

JOURNEY THROUGH CENTRAL ITALY

Arts and Humanities for Adults

June 10 – June 18, 2017

This tour offers a wonderful opportunity to step into the cultural richness and artistic wealth of Umbria, Toscana and Lazio. Spoleto, a gorgeous town emblematic of Central Italy, will serve as our tour base. Our guide will be Lorenzo Muti. A native of Spoleto and former faculty member at Duke University, he is a great connoisseur of Italian art and history; as well, Lorenzo is a professional conductor. Your stay will be enhanced by his intriguing insights into Italian culture and society.

ITINERARY
(subject to change)

Saturday, June 10: Depart for Rome from the United States

Sunday, June 11: Arrive in Rome, meet group and travel by coach to Spoleto

Spoleto, the seat of a Lombard Duchy during the High Middle Ages, still preserves a vast array of artistic memories from its historical past. This in-depth tour will take you from Roman time, to the early Christian period, from the Middle Ages to the blooming of the Renaissance. The XII Century *Duomo* preserves the last fresco cycle by the Florentine artist Fra Filippo Lippi. After lunch and a brief rest, we will take an overview walking tour of Spoleto, followed by dinner.

Monday, June 12: SPOLETO and ASSISI

Spend the morning relaxing and exploring Spoleto, perhaps taking a walk across the *Ponte delle Torri* to the *Monteluco*. After lunch we will take a short ride through the valley, passing the hill towns of Trevi and Spello, to Assisi. This magical town still preserves the atmosphere, the colors and the sounds that must have been so familiar to Saint Francis and his poor friars; the *Basilica* contains some of the most important frescoes in the history of western painting. If time, we will visit Montefalco, famous for fine linens and wine.

Tuesday, June 13 and Wednesday June 14: ADVENTURE TO TUSCANY

Our travel will include Siena, Florence and the environs. In Siena, you will be treated to a detailed visit of the *Palazzo del Comune* (Town Hall) with its splendid frescoes and a spiritually charged tour of the resplendent Gothic *Duomo*. On the material side, you have time to do some shopping in the many fashionable shops that line the colorful streets of the city. Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance civilization, is the kind of city that will appeal to the history buff, the art lover or simply the admirer of nature. Winding through the streets in the center of town, taking a walk along the Arno River, visiting the many museums or churches will magically put you in touch with many of the greatest minds of western civilization from Dante to Michelangelo, from Botticelli to Boccaccio. A charming two night stay in the gorgeous Tuscan countryside will complement this excursion.

Thursday, June 15: SAN GIMIGNANO and VOLTERRA

Tuscan hill town San Gimignano, still brimming with Medieval flavor and 14 surviving towers, reflects a town little changed since the Middle Ages. Artistic treasures abound, as well as two torture museums. Local highlights are Vernaccia wine, saffron and wild boar meat. Some of the oldest civic buildings in Tuscany are in Volterra's main square; explore the Roman theatre and the ancient Etruscan arch.

Friday, June 16: ROME

From the banks of the Tiber to the walls of the *Vatican*, the city reverberates with the sounds and sights of ancient history and art. From Roman ruins to Medieval streets, from Renaissance palaces to Baroque churches, Rome can be considered a compact version of human history in all its facets, from the military to the religious, from the political to the artistic. Travel by train from Spoleto.

Saturday, June 17: VITERBO and ORVIETO

Orvieto, situated at the top of a majestic hill, will mystify you with its Etruscan past and its magnificent Gothic *Duomo* containing the greatest work of Luca Signorelli, a real precursor of the "divine" Michelangelo. Spend the late afternoon in Spoleto re-exploring your favorites jewels or finding new ones before dinner.

**Sunday, June 18: Depart Spoleto 6:00 am, 8:30 am arrive Fiumicino
Depart for the US**



Photo credit: Bernardino Sperandio

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

In a captivating atmosphere of history and culture, our hotel is located in the center of Spoleto surrounded by the works of art that the city has kept and enhanced over the centuries. Within a short walking distance are the *Roman Theatre*, beautiful piazzas, *La Rocca* and the *Ponte delle Torri*. A single hotel room is available for an additional \$400.

FEES

Base fee for JOURNEY THROUGH CENTRAL ITALY is \$2,775. Pricing includes lunch on arrival day, continental breakfast and evening meal for each day of the stay and all group activity fees. **IT DOES NOT INCLUDE AIRFARE, DAILY LUNCHESES, HEALTH AND/OR TRAVEL INSURANCE.** The Tour Reservation Form, available from our website or by email, accompanied by a **\$375 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT** are due by **March 31, 2017. BALANCE IS DUE by April 28, 2017.** Registration will be accepted beyond this date based on space availability. The price is calculated on 2016 exchange rates and subject to change.

AIRFARE

Plan to arrive at Rome's Fiumicino Airport between 7:30am and 9:45am on Sunday, June 11, 2017, and departing no earlier than 11:00am on Sunday, June 18th. Our group will meet and travel to Spoleto on the 11th. If you cannot meet us at this time or have other travel plans, please contact our office. Travel insurance is at the traveler's discretion; however, it is strongly advised.

CANCELLATION AND DISCRIMINATION POLICIES

A full statement of responsibility is available upon request.

JILL and LORENZO MUTI, CO-DIRECTORS

DOWNLOAD THIS FLYER AND TOUR RESERVATION FORM FROM OUR WEBSITE OR BY EMAIL

www.spoletostudyabroad.com

Cynthia Landvater, Director of Adult Enrichment

For more information, email: SSATours@aol.com or phone: 919.656.4294

A program sponsored by SPOLETO STUDY ABOARD