Luther College Alumni, Parents, and Friends

Luther College
NORDIC CHOIR

Companion Tour to Italy

May 25–June 5, 2015 • 12 Days

Hosted by President Paula J. Carlson, Ph.D., and the Rev. Dr. Thomas Schattauer

Allen Hightower, Ph.D., conductor of Nordic Choir
Luther College President Paula J. Carlson and the Rev. Dr. Thomas Schattauer invite you to join them on a 12-day companion tour in conjunction with the Nordic Choir Performance Tour of Italy, May 25–June 5, 2015.

The tour will include taking in all of the Nordic Choir performances. The first stop on the tour will be Italy’s ancient capital city, Rome. Other cities on the tour will include Assisi, perched atop a hill in the Umbria region and surrounded by ramparts little changed since the Middle Ages; Florence, home to the Ponte Vecchio and Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral with its huge dome; Lucca, one of Italy’s finest medieval treasures; Siena, which is surrounded by olive fields and vineyards and is one of the most beautiful cities in Italy; and Venice, the island city famous for its unique system of waterways and beautiful architecture. Dr. Carlson will offer a President’s Reading Group as part of the tour. Participants will be invited to read selected short stories by prominent American or British authors about traveling or living in Italy and then join in conversation about the stories during the tour.

**DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY**

**MON 25 MAY**  Depart U.S.
Depart Chicago and connect in Detroit with the transatlantic overnight flight to Rome via Delta Airlines. (Meals in-flight)

**TUE 26 MAY**  Arrive Rome
Arrive in Rome and meet your English-speaking European guide. Take an orientation tour of Rome as you enter the city this afternoon. Following hotel check-in, gather for a welcome dinner. The Church Palace Hotel http://www.thechurchpalace.com/ (Meals in-flight, D)

**WED 27 MAY**  Rome
Embark on a locally guided morning sightseeing tour of ancient Rome. View the Piazza della Repubblica, Trajan’s Market, Piazza Venezia, and Capitoline Hill. Take in a panoramic view of the Roman Forum, visit the Church of St. Peter in Chains (Michelangelo’s statue of Moses) and the Pantheon, and see the Arch of Constantine and Circus Maximus. End the tour with an inside visit to the Colosseum. The rest of the day is at leisure. Meet for a group dinner before the evening concert. Attend a Nordic Choir concert this evening in Rome or the surrounding area. The Church Palace Hotel (B, D)

**THU 28 MAY**  Rome
Today, enjoy a Vatican City tour including visits to St. Peter’s Basilica, the Vatican Museums, and the Sistine Chapel, with the ceiling adorned by Michelangelo’s restored masterpieces. Hear the Nordic Choir perform during Mass at the Basilica of St. Peter (subject to acceptance). Should St. Peter’s be unavailable, another historic basilica in Rome will be selected. The Church Palace Hotel (B)

**FRI 29 MAY**  Rome/Assisi
Travel from Rome to Assisi this morning with a stop in Spoleto for lunch on your own. Upon arrival in Assisi, enjoy a short walking tour of the city and a visit to the Basilica of St. Francis (upper and lower). Hear the choir as they participate in a Mass at the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi (subject to approval). Dal Moro Gallery Hotel http://www.dalmorogalleryhotel.com/?lang=en (B, D)

**SAT 30 MAY**  Assisi/Florence
Travel from Assisi to Florence this morning. Upon arrival, take a locally guided tour of the Accademia...to wonder at Michelangelo’s magnificent statue of David. Then on to the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, with its dome by Brunelleschi, its bell tower by Giotto, and the Baptistry with the bronze “Gates of Paradise” cast by Ghiberti in the middle 1400s. Continue to the Piazza della Signoria with the Loggia Lanzi and the Palazzo Vecchio. Finally, visit the Basilica of Santa Croce, where we find the tombs of Michelangelo and Galileo. **This evening attend a Nordic Choir concert in Florence or the surrounding area. Boscolo Hotel Astoria http://boscoloaistoria.hotelinfirenze.com** (B, D)

**SUN 31 MAY**  Florence
Travel to Pisa and visit its Campo dei Miracoli (Field of Miracles), where the Cathedral, Baptistry, Camposanto, and iconic Leaning Tower form one of Italy’s most outstanding architectural complexes. Enjoy time for a photo opportunity by the Leaning Tower. Visit the town of Lucca, one of Italy’s finest medieval treasures and home of Giacomo Puccini. **Attend a Nordic Choir concert in Lucca or the surrounding area. Boscolo Hotel Astoria (B)**

