

Shore Excursions for
Istanbul, Turkey for Aug 18 – Aug 20

Discover Cappadocia

Tour Code: GS IST 01

Duration: 3 Days, 2 Nights

Price: C \$1000 per person, based on double occupancy

Add night in Istanbul with included tours for C\$500 per person

Add night in Istanbul for C\$175 per person



Aug 18

Upon arrival at Ataturk Airport in Istanbul you will meet your guide and take a short domestic flight to Kayseri, the largest city in the region. We will then make our way to **Cappadocia** – an area in central Turkey known for fascinating vertical rock formations that were created by volcanic activity, wind and water erosion. You will be escorted to your hotel for dinner and an overnight stay in Cappadocia.

Aug 19

After a delicious breakfast at your hotel, you will start your sightseeing tour. Over the centuries, Cappadocia has been occupied by various civilizations the including Hittites, Greeks, Romans and Turks, who lived in houses carved out of the rock formations. Today, you will explore **Kaymakli Underground City**, a subterranean settlement composed of troglodytic cave dwellings, where early Christians lived to protect themselves from invaders. The day continues with a visit to the Monastic Centre of **Goreme**, founded by St. Basil during the 4th century. Today, the centre functions as an open-air museum complete with well preserved rock-hewn churches decorated with Byzantine frescoes. The day continues with a visit to **Ortahisar** and the **Three Beauties**, conic rock formations steeped in local legend.

The women of Cappadocia are known for their talent in handicrafts and have been weaving the finest rugs of Turkish folk arts in the region for many centuries. In the afternoon, we will visit Kalci Weaving centre where the Cinar Family will talk about handmade Turkish rugs. The Cinar Family won the Best Rug of America award in 2007 and 2008. They are also the weavers of the largest silk rug in the world. Later in the afternoon you will be transferred to your hotel for some rest before dinner.

Aug 20

After breakfast, we will spend the morning exploring more of Cappadocia and the Pasabag Valley. Your next stop is the workshop of **Mr. Galip**, a highly respected pottery artist. Here you can listen to him speak about the history of his craft in Turkey. In the afternoon, you will be transferred to Kayseri Airport for a short return flight to Istanbul. Arriving in Istanbul, you will be transferred to your hotel.

Constantinople – Istanbul, Turkey

Tour Code: GS IST 06

Duration: 3 Days, 2 Nights

Price: C \$875 per person, based on double occupancy



Aug 19

Your adventure begins in Constantinople, one of the world's most beautiful and historically important cities. Upon your arrival at Istanbul airport you will board a luxury vehicle and start your expedition through this fascinating city where continents collide. Founded in 13th century BC, Istanbul was influenced by the Greeks, Romans and the Ottoman Turks, all of whom left traces of their culture and architecture throughout the city. As you drive into the Old City you will have an impressive view of the Roman Walls built by Emperor Theodosios before carrying on to your hotel for check-in.

In the evening we will dine at Hacibaba Restaurant, known for its excellent Turkish cuisine.

Aug 20

After breakfast, we will drive into the Old City to tour the **Blue Mosque** - one of the most famed masterpieces of Ottoman religious architecture.

After the Blue Mosque, our next visit will be to the **Basilica of Saint Sophia**, which dates back to the 6th century. Built by Justinian the Great, Saint Sophia is an excellent example of Byzantine Architecture.

Next we head underground to the **Basilica Cistern**, the largest of hundreds of ancient cisterns built beneath Istanbul. The city above is supported by the cistern's 336 marble columns, each 9 feet high. This structure was constructed as a precaution to provide drinking water for the people of Constantinople during long sieges.

Lunch will be at **Green House Restaurant**, which was once a winter mansion. After lunch, there is an opportunity to go next door to visit the Medrese (school) and the peaceful gardens.

Next we visit the **Istanbul Archaeological Museum**. Founded in the 19th century by the Ottomans, the museum has a wide collection from a variety of periods and cultures.

At the end of your day of art and archeology, you will be escorted back to your hotel for relaxation before a night out on the Bosphorus.

Early in the evening, your guide will drive you to the pier where you will board a private boat for a cruise along the waters of the **Bosphorus**, which runs between Asia and Europe. While sipping wine and chatting, you can take in the enchanting scenery of the shoreline as it rolls by: historical mansions and palaces and the skyline of Istanbul strikingly adorned with domes and minarets. Docking at the **Angel Blue Restaurant**, we will be treated to the succulent seafood for which Istanbul is famed. Our host, Dr. Yilmaz Arguden, Chairman of the Canadian-Turkish Business Council, will welcome us with typical Turkish hospitality. After the welcome dinner, you will be escorted back to your hotel for a restful night's accommodation.

