

# program\*

\* whatcha gonna do.

program dated: August 12, 2018

**CONGREGATION OR AMI  
DISCOVER ITALY TOUR  
LED BY RABBI PAUL KIPNES  
May 14 – 24, 2019**

**Day One: Tuesday, May 14, 2019**

**DEPARTURE**

- Depart the U.S.A.

Overnight: Flight

**Day Two: Wednesday, May 15, 2019**

**ARRIVAL IN FLORENCE**

- Arrive at Florence International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Transfer to the city center.
- Walk to the **Duomo**, celebrated for its magnificent dome designed by Brunelleschi, and view the Baptistery's renowned "Gates of Paradise" by Ghiberti.
- Continue with an exploration of the open-air art museum of **Piazza della Signoria**, ending at the **Ponte Vecchio**, or the "Old Bridge."
- Check into the hotel.
- **LaDa'at Focus** 2,000 Years of Italian Jewry: Orientation dialogue with your tour educator.
- **Welcome dinner.**

Overnight: Florence

## Day Three: Thursday, May 16, 2019

### FLORENCE – THE CRADLE OF THE RENAISSANCE

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **LaDa'at Focus** *The Jews of Tuscany*: Introduction by your tour educator.
- Take a closer look at the Jewish world once centered in Florence. The stories that emanate from the late 14th-century ghetto and the Moorish-style synagogue built in 1882 will be enhanced by a visit to the **Museo Ebraica** (Jewish Museum).
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- Visit the **Accademia Gallery**, which houses Michelangelo's famous David sculpture.
- Visit the **Uffizi Gallery**, one of the oldest and most famous art museums in Europe.
- Return to the hotel.
- Dinner on your own.

Overnight: Florence

## Day Four: Friday, May 17, 2019

### LA DOLCE VITA

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *Life Before the Renaissance*: Depart Florence for **Siena**, beginning your visit with a **city tour** of this open-air museum of Gothic religious and secular architecture.
- Visit the **synagogue** in Siena.
- Lunch on own in Siena.
- Continue to **San Gimignano**, a small, walled, medieval hill town, famous for its architecture. The town has uniquely preserved about a dozen of its old tower houses. It also boasts some of the best ice cream in Italy.
- Drive along the **Chianti wine route** and stop for a **wine tasting** with local wine specialists.
- Return to Florence.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat services** with **Shir Hadash**, a local Progressive synagogue.
- **Shabbat dinner**.

Overnight: Florence

**Day Five: Saturday, May 18, 2019**

**SHABBAT IN FLORENCE | Walking Tour**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Musical meditative Shabbat service in the lovely Boboli Gardens.
- **Florence Behind the scenes** – an inside look into Florence as the locals know it. Tour with a local resident of Florence and hear the stories of the aristocracy and culture battels in Florence, visit the secret galleries and explore the hidden alleys of Florence.
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- Free afternoon and evening to explore the city on your own or relax.

Overnight: Florence

**Day Six: Sunday, May 19, 2019**

**JEWISH STORIES ABOUT ON THE ROAD TO ROME**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel, depart Florence and drive south towards **Rome**.
- Stop along the way in **Pitigliano**, once known as “La Piccola Gerusalemme” -- Little Jerusalem – thanks to its once-thriving Jewish community. Though the Jewish community is no longer, one can still walk through the restored synagogue, mikveh and kosher butchery, and even enjoy a glass of kosher wine.
- Lunch on own, en route.
- Continue to **Rome**, and take a panoramic tour of the ‘Eternal City’ and its vistas.
- Check into the hotel.
- *Kneading dough, chopping vegetables and using spices – making our own creative Italian food:* Enjoy a hands-on **cooking workshop**, and enjoy **dinner** of your own making.
- Spiritual closing and sing Shma and Hashkevenu with Rabbi Paul and Cantor Doug.

