



National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

ITALIAN SKIES

A CULTURAL, CULINARY, AND
ASTRONOMICAL ADVENTURE

September 6–15, 2024



In the company of Dr. Richard Binzel, enjoy a fascinating exploration of Galileo's pivotal role in launching the field of astronomy and visit observatories only open by special invitation. During this journey, also enjoy the best of Italy's cultural and culinary highlights. Begin this carefully crafted itinerary in the bustling capital city of Rome, visiting the Specola Vaticana, one of the oldest astronomical institutions in the world. Continue to the treasures of Florence, including a private visit to Il Gioiello, where Galileo spent the last years of his life. After a day in Pisa appreciating Galileo's experiments there, conclude the journey experiencing Padua's cultural and scientific attractions, including a special private visit of the largest operating astronomical observatory of Italy.

Space is limited to just 30 participants on this fascinating program, so reserve your place today by calling our office at **(888) 484-8785**.

The **NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION** is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. For more information, visit the Trust's website at www.savingplaces.org or phone (800) 944-6847 or (202) 588-6000.



Study Leader



Dr. Richard Binzel, Professor of Planetary Science at MIT, started his astronomical career at age 12 when, to his parents' chagrin, he converted the back room of the family garage into his "observatory." He dreamed of someday looking through the world's largest telescopes, a dream that came true as a user of the the Palomar 200-inch, the Magellan telescopes in Chile, the Keck telescopes in Hawaii, and both the Hubble and James Webb Space Telescopes. His telescopic reconnaissance across the solar system from near-Earth asteroids to Pluto, supporting a dozen NASA and international space missions, earned him the NASA Silver Achievement Medal, the second highest honor bestowed to a civilian scientist.

Professor Binzel holds an MIT MacVicar Faculty Fellowship in recognition of outstanding teaching. The history of astronomy, and the endeavors of Galileo, have also held his enduring passion.

Highlights

- ◆ Follow in the footsteps of Galileo visiting important sites of his life in Florence, Pisa, and Padua.
- ◆ Participate in specially arranged private visits to the Arcetri and Asiago astronomical observatories.
- ◆ Enjoy a private visit of La Specola Vaticana, one of the oldest astronomical institutions in the world.
- ◆ Appreciate the scientific discoveries of Rome's Copernican Museum, Florence's Galileo Museum, and Padua's Anatomy Theater.





CASTEL GANDOLFO



SANTA MARIA DEGLI ANGELI



LA SPECOLA VATICANA

Itinerary

Friday-Saturday, September 6-7

USA / ROME

Depart on overnight flights to Rome. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel in the heart of Rome, located on the right bank of the Tiber River.

This afternoon, enjoy an optional walking tour to the Borghese Gallery, housed in a splendid 17th century villa and home to great artistic works of beauty by Titian, Caravaggio, Canova and Bernini. This evening, enjoy a welcome reception and dinner at the hotel.

HOTEL DEI MELLINI (R, D)

Sunday, September 8

ROME

After a welcome lecture by Dr. Richard Binzel and lunch at a local restaurant, head to the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli and discover the Clementine Sundial, the “camera obscura” ordered by Pope Clement IX, which dates back to 1702. Continue on a private after-hours visit to the Angelica Library known for its stunning hall.

HOTEL DEI MELLINI (B, L)

Monday, September 9

ROME

Start the morning with a private tour of La Specola Vaticana, one of the oldest astronomical institutions in the world. Enjoy lunch in Castel Gandolfo at a local restaurant overlooking Lake Albano. This afternoon visit the extraordinary Copernican Museum in the heart of Rome. Learn

about the history and technology of astronomy through a beautiful collection of ancient instruments illustrating the evolution of research in the subject.

HOTEL DEI MELLINI (B, L)

Tuesday, September 10

ROME / FLORENCE

After Dr. Binzel's second lecture, depart Rome by high-speed train to Florence. Explore Florence's historic center by foot. In Piazza della Repubblica, discover the city's beginning, then wander the narrow streets of the medieval town to emerge at the Piazza della Signoria, the political center of the city since the Middle Ages. Visit the Duomo and the Basilica di Santa Croce, where Galileo is buried. Continue to Ponte Vecchio, then enjoy a traditional Florentine dinner at a local restaurant.

GALLERY HOTEL ART (B, D)

Wednesday, September 11

FLORENCE

Begin the day at Galileo Museum and its important collections of scientific instruments. After lunch on your own, enjoy a private visit to Il Gioiello, where Galileo spent the last years of his life. By special arrangement, conclude the day at the Astrophysical Observatory of Arcetri, with a sunset visit to the Sky Theater, a visit to Arcetri library, and an evening stargazing session by historic telescope.

