

## WHAT WE'LL DO

Italy 2027 will be an amazing learning experience for seniors, juniors, and sophomores! The Knights take Italy March 7-13 next year. Here's what we'll do:

- Day 1: fly to Rome
- Day 2: arrive in Rome; travel to Florence. Explore the city.
- Day 3: walking tour of Florence; visit David in the Galleria dell'Accademia; climb Brunelleschi's Duomo
- Day 4: visit the Galleria degli Uffizi; travel to Rome; the Pantheon; Trevi Fountain
- Day 5: visit the Vatican Museums; St. Peter's Basilica; pizza and gelato cooking class
- Day 6: Colosseum; Roman Forum; Basilica di San Clemente
- Day 7: fly home

Our itinerary is aimed at balance: not all old things, not all museums, not all "looking". Students will experience the reality of the things they've studied in so many of their Covenant classes. They will learn the practical skills of navigating life in a foreign, non-English-speaking country. They'll build a sense of confident, prudent independence.

## PRACTICAL DETAILS

**Price:** The trip price will depend on how many students sign up! For 40 students, the trip costs \$4385 per traveler. This includes airfare, transportation in Italy, hotels, all entrance fees and guides, all breakfasts and suppers, and cancel-for-any-reason trip insurance. It does not include lunches (about \$20-30 per day), checked baggage fees, snacks and souvenirs, or gratuities for our guides. The price of the trip will go up if the traveling group is smaller. For example, if only 30 student spots are filled, the price is \$4420.50.

**Payments:** An initial, non-refundable payment of \$200 plus trip insurance is due upon registration. After that, families can arrange payment plans with our travel company, Joshua Expeditions.

**Availability:** The trip is open to Rhetoric students who are in 12th, 11th, or 10th grade in the 2026-2027 school year. There are 47 student spots on the trip. Priority will be given to seniors who haven't been on the trip before, in order of registration; then to juniors in order of registration; then to sophomores in order of registration. When the 47 spots are filled, students will be put on a waiting list.

We are planning to offer the Italy trip annually, so don't worry if your student doesn't get a spot. There will be another chance in 2028.

Trip registration will be open for 2 weeks in May. After that time, IF there are spots still open, students may still be registered for a late fee. Parents of upperclassmen should be aware that after the registration window closes, spots will be filled on a first come, first served basis, with no preference given for seniority.

## **IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER**

We are very excited to offer this educational opportunity to Covenant students. However, foreign travel can be problematic for some. It breaks up regular routines of life and pulls people out of their comfort zone. It can be stressful to be around other people 24/7, to be in a strange place with strange customs, to fly overseas and experience a 7-hour jet lag. There are also physical demands on the Italy trip: students must be able to walk at least 10 miles every day on hills and spend a lot of time on their feet. All of these things can exacerbate underlying mental health issues and social anxieties. It is important to consider whether or not your student can meet the emotional and physical demands of the trip before you register him/her.

It is also important to remember that one of the goals of the Italy trip is to cultivate a sense of prudent independence in students. Chaperones are not responsible for students' prescription medications or cell phone usage. Traveling students must be able to handle this responsibility. If they cannot, or if they have a pattern of discipline issues, this is not the trip for them.

Chaperones on the trip are educational professionals, not medical ones. If a student becomes a detriment to the learning experience, for either disciplinary or health problems, we will send the student home at the family's expense.

Food allergies can usually be accommodated in Italy. Students with a gluten allergy are encouraged to bring a supply of food for themselves just in case. That said, we have almost always been able to find gluten-free options for our travelers.

### **How to Register**

Registration will be online at <https://secureweb.joshuaexpeditions.org/travelerapp.aspx>. It opens Monday, May 11, 2026. Our expedition number is C225.

**Registration will close on Friday, May 22, 2026.** Late registration is possible only if the trip isn't full. After the deadline, open spots are filled in order of registration.

Email Amber Whitehead at [awhitehead@covenantdallas.com](mailto:awhitehead@covenantdallas.com) if you have any questions.