

Tracing the Transcendentalists in Italy

19–29 March 2009

Transcendentalists in Italy
• ❧ ❧ • 2009 • ❧ ❧ •
• *First Parish in Concord* •

Join First Parish friends and Reverend Jenny Rankin in tracing the steps of the Transcendentalists — including Margaret Fuller, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Theodore Parker, and others — who visited Italy in the mid-19th century.

“Rome Fashions My Dreams.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

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*Italy was the “Dream of My Heart and
Realization of My Mind.”*

—Margaret Fuller

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DAY 1 — MARCH 19 (THURSDAY): TRAVEL DAY TO ROME

We'll depart from First Parish by coach to Logan Airport for an evening flight to Rome with Northwest/KLM, changing flights in Amsterdam.

DAY 2 — MARCH 20 (FRIDAY): ARRIVAL – ANGLO-AMERICAN QUARTER, SPANISH STEPS

Upon our mid-day arrival at Fiumicino Airport, our driver and tour guide will welcome us to Italy and escort us to the coach. After checking into our hotel, the afternoon will be free to nap or explore.

Late afternoon, our tour coach will take us to the Hotel d'Ingleterre, where Emerson stayed, in the heart of the Anglo-American quarter. We will then walk to the Spanish Steps, climb to the top to enjoy the incredible view, after which the bus will take us back to the hotel for dinner and our **first Group Check-in**.

Overnight at the Ponte Sisto Hotel (D)

DAY 3 — MARCH 21 (SATURDAY): ANCIENT ROME AND CAPITOLINE MUSEUM

Today begins with a morning tour starting at the Capitoline Hill, where Tom Rankin, Jenny's brother, will guide us through the Ancient Roman sites. The tour will include the Campidoglio, Capitoline Museum (highlighting several statues important to Emerson), The Forum, and end at the Colosseum. You may choose to tour the Colosseum on your own or board the bus back to our hotel. The rest of the afternoon and evening will be free to explore the sites of Rome at our leisure.

Overnight Ponte Sisto Hotel (B)

DAY 4 — MARCH 22 (SUNDAY): MARGARET FULLER SITES, PIAZZA NAVONA AND PANTHEON

Today's focus is on Margaret Fuller in Rome, touring by bus and viewing her various residences in the city; the Hospital Ben Fratelli where she worked as a director during the War; and the Vatican where she met her future husband, Giovanni Ossoli. At the end of the tour, the bus will return to the hotel, where we will have a free afternoon for independent sightseeing or shopping.

This evening, walk to the Centro Storico area, including the Piazza Navona and enjoy a tour of the Pantheon with Tom Rankin, followed by dinner at a local restaurant in the Campo Dei Fiore area. This dinner will include our **second Group Check-in**.

Overnight Ponte Sisto Hotel (BD)

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DAY 5 — MARCH 23 (MONDAY): TOUR OF VATICAN MUSEUM

This morning we'll travel by bus to the Vatican, to tour the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel. Our visit begins in the Corte della Pigna with an overview of the history of the features on our tour. We will then visit the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, the Hall of Tapestries and the Maps Gallery. The highlight of the tour will be the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, covered with Michelangelo's famous frescoes.

We will then have a short visit at St. Peter's Basilica, after which you may either return by bus to the hotel or venture off on your own. The rest of the afternoon and evening is free to explore on our own.

Overnight Ponte Sisto Hotel

(B)

DAY 6 — MARCH 24 (TUESDAY): DEPART ROME — VIA FLAMINIA, RADICOFANI, PIENZA

Now, we'll take our leave of Rome and travel north through the scenic Italian countryside to Pienza. The route will take us partly along the Via Flaminia – the route of the Transcendentalists. We will stop in several towns along the way, pausing for lunch in Radicofani, which was visited by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

This afternoon we will arrive in Pienza, a small town known as a rare example of Renaissance town building. Pope Pius II, a local boy, hired the architect Bernardo Rossellino to transform this, his birthplace, into a model Renaissance town. We will check into our hotel and have time to explore the town.

