Italy

Florence Through the Eyes of Dante

May 24 — June 6, 2022

Led by:
Dr. Jennifer Holberg
Experience an in-depth exploration of Florence, home of the Renaissance and birthplace of one of the greatest writers of all time: Dante Alighieri. Part retreat, part tour, we’ll spend our time visiting the many historic sites, museums, and churches Florence has to offer, while allowing ample time for reflection and relaxation. We’ll see the wonders of Michelangelo, Leonardo, Fra Angelico, Botticelli, and many more, and the trip will use Dante’s *Divine Comedy* as a lens to understand the city and its rich heritage. All are invited to read excerpts from Dante’s masterpiece before or during the trip. Our Italian experiences also include time in the glorious cities of Siena, Lucca, Pisa, and Perugia and we’ll end our time in Rome—the Eternal City—with stops at the major Roman sites and at the Vatican.

Our home base for the majority of our time will be Sanctuary Firenze in Florence (www.sanctuarybbfirenze.com), the convent guest house of the Suore Oblate located in the heart of the city. Rooms are simple and clean, with serene areas and a beautiful courtyard garden. All beds in the guest house are single beds and a light continental breakfast is served each morning. Most mornings in Florence will include an orientation session with Dr. Holberg to prepare us for the day. In Rome, we will stay at Hotel Lancelot (www.lancelothotel.com), located near the Colosseum.

*Don’t miss this unique opportunity!*

![Cover: Panoramic cityscape of Florence](image)

Dr. Jennifer Holberg is professor of English and co-director of the Calvin Center for Faith & Writing. She is a popular CALL teacher, and she has led Calvin student interim classes to study Dante in Florence.

Led by Dr. Jennifer Holberg  
(616) 526-6598  
jholberg@calvin.edu

**TOUR COST:**

$5,295 per person, from Grand Rapids,* based on double occupancy

*Other departure cities are available upon request.

**Register online now at bookings.wittetravel.com using booking code 052422HOLB**

Those who transfer from 051520HOLB/051421HOLB will receive the 2020 pricing.

© Duomo with the Baptistery, Florence  
© Uffizi Gallery

Cover: Panoramic cityscape of Florence
**TUESDAY, MAY 24**

**Departure from the U.S.**

The day of departure has arrived! We’ll meet at the Grand Rapids Airport (or other preferred departure city) to check in for the flights to Italy. Our adventure is beginning!

(D-in flight)

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 25**

**Arrive Florence**

After changing planes in Europe, we’ll arrive in Florence. Welcome to Italy! We’ll meet our waiting motorcoach and transfer to Sanctuary Firenze to get settled in and freshen up. This tranquil convent guest house will be our “home” for the next nine days. If time allows, we may take a brief walking tour to get acquainted with the area before enjoying a welcome dinner. (B-in flight, D)

**THURSDAY, MAY 26**

**Florence**

We’ll have the first of our one-hour orientation sessions with Dr. Holberg this morning to prepare us for what we’ll be seeing today. Then we’ll walk to the Duomo Complex to visit the Duomo Museum and Santa Maria del Fiore, one of the largest churches in the world that contains Brunelleschi’s magnificent dome and Giotto’s bell tower. We’ll also see the Baptistery with its famous bronze doors by Ghiberti and the Crypt of St. Reparata. After a break for independent lunch, we’ll visit the impressive collection of sculpture and decorative arts at the Bargello Museum, as well as the Orsanmichele Church and Museum. (B)

**FRIDAY, MAY 27**

**Florence**

Dr. Holberg will prepare us for today’s visit to the Uffizi Gallery. This is one of the world’s greatest collections of art with works by Giotto, Cimabue, Botticelli, Raphael, Michelangelo, and da Vinci, among others. In the afternoon, we’ll enjoy a winetasting with snacks of local specialties and have some free time to explore. The evening will be free for an independent dinner. (B)

