a talented chef, who is passionate about food and wine. The highly acclaimed culinary school offers hands-on cooking lessons that allow for direct interaction with the chef. After preparing the dishes, sit down and enjoy the results. This option includes an Italian market experience, three group cooking lessons and all ingredients and materials.

\$795 per person



3 ART & ARCHITECTURE

The capital city of Tuscany, Florence is a veritable open-air museum, an urban masterpiece spread over the banks of the River Arno. It is often named Italy's most beautiful city thanks to an explosion of creative genius that spawned the Renaissance between the 14th and 16th centuries, leaving the city laden with a wealth of fine art and stunning architecture.

This option includes four excursions to some of Tuscany's architectural and artistic gems. Visit the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore; Michelangelo Square and the Archaeological Museum in Fiesole; three medieval basilicas in Florence; and the Pitti Palace and Boboli Gardens.

\$425 per person



Participate in all three tracks and receive a 5% discount.

ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTEL & RESIDENCE PALAZZO RICASOLI FLORENCE

After a day exploring Tuscany, retire to the comfort of your apartment-style accommodations. The elegant Hotel & Residence Palazzo Ricasoli is housed in the 16th-century palace of the Ricasoli family on Via delle Mantellate, just a short walk from the historic center of Florence. The palace-turned-residence is also close to boutiques, restaurants, galleries, grocery stores and a laundromat. Each bright, spacious, soundproofed apartment features a kitchenette, a sitting area and a bathroom with shower/tub, as well as free Wi-Fi and air-conditioning. Relax and enjoy your international living experience in the hotel bar, café, the breakfast room or the charming courtyard. The hotel takes care of linen changes, and the friendly, engaging staff will ensure you are fully informed about local attractions, museums, theaters and transportation. The Hotel & Residence Palazzo Ricasoli also offers an indoor garage, should you choose to rent a vehicle during your stay.



Reserve your Art of Living ~ Tuscany, today!

Send to: The Association of Former Students
 Attn: Traveling Aggies
 505 George Bush Drive
 College Station, TX 77840-2918
 Phone: 979-845-7514
 Fax: 979-845-9263
 Toll Free: 800-633-7514

Trip # :5-22455W



The Association
 OF FORMER STUDENTS
 TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Traveling Aggies

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

Guest 1: _____
 Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Guest 2: _____
 Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home: (_____) Cell: (_____) _____

Sharing room with _____. (Form sent separately.)

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

(1) _____ (2) _____
 Class Year Class Year

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Accommodations desired (please number in order of preference):

_____ Studio Apartment _____ One-Bedroom Apartment

Enrichment Tracks (available at an additional cost)

Language Cuisine Art & Architecture

Land Program and AHI FlexAir

I/we reserve the Land Program and request the round trip AHI FlexAir to and from Florence, Italy, to depart from:

_____ Departure City

- Please contact me regarding air options.
- Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

Land Only Program

I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.

Single Accommodations

- I prefer single accommodations at an additional cost (limited availability).
- I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by April 10, 2016 (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex. Make checks payable to AHI International.

AHI Travel has assumed all costs for the printing and distribution of this promotion. This program is exclusively arranged by AHI Travel, 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60631. No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$600 per person required) to reserve _____ place(s).

- Accept my check made payable to **AHI International**.
- Charge my: MasterCard Visa Discover Amex

Card # _____

Expires _____ / _____

(Signature as it appears on credit card)

Please note: Any payment to AHI International constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

NOT INCLUDED-Fees for passports, visas, entry/departure fees, personal gratuities, laundry and dry cleaning, excursions, meals and beverages not described in this brochure as included, travel insurance and all items of a strictly personal nature.

MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL-Participants should be in good health and able to walk moderate distances over varied terrain. Participants needing individual assistance for walking, dining or other personal needs must be accompanied by an able companion who will assist them. The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded.

AIR TRANSPORTATION-The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare. **VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.** Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s).

BAGGAGE-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

RESPONSIBILITY OF PARTICIPANT-This program includes accommodations in an apartment in Florence, Italy. It is the responsibility of each participant to leave his/her apartment at the conclusion of the program in as good a condition as it was when the program began. Participants may be assessed charges for repairs or cleaning required due to damage beyond normal wear and tear caused or permitted by a participant.

AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS-On occasion, AHI Travel obtains, from its staff, or from trip participants, photographic or video images of passengers and trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize AHI Travel, without providing compensation to you, or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings of you, as well as voice recordings included with any videos, in AHI Travel's sales, marketing, advertising, publicity and/or training activities.

RESPONSIBILITY-AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association do not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this program, and act only as agents for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations or other services. All such persons or entities are independent contractors. As a result, AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association are not liable for any negligence or willful act of any such person or entity or any third person. In addition and without limitation, AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association are not responsible for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property or accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature howsoever caused in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses occasioned thereby. Dates, Program Details and Tour costs, although given in good faith and based on tariffs, exchange rates and other information current at the time of printing, are subject to change at or before the time of departure. No revisions of the printed itinerary or its included features are anticipated; however, the right is reserved to make any changes, with or without notice, that might become necessary, with the mutual understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual passenger. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. If the entire program is canceled for any reason, participants shall have no claim other than for a full refund. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers and accepts the terms of this contract set out herein and in more specific pre-departure passenger information. The airlines and other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not on board their conveyances. The passage contract in use, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the company(ies) and the passenger and/or purchaser of this trip.

