MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

CIAO ITALY

2022 YOUNG ALUMNI ADVENTURE

US DEPARTURE DATE: SEPTEMBER 3, 2022 | LAND TOUR START DATE: SEPTEMBER 4, 2022
RETURN DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2022
Dear Young Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow Michigan State University Young Alumni?

The Michigan State Alumni Association young alumni travel program, designed for grads ages 22 – 35, offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed, hassle-free tours of the world.

These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning enrichment and enjoying a connection back to Michigan State. Our journeys are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 45 years of experience in the young travel market.

In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing.

If you have any questions about this tour, please contact our tour operator AESU Alumni World Travel by calling 800-638-7640 or email alumni@aesu.com.

To make an online booking, please visit our young alumni tour landing page www.aesu.com/msu and select this tour to be directed to the tour web site.

We are looking forward to traveling with you this coming season.

Sincerely,

Regina Cross
Director of Alumni Travel
MSU Alumni Office

We highly recommend travel insurance. Your Alumni Association offers travel insurance. Please visit this web site for information or to purchase insurance: https://my.travelinsure.com/spartans
WHAT’S INCLUDED:

9-Day Land Package Transportation and Lodging
• 7 nights in superior tourist class hotels or better, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
• All intra-Europe transportation by air-conditioned motor coach as per itinerary
• Airport transfers included with purchased AESU group airfare

Meals
• 7 continental breakfasts
• 3 three-course specialty dinners

Activities & Admissions
• Guided tours of Florence and Lucca, led by a local historian
  • Market visit in Lucca
  • Cinque Terre hikes
  • Cinque Terre card
  • Leaning Tower of Pisa

• Tuscan Countryside stay
  • Winery tour
  • Wine & olive oil tasting

Optional Excursions (not included in land package price):
• Cinque Terre - Portofino excursion
• Tuscan Countryside - Pasta cooking class
**CIAO ITALY**

**ITINERARY**

**ABOUT THE TRIP:**

Explore Florence, birthplace of the Renaissance and a city packed with extraordinary art and architecture. Then discover the Italian Riviera with its breathtaking coastal scenery and hike along paths through charming fishing villages of Cinque Terre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Finally, dip into the magic of Italy’s Tuscan countryside with its rolling hills of olive groves and vineyards crowned by castles and ancient abbeys. Savor local Chianti wine and home-made pasta, try bread dipped in olive oil, slices of red tomato loaded with fresh mozzarella cheese, basil and sun-cured olives. Enjoy la dolce vita!

**DAY 1 - TRAVEL TO ITALY**

Embark on your overnight flight to Florence.

Meals: In-flight

**DAY 2 - FLORENCE: LAND TOUR START DATE**

Welcome to the 'Art Capital of the World' and home of the famed Italian sculptor, painter, architect and poet, Michelangelo. Enjoy a free afternoon to relax and unwind. In the evening, we’ll have our welcome orientation followed by a Florentine dinner at a neighborhood osteria.

Meals: In-flight, Dinner

**DAY 3 - FLORENCE**

Our local historian describes the Renaissance architecture, art and life under the rule of the Medici dynasty. Marvel at Brunelleschi’s masterpiece—the Duomo. See the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, the Gates of Paradise, Giotto’s Bell Tower and more. Free time this afternoon may find you exploring the Uffizi Galleries to see the works of Giotto, Botticelli, Raphael and da Vinci. Consider visiting the San Lorenzo market with its food stalls, leather and souvenir shops or view the sunlit rooftops of Florence from Piazzale Michelangelo.

Meals: Breakfast

**DAY 4 - FLORENCE - ITALIAN RIVIERA**

We head towards Italy’s picturesque Riviera today. Stop en route to visit the medieval town of Lucca, hidden behind magnificent 16th-century Renaissance walls. Our local guide leads us through cobblestone streets and bustling piazzas along via San Paolino and Piazza San Michele. We end up at the market with time to browse the stalls packed with fresh local produce, household goods and colorful local fashions. Have fun tonight at our tasty pizza party.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
DAY 5 - ITALIAN RIVIERA - CINQUE TERRE REGION

Explore the colorful cliff-side villages of Cinque Terre today, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Take in the picturesque, rugged coastline dotted with terraced vineyards and olive groves. Make your way through this seemingly inaccessible string of fishing villages, nestled between the mountains and the sun-splashed Mediterranean Sea. Start your journey at the oldest town, Manarolo, which is the most popular stretch of the path. It is easy terrain, just about 1 mile long, and can be managed in 30-45 minutes. Take advantage of your included Cinque Terre Rail Card to visit the other villages or use your hiking map to plan the day’s hike according to your activity level.

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 - ITALIAN RIVIERA - CINQUE TERRE REGION

Enjoy a free day today. Complete your hiking route at Cinque Terre to explore more twisting coastal footpaths with breathtaking views, secluded beaches, ancient castles and villas or consider joining us on an optional visit to Portofino, a charming coastal village perched on its own peninsula jutting into the sparkling sea. Stroll around the village to shop at designer boutiques and admire the opulent yachts in the harbor. Our excursion includes a local seafood lunch and a kayak or SUP (stand-up paddle board) rental to explore the hidden coves and beaches in this Marine Protected Area.