**SATURDAY, MAY 28**

**Lucca, Pisa, Florence**

An excursion to the charming cities of Lucca and Pisa awaits us today. We’ll have time to explore Lucca with its well-preserved, tree-lined ramparts that encircle the historic center. Then we’ll learn to prepare and enjoy eating a three-course lunch with wine during a cooking class at a farmhouse near Lucca. A local guide will take us on a walking tour of Pisa, and we’ll return to Florence for an evening at leisure. (B, L)
SUNDAY, MAY 29  
**Florence**  
After a morning session with Dr. Holberg, we’ll visit Santa Croce, the church of the Franciscans that is located on one of Florence’s oldest squares. The afternoon will be at leisure to explore Florence, and we’ll have the option of attending Vespers at San Miniato Abbey. (B)

MONDAY, MAY 30  
**Florence**  
Following our morning session, we’ll walk to Museo di Nazionale di San Marco and its well-preserved 15th-century convent. After this visit, we’ll take a break for an independent lunch, with the option of eating at Mercato Centrale or choosing from one of the many restaurants in the area. We’ll reconvene to visit the Church of Santa Maria Novella. Founded in the 13th century by the Dominicans, it is known for its famous Brunelleschi crucifix in the Gondi Chapel and numerous frescos. There is also a famous perfumery here, which has been continually operated for more than 400 years. We’ll relax over an included dinner at a restaurant this evening. (B, D)

TUESDAY, MAY 31  
**Siena, Florence**  
We’ll head into the Tuscan countryside today and visit the lovely city of Siena, a medieval art and pilgrimage center built on three converging red clay hills. During a guided walking tour, we’ll see the Piazza del Campo with its Gothic palace and the Duomo with its richly decorated façade. Upon our return to Florence, we’ll enjoy dinner at a restaurant. (B, D)
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1**

**Florence**

Following our morning session with Dr. Holberg, we’ll visit the Accademia Gallery, another premiere collection of art. Among the treasures we’ll explore will be several works by Michelangelo, most notably his famous *David*. The afternoon and evening will be free for individual pursuits. (B)

**THURSDAY, JUNE 2**

**Florence**

Dr. Holberg will get us ready for our Medici Day, which includes visits to the Laurentian Library, the Medici Chapels, and the Palazzo Vecchio Museum and Tower. The wealthy Medici Family ruled Florence during the Renaissance and greatly influenced the fine arts. (B)

**FRIDAY, JUNE 3**

**Perugia, Rome**

We’ll bid farewell to Florence as we travel southeast to Perugia, located in a beautiful setting on a hill above the Tiber River Valley. This is the capital of the Umbria region and a sister city to Grand Rapids. We’ll have a chance to soak up the atmosphere here and have lunch at a restaurant before heading to the “Eternal City” of Rome. As time and traffic conditions allow, we’ll take a panoramic tour of Rome before checking in at our hotel for a three-night stay. Relax over dinner at the hotel this evening. (B, L, D)
**SATURDAY, JUNE 4**  
**Vatican City, Rome**

We’ll visit Vatican City today, the small but powerful independent state that is the heart of Roman Catholicism. A local guide will take us on a guided tour of the opulent Vatican Museums, filled with almost incomprehensible treasures, the highlight of which will be the Sistine Chapel. This splendid vault, painted by Michelangelo, illustrates the Creation, the Flood, and the Last Judgement. We’ll also tour the massive St. Peter’s Basilica with Michelangelo’s Pieta. The evening is free for an independent dinner. (B)

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**SUNDAY, JUNE 5**  
**Rome**

Our tour of Ancient Rome includes the Colosseum, which is the largest amphitheater in the ancient world, and the Roman Forum. This was the center of Roman political, religious, and commercial life. We’ll also visit the interesting Capitoline Museum and Palatine Hill. To cap off our Italy experience, we’ll enjoy a farewell dinner at a restaurant. (B, D)

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**MONDAY, JUNE 6**  
**Return to the U.S.**

After breakfast, we’ll transfer to Rome’s Fiumicino Airport to check in for our flights home. (B, L - in flight)