Aug 21

The day begins with a drive through the ancient Roman Walls that lead to the Old City. The ride takes you along the shores of Golden Horn, the bay that divides the European part of Istanbul in two. In the Faith district, you will visit the **Church of St. Saviour in Chora**, renowned for its gold gilded mosaics dating back to the early Renaissance. Built as early as the 4th century, it was known to hold the famous icon of the Virgin Mary, believed to have been painted by Luke the Apostle. The church displays some of the world's great examples of Byzantine iconography rivalling even the works of the great Italian artist, Giotto, whose mosaics adorn the Basilica of St. Mark in Ravenna.

Leaving the Church in Chora, you will visit the **Rustem Pasha Mosque**, which dates back to the 16th century. While Europe was bringing up the Da Vincis, Botticellis and other artists during the Renaissance, the Ottoman Empire's anonymous artists were crafting masterpieces of rug weaving and tile. Rustem Pasha Mosque is the best example of mural ceramic ware created by Ottoman artisans during the 16th century. Your host on the tour will be the Imam of this gorgeous edifice.

A series of alleys near the mosque lead to a remarkable **Spice Market**, where bustling crowds of locals search for bargains among the dazzling displays of spices and other wares from all over the world.

We will stop for lunch at **Hamdi Restaurant** near the Spice Market, which offers gorgeous views of the Golden Horn and the famed Galata Bridge. Hamdi, an Istanbul mecca for Turkish cuisine, is known for its kebabs and desserts. Nearby, you will see locals shopping for their own home-prepared delicacies at fresh cheese and pickle stores.

In the afternoon, we will explore the **Grand Bazaar** and **Nuru Osmaniye District**, which has been a centre of commerce for many centuries. Genoese and Venetian merchants once stored their goods in the stone-built warehouse, which now houses reputable department stores. You can hunt for bargains among the handcrafted souvenirs, from jewelry to rugs.

Later in the afternoon you will be escorted back to the cruise ship having experienced a breathtaking taste of Istanbul's culture and history.

Constantinople – Istanbul, Turkey

Tour Code: GS IST 02

Duration: 2 Days, 1 Night

Price: C \$500 per person, based on double occupancy

Add extra night with included tours for C\$375 per person



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Tour of Blue Mosque – First day of Ramadan

Tour Code: GS IST 03

Duration: 3:45 am – 8:00 am on August 22nd

Price: C \$99 per person



August 22

Today is the first day of Ramadan. Throughout the month-long observance, Muslims fast daily from dawn until dusk. On this very special day, guests of The Globe and Mail will receive a rare private tour of the fabled Blue Mosque conducted by the Imam and hosted by Globe and Mail Foreign Correspondents Doug Saunders and Elizabeth Renzetti.

In this magnificent shrine adorned with 21,000 superb blue-green Iznik tiles, you'll hear the Muezzin's voice as he announces to the Muslim faithful that the day's fasting has begun. It's a ritual repeated in mosques throughout this ultra-textured city of 12.6 million inhabitants. Leaving the Blue Mosque, you will enjoy a delicious breakfast at a terrace restaurant, and take in the sights and sounds of Istanbul as it comes to life.

Two Palaces Tour – Topkapi and Dolmabahçe

Tour Code: GS IST 04

Duration: 7 am – 5:15pm on August 22nd

Price: C \$249 per person



August 22

Your breakfast on board will be hosted by **Professor Ilber Ortayli, President of the Topkapi Palace Museum**, who will share a lively, informative lecture on the history and culture of the Ottoman Empire, Topkapi Palace and Istanbul. Then, Globe journalists Doug Saunders and Elizabeth Renzetti will host a visit to Dolmabahçe Palace, the last residence of Kamil Atatürk, founder of the Republic of Turkey, which is often considered the Turkish Versailles. Turks take justifiable pride in this lavish, some say ostentatious, building constructed in the mid 1900s by a high official of the Ottoman Court. It is definitely meant to impress.