Overnight: Rome

**Day Seven: Monday, May 20, 2019**

**THE GLORY OF ROME WITH HIDDEN TREASURES REVEALED**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **LaDa’at Focus** *The Roman Empire and the Jewish People*: Introduction by your tour educator.
- Tour ancient Rome, including the **Coliseum**, the **Roman Forum** and other monuments that recall Rome’s great famous and infamous historic past. View the **Arch of Titus**, perhaps the best-known symbol of the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 C.E.
- Lunch on own.
- Embark on a walking tour to some of Rome’s most beautiful structures, including the **Spanish Steps**, Europe’s longest and widest staircase, the **Trevi Fountain**, the largest baroque fountain in the city; **Piazza Navona** (Navona Square); and more.
- Return to the hotel.
- Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Rome

## Day Eight: Tuesday, May 21, 2019

### JEWISH ROME

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit the **Great Synagogue**, built in 1904, and the **Museum of Jewish Heritage** housed inside it.
- Tour the **Jewish Ghetto**, established by Pope Paul IV in 1555. Rome's Jews were stripped of their rights and forced to live in this walled-in, overcrowded area. The medieval streets wind their way towards the square from which Jews were deported during the Holocaust.
- Participate in a Kaddish of remembrance of the Italian Jewish community. Rabbi Paul and Cantor Doug guide us to renew the memory of the ancient Jewish community.
- Lunch on your own and afternoon at leisure to explore the city on your own or relax.
- Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Rome

## Day Nine: Wednesday, May 22, 2019

### THE RUINS OF POMPEII

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Depart Rome and drive south.
- Explore the **ruins of Pompeii**, an ancient Roman city which was buried under a large amount of volcanic ash from Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. The city has remained extremely well-preserved and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- Return to Rome.
- Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Rome

## Day Ten: Thursday, May 23, 2019

### SACRED ROME

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **LaDa'at Focus** *Michelangelo and the Jews*: Introduction by your tour educator.
- Enjoy a special behind the scenes visit to the **Vatican Museum** with a unique viewing of some of the seldom revealed Jewish historic relics preserved there.
- Continue to the **Sistine Chapel**, followed by a visit to **St. Peter's Basilica**, built in the late Renaissance.
- Enjoy a special audience with Vatican leadership. (*pending confirmation*)
- Lunch on own.
- Afternoon at leisure to explore the city on your own or relax.
- Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Rome

## Day Eleven: Friday, May 24, 2019

### RETURN HOME

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- Transfer to Rome International Airport.
- Departure flight to the U.S.A., arriving the same day.

## CONGREGATION OR AMI OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR TO VENICE

May 12 – 15, 2019

Day One: Sunday, May 12, 2019

### DEPARTURE

- Depart the U.S.A.

Overnight: Flight

Day Two: Monday, May 13, 2019

### ARRIVAL IN VENICE | walking tour

- Arrive at Venice International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Transfer to the city center and drop off luggage at the hotel.
- Visit **St. Mark's Square** to begin a guided walking tour of romantic Venice, followed by a view of the **Golden Basilica of San Marco** and the **Bridge of Sighs**.
- Visit the **Doge's Palace**, once the residence of the Venetian Republic's supreme authority. Enjoy the beautiful interiors and explore its hidden dungeons.
- Check into the hotel.
- Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Venice

Day Three: Tuesday, May 14, 2019

### THE CITY ON THE WATER: VENICE & THE ISLANDS | walking tour

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit the **Island of Murano** to tour one of its many glass-making workshops.
- Sail to the colorful **Island of Burano**, noted for its lacework and colorfully painted houses.
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- *Unchanged Legacy*: Tour the **Jewish Ghetto**, the home and center of Venetian Jewish life, 1515-1848. Visit the **Great Synagogue** and **Jewish Heritage Museum** in the Nuovo Ghetto.
- Return to the hotel.
- Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Venice

Day Four: Wednesday, May 15, 2019

### FROM VENICE TO FLORENCE

- Breakfast at the hotel and check out.
- Transfer to Florence to meet the group arriving from the U.S.A.