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**MODERATE**

The itinerary is scheduled to provide an in-depth, unhurried look at various sites as well as ample free time for exploring. However, please note substantial walking will be required to reach many sites, along with walking through churches, museums, and galleries. Participants can expect some of the walking to be on cobblestone streets, uneven ground, hills, and stairways. Please contact Dr. Holberg if you have questions about the activity level and walking involved.
Your travel retailer might not be licensed to sell travel insurance and will only be able to provide general information about the product. An unlicensed travel retailer may not answer questions about the terms and conditions of the insurance offered and may not evaluate the adequacy of your existing coverage. The products being offered provide insurance coverage that only applies during your covered trip. You have insurance coverage from other sources that provide similar benefits but may be subject to different restrictions depending upon the coverage. You may wish to compare the terms of the travel protection plan to your existing life, health, home, and automobile insurance policies you may have. If you have questions about your coverage under your existing insurance policies, contact your insurance provider or agent.

You are not responsible for any changes in requirements for non-U.S. citizens that occur after our final check.

When traveling domestically or internationally, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) require a full, legally acceptable identification in order to board a flight found http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/acceptable-ids. Examples; DHS-designated enhanced driver’s license, U.S. Passport, a foreign government passport. The name, date of birth and gender that appears on the identification card must exactly match the same data listed on airline ticket(s) and booking records.

Minor children traveling internationally without both parents are strongly encouraged to carry a notedarized or signed letter from the nontravelling parent granting permission to travel without the other parent. It has become increasing necessary to possess such a note, and will save time if questions arise departing from the U.S. or to exit a foreign country. In order to download a sample minor consent form go to: https://www.usps.gov/eforms/download_the_form_n.htm. For a minor to fly, the student must be 18 years of age or older, have a driver’s license, and be able to understand the responsibilities of flying. The student will need to register online at http://travel.state.gov/consular-travel/consular-travelregist.php. The student will also need to sign the agreement and list any additional persons who will be accompanying the minor. The agreement will be sent by email within 24 hours of registration. The student will then need to print, sign, and have notarized the agreement before flying. The agreement must be presented at the airport to the airline.

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Land-only participants. If you wish to make your own flight arrangements, contact Witte for the land-only cost at least 90 days prior to departure. Participants who make their own flight arrangements are responsible for any costs they incur in connection with using the same airports. The group’s airport transfers on the arrival and return days will be timed to the group’s flight schedule. Land-only participants may need to arrange for their own airport transfers. Contact Witte for a list of approved suppliers. If available, Witte will offer an alternative trip, which the participant may accept or reject.

California Passengers: Witte is registered as a California Seller of Travel 2013-3040-40. Witte is not a participant in or a cmdr of the Air Travel Protection Program administered by the Airline Guam Network, and is a member of the National Tour Association, the marrollence in the group tour industry.

Assumption of Risks & Safety. Travel to contain destinations may involve greater risk than other travel. Witte reserves the right to be retained in a daily activity under the terms and conditions as well as to travel prohibitions, warnings, announcements and advisories issued by the U.S. Government prior to travel. Witte reserves the right to change the itinerary in the event of unforeseen circumstances in various countries and the level of risk associated with travel to particular international destinations. Witte is not responsible for any incompatibilities to land-only participants resulting from changes in the group’s flight schedule. Participants who change their own flight or land-only less than 90 days prior to departure may be subject to penalties imposed by the airlines.

Domestic flight connections. Note on your registration form if you would like to fly to and from the international departure city. You will be contacted with schedule options and costs. Witte must receive requests for connections at least 10 days prior to departure.

Special flight arrangements. Note on your registration form if you would like to extend your stay or depart from or return to another city. The number of passengers who can deviate from the group’s scheduling is subject to the schedules of the airlines involved. Additional costs may apply. Air travel and all air transportation, including handling of luggage by the individual or company furnishing transportation, accommodation or any other services to the tour, shall be settled by binding arbitration in Kentwood, Michigan, U.S., in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association then existing, and judgment in the arbitration award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. This court shall be the exclusive forum in which any action or legal proceeding arising out of this Agreement shall be brought exclusively in the courts of Kent County, State of Michigan, without regard to conflicts of laws principles. If the right to seek arbitration is for enforcement of this Agreement, the limitation of liability contained in this document.