**MON 01 JUN**  Florence
Travel to Siena this morning for a locally guided walking tour including a visit to the Old Cathedral (duomo) as well as the unfinished New Cathedral and a panoramic view of the city and countryside. **Hear the choir participate in a Mass at the Siena Duomo (subject to approval). Boscolo Hotel Astoria (B)**

**TUE 02 JUN**  Florence
Travel into the beautiful Tuscan countryside. Take a brief walking tour of San Gimignano, including a view of Piazza della Cisterna. Enjoy lunch and wine tasting at Castello Vicchiomaggio in Grève in Chianti. Boscolo Hotel Astoria (B, L)

**WED 03 JUN**  Florence/Venice (Mestre)
Travel from Florence to Venice today with a stop in Ravenna en route. You will have some time to enjoy a leisurely lunch or explore the mosaics for which Ravenna is known. Arrive in Mestre (a suburb of Venice, on the mainland) for hotel check-in, dinner, and overnight. **Attend a Nordic Choir concert in Mestre. Hilton Garden Inn Mestre http://hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/italy/hilton-garden-inn-venice-mestre-sangiuliano-VCBIG/index.html** (B, D)

**THU 04 JUN**  Venice
Your guided walking tour of Venice includes the Doge’s Palace, Bridge of Sighs, St. Mark’s Square, and St. Mark’s Basilica. **Hear the choir sing during a Mass at St. Mark’s Basilica in Venice (subject to approval).** Gather for a farewell dinner this evening. Hilton Garden Inn Mestre (B, D)

**FRI 05 JUN**  Return to U.S.
Transfer to the Venice airport for the return flights to the U.S. (B, Meals in-flight)

*Code: (B) breakfast, (L) lunch, and (D) dinner
Itinerary subject to change.*
TOUR CONDITIONS

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Your reservation and deposit of $400 per person are requested immediately to fulfill the group deadline requirements. Note that space is limited and reservations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. A second payment of $1,000 is due Tuesday, January 20, 2015. Final payment is due Friday, March 20, 2015. For credit card payment Group Travel Directors accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.

REFUND POLICY: All cancellations must be in writing. There is no refund for partial or unused land arrangements. Note: Airline tickets will be issued well in advance of departure and may be nonrefundable. The following penalties will apply: Up to January 19, 2015—$100 per person administrative fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; January 20–May 10, 2015—Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; May 11, 2015 or after—No refund.

CHANGES TO GROUP FLIGHTS: The group airfare contract for this tour may not allow travelers to make any date or itinerary changes. If you are considering other dates or cities, please submit your request in writing well in advance to secure the best rates and schedule, but no later than January 20, 2015. A minimum fee of $175 per person will apply for changes to group flights in January 20, 2015. A minimum fee of $1,000 is due Tuesday, January 20, 2015. Final payment is due Friday, March 20, 2015. For credit card payment Group Travel Directors accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.

LATE BOOKINGS: Passengers registering within thirty days of tour departure will be charged a $50 per person fee. Tour payment in full is required before we can request and confirm space. This fee does not cover any additional airline or ground service charges.

WHAT’S INCLUDED?

AIRFARE: Round-trip economy class airfare from Chicago via Delta Airlines or other ARC/IATA approved scheduled carrier.

ACCOMMODATION: Ten nights accommodation in four star hotels, double occupancy, with private facilities.

MEALS: Breakfast daily, one lunch and six dinners as outlined in the itinerary.

GROUND TRANSPORT: Transfers and transportation by deluxe motor-coach; round-trip transfers to Nordic Choir concerts are included.

SIGHTSEEING: Extensive sightseeing throughout; entrance fees included.

PORTERAGE: Luggage handling of one piece per person.

EXPERT GUIDES: An experienced English-speaking tour guide from arrival in Rome through departure from Venice.

GRATUITIES: Gratuities to drivers and guides (for your convenience, $120 per person has been included).

TAXES: Airport/foreign departure taxes (currently $624 per person).

ALL THE INFO YOU NEED: Comprehensive documentation including bag tags, name tags, flight and land itineraries, destination literature, customs information, travel tips and more.

Iowa Seller of Travel License Number 1075

RESERVATION APPLICATION

Luther College Alumni, Parents, and Friends • May 25–June 5, 2015 • (G#150510) • Group Travel Directors • 2000 W 98th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55431

(Name as it appears on passport)

1. First Name Middle Name Last Name
   □ Male □ Female Date of Birth
   Month/Day/Year

2. First Name Middle Name Last Name
   □ Male □ Female Date of Birth
   Month/Day/Year

Address (no P.O. Boxes)

Tel. (Day) (Cell)

City State Zip Code Email

Roommate

□ or □ I will pay the supplement for a single room.