The palace's façade is a half kilometre long and its vast interior contains 285 rooms, 42 ballrooms and six Turkish baths. As you'll discover, the rooms project European-style opulence, including Baccarat and Czech Bohemian crystal and Hereke rugs. The reception hall in the Selamlık, the portion of the palace reserved for men, houses a crystal chandelier weighing four and a half tons and lit by 750 bulbs. You'll visit the Harem, where concubines, assorted favourites and wives and the children of the Sultan lived during the final 70 years of the Empire, which ended in 1923. Afterward, relax in comfort over lunch at the Green House Restaurant, which features a splendid courtyard and is known throughout the city for its delicious appetizers.

The next stop on your exclusive tour as a guest of The Globe and Mail is Topkapi Palace. The primary residence of the Ottoman Sultans from 1463 to 1853 and administrative nerve centre of the Empire, the palace at one time was home to 4,000 people. Opened as a museum in 1924, Topkapi is an exceptional destination for visitors, with its Imperial thrones, eye-popping displays of emeralds, diamonds and exquisite enameled objects, furnishings and court costumes. Exclusively for Globe and Mail guests, museum staff will take a number of priceless pieces from the vault for closer viewing. They'll also unlock the doors to the vast

Harem Quarters for an up close look at the fountains and hallways.

In the afternoon, The Globe and Mail's Doug Saunders and Elizabeth Renzetti will again be your hosts as you stroll through the covered Grand Bazaar and Nuru Osmaniye District where Genoese and Venetian merchants once traded. Haggle over silver objects, carpets, leather goods and ceramics in the bustling, enormous Grand Bazaar.

Leaving the Grand Bazaar, you will be transferred to the ship.

Turkish Culinary Tour with Lynn Crawford

Tour Code: GS IST 05

Duration: 8:30am – 1:30pm

Price: C\$399 per person



August 22

After enjoying breakfast on board, you'll meet Chef Vedat Basaran. One of Istanbul's top culinary talents, Basaran is chef and manager of Feriye Lokantasi Restaurant. He'll join celebrity chef and host Lynn Crawford in accompanying our group to the city's famous Spice Market, which dates from the 17th century. You will see, smell and sample some of the thousands of spices on offer from all over the world. A favourite destination for Istanbul residents and visitors, the market is home to a wonderful candy shop where you can taste mouth-watering Turkish Delight. After the market visit, chef Basaran will host us for a lunch of Ottoman-Turkish cuisine at his **Feriye Lokantasi Restaurant**, located in one of the loveliest spots of the Bosphorus strait. The building that now houses the restaurant was a prison in the 19th century and offers views of the city's skyline. Chef Basaran once prepared the elaborate dinner served to leaders attending the 2004 NATO meeting held in Istanbul. He'll offer tips on Turkish cuisine as well as a cooking lesson before you sit down for a typical Turkish meal.

After your meal, you'll return to the ship.

Shore Excursions for

Kusadasi, Turkey on August 24th

Tour of Ephesus and Private Concert

Tour Code: GS-KUS 01

Duration: 5:30pm – 9:00pm

Price: Complimentary



Today's tour takes you to the ancient city of Ephesus, founded by the Greeks in the 11th century and once a commercial centre of the ancient world. One of the country's great outdoor museums, it was dedicated to the goddess Artemis and there is a temple built in her honour that dates from the 3rd century BC. Capital of the Roman province of Asia Minor in Roman times, the ruins at Ephesus are in an excellent state of preservation.

Under blue skies, you'll stroll along the **Marble Road** that runs through the city, past the ruins of the handsome **Temple of Hadrian** and **Library of Celsus**. Four Corinthian columns supporting a curved arch make up the facade of the temple that was built to pay homage to the

Emperor Hadrian. So fond was the Emperor as a young man of Greek literature that he was known as the “Little Greek” by fellow aristocrats.

Your Globe and Mail tour will also take you to the ruins of the **Terrace Houses**, the ancient and luxurious residential part of Ephesus and to the **Great Theatre**. In this open air theatre, the Apostle Paul, who spent several years in Ephesus, preached against pagan practices, causing the so-called riot of the silversmiths.

In the early evening, Globe and Mail guests are invited to attend a very special private concert in this beautiful structure.

Shore Excursions for **Heraklion, Crete on August 25th**

Cretan Culinary Tour with Lynn Crawford and Lucy Waverman
Tour Code: GS HER 01
Duration: 11:30 am – 5:00pm
Price: C \$199 per person



A day of traditional Cretan food awaits you on this excursion through Greece’s largest island—scattered with white houses alongside the stunning beaches, Crete is home to historic sites such as the Palace of Knossos and other Minoan ruins.