This evening we will gather for dinner and our **third Group Check-in**.

Overnight and dinner - Hotel II Chiostro di Pienza

(BLD)

DAY 7 — MARCH 25 (WEDNESDAY): PIENZA, SIENA – ARRIVAL IN FLORENCE

This morning we will have a short time to walk around Pienza before driving north through the countryside to Siena, the pearl of Tuscany. Siena is a mystical, gentle, and passionate art center. Walk to the Piazza Del Campo, site of the famous 'Palio Horse Race and view the Cathedral, after which you'll have time to wander and have lunch.

After lunch, we'll continue on to Florence, arriving in the late afternoon. We will stop at the Protestant Cemetery and visit the grave of Theodore Parker as we enter the city. After checking into our hotel, we will have time to start our exploration of Florence.

Overnight Hotel Tornabuoni Beacci

(B)

DAY 8 — MARCH 26 (THURSDAY): GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF FLORENCE AND ACCADEMIA MUSEUM

Enjoy a city sightseeing, walking tour of Florence, a city of great artistic wealth and beauty. We will start at the beautiful Piazza Del Duomo to see the patterned green, white, and pink Cathedral of Santa Maria Del Fiore, crowned by Brunelleschi. See Giotto's Bell Tower and the Romanesque Baptistery of St. John, with the exquisite bronze doors by Ghiberti (referred to as "The Gates of Paradise" by Michelangelo). We will then visit the world famous Accademia Museum which houses one of Micelangelo's most most famous sculptures — "The David."

After our visit, enjoy the balance of the day until dinner for independent activities. There will be a group dinner at our hotel and our **fourth Group Check-in**.

Overnight Hotel Tornabuoni Beacci

(BD)

DAY 9 — MARCH 27 (FRIDAY): FIESOLE, THE ROMAN AND ETRUSCAN RUINS, VILLA GAMBERAIA

This morning we visit Fiesole, a town just north of Florence, home to Nathaniel Hawthorne and his wife Sophia. We will point out the Villa Montauto and Walter Savage Landor's villa. Walk through the hilltop town and investigate the substantial Roman and Etruscan ruins. After a group lunch, we will drive on through the Tuscan countryside and visit the Villa Gamberaia dating from the 15th century.

Return to Florence, stopping in the Santa Maria Novella area and viewing places frequented by Emerson and Fuller ("Casa Libri" Fuller's apt.).

Overnight Hotel Tornabuoni Beacci

(BL)

DAY 10 — MARCH 28 (SATURDAY): GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF OLTARNO, BRANCACCI CHAPEL

This morning, we will have a guided walking tour of Oltarno, on the southern side of the river, viewing many of the places important to our Transcendentalist heritage, including: Casa Guidi (where the Brownings lived); Santa Maria del Carmine's famous Brancacci Chapel for the Masaccio frescoes, visited by Emerson and countless others. Other sites may include Santa Spirito church, and Casa Bella, Nathaniel Hawthorne's first residence in Florence.

This afternoon, we are at leisure to visit or revisit the many interesting sites in Florence. Tonight we meet at a local restaurant for our farewell dinner and the **fifth Group Check-in**.

Overnight Hotel Tornabuoni Beacci

(BD)

DAY 11 — MARCH 29 (SUNDAY): TRAVEL DAY HOME

Drive to Bologna airport for our flight home via Northwest/KLM departing mid-day and arriving home this evening. Our coach will meet us when we arrive at Logan and return us to First Parish.