Advertise if we can assign you a roommate or single supplement. GTD can assist in finding roommates; however, this cannot be guaranteed and the supplement may apply.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS (please check one)

□ I/We will take the group flights from Chicago.

□ I/We will need assistance with flight arrangements from ____________________________ to__________________________ . Please contact GTD for land-only rates.

□ I/We will make all of my own flight arrangements.

DEPOSIT/TRAVEL INSURANCE (please check one)

Please reserve __________ space(s) for me/us; I/we choose the following deposit option:

$_________ $673 per person inclusive of travel insurance.

$_________ $400 per person without travel insurance.

I/We decline now, but understand it can be purchased later without the pre-existing waiver.

FORM OF PAYMENT

□ Check

□ Charge my deposit(s) to Credit Card \\

□ Charge my deposit(s) to Credit Card #

Name as it appears on credit card:

I/We have read and understand the conditions of this brochure. Parent or guardian signature is required for travelers under age 18.

Signature Date

Signature Date

I/We will need assistance with flight arrangements from ____________________________ to__________________________ . Please contact GTD for land-only rates.

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Address (no P.O. Boxes)

Tel. (Day) (Cell)

City State Zip Code Email

Roommate

□ or □ I will pay the supplement for a single room.

Advertise if we can assign you a roommate or single supplement. GTD can assist in finding roommates; however, this cannot be guaranteed and the supplement may apply.

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Signature Date
GTD TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is included as an option with the initial tour deposit and is highly recommended. GTD offers a competitive policy from an independent company. By purchasing insurance at the time the tour deposit is made, you can be covered for events that may cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip, e.g., pre-existing medical conditions (certain restrictions apply). If you decline travel insurance at the time of reservation, you may purchase it within 14 days with the pre-existing conditions waiver or you may purchase it later without the pre-existing conditions waiver. You may contact Travel Insured International for further information before making your decision: 800-243-3174.

GTD TRAVEL INSURANCE INCLUSIONS

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<th>Coverage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Trip Cancellation</td>
<td>up to Tour Cost*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trip Interruption</td>
<td>up to 150% of Tour Cost**</td>
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<td>Travel Delay</td>
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<td>Evacuation/Repatriation</td>
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<td>Accidental Death</td>
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<td>Political Emergency Evacuation</td>
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<td>ID Theft Resolution Services</td>
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<td>Assistance Service</td>
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<td>* a maximum of $5,000 per person</td>
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<td>** a maximum of $7,500 per person</td>
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Cost of this optional GTD Travel Insurance is $273 per person. Additional coverage provided as needed; the full cost of your tour must be covered. Once purchased, travel insurance is non-refundable. NOTE: Residents of Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Washington will receive a state-specific Description of Coverage, which can also be requested by calling 866-684-0218.

CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Group Travel Directors (GTD) provides customized travel planning throughout the world for group travelers who have a variety of reasons and goals for travel. The goals and/or opinions of these groups do not reflect or imply the position of GTD in any matter. Brochure contents may not be duplicated without permission from GTD. In offering these travel arrangements, Group Travel Directors, Inc. (GTD) acts solely as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel-related services. GTD maintains no control over the personnel, equipment, or operations of any entity furnishing services, products, or accommodations. GTD assumes no responsibility or liability for, and shall not be expected, asked, or required to pay for any injury, damage, expense, personal injury, property damage, inconvenience, or any other loss experienced by reason of: (1) any intentional, wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any supplier, its agents, or employees; (2) any defect, breakdown, or other failure of any vehicle, equipment, service, product, or other instrumentality which is owned, operated, or otherwise used by a supplier; (3) any intentional, wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any other party not under the direct control of GTD; (4) financial problems causing nonperformance by any supplier; or (5) any other cause, condition, or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of GTD. GTD cannot guarantee any rates, bookings, or reservations of any supplier. Your retention of tickets, reservations, or bookings after issuance shall constitute a consent to the foregoing provisions. All prices quoted are subject to change if airlines or ground operators increase their prices, the U.S. dollar is devalued significantly against foreign currencies, the group falls below minimum numbers, or a fuel surcharge, government tax, or user’s fee is imposed. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. GTD reserves the right to withdraw from any tour any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the interests of the group as a whole. The above Conditions and Responsibility also covers the group leader(s) and their respective organizations.

NOTE TO OUR TRAVELERS

Be assured that Group Travel Directors continually monitors industry events, such as airline strikes and bankruptcies, etc. If any such events affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed there was not a U.S. State Department Travel Warning in effect for this destination; please refer to the following website for current information or call Accolades. http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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