On this excursion you’ll visit the traditional Cretan restaurant Kounies, where you’ll take part in a cooking demonstration and assist the chef in preparing a traditional Cretan meal – which includes *dolmades*, veal stew, moussaka and other local favourites. You’ll enjoy the various dishes you helped to prepare with some fine wines before you board the coach and depart for the Boutari Winery, located outside the village of Skalani, near the Palace of Knossos. At the winery, we will visit the cellar, sample its wines and be treated to appetizers while enjoying a seminar on the history of winemaking in Crete.

Shore Excursions for **Valletta, Malta on August 27th**

Book Club and Lunch ashore with Ian Brown
Tour Code: GS VLT 01
Duration: 11:30 am – 3:30 pm
Price: C \$149 per person



Heat, by Bill Buford, isn’t just one of the best books ever written about cooking and food; it’s an important historical addition to the genre of food writing. Its author, Bill Buford, the founding editor of *Granta* as well as the former fiction editor of *The New Yorker*, understands that while food and cooking are a domestic art form, they are also a way of life – an avocation, as well as a vocation, and a way of telling stories. Buford demystifies everything from working life at Babbo, one of Manhattan’s top restaurants (you just don’t know what goes into a pasta pot!), to the life of one of the world’s top chefs (Mario Batali); he then further unwraps the

culture of food and cooking by travelling as a participant to nearby Italy, where he learns to butcher and make pasta.

Anyone who likes to cook, or eat, who has experienced the timeless tradition of preparing food for the pleasure of others, will want to read this book, and then discuss it – which, for this special version of our book club with Ian Brown, we will do on land, in one of Malta's top restaurants, with a menu especially designed to highlight some of the region's specialties – including Maltese antipasto, oven-baked swordfish and pan-fried rabbit. Our formal panel of readers is headed by award-winning Globe writer Ian Brown, who also hosted CBC's *Talking Books* show for years, and includes two of the Globe's most entertaining arts columnists, Elizabeth Renzetti and Johanna Schneller. But the conversation isn't limited to them: Everyone in the audience is encouraged to take part as well, in the form of questions and commentary. Read, eat, talk – what could be better?

Shore Excursions for **Taormina, Sicily on August 28th**

Culinary Tour hosted by Lynn Crawford
Tour Code: GS NAX 01
Duration: 9:00am – 3:45pm
Price: C \$249 per person



Experience real Sicilian cuisine in the kitchen of one of Sicily's top food experts. Known for its rocky beaches and black sand, Taormina is surrounded by the green countryside amidst the slopes of Mt. Etna. Here we will visit the home of Eleonora Consoli, who will assist you in preparing an authentic Sicilian meal in her kitchen. Her lessons will encompass the culture, traditions, habits and customs which are so inextricably tied to the region's cuisine. The dishes will focus on rustic recipes that incorporate the rich fruits and vegetables of the area, among the tastiest in the world due to the rich and fertile soil created by the climate and nearby Mount Etna. The area is known for producing some of the world's most famed orange and lemon groves; red, rosé and white wines, and pistachio and olive groves that yield an excellent, pure olive oil.

Tour of Mt. Etna and two wineries on the volcano with Beppi Crosariol
Tour Code: GS NAX 02
Duration: 9:30 am – 3:45 pm
Price: C \$329 per person



Get set for the unconventional wine tour of your life. Beppi Crosariol will lead an intrepid group on a bus trek up the slopes of Mount Etna, Europe's largest active volcano. Almost three times the size of Vesuvius and constantly billowing smoke, the 1,200-square-kilometre expanse of Etna dominates the skyline of eastern Sicily. It's also home to several dozen ground-breaking wineries, which are taking advantage of the lava-rich soil and cool mountain breezes to produce some of Italy's most invigorating and innovative wines. Just up from the base of the 3,000-metre-high volcano, we'll visit an esteemed local winery and sample a variety of wines made from indigenous Sicilian grape varieties. Further up, at the 750-metre level, we'll visit Cottanera, a relatively new estate, located on one of the many ridges of the volcano and its several active craters. Don't worry: The last time molten lava reached

Cottanera's property was in 1985 (though the flaming rock also came pretty close in the eruption of 2001). After our tasting at Cottanera, which makes an array of modern-styled, premium wines, our hosts at the winery will treat us to something tourists rarely get -- a home-cooked Sicilian meal served family-style in Cottanera's tasting room. Bring a sweater because of the refreshing mountain temperatures, and bring an appetite.