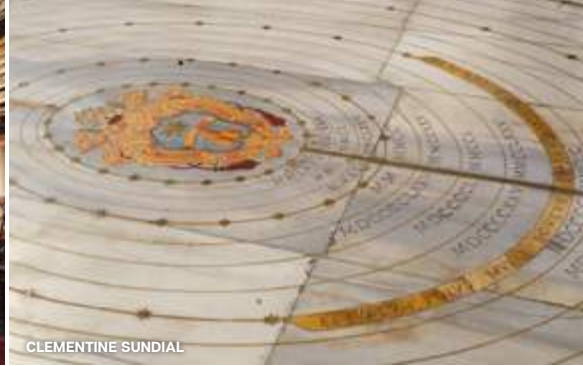
GALLERY HOTEL ART (B, D)



ROME



ANGELICA LIBRARY



CLEMENTINE SUNDIAL



GALILEO MUSEUM



GALILEO'S TOMB



PADUA

Thursday, September 12

FLORENCE / PISA / FLORENCE

After Dr. Binzel's third lecture, head to Pisa where Galileo worked for three years as professor of mathematics. Explore the Campo dei Miracoli complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site consisting of the Duomo, Baptistry, the Camposanto Monumentale and famous leaning Bell Tower, forever linked to Galileo's famous experiment concerning mass and descent. Return to Florence late this afternoon.

GALLERY HOTEL ART (B, L)

Friday, September 13

FLORENCE / PADUA

Take the high-speed train to Padua. Enjoy a walking tour of the city's porticoed streets and splendid piazzas and the Piazza dei Signori's famous Astrological Clock. See Galileo's home, and the Palazzo Bo and its renowned Anatomy Theater. Conclude the day at the Scrovegni Chapel, a masterpiece of Italian painting.

MAJESTIC TOSCANELLI HOTEL (B, D)

Saturday, September 14

PADUA

After Dr. Binzel's last lecture, visit La Specola, the place from which, according to legend, Galileo made his extraordinary astronomical discoveries. This afternoon drive to Asiago for a special private visit of the largest operating astronomical observatory of Italy. After a special farewell dinner in Asiago, return to the observatory for a night sky observation session where we hope to view

the moons of Jupiter (just as Galileo did from this same location!), before returning to Padua late this evening.

MAJESTIC TOSCANELLI HOTEL (B, D)

Sunday, September 15

PADUA / VENICE / HOME

Transfer to the Venice airport for flights home.

(B)



OPTIONAL POST-TOUR EXTENSION

September 15-17

VENICE

On a two-night post-trip extension in Venice, explore the enduringly romantic city, including the Basilica di San Marco, the Sansovinian Library, Doge's Palace, the Dorsoduro university district, a textile workshop, and a specialty boatyard to learn the art and science of constructing gondolas.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND PRICING WILL BE SENT TO CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS.



FLORENCE



PISA

Program Rates (per person)

Double occupancy.....\$7,690

Single occupancy.....\$9,690

For booking or more information, please call our office at (888) 484-8785. A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve a place.

General Information

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including **8 hotel nights, 8 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 5 dinners** - Comprehensive program of briefings, presentations, and discussions - Group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates - **All gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, and drivers for all group activities** - Entrance fees - Welcome wine reception - **House wine and beer at welcome and farewell dinners** - Bottled water on motorcoaches - Comprehensive packet of pre-departure information - Professional tour manager throughout

WHAT TO EXPECT

This is a moderately active program. Participants must be physically fit, active, and in good health, be able to walk unassisted for extended periods (up to three hours) over uneven surfaces such as cobblestones and up and down narrow stairs, sometimes without handrails. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by National Trust Tours, Criterion Travel, local staff, and host country laws.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

GROUP SIZE

This program is limited to a maximum of 30 participants.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare - Passport/visa expenses - Medical expenses, immunizations, and COVID-19 testing if required at the time of travel - Travel and trip cancellation insurance - Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days - Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options - Airline baggage charges - Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted - Laundry or dry cleaning - Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges - Room service - Other items of a personal nature

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

National Trust Tours strongly recommends the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to covered illness or accident. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. USI Travel Insurance Services offers a plan designed specifically for National Trust Tours travelers, providing coverage

for Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Emergency Medical, and more. Plus, you can upgrade your plan with Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR) coverage for the utmost flexibility. CFAR allows you to cancel your trip for ANY reason at all and be reimbursed up to 75% of your pre-paid, non-refundable trip costs (conditions apply, see plan for details). To purchase travel insurance today, call: (800) 937-1387. For additional information, please contact National Trust Tours at (888) 484-8785.

Complete Terms and Conditions including a Statement of Responsibility will be made available at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. If you have questions, or to register using a credit card (preferred method), please call (888) 484-8785 or email info@nationaltrusttours.com. Final payment deadline is June 7, 2024. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer. For those who register after June 7, 2024, full payment is due upon registration.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After final payment deadline on June 7, 2024, all payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. NOTE: Neither the National Trust for Historic Preservation nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accept liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of non-refundable tickets.

ELIGIBILITY

National Trust for Historic Preservation tours are open to members only. Membership dues for 2023/2024 are \$30 for family and \$20 for individual membership. The minimum age limit for the program is 14. Children must pay the full price, and those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. There is no maximum age limit. PLEASE NOTE: Participants must be in excellent health and able to participate in tour activities. Any physical condition that may require special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation. If you have any doubt about your ability to participate fully due to health conditions or disabilities, contact the National Trust at (888) 484-8785 or (202) 588-6300. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and Criterion Travel reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of this tour at any time. In such case, the refund will be limited to the recoverable cost of unused tour services.