



WKU The Center for
Gifted Studies

Spring Break in Italy

A 10-day travel/study program for
eighth grade and high school honors
students and interested adults

April 3-12, 2026



Spring Break in Italy

This program is an opportunity for eighth grade and high school honors students and interested adults to spend eight days learning about the history, culture, and people of Italy. Sponsored by The Center for Gifted Studies at Western Kentucky University, the program provides a carefully structured experience. Twenty-five qualified applicants will be accompanied by the program director.

Application

All travelers must be able to participate in everyday physical activities. Student applicants also must meet the following criteria:

- Enrollment in 8th-12th grade;
- Involvement in high school honors or gifted services; and
- A recommendation from a teacher, counselor, principal, or gifted and talented coordinator if traveling without an adult.

Apply at wku.edu/gifted/travel or scan the QR code on the right.

A nonrefundable \$500 deposit is required when you apply. Passport expiration must not be within 6 months of travel, and you will need to provide a copy of your passport information page to The Center.

NOTE: The group is capped at 25; eligible participants will be admitted in the order in which applications are received. The deposit will be returned if the tour reaches capacity.



Cost

The program cost of \$6,200 includes:

- Roundtrip airfare from Nashville, TN;
- Accommodations in double rooms (an adult may request a single room for an additional charge);
- Breakfast each day at the hotel;
- Admission to historic sites, museums, and other points of interest are listed on the itinerary;
- Travel by motor coach for excursions.

NOTE: Cost is subject to change should there be changes in fares, monetary exchange rates, or service costs. The itinerary is subject to minor changes in daily activities.

Payment schedule

- \$500 deposit and a passport-sized photo are due with application
- \$2,850 due January 15, 2026
- \$2,850 due February 15, 2026

Itinerary

Friday, April 3

Depart Nashville for Rome.

Saturday, April 4

Arrive in Rome and travel by motor coach to visit **Pompeii**. In 79 A.D., this Roman city of 20,000 was buried by volcanic ash from an eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The incredibly well-preserved remains of this city provide a real feel for Roman life in the 1st century A.D. Return to Rome and check in at our hotel.

Sunday, April 5

In the morning, visit the **Church of St. Peter in Chains** to see the statue of Moses by Michelangelo. Take a tour of the massive **Colosseum** completed in 80 A.D. Leaving the Colosseum, walk through the impressive ruins of the **Roman Forum**, the political and social center of the Republic where the Roman Senate met. From the Forum, climb the Capitoline Hill

to see the **Piazza del Campidoglio** designed by Michelangelo. After lunch, visit **Piazza Navona**, famous for its beautiful fountains and Baroque architecture. Continue to the **Pantheon**, the best-preserved ancient building in Rome. End

the afternoon with a visit to **Trevi Fountain** and the **Spanish Steps**. Have dinner in the area of the Spanish Steps, and then take the Metro back to our hotel.

Monday, April 6

In the morning, visit **St. Peter’s Basilica** established in 319 A.D. by Emperor Constantine on the site of St. Peter’s burial. Leaving St. Peter’s Basilica, walk through **St. Peter’s Square** which is surrounded by the “arms” of the **Bernini Colonnade**. Have lunch in the area near St. Peter’s Square. In the afternoon, tour one of the **catacombs**, subterranean burial sites used by early Christians for meetings and worship. End the day with a visit to the **Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls**, established by Constantine in 314 A.D. over the tomb of the Apostle Paul.

Tuesday, April 7

Travel from Rome to Orvieto, a magnificent example of an Umbrian hill town on a 934-foot plateau. Take a guided tour of the **Duomo**, considered to be one of Italy’s greatest Romanesque-Gothic cathedrals, noted for its ornate exterior and the frescoes of the Last Judgment by Luca Signorelli in **San Brizio Chapel**. After lunch, travel to Assisi to visit the **Basilica of St. Francis**, the church built to honor Italy’s patron saint, St. Francis. The basilica houses the tomb of St. Francis and some of the finest frescoes in the world. Stroll the narrow streets of the old town before traveling to our hotel outside of Assisi.

Wednesday, April 8

After breakfast, leave Assisi for Florence and take a walking tour featuring the **Church of**



Santa Croce, which holds the tombs of Galileo, Ghiberti, Michelangelo, and Machiavelli as well as memorials to Dante, Leonardo da Vinci, and Raphael. Then visit the beautiful **Duomo**, the **Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore**, famous for its magnificent dome designed by Brunelleschi.

Thursday, April 9

In the morning take a guided tour of the **Uffizi Gallery**, one of the finest art museums in the world. From the Uffizi, walk to the **Ponte Vecchio**, the oldest bridge over the Arno River in Florence. This bridge originally housed butcher shops until the Renaissance when a “community cleanup” replaced the butcher shops with goldsmiths and jewelers. Leave the Ponte Vecchio for a stroll through the shops to the area of the Duomo for lunch. After lunch, visit the **Museum of the Duomo**. End the day with a visit to the **Baptistry of St. John**, the oldest standing building in Florence, dating to the 6th century A.D.



Friday, April 10

In the morning, visit the **Bargello**, the oldest surviving seat of government in Florence, which now houses Italy’s leading collection of Renaissance sculpture. Close out the morning at the **Museum Academia** to view Michelangelo’s David. After lunch, tour the **Chapel Mausoleum of the Medicis**, renowned for its architecture and statues by Michelangelo.

Enjoy some free time to explore Florence.

Saturday, April 11

Depart Florence for Rome. Upon arriving in Rome, visit the **Vatican Museums** which house a wide range of treasures, including the **Sistine Chapel** with the famous Michelangelo frescoes on its ceiling and the wall behind the altar. In the late afternoon check into our hotel.

Sunday, April 12

Depart Rome for Nashville.