Jenny Rankin has been a Unitarian Universalist minister for 20 years and has served First Parish in Concord for 10 years. She loves Transcendentalism and she loves Italy! It was Megan Marshall's book The Peabody Sisters which ignited Jenny's most recent exploration of Transcendentalism, as well as books on Emerson and Thoreau by Robert Richardson, Jr. Jenny became interested in the Transcendentalists' connection to Italy after reading about Emerson's first trip there in 1833, following the death of his first wife and his resignation from parish ministry. She then learned more about Margaret Fuller's years in Rome, as well as Nathaniel Hawthorne and Sophia Peabody who lived in Rome and Florence, and Theodore Parker, whose final journey in life led him to Florence where he is buried. The Transcendentalists contested the materialism of their age, cared deeply about social and political issues, and were in search of a spirituality more vibrant and alive than that offered by the conventional religion of their day.

*Members of the Planning Committee for this trip are
Lillian Anderson (978-369-1468, lillianand@comcast.net)
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LAND PACKAGE PRICE:

\$3287 Per person, based on double occupancy for 35-39 participants or

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\$3405 pp/double occupancy for 30-34 participants.

(Single supplement is \$920, limited to 15% of total group numbers.)

Inclusions:

- 9 Nights Hotel, double occupancy, per itinerary
- 9 Breakfasts (B), 2 Lunches (L), 5 Dinners (D)
- Transportation by luxury motorcoach with driver and guide for 10 days
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Hotel portorage, service charges, and government taxes
- Transportation to/from Logan from First Parish

Exclusions:

- Airfare: \$427 per person plus fuel surcharges and taxes (Total airfare on July 8, the date the contract was signed, was \$873.18 but only the base fare of \$427.00 is guaranteed. Taxes and surcharges are subject to change until the tickets are issued.) at time of ticketing if ticketed as part of the group contract. *Air Deviations*: No more than 20% of the group may extend their stay for up to 7 days after March 29. Return travel must be from Bologna; the airfare may increase if there is nonavailability for the group rate on the return date. There is a \$50.00 fee for deviations.
- Tips to driver and guide
- Items of a personal nature, alcoholic drinks, room service, snacks, etc.
- Travel insurance at \$149 per person

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

CIE Tours will make every effort to adhere to the itinerary above, but reserves the right to make any alterations should local conditions make this necessary.

Payment Schedule

The initial deposit is \$200 (\$349 if purchasing travel insurance); deposit deadline is September 10. One half of land package is due by October 15. Final payment for land package is due by December 1. Payment by check or cash only. (Group air deposit of \$100.00 will be refunded after the tour returns. \$100.00 is non-refundable, but will be applied to your last payment for the trip).

Airfare must be booked and paid by September 15 in order to guarantee the price. Airfare must be paid by credit card.

Cancellation Penalties

A cancellation becomes effective on the date it is received by us or our agent, The Travel Station, Inc. in writing. The following cancellation charges will be applied: 100-66 days prior to departure \$500; 65-22 days prior to departure \$1000; 21-15 days prior \$1500; within 14 days prior to departure no refund. In addition to the cancellation penalties above, refunds will be subject to applicable airfare penalties in existence at the time of purchase. We are unable to waive cancellation penalties under any circumstances.

Cancellation Insurance

Cancellation Insurance \$149 per person regardless of age is strongly recommended and must be purchased when initial deposit is made.

Cancellations or Alterations by CIE Tours International

If the Transcendentalists in Italy membership is less than 32 passengers 100 days prior to departure the tour will be cancelled. CIE Tours International reserve the right to cancel any tours for any reason. Should this occur you will receive a full refund of money paid.

Limitation of Liability

While all due diligence will be exercised by CIE Tours International in the provision of travel facilities and accommodation, no responsibility is accepted for the negligence and wrongful acts of contractors and suppliers concerned therewith or any breaches of contract by them. However, for the avoidance of doubt, it is agreed and declared that in the event of any dispute arising under any contract with CIE Tours International then the law applicable shall be that of New Jersey.

For complete details refer to the Responsibility clause at www.cietours.com

Insurance

CIE Tours International and The Travel Station, Inc. acting as agents for CIE Tours International, accept no liability or obligation for any death, illness or injury or loss of or damage to baggage or personal property caused to or suffered by you in relation to your tour.

First Parish in Concord

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