Shore Excursions for

Sorrento, Italy on Saturday August 29th

Farm to Fork: Buffalo Mozzarella Farm and Celebrity Chef lunch

Tour Code: GS SOR 01

Duration: 7:30am – 4:00pm

Price: C \$279 per person



From Sorrento, you will embark on a tour to a farm where one of the world's favourite cheeses, "Buffalo Mozzarella," is produced. Take part in the cheese making process, sample the Mozzarella, and afterwards, indulge in a delicious lunch hosted by celebrity chefs Lynn Crawford, Massimo Capra and Globe food columnist Lucy Waverman.

At 4 pm, you'll return to Sorrento to board your ship.

Pompeii Tour and Excavation

Tour Code: GS SOR 02

Duration: 8:30am – 2:00pm

Price: C\$299 per person



Pompeii is an unforgettable complex of world-famous ruins. The town's violent end in 79 AD was caused by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Globe and Mail guests will assemble at 8:30 a.m. at the port of Sorrento and be driven to the site along the rapturously beautiful Sorrento coastline, past the Bay of Naples.

At Pompeii, considered the world's foremost example of an excavated ancient Roman town, you'll be met by an archaeologist who will serve as your private guide, along with Globe and Mail architecture critic Lisa Rochon. Several of Pompeii's most important houses will be opened exclusively for Globe and Mail guests, including "Casa del Menandro" and "Casa degli amorini dorati," which are normally closed to visitors. You'll be taken through the streets to see the wonderfully preserved ruins, among them the famous Antiquarium, the Amphitheatre, the Basilica and the Forum. Enjoy the stunning mosaics in the Patrician Villas, and feel the atmosphere that only this place can provide.

Walking down the old Roman high streets, you can peek into the shops, and read the graffiti on the walls. Wander along the back streets to explore the homes of the inhabitants. You'll even have the chance to participate in a dig with resident archaeologists.

At 1 p.m., after a morning of touring at Pompeii, you'll enjoy a typical trattoria lunch before being transported back to the ship on mini-buses.

Wine Tour of the Campania regions with Beppi Crosariol

Tour Code: GS SOR 03

Duration: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Price: C \$349 per person



Campania, the mountainous region that lies beyond Sorrento, has variously been called the “new Umbria” and the “new Tuscany” because of its beautiful scenery and undiscovered cuisine. The region, esteemed by Italians for such culinary delicacies as Buffalo mozzarella, also embodies the past and future of Italian winemaking better than any other. Ancient grape varieties such as aglianico and greco (the latter literally imported by the Greeks more than 2,000 years ago) thrive here. Yet this is where modern equipment and techniques are yielding some of the trendiest wines anywhere, with such names as Taurasi, Fiano di Avellino and Greco di Tufo. Today we’ll journey up into the hills above Sorrento and visit the region’s two most influential premium producers, the ultra-modern I Feudi di San Gregorio, where we’ll enjoy a lunch of mesmerizing food-and-wine pairings, and 130-year-old Mastroberardino, which makes a red Taurasi Riserva considered by some critics to be the finest wine of southern Italy. This is a rare opportunity to taste cutting-edge wines that the world’s critics are just starting to discover.

Shore Excursions for
Livorno, Italy on August 30th & 31st

Tuscan Cooking School – Villa Delia with Lynn Crawford and Massimo

Capra

Tour Code: GS LIV 01

Duration: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (available August 30th & 31st)

Price: C \$449 per couple (1 cooking) C \$299 single



Known for its extraordinary countryside, mountain paths, rolling hills and coastline, Tuscany is home to thousands of narrow roads that lead to colourful outdoor food markets and restaurants. Within the countryside lies the famed Tuscany Cooking School, run by world-renowned chef Umberto Menghi, in Villa Delia – a restored 16th-century villa in the heart of rural Tuscany, which is nestled among 56 acres of olive groves, gardens, vineyards and a forest just south of Pisa.

As one person enjoys the cooking lesson of a lifetime with Chef Menghi, who will lead you in preparing an authentic Tuscan meal made with fresh, local ingredients, the other will enjoy the lavish amenities of Villa Delia including a tour of its vineyard. It promises to be an unforgettable day of food and wine.

Private Gallery tour – Uffizi and Galleria dell'Accademia
Tour Code: GS LIV 02
Duration: 7:00am – 6:30pm, August 31st
Price: C \$399 per person



Monday August 31

Your private guide will escort you from the port of Livorno to Florence for one of the most memorable experiences of this fabulous trip: a private viewing of the Academia and Uffizi galleries. Your hosts, John Stackhouse, editor-in-chief of The Globe and Mail and The Globe's award-winning architecture critic Lisa Rochon, will be joined by Michelangelo expert Alessandra Marchetti. Marchetti is fortunate to live in one of the houses where the great artist resided during his lifetime.