CANCELLATION-In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$250 per person administrative fee. [Please note that you may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following.] Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75-30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE.** All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation.

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LAND PROGRAM

June 25-July 16, 2016

| | Full Price | Special Savings | Special Price* |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Studio Apartment | \$4,445 | \$250 | \$4,195* |
| One-Bedroom Apartment | \$4,845 | \$250 | \$4,595* |

*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.
VAT is an additional \$495 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Single prices are available upon request (limited availability).

FLEXAIR

June 24-July 16, 2016

Our personalized air program allows you to select your flights, routing, class of service and dates of travel in consultation with one of our experienced Passenger Service Representatives. Airfares will vary, depending on airline, routing and class of service. In most cases, transfers between the airport and hotel/cruise ship will be included on arrival and departure days. Your Passenger Service Representative will provide you with all of the details you need to guarantee your transfer. Book your air with us to ensure assistance in the case of schedule changes or delays that may impact your air travel plans. AHI FlexAir participants automatically receive flight insurance worth up to \$250,000, subject to policy terms.

Piazza Duomo, Florence



Florence



Bronze doors of the Baptistry, Florence

800-633-7514

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| INCLUDED FEATURES |

ACCOMMODATIONS

- **21 nights** in Florence, Italy, at the **Hotel & Residence Palazzo Ricasoli**.

MEALS

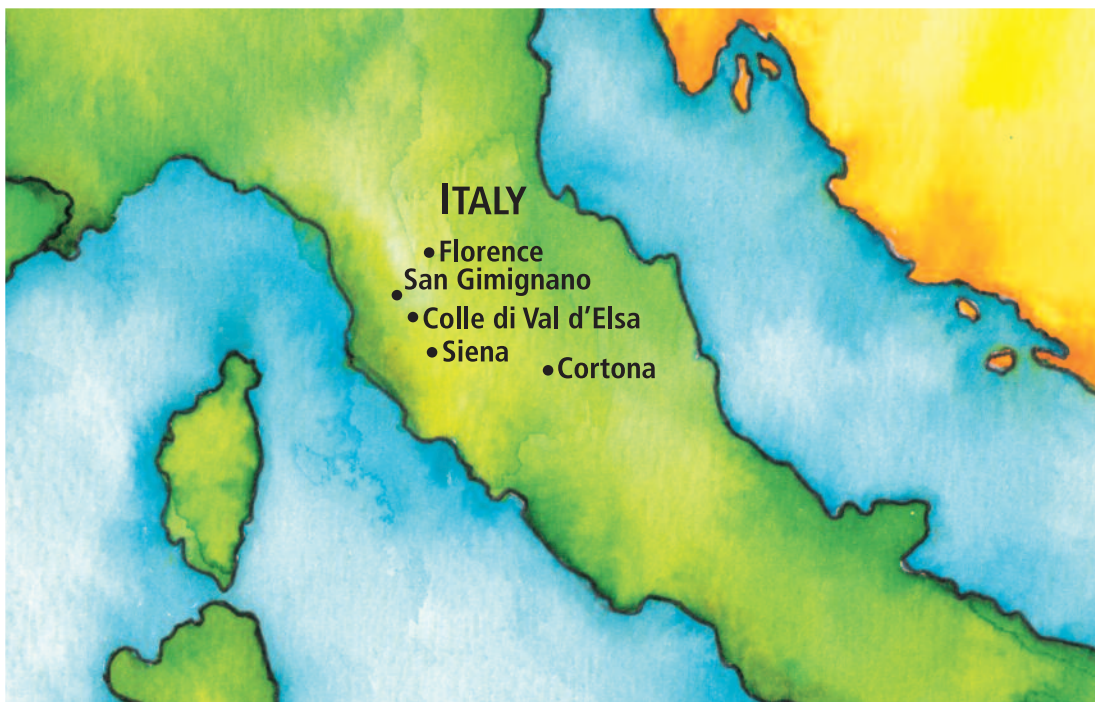
- Enjoy an **extensive meal program**, including 21 breakfasts, six lunches and six dinners. Tea or coffee is included with all meals, plus wine with dinner. Take advantage of leisure time to try local cuisine independently.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** during select meals at featured local restaurants.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

- **Informative educational programs**, presented by **local experts**, will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions** as outlined in your program itinerary.
- Attend a special **Welcome Reception and Dinner**.
- Gather with your fellow travelers for an exclusive **Farewell Dinner**.

MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Travel Director** throughout your stay.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in your planning.
- **Tipping** of excursion guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel wallet.



The Association of Former Students
Attn: Traveling Aggies
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840-2918

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Cathedral, Siena

Join alumni and friends on this journey of a lifetime!

Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational educational and cultural travel programs that delight travelers.

With AHI you can rely on:

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



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