Meals: Breakfast

Optional activity: Portofino excursion incl. seafood lunch, kayak or SUP rental

DAY 7 - ITALIAN RIVIERA - PISA - TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE

Leaving the stunning Ligurian coast behind, a scenic journey through Tuscany’s graceful hills brings us to the Chianti wine region. We stop in Pisa to view its famous Leaning Tower, marble baptistery and cathedral. We continue our journey, passing olive groves, stone farmhouses, Renaissance villas and castles. Enjoy free time after check in at our countryside hotel and a rustic Tuscan lunch.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 8 - TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE

Enjoy leisure time today, relax by the pool or stroll along sun-dappled lanes and vineyards. Consider signing up for a fun, hands-on pasta cooking class this morning and learn the secrets of how to make this authentic Italian fare from scratch. This evening, enjoy our wine and olive oil tasting and stroll in the Italian gardens surrounded by rows of ancient cypress trees. During our tasting, learn about the history of the local wines, the way the grapes are processed, how the finished product is stored, and – of course – taste a selection of Chianti Classico wines, accompanied by a selection of local
charcuterie. The historic cellars have been producing wine since 1404 and are still suppliers to the Senate of the Italian Republic. Our farewell Tuscan Feast this evening will be something to remember. Indulge in mouth-watering local specialties, antipasti and wine. Delizioso! Don’t forget to take selfies with your new best friends while planning your next young alumni adventure.

Meals: Breakfast, Snacks, Olive Oil Tasting, Dinner

Optional activity: Pasta cooking class

DAY 9 - TRAVEL HOME

After breakfast this morning, your land tour comes to an end. Wave goodbye to Italy and jet home filled with sunny memories that are sure to last a lifetime!

Meals: Breakfast, In-flight
TOUR DIRECTORS

Your tour includes the services of a professional tour director throughout the land package. We are very proud of our tour directors. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major universities. They are eager to show the world through the eyes of an adventurer. Our tour directors know this is a trip of a lifetime and will share their knowledge as well as interesting little-known facts. Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: 2 (easy to moderate)

This is a single-country, multi-destination trip by motor coach. This tour requires light to moderate physical activity combined with short travel days. Activities include city or nature walking, with stops along the way. Travelers should be able to climb a set of stairs, walk up or down slight slopes, and navigate some uneven terrain or cobblestone. Optional excursions may be offered at a higher activity level. This journey is appropriate for travelers who are physically fit, lead active lives, and are comfortable participating in the itinerary activities, and able to handle their own luggage.

Travel to and from the tour is not factored into the activity level ratings.

HOTELS

Our hotels are superior tourist-class or better, with private bathrooms. They are centrally located and many offer great extra amenities such as pools, gyms or rooftop bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If a single room is desired, a supplement of $625 applies. If traveling solo and not wanting to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If a share cannot be arranged the single supplement will apply.

"NOT ONLY WAS THIS AN AMAZING TRIP, IT WAS A WAKE UP CALL TO SEE THE WORLD."

- past traveler
BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

EXCLUSIONS: These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own.); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested $5 per day for tour director, $2-3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; any vaccinations, pre/post trip testing/screening, airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. Cancellation from time of booking until 120 days prior to departure will result in a $300 cancellation fee. Cancellation between 119-90 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 25% of tour cost; between 89-60 days 35% of tour cost; between 59-30 days 50% of tour cost. Cancellation within 30 days of departure or a “no-show” at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. Processing of cancellation refunds takes approximately 6-8 weeks.

AIRFARES are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSEABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable. Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Travel insurance, including medical health and accident coverage, is compulsory. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS AND BAGGAGE: All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 3:00 p.m on program start date. FLIGHT DELAYS - ALL AIRPORTS: In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Many shuttle services are available as well as taxi or train options. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. If you purchase your own airfare, book your overnight flight from the USA one day earlier than the land tour start date listed on our website. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline’s website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract.

RESPONSIBILITY: The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, epidemic health risk, any force majeure event, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/her herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond the Operator’s control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. TRAVEL INSURANCE is compulsory in the event of tour cancellation for any reason, medical expenses, personal accident, baggage and other personal items, liability and 24-hr emergency assistance. Trip insurance may be offered directly by your Alumni Association. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, the Operator’s liability shall be limited to a refund of land payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. If the change or cancellation is due to force majeure or other similar events beyond Operator’s control, a refund of land payments received from applicants will be made less reasonable expenses incurred by Operator in respect to applicant’s land booking. Baggage and personal injury are at owner’s risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. The Operator reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour, or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our web site at www.aesu.com.
UNIVERSITY DISCLAIMER

Travel Disclaimer

The Michigan State University Alumni Office (the MSU Alumni Office) is not the Tour Operator.

The MSU Alumni Office is not responsible for the changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or motor coach transportation and car rental reservations, delays, losses, injuries, inconveniences, cessation of operations, airline or tour operator bankruptcies, acts of God, or any other event beyond our control. The MSU Alumni Office acts only as an agent for the participants with respect to travel services, and it shall not be responsible for changes to flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or other reservations, injury, damage, loss of baggage, accidents or for the acts or defaults of any person or entity engaged in conveying participants or in carrying out other arrangements of the tour. Further the MSU Alumni Office shall not be responsible for losses or additional expenses of the participant due to sickness, weather, strike, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, pandemic, quarantine, acts of God, governmental intervention or other causes beyond its control. The MSU Alumni Office shall not be responsible for alteration in the itinerary as deemed necessary for carrying out the tour and the right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar quality. The right is further reserved to postpone or cancel any tour prior to departure. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of the tour should such person's physical or mental health, actions or general deportment impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare of the other participants. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour. Applicants for participation on this tour accept in full all the conditions set forth above.