At the Uffizi, which was built in the 1500s, the group will be welcomed by the museum's director and escorted through one of the world's great art collections. The Uffizi gallery, which is closed to other visitors during the time of your visit, is home to masterpieces by the likes of Giotto, Simone Martini, Piero della Francesca, Fra Angelico, Filippo Lippi, Botticelli, Mantegna, Correggio, Leonardo, Raphael, Michelangelo, Caravaggio as well as German, Dutch and Flemish masters such as Durer, Rembrandt and Rubens.

Following our visit to the Uffizi, we will visit the nearby Academia Gallery, which contains, among other treasures, the famous statue of Michelangelo's *David*. The Academia has housed *David* since 1873. You will also find Michelangelo's *Captives*, meant for the tomb of Pope Julius II, and Gianbologna's original plaster for the *Rape of the Sabine Women*, as well as outstanding 15th- and 16th-century Florentine paintings.

Entering through a private entrance, you'll be greeted by your host, **Contessa Simonetta Brandolini d'Adda**, president and founder of Friends of Florence, a non-profit organization promoting restoration of works of art in the city. Pietro Leopoldo, Grand Duke of Tuscany, decreed in 1784 that all the schools of drawing in Florence were to be brought together under one roof, under the direction of the Academia and that it was to contain a gallery of paintings by old masters to help the studies of young artists. The Grand Duke also decided to include among the arts that were protected a conservatory of music (the Cherubini Conservatory) and, more extraordinarily, a school of art restoration (the Opificio delle Pietre Dure), both of which you'll see on this tour.

After a late lunch, you will have free time to explore Florence on your own before we return to Livorno at 6:00 p.m.

Central Tuscany Wine Tour: Visit to the abbey of Passignano, Michelin-star lunch and shopping excursion to Prada outlet with Beppi Crosariol



Tour Code: GS LIV 03

Duration: 9:30am – 7:00 pm on August 30th

Price: C \$379 per person

One of the most visually striking wine estates in the world, Badia a Passignano, just south of Florence, is the central property of the famed Antinori wine dynasty, which has been in business since the 1300s. “Badia” literally means abbey or monastery, and this beautiful 8th-century building, which resembles a castle, is still home to several monks, who grow vegetables in an adjacent garden among the vines. We’ll sample a selection of Antinori wines and tour the spectacular abbey, where Galileo once taught and which sits on a hill overlooking two of the most famous vineyards in Italy, Solaia, responsible for a rare \$250-a-bottle cabernet; and Tignanello, an \$80 sangiovese that may be Italy's most famous wine.

Then, on the same property, we’ll be treated to a rare, private lunch at Osteria di Passignano, a Michelin-star restaurant headed by rising young Italian chef Matia Barciulli. The restaurant is always closed on Sundays but it will open exclusively on this day for Beppi Crosariol and the Mediterranean Odyssey group. The food and the wine will be memorable.

After the lunch, we’ll re-board the bus and head south to the town of Montevarchi, which looms large in the world of fashion. This is home to, among other stores, the renowned Prada Space outlet, one of the world’s discount-shopping meccas.

Bolgheri and the Tuscan coast: Visit to Ornellaia and Michele Satta wineries, lunch in Bolgheri with Beppi Crosariol



Tour Code: GS LIV 04

Duration: 9:30am – 6:00pm on August 31st

Price: C \$379 per person

Discover hidden Tuscany and the grape-growing region that sparked a frenzy among collectors. Once a sleepy retreat for aristocrats and their racehorses, the gently rolling hills of Bolgheri on the Tyrrhenean coast south of Livorno are now bursting with vines. This is the birthplace of so-called Supertuscans, wines made mainly with French grapes but that speak with an Italian accent. We’ll visit two of the region’s leading estates, Tenuta dell’ Ornellaia and Michele Satta, and sample some of Italy’s most coveted wines amid the picturesque, cyprus-strewn landscape.

