

# **THE** **TRAVEL CLUB**



## *Pre-Departure Itinerary* *Florence Getaway*

*Monday, March 12 – Sunday, March 18, 2012*

Our popular holidays to Florence are such great value every departure sells out! Once again, we've secured an incredibly low airfare from our friends at Alitalia and have paired it with our favorite Florence hotel, the Cellai. When you add transfers, breakfasts and a tour, this is a true travel bargain! We've included a half-day walking tour to acquaint you with the city's most famous sites. Then you're on your own to explore and absorb the charm of Florence—one of Italy's most atmospheric and pleasant places. Don't miss this chance to shop at the antique flea markets in Piazza dei Ciompi or the jewelry shops along the Ponte Vecchio! It's pure Italy as well as one of the world's most beloved cities—and more affordable than you'd ever dreamed.

### **Includes**

- Round-trip air transportation on regularly scheduled **Alitalia** Airlines flights from Boston to Florence, via Rome
- Five nights' three-star accommodations at the Hotel Cellai
- Buffet breakfast daily
- Half-day guided walking tour of Florence
- Escorted round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers

### **Rates**

**\$869** per person double occupancy

**\$1,159** for single reservations

Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Add \$125 for current air taxes and fees and \$370 for fuel surcharges. Passport required.

### **Accommodations**

#### **Hotel Cellai**

Via 27 Aprile 14, 50129 - Florence

Tel: 011 39 055 489 291

Fax: 011 39 055 470 387

The Hotel Cellai [www.hotelcellai.it](http://www.hotelcellai.it) is located in the centre of Florence, a short walk to all museums and shops. Hotel Cellai is a family owned and run hotel built in a beautifully restored 18th century building offering you the magic atmosphere and the charm of living in a Florentine Home. Rooms have a private bath with shower, air conditioning, direct dial phone, color TV, fridge-bar and hairdryer.

## **DAILY ITINERARY**

### **Day 1: Departure from Boston**

Depart from Boston this evening on your Alitalia flight to Rome.

### **Day 2: Arrive Rome – connecting flight to Florence**

Continental breakfast will be served on board before landing. You will clear immigrations and proceed to your connecting flight to Florence. Upon arrival in Florence, retrieve your luggage and clear customs. You'll be met by our local representative, who will assist you with the motorcoach transfer to the **Hotel**

**Cellai** in downtown Florence. Check in and receive room assignments. The rest of the day is at leisure to get acquainted with the hotel and surroundings.

### **Day 3: Florence – walking tour**

Enjoy buffet breakfast at the hotel before you depart on a guided walking tour of Florence. You'll visit the Piazza del Duomo: the Cathedral with Brunelleschi's Dome, the Belltower by Giotto and the Baptistry with the Gate of Paradise, by Lorenzo Ghiberti. Although they were erected in different periods they look similar because they were built with white and green marble. Continue along the elegant Via dei Calzaioli lined with many exclusive boutiques that lure to their window and we land in Piazza della Signoria. The square is dominated by the austere beauty of the Palazzo Vecchio which represents the might of the Florentine Republic. In front of the Palazzo Vecchio stands a copy of statue of David in the place where the original masterpiece by Michelangelo once stood. Remainder of the day is at leisure. **(B)**

### **Days 4-5-6: Florence**

Buffet breakfast daily at the hotel. You have three days for you to explore this extraordinary vibrant city at your own pace. Falling in love with Florence at first sight is easy and you leave it carrying with your for ever the memory of its radiant beauty. This city, the cradle of the Renaissance, is like an open book, written in the figurative language of humanism, a text which it has handed on to the entire world a sense of sound of rational proportion, the very essence of the Florentine genius. Because the center Florence is relatively small it is best discovered on foot. Very close to the Hotel Cellai is the Museo dell'Accademia where you can admire the original "David" by Michelangelo" as well as other sculptures by Michelangelo. Continue on the Via Cavour and arrive at the Church of San Lorenzo. From here the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo is not too far. By far the most interesting museum, the Uffizi Gallery, is located just around the corner from Piazza Signoria, and should not be missed.

Florence also offers great shopping opportunities – look for traditional Florentine leather and also fine jewelry. The exquisite work of skilled goldsmiths with dates back to Benvenuto Cellini, a great artist of the renaissance. You can find his bust on the Ponte Vecchio where many jewelry shops are found. If you are looking for designer boutiques you can indulge in Via Tornabuoni and Via Calzaiouli. If you are looking for bargains you can shop the colorful open-air market of San Lorenzo and practice the art of bargaining. **(B)**

### **Day 7: Return to Boston**

Early morning transfer to Florence airport for your return flight to Boston, via Rome. **(B)**

**Proof of Citizenship** is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require valid Passport. Passports are the responsibility of each client.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.