

East-West Global Travel

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An Experiential Learning Tour *Cinque Terre, Rome Italy, Athens, Crete Greece*

Day 1: Depart your gateway city for an overnight trip to Genoa, Italy. After making one connection in the USA and one in Europe, you will arrive in Genoa in the early afternoon the following day.

Day 2: Upon arrival in Genoa, and after clearing Spanish Customs and Immigration, your group will be met by your local representative who will direct you to your privately chartered bus waiting outside.

After the luggage has been loaded onto the bus, you will be transferred to your hotel located in the small village of Le Grazie, the [Hotel Le Grazie-Portovenere](#). The remainder of the afternoon and evening will be free to rest and relax after the trans-Atlantic journey.

Dinner and overnight at the Hotel Le Grazie.

Day 3: This morning the group will have a guided tour of the [Cinque Terre](#) on foot. Beginning in [Monterosso](#), the first of the five villages that make up the Cinque Terre, you will pass through the aromatic Mediterranean vegetation, through olive tree fields and vineyards on a trail which offers spectacular panoramic views. In a couple of hours you will reach the town of [Vernazza](#), perhaps the most picturesque of all the villages. By now it will be time for lunch, which you can enjoy at one of the local cafes surrounding the harbor. The walking tour continues on to [Corniglia](#), the smallest of the Cinque Terre village. There will be time to look around and relax while here. The tour continues with a train ride to the next stop, the village of Manarola, which is believed to be the oldest of the five villages. Another train ride will take the group to the last stop, which is [Riomaggiore](#).

From Riomaggiore the group will transfer back to the hotel Le Grazie. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 4: Today the group will have an excursion to the marble quarries and the ancient city of [Sarzana](#). On the bus your guide will explain the history of the marble quarries, the culture of the [Apuan Alps](#). You will visit one of the marble quarries from the outside and see the stone masons at work.

After a short walk a selection of regional specialties will be served in a cozy pub in the historical village of [Colonnata](#). Colonnata is famous for its white bacon matured in marble.

In the afternoon you will stop in Sarzana, a beautiful town with a well preserved historical center that dates back centuries.

Dinner and overnight at the Hotel Le Grazie.

Day 5: Today the group will have a boat tour around the three islands known as the Poet's Gulf. The trip begins in the harbor of [Portovenere](#), a picturesque fishing village. From here you will take a cruise around the islands and the harbor which will offer another perspective on this lovely place.

The remainder of the afternoon and evening will be free to relax and look around on your own. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 6: In the morning the group will transfer to Rome, either by bus or train (TBD). Upon arrival in Rome you will be transferred to your accommodations, the Hotel [San Giusto](#) located near the city center. While here, the group will have two meals included daily.

In the late afternoon there will be time for some informal sightseeing and exploration on your own.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 7: This morning the group will have a guided city tour of [Rome](#). You will see many of the sights that make Rome one of the world's most famous world capitals, including the [Trevi Fountain](#), [Spanish Steps](#), the [Pantheon](#), [Piazza Navona](#) and the [Piazza Venezia](#).

In the afternoon the group will have a tour of [Vatican City](#). Here you will see the famous [Vatican Museum](#) and the [Sistine Chapel](#).

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 8: Today the group will have another full day of sightseeing, beginning with a trip to the [Roman Forum](#) and the [Colosseum](#). Other sights this morning will include the [Arch of Constantine](#), the [Caracalla Baths](#), and the [Circus Maximus](#).

After taking some leisure time on your own and having lunch in one of the many cafes around town, your tour of Rome continues with visits to [St. John's Lateran Basilica](#), the [Appian Way](#) and the [Catacombs](#).

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 9: Today the group will have an excursion to the south of Italy, visiting the city of [Naples](#), one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. You will have a guided tour of the city.

Afterwards, you will travel to the ancient ruins of [Pompeii](#), a Roman town destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in the year 79 AD. The town was buried under 4-6 feet of ash, and consequently much of the city and many of its inhabitants were preserved. It is a fascinating place.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 10: Morning transfer to Rome's Fiumicino Airport, where you will board a flight to Athens. After a brief time in the air you will be in Athens, Greece. After collecting your luggage, the group will be transferred into the city of Athens to your accommodations, the [Hotel Electra](#), located very near the city center. The group will be staying here for two days, with two meals provided each day.