Featured prominently in the 2004 documentary film *Mondovino*, the estate of Ornellaia is best-known for its eponymous, \$160 flagship red. At Michele Satta, among other things we’ll taste Piastraia, a modern red blend that Beppi Crosariol considers among the best “little” \$40 wines in the world. Satta also produces one of Italy’s most highly regarded white wines, based on the local vermentino grape. The quality of the special wines we’ll taste should reveal why some of Italy’s other best producers, including Angelo Gaja of Piedmont and Piero Antinori of Florence, have recently moved into the area.

Between winery visits, we’ll stop for lunch at a top-ranked enoteca in the town of Bolgheri.

Architecture Tour of Florence with Lisa Rochon

Tour Code: GS LIV 05

Duration: 10:00am – 6:00pm on August 30th

Price: C \$249 per person



Florence is home to some of the most important, and best preserved, Renaissance architecture in the world. While the teeming museums house famous and spectacular works of art, a carefully chosen walk around the city can reveal some of the most interesting Renaissance architecture in Italy. With the Globe's architecture critic Lisa Rochon as your host, our tour begins at the San Miniato al Monte (St. Minias on the Mountain) a basilica standing atop one of the highest points in the city. It has been described as the finest Romanesque structure in Tuscany and one of the most beautiful churches in Italy. From the basilica, you will have a spectacular view of the Renaissance city. Winding down through gardens and the quiet of a residential we arrive at the legendary Ponte Vecchio, the Medieval bridge that spans the Arno River. It is among Europe's oldest wholly-stone, closed-spandrel segmental arch bridges. Nearby, where the road from the Palazzo Pitti (a vast Renaissance palace) reaches down to the Ponte Vecchio, is the Church of Santa Felicità. Set in a small square, the church dates from the 18th century, although the first structure on the site was probably built in the late 4th century.

You can peruse local jewelry shops as you walk along the Ponte Vecchio to the Oltrarno ("the other side of the Arno"). On the other side we will pass by the famous Duomo Cathedral, and traverse Piazza San Maria to the Church of San Lorenzo, which may be the oldest standing church in Florence, as the original architecture dates to circa the 4th century. Built in the cloister of the San Lorenzo basilica is the Biblioteca Medicea-Laurenziana, which is famous as a repository of more than 11,000 manuscripts and 4,500 early printed books. Inside, a staircase designed by Michelangelo floods the entrance vestibule in a highly expressive Mannerist style of architecture. Nearby is Santa Maria Novella. Set on a rebuilt piazza, this church is most famous for the façade on its basilica, with contrasting marble providing geometric counterpoints. Opposite the piazza and under an arcade is a new museum of photography, Alinari Museum, an example of how contemporary culture is being inserted into historic Florence.

Shore Excursions for
Ajaccio, Corsica on Sept 01st

Culinary Tour with Lucy Waverman

Tour Code: GS AJA 01

Duration: 9:00am – 4:15pm

Price: C \$379 per person



Ajaccio is the capital of Corsica, famously known as the birthplace of Napoleon. Today it will be the site of a unique gourmet experience as you take in its spectacular views, sandy beaches and mountain streams while touring some of the city's historic sites.

Your day begins with your guide and chef welcoming you at the harbour. From there, you will make your way to the city's market to select the ingredients for the day's meal. After an hour in the market, you'll be taken to Les Alizes, the restaurant where your chef will give you a step-by-step cooking lesson in traditional Corsican cuisine.

After the meal, we'll walk to the city centre to visit the Cathedral, the Citadel and Napoleon's house before heading back on board to share with your fellow travellers stories from this day of food and history.

Shore Excursions for **Civitavecchia (Rome), Italy on Sept 2nd**

Private After Hours Tour of the Vatican
Tour Code: GS CIV 01
Duration: 5:30pm – 8:30pm
Price: C\$299 per person



A never to be forgotten highlight of your exclusive Globe and Mail tour is this evening's private survey of the world famous Vatican museums complex, including the incomparable Sistine Chapel where you'll be welcomed by a cardinal. An event hosted by The Globe and Mail's Eric Reguly, Christie Blatchford and Lisa Rochon, the evening's activities begin with a simple meal of bread, pasta and wine followed by a brief meeting with your guide.

Upon entering the Vatican museums complex, you'll find yourself gazing at a superlative collection of paintings, sculptures and other works amassed over the centuries, beginning in the 1700s, by various popes. Follow your guide as he takes you through the galleries, among them, the Raphael Rooms, the Collection of Modern and Contemporary Religious Art and the Borgia Apartment, before you reach the Sistine Chapel.

