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 of your reservation, you may purchase it within 14 days of the pre-existing conditions waiver or may purchase it later without the pre-existing conditions waiver. You can cancel or interrupt your trip, e.g., pre-existing medical conditions (certain restrictions apply). If you decline travel insurance at the time of your reservation, you may purchase it within 14 days of the pre-existing conditions waiver or may purchase it later without the pre-existing conditions waiver. You can contact Travel Insured International for further information before making your decision: (800) 243-3174.

GTD TRAVEL INSURANCE INCLUSIONS

Trip Cancellation up to Tour Cost*

- Missed Connection: $300
- Baggage: $1,000
- Baggage Delay: $200
- Medical Expense: $50,000
- Evacuation/Repatriation: $50,000
- Accidental Death: $10,000
- Political Emergency Evacuation: $100,000
- ID Theft Resolution Services

In the event you need to withdraw from any tour any tour member whose medical conditions (certain restrictions apply) or pre-existing conditions waiver or may purchase it later without the pre-existing conditions waiver. You can contact Travel Insured International for further information before making your decision: (800) 243-3174.

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 and can be affected. Brochure contents may not be duplicated without permission from GTD. GTD maintains control over the personnel, equipment or operations of any entity offering 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 other party not under the direct control of GTD; (4) financial problems causing nonperformance by any supplier or any other cause, condition or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of GTD. GTD cannot guarantee any rules, regulations 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 traveler 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 cover the group leaders and their respective organizations.

For more information contact:

Ruth Caldwell or Uwe Rudolf, Luther College, 700 College Drive, Decorah, IA 52101
- (563) 382-8584, email: caldweru@luther.edu or rudufuw@luther.edu
or
Group Travel Directors, 2000 West 98th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55431-2393, tel: (952) 881-7811 or (800) 747-2255, fax: (952) 881-6276, email: groups@gtd.org, www.gtd.org
Group #161003

CONTACTS

To plan a trip to any of our destinations, contact Group Travel Directors (GTD) at:
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**Tour of Dante’s Italy 2016**

Luther College Alumni and Friends Tour
Hosted by Ruth Caldwell and Uwe Rudolf

Monday, October 17–Saturday, October 29, 2016

We invite you to join us for a look at Italy through Dante Alighieri’s eyes. We begin in Ravenna, where Dante spent his last days, then go to Assisi and ponder Dante’s relation to the Franciscans and their time in Dante’s beloved Florence, with side trips to places mentioned in Dante’s Divine Comedy. Our goal is to give you an insight into Dante’s life and work, whether this is a quick introduction or your opportunity to have a deeper experience. At the same time we hope you will learn some unusual aspects of Italy’s literature and culture.

We are emeriti Luther professors, who have traveled to Italy often, including every year since 2008. Ruth, professor emerita of French and Italian, taught in Florence for the Associated Colleges of the Midwest in spring 2012 and fall 2014, while Uwe guided our many visitors in Florence and throughout Italy. Uwe, professor emeritus of accounting and international management, has led 12 January Term courses in Europe and Asia including several January Term courses in Italy, led by both Ruth and Uwe.

**DANTE ALIGHIERI**

Dante Alighieri (1265–1321) was born in Florence to a notable family of modest means. He was drawn to poetry and philosophy early on and, as with most Florentines of his time, was embroiled in the complex Guelf-Ghibelline conflict between supporters of the Pope and supporters of the empire. Eventually, Dante’s political leanings resulted in his exile from Florence. Exile gave him the opportunity to create the Divine Comedy, his best-known work. This epic poem is a philosophical Christian vision of the universe, composed of Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven. It is one of the world’s greatest works of literature and is constantly quoted today (see [http://research.bowdoin.edu/dante/dante.html](http://research.bowdoin.edu/dante/dante.html)).

**DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY**

**MON 17 OCT** Depart Minneapolis/St. Paul
Depart Minneapolis/St. Paul for the overnight flight to Florence. (Meals in-flight)

**TUE 18 OCT** Arrive Bologna/Ravenna
Connect in Europe with the continuing flight to Bologna where a private coach is waiting. Transfer to Ravenna where Dante spent his last days and is buried. Following hotel check-in and time to settle in, refresh, gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel. (Meals in-flight, D)

**WED 19 OCT** Depart Ravenna/Assisi
This morning’s walking tour of Ravenna will follow a local guide. Visit the Dante Museum and his tomb. Dante died in Ravenna in 1321, and in the 16th century the Florence literati were given papal permission to move his body to Florence. Monks in Ravenna spirited the body away, where it remained hidden until 1685 and Dante eventually was given his final resting place. Ravenna is also noted for its fabulously early Christian and Byzantine mosaics. Stops on the Mosaic Trail include Basilica di San Vitale, Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, Battistero Neoniano, and Basilica di Sant’Apollinare Nuovo. This afternoon, transfer to Assisi for check-in and dinner at the hotel. Evening discussion. (B, D)

**THU 20 OCT** Depart Assisi
St. Francis pre-dated Dante by about a century and he appears in the 11th canto of Purgatorio. While touring Assisi with a local guide visit the Basilica of St. Francis (upper and lower), where St. Francis is buried with frescoes by Giotto depicting the life of the saint. This afternoon, continue touring and consider Franciscan influences on Dante. Dinner will be uno polentola, polenta served in a communal way, spread out on uno splastino, a long wooden board. A truly cultural experience and a great way to share comfort food in the country. (B, D)

**FRI 21 OCT** Assisi/Siena/Florance
Transfer to Siena, which was at its peak of grandeur (and rivalry with Florence) during Dante’s lifetime. Meet a local guide for touring the maze of streets that surround the fan-shaped Piazza del Campo. See the Duomo, Palazzo Pubblico with its Torre del Mangia, St. Francis Church, Fortezza Medicea, Palazzo Salimbeni, Palazzo Tolomei, and Piccolomini Library. Depart for Florence with a brief stop at Montefiorini, which is mentioned in the Divine Comedy. Arrive in Florence for hotel check-in and a seven-night stay. Gather for a welcome dinner to Florence at a restaurant within walking distance of the hotel. (B, D)

**SAT 22 OCT** Florence
Transfer to Pisa and visit its Campo dei Miracoli (Field of Miracles), where the Cathedral, Baptistery, Camposanto, and iconic Leaning Tower form one of the most outstanding religious complexes. View the place where Pisa’s Count Ugolino is featured in one of the greatest scenes of the Inferno. Then to the town of Lucca, one of Italy’s finest medieval treasures, and home of Giacomo Puccini. The ramparts extend all the way round the old town. See the churches, palaces, squares, and streets that give the town a charming air. Return to Florence for an evening discussion. Dinner on your own. (B)

**SUN 23 OCT** Florence
In the morning, journey to San Gimignano. Rising up from the Val d’Elsa, this village is surrounded by gently rolling terraced land. This UNESCO heritage site has all the charm of a small medieval town, built mainly of brick and has been famously well preserved. On May 8, 1300, San Gimignano hosted Dante Alighieri in his role of ambassador for the Guelf League in Tuscany—the main hall in the Palazzo Comunale is known as the Sala di Dante. Continue to Castello Cicciomaggio for a cellar tour and wine tasting followed by a Tuscan lunch. Return to Florence for dinner on your own followed by an evening discussion. (B, L)

**TUE 25 OCT** Florence
Today is museum day with guided tours to the famous art museums. Join Friends and Alumni of Luther College in 2016

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