Exclusive Governing Law and Jurisdiction: This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Michigan, without regard to conflicts of laws principles. If the right to seek arbitration is for any reason waived by both parties, or if judicial review of any arbitration is sought, any action or legal proceeding arising out of this Agreement, the parties hereby waive any objection to venue or jurisdiction in connection therewith. In connection with any action or legal proceeding arising out of this Agreement, the parties hereby stipulate to personal jurisdiction and waive any objections thereto. In the event of a dispute with Witte, the disputation is subject to and shall be governed by substantive Michigan law. This agreement to arbitrate does not waive or modify the limitations of liability in this document.

Validity. This Agreement shall be governed by the States of Michigan, without regard to conflicts of laws principles. If the right to seek arbitration is for the performance of this Agreement, and shall be settled by binding arbitration in Kentwood, Michigan, U.S., in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association then existing, and judgment in the arbitration award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. This court shall be the exclusive forum in which any action or legal proceeding arising out of this Agreement shall be brought exclusively in the courts of Kent County, State of Michigan, without regard to conflicts of laws principles. If the right to seek arbitration is for enforcement of this Agreement, the limitation of liability contained in this document.

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In case of insufficient participation, geologic, or natural cause, or other circumstances beyond its control the extent of travel services cannot be provided wholly or partially, Witte may cancel the tour. If the participant has paid the total amount due, except for any unscheduled expenses, no refunds will be granted provided that the alternatives are comparable to the original accommodations and services included in the tour cost. In the event of cancellation of the tour by Witte, its liability will not exceed the refund of any unscheduled expenses. In the event of any unscheduled expenses, the realistic reasonable actual and potential costs to Witte of the Force Majeure and applicable cancellation fees.

Regarding civil unrest, once Witte has investigated the prevailing situation, as it deems fit, it shall remain in Witte’s sole and absolute discretion whether to proceed with the trip. You may in such circumstances cancel the trip subject to Witte’s and each supplier’s terms and conditions.
REGISTRATION FORM
CALL/CAA ITALY: FLORENCE THROUGH
THE EYES OF DANTE
May 24 – June 6, 2022
$5,295 per person from Grand Rapids*
based on double occupancy
*Other departure cities available upon request.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
wittetours.com
Fax: 616.957.9716
Register online at
bookings.wittetravel.com
using booking code 052422HOLB
or complete and return this paper form

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE YOUR FULL LEGAL NAME AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT.
IF YOU DO NOT provide full legal name you risk incurring additional airline ticket name-change fees and risk being denied boarding at the time of
departure. If you do not have a passport and are applying for one, provide your full legal name and select the option for passport renewal/application.

Passenger #1 PRINT CLEARLY

First name Middle ☐ do not have a middle name Last Preferred First Name
☐ Male ☐ Female Birthdate mm_______/ dd_______/ yyyy_______ Citizenship: ☐ U.S. ☐ Other
athom ___________________________ ☑ work ___________________________ ☐ cell ___________________________
E-mail ___________________________ Known Traveler Number (if you have one) _________________

Passport Status: ☐ Current ☐ I do not have a passport ☐ My passport has expired. I am renewing.
Passport Number ___________________________ Issue Date ___________________________ Expiration Date ___________________________
(MM / DD / YY) (MM / DD / YY)

Dietary Needs:
☐ Vegan ☐ Low Sodium ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Diabetic ☐ Gluten free ☐ Other ___________________________

Food allergies: __________________________________________________________________________

Mobility concerns: (walker, wheelchair, etc) __________________________________________________________________________

Medical ____________________________________________________________________________________

Passenger #2 PRINT CLEARLY

First name Middle ☐ do not have a middle name Last Preferred First Name
☐ Male ☐ Female Birthdate mm_______/ dd_______/ yyyy_______ Citizenship: ☐ U.S. ☐ Other
athom ___________________________ ☑ work ___________________________ ☐ cell ___________________________
E-mail ___________________________ Known Traveler Number (if you have one) _________________

Passport Status: ☐ Current ☐ I do not have a passport ☐ My passport has expired. I am renewing.
Passport Number ___________________________ Issue Date ___________________________ Expiration Date ___________________________
(MM / DD / YY) (MM / DD / YY)