Named after Pope Sixtus IV, the Sistine Chapel is where the Roman Catholic cardinals, those "Princes of the Church" come together to elect a new pontiff. Gaze up at the chapel's extraordinarily beautiful ceiling with Michelangelo's depiction of the Last Judgment (painted between 1508 and 1512), considered a masterpiece of High Renaissance art. Members of the Papal Court once sat on the stone benches that line three sides of the chapel. With its arched windows permitting light to bathe the interior, and glorious profusion of colour, this holy place is sure to remain in your memory.

Tour of Secret Rome hosted by Lisa Rochon
Tour Code: GS CIV 02
Duration: 12 noon – 5:30pm
Price: C\$129 per person



Hosted by The Globe and Mail's award-winning architecture critic, Lisa Rochon, this intriguing three-hour guided tour of "Secret Rome" starts with the ancient Appian way – the ceremonial route of the emperors – which leads to the famous Caracalla Baths, considered by many to be the most important of the ancient Roman sites. Constructed between 212 and 217

AD, during the reign of the Emperor Caracalla, these public baths or *thermae*, now semi-ruins, could once accommodate 1,600 people.

The Caracalla bath complex of buildings was more a leisure centre than just a series of baths. There was also a public library, gymnasiums, gardens, art galleries, restaurants and even brothels. The Baths of Caracalla were known for their rich interior, which featured marble seats, mosaic covered walls and floors as well as fountains and statues. You'll see the *calidarium* (hot bath), the *tepidarium*, a double pool that had lukewarm water, and the *frigidarium* (cold room), and as well as two *palaestras* or gyms where wrestling and boxing were practised.

From the baths, we'll head to the storied ancient hippodrome Circus Maximus, the first and largest stadium in ancient Rome, immortalized through time and also by Charlton Heston in his chariot race around the *Circo Massimo* in *Ben-Hur*. At one point, the Circus had seating for 250,000 people, a quarter of Rome's population. The Circus Maximus was used for horse and chariot races and for staging mass spectacles.

Next we travel west to the Basilica di San Clemente. This ancient church was transformed over the centuries from a private home that was the site of clandestine Christian worship in the first century to a grand public basilica by the sixth century, reflecting the emerging Catholic Church's growing legitimacy and power. The church has a beautiful interior, but it is especially notable for its three historical layers. The basilica is built on top of a well-preserved fourth-century church (with many frescoes), which was built next to a third-century Mithraic Temple.

Finally, we will visit the Church of Santa Maria della Vittoria, a much smaller basilica. The church is the only structure designed and completed by the early Baroque architect Carlo Maderno, though the interior suffered a fire in 1833 and required restoration. Gazing upon the church's masterpiece, Ecstasy of Saint Teresa, can provoke intense reactions. The statues depict a moment described by Saint Teresa of Avila in her autobiography, where she had the vivid vision of an angel piercing her heart with a golden shaft, causing her both immense joy and pain. The flowing robes and contorted posture abandon classical restraint and repose to depict a more passionate, almost voluptuous trance. Please note: Guests are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes for this tour, which involves moderate walking with long periods of standing.

Wine Seminar at the International Wine Academy with Ian D'Agata & Beppi Crosariol
Tour Code: GS CIV 03
Duration: 8:30am – 4:00pm
Price: C \$399 per person



You've never gone to school quite like this. Sip, savour and soak up the wine wisdom of Dr. Ian D'Agata, director of the International Wine Academy in Rome. Located in a palazzo at the base of the famous Spanish Steps, Rome's most cosmopolitan gathering place, the Academy,

was founded in 2002 as a school and club for wine lovers from around the world. Dr. D'Agata, a paediatrician-turned-wine-educator, is author of several volumes on Italian wine and travels extensively as a lecturer. He'll be joined by his friend, The Globe's Beppi Crosariol, for an unforgettable, hedonistic tour through some of the most classic as well as newly trendy wines of Italy, a country that is home to more grape varieties than any other. From Barolo to Zibbibo, from Piedmont to Puglia, this will be a master class that will make you excited about the thought of homework. The only entrance requirements are a thirst for knowledge and wine. After class, there'll be plenty of time for food, shopping and sightseeing. And you won't have to walk far. Leading down from Spanish Steps and out from the Piazza di Spagna is Via dei Condotti, one of the world's renowned fashion boulevards, home to such exquisite boutiques as Gucci, Prada, Armani, Valentino and La Perla (that Mecca for elegant underthings). Or you can scale the picturesque steps to the Church of the Holy Trinity on the Hill and enjoy one of the most beautiful views in the Eternal City.