After unpacking, the group will have a half day city tour of [Athens](#) in the afternoon. Depart from the hotel for a panoramic tour, driving through the main sites of interest: the [Temple of Olympian Zeus](#), [Hadrian's Arch](#), the [National Gardens](#) and the [Panathenaic Stadium](#), built in 1895, site of the first modern Olympics held in 1896.

Later, the group will walk to the [New Museum of Acropolis](#). The Museum exhibits approximately 4.000 artifacts, exclusively from the site of Acropolis, including the authentic statues of Caryatides.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 11: Today the group will visit the [Oracle at Delphi](#) and the village of Arahova. Drive through the fertile plain of Beotia, crossing the towns of Thebes, connected with the tragedy of King Oedipus and the village of Arahova, famous for its colorful rugs and carpets.

One hundred eighty kilometers northwest of Athens, soaring high above the Gulf of Corinth, stands the holy mountain of [Parnassus](#). Nestled amidst the pine forested slopes and rocky crags of the sacred peak are the beautiful and exceptionally well preserved ruins of [Delphi](#). Delphi was considered in the ancient world the center of the earth - the Omphalos ("Navel of the Earth"). The exact age of Delphi is not known, but it is mentioned by Homer. You will visit the [Sacred Way](#), the [Athenian Treasury](#), the Theatre and the Temple of Apollo where the famous oracles were pronounced. You will also visit the Museum where among other treasures you will see the 5th century BC bronze statue of the [Charioteer](#).

Lunch will be served in a tavern famous for its delicious homemade cuisine, close by the charming mountain village of Arahova.

After lunch and before returning back to Athens you will have some free time to walk through the beautiful village with its nice shops and cafes.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 12: Transfer to the Athens airport for a brief flight to the Greek island of [Crete](#), the largest and most populous of the Greek Islands.

For the next two days the group will be accommodated at the [Hotel Apollonia](#) in the city of [Heraklion](#), Crete's largest city.

In the afternoon you will have a tour of the city. Your guide will be happy take you on a short orientation through the historical center. Here you will have free time in which to visit the Venetian fountain at Lion Square, the Loggia, the cathedral of St. Titus and the Venetian Fortress at the fishing harbor. Also, don't miss a visit to the lively and atmospheric market in 1866 Street, where souvenir bargains may be found.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 13: Today the group will have a full day trip to the eastern side of Crete. This once-in-a-lifetime experience brings you to the sparkling sea of the [Mirabello Bay](#) in East Crete. You will travel by luxury air conditioned bus to the village of [Elounda](#) – certainly one of the most beautiful locations on the island.

After a short cruise across the clear blue waters you will we reach the tiny island of [Spinalonga](#). With its amazingly rich history, Spinalonga is a truly magical place. Because of its strategic location at the entrance to Elounda Bay, the Venetians created a fortified stronghold on Spinalonga – 'The Rock' - in the 16th Century AD. This fort protected East Crete from invasion by pirates and its extremely strong walls, even after so many cannon ball strikes, stand proud to this day. In the middle of the 17th century Spinalonga was attacked and conquered by the Turkish Ottoman Empire and remained a Turkish stronghold until the liberation of Crete in 1821.

In 1903, historical circumstances gave Spinalonga another role, that of Leper colony. For more than half a century the unfortunate 'living dead' were taken to live out their lives in an isolated community upon Spinalonga. The village with its tiny houses, shops, church, workshops and sanitarium still stands today. British author Victoria Hislop has immortalized the heartbreaking story of the lepers in

her internationally acclaimed book 'The Island' and the story, based on true fact, has now been made into a film using Elounda. as its setting.

Your professional tour guide will escort you onto the island and you will hear all about the long history of this fascinating place. Close your eyes and imagine, listen to the sea and taste the salt water on your lips and you will be transported back in time in an experience you will never forget.

After your visit to Spinalonga you will continue on your cruise across the bay and you will have the opportunity to relax and enjoy the calm, crystal clear sea at [Kolokythas](#). Here your crew will prepare a delicious barbeque while you swim and relax under the Cretan sun.

On your return you will take time for a stop at the picturesque town of Saint Nicholas where you may take a stroll around the 'bottomless' lake, the pretty harbor and cosmopolitan shops and tree-lined avenues. Enjoy a relaxing coffee in any of the lakeside cafes and sit back and watch the world go by in this beautiful setting.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 14: Early morning transfer to the airport in Heraklion for a short hop to Athens. In Athens the group will check in for your international flight back to the USA. Arrival in your gateway city will be in the evening of the same day.