Dietary Needs:
☐ Vegan ☐ Low Sodium ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Diabetic ☐ Gluten free ☐ Other ___________________________

Food allergies: __________________________________________________________________________

Mobility concerns: (walker, wheelchair, etc) __________________________________________________________________________

Medical ____________________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address

Street Address __________________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ___________________________ Zip ___________________________

Emergency Contact - IMPORTANT someone NOT traveling with you. Phone (_______) ________________
Accommodations

☐ Double occupancy. Roommate’s name: _________________________________________________________
   ☐ Roommate not yet known ☐ Assistance needed finding a roommate

   I understand that if a roommate is not available, I will be responsible for the cost of single occupancy.

☐ Single occupancy (+ $295 per person = $5,590)

Optional Travel Protection

Witte Travel recommends that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your trip investment.

The per person premium for this travel protection is $322* for double occupancy and $545* for single occupancy.

☐ I/we wish to purchase the travel protection at this time. Full payment of the plan cost is included with my deposit.

☐ I/we wish to decline the travel protection at this time. I/we understand that travel protection can be purchased later, as long as it is done prior to making final payment on the tour.

*It may be necessary to increase the trip cost insured on the travel protection plan for participants who purchase additional services and/or upgrade their arrangements. This could increase the plan cost.

The full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusions, are contained in the insurance policy. To view/download the Policy based on your state of residence at: http://policy.travelexinsurance.com/335A-1217.Travel Insurance is underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company (formerly known as Stonewall Insurance Company), 1314 Douglas Street, Suite 1400, Omaha, NE 68102.

Special Arrangements

Upon confirmation of your special arrangements, a nonrefundable service fee of $75 per person will be added to your account along with any additional air or land costs that may apply.

Domestic Flight Connections from ____________________________________________ to __________________________________________________.

Special Air Arrangements: To spend additional time abroad, I/we would like to depart on ______________________ and return on ____________________.

To request special land arrangements (car rentals, hotels, rail, etc.), include a note and we’ll contact you.

Signature

I/we have read, understand and accept the terms and conditions as outlined in the tour brochure. I/we acknowledge receipt of information about Witte’s Travel Protection Plan as well as the Price Increase Rules.

1. ___________________________________________________________________________ Date _________________

2. ___________________________________________________________________________ Date _________________

Note – Payment reminders will be emailed to Passenger #1. If no email is provided, payment reminders will be sent by U.S. mail.

EARLY REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED.

Register online at bookings.wittetravel.com using booking code 052422HOLB

or complete and return this paper form to:
Witte Travel & Tours
3250 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512

Enclose your deposit of $450 per person. If you are purchasing Optional Travel Protection, add the full plan cost to your deposit.
REGISTRATION FORM
CALL/CAA ITALY: FLORENCE THROUGH
THE EYES OF DANTE
$5,295 per person from Grand Rapids*
based on double occupancy
*Other departure cities available upon request.

Name of Passenger(s):
1.________________________________________________________________________
2.________________________________________________________________________

Type of card:  □ Visa  □ MasterCard  □ Discover  □ American Express

Credit card number ___________________________________________ Expiration date __________ Security code ________________

Name as it appears on card __________________________________________________________________________________________ (Please Print)

Billing address of credit card (if other than on application):
Street Address _______________________________________________________________________________________________________
City __________________________________________ State ___________ Zip ______________

Billing phone __________________ / ______________________

I hereby authorize Witte Travel & Tours to charge this credit card for the deposit and full travel-protection premium
(if selected). Remaining payments may be made by going to bookings.wittetour.com/login, by sending a check,
or by calling 1/800-469-4883. For security reasons, we are unable to store your credit card information.

Cardholder’s signature ______________________________________________________________________________________________ Date ______________

Reservation ID ________________________________________________

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:
Deposit of $450 per person. Early registration is encouraged.
Payment of $1,500 per person by December 15, 2021.
Payment of $1,500 per person by February 15, 2022.
Balance due approximately 30 to 45 days prior to departure.

Fax: 616.957.9716
wittetours.com
For office use only
It is not secure to e-mail the credit card form. Please fax or mail back.