

# SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE



1889

## Italian Walks

TUSCANY, ITALY

## Walking in Tuscany and the Riviera

**September 23-  
October 2, 2027**

With **Fr. Iain MacLellan, O.S.B.**,  
Director and Curator of the Alva de Mars Chapel Art Center  
Saint Anselm College

Optional pre-trip  
extension in **Florence**,  
September 21-24, 2027



## Dear friends,

Some places are best discovered on foot, and Italy is surely one of them. I hope you will join fellow members of the Saint Anselm community for a journey through Tuscany and the Italian Riviera—one that invites us not simply to see these remarkable places, but to experience them more deeply through their landscapes, art, history, culture, and spiritual traditions.

We are especially fortunate to have Fr. Iain MacLellan, O.S.B., a monk and priest of Saint Anselm Abbey and Director and Curator of the College's Alva de Mars Megan Chapel Art Center, accompanying us as our study leader. An accomplished artist and teacher, Fr. Iain brings a lifelong engagement with art, beauty, and the Benedictine tradition. His presence will offer a distinctly Saint Anselm dimension to our travels and opportunities to consider how art, faith, history, and the experience of place have shaped the communities we encounter.

Our journey itself offers an extraordinary setting for those conversations. We will walk through medieval villages and across the Tuscan countryside, experience the magnificent cathedral and art of Siena, wander the streets of San Gimignano, and follow a portion of the ancient Via Francigena, the centuries-old pilgrimage route that has carried travelers through Italy toward Rome. Along the way, there will also be time simply to enjoy the pleasures of Tuscany—its vineyards, cuisine, villages, and beautiful landscapes.

From Tuscany, we travel to the Ligurian coast and make our home in Sestri Levante. There we will hike from Portofino to the secluded Abbey of San Fruttuoso, explore the colorful villages of the Cinque Terre, and visit the Capuchin friars in Monterosso, where we will learn something of their monastic life while overlooking the Mediterranean.

Those wishing to spend additional time in Florence may also join our optional pre-trip extension, with visits to the Accademia and Michelangelo's David, the Uffizi Gallery, and the extraordinary artistic and architectural heritage of the Renaissance.

What I find especially appealing about this journey is the way it brings together so many things that are important to Saint Anselm: friendship and community, intellectual curiosity, an appreciation for beauty, and a tradition that encourages us to encounter the world attentively and thoughtfully. Walking through these landscapes together gives us the chance to slow down, to notice, to learn, and perhaps even to see familiar things in new ways.

I hope you will consider joining Fr. Iain and fellow Saint Anselm alumni, family, and friends for what promises to be a memorable journey. We would be delighted to share the experience with you.

James F. Flanagan P'23, '25  
Senior Vice President, Chief Advancement Officer  
Saint Anselm College

## Highlights

**IMMERSE** in Italy's culture through charming towns, cuisine, and wines.

**VISIT** UNESCO World Heritage sites in Tuscany, including Florence, Siena, and San Gimignano

**ENJOY** a Tuscan vineyard experience with local wines and delicacies.

**EXPLORE** Liguria's coast, including Portofino and San Fruttuoso Abbey.

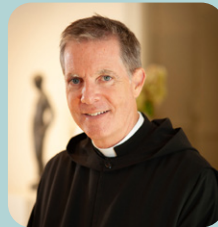




PIAZZA DEL CAMPO, SIENA



FRESCO BY PINTURICCHIO



## Study Leader

**Fr. Iain MacLellan, O.S.B.,** is a monk and

priest of Saint Anselm Abbey. He is the director of the Alva de Mars Megan Chapel Art Center at Saint Anselm College. He attended The Graduate School of Figurative Art, the New York Academy, in New York City, receiving a Master of Fine Arts degree in 1997, with a specialization in painting.

His work at the Chapel Art Center has been focused on exhibitions and collections development, along with special programs and events to promote art education. Integral to collections development has been the promotion and care of the

magnificent treasure of the Agnus Dei muralled ceiling (c.1930) by Fr. Raphael Pfisterer, O.S.B.

Recognizing the diversity within art, he has looked towards the significance of art exhibition for all academic disciplines, and has greatly expanded the collection's holdings to reflect Saint Anselm's standing as a leading liberal arts college. He has also worked to promote the "experience" of art, primarily through a program called Conversations in Art, with lectures and museum tours, encompassing related subjects such as art history, poetry, music, and the philosophy of aesthetics.

Fr. Iain has also been a lecturer in the Fine Arts, teaching drawing mostly, including special topics such as portraiture and Renaissance drawing techniques.



MONTERIGGIONI



CINQUE TERRE



ITALIAN BISTRO FARE



SESTRI LEVANTE

LIMONCELLO IN MONTEROSSO AL MARE

LUCCA



After exploring the charming medieval village and admiring the Church of Santa Maria Assunta and beautiful views over the surrounding countryside, we'll enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to Colle Val d'Elsa for a relaxing afternoon at leisure. *Activity level: 2.2 miles hiking ~2 hours.*

HOTEL BORGO SAN LUIGI (B, L)

## Itinerary

DAILY INCLUDED MEALS:

B = BREAKFAST; L = LUNCH; D = DINNER

**DAY 1 : THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

### U.S. to Florence

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Florence, Italy. MEALS ALOFT

**DAY 2 : FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

### Florence

We'll gather in Florence today to explore the city on an afternoon walking tour, followed by a welcome reception at our hotel. Dinner will be at leisure tonight. HOTEL EXECUTIVE

**DAY 3 : SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

### Siena & Colle di Val d'Elsa

This morning, we'll soak up the medieval charm of Siena on a walking tour through the historic center. We'll visit the colorful, marble-clad cathedral and step into the striking Piccolomini Library to admire some of the most outstanding artworks by Pinturicchio. We'll then continue to

the Piazza del Campo, one of Italy's most beautiful squares, known for hosting the thrilling Palio bareback horse races. After lunch on your own, we'll head to Colle di Val d'Elsa, where crystal and glassware have been crafted since the 17th century. We'll check into our accommodation and enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure before gathering for dinner at the hotel restaurant.

HOTEL BORGO SAN LUIGI (B, D)

**DAY 4 : SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

### Abbadia a Isola & Monteriggioni

After breakfast, we'll take a short drive to the ancient Abbey of Saints Salvatore and Cirino in Abbadia a Isola, a former Benedictine monastery founded in 1001 along the historic Via Francigena pilgrimage route. From there, we'll enjoy a scenic walk through the Tuscan countryside, passing cultivated fields and Mediterranean woodland before reaching Monteriggioni, with its unmistakable crown of towers.

**DAY 5 : MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

### San Gimignano

This morning, we'll immerse ourselves in the beauty of the Tuscan countryside with a captivating visit to a local winery. We'll savor a selection of exceptional regional wines, guided by passionate experts, and enjoy a light lunch featuring fresh, local delicacies, perfectly paired with the wines and set against the serene landscape of this charming region. In the afternoon, we'll head to the walled hilltop gem of San Gimignano, a World Heritage site with 14 picturesque medieval towers. We'll have some free time to explore its beautiful historical center before returning to our accommodation for an evening at our own pace.

HOTEL BORGO SAN LUIGI (B, L)

**DAY 6 : TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

### Lucca & Sestri Levante

Today, we depart for Liguria, making a stop en route in the Tuscan town of Lucca. Here, we'll enjoy a guided bicycle ride along its unique medieval walls to explore its historical and artistic treasures (or, alternatively, take a guided walking

tour of the city center). We'll have lunch at our own pace and spend some more time in Lucca to explore the town independently and enjoy some shopping. We'll then proceed to the seaside town of Sestri Levante, the perfect launching point for exploring the Riviera di Levante, before gathering for dinner at a local restaurant. *Activity level: 2.5 miles cycling ~1 hour.* HOTEL VIS-À-VIS (B, D)

**DAY 7 : WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

## Portofino & San Fruttuoso

Today's exploration takes us to stunning Portofino, considered "one of the eight wonders of the world"—an exceptionally well-preserved ancient fisherman's village in the heart of a Natural Park. From here, we'll start a panoramic hike towards San Fruttuoso, a hamlet that can only be accessed by sea or on foot. After lunch, we'll explore the sacred Abbey, dating back to the 16th century. We'll return to Portofino by public ferry and then take a private transfer back to Sestri Levante. Dinner will be on our own tonight. *Activity level: 2.5 miles hiking ~3 hours.*

HOTEL VIS-À-VIS (B, L)

**DAY 8 : THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

## Cinque Terre

A short train ride will take us to Vernazza, one of the five villages that make up the Cinque Terre, or "Five Lands." Clinging to cliffs above the Mediterranean, these hamlets dazzle with clusters of pastel-hued homes overlooking harbors dotted with fishing skiffs.

Depending on the trail conditions, we'll either hike along the path linking the neighboring villages of Corniglia and Manarola or enjoy a scenic train ride from village to village. We'll immerse ourselves in the breathtaking scenery of steep hillsides adorned with terraced vineyards and olive groves, all while enjoying stunning views of the coast. We'll then return to Sestri Levante for an evening at our own pace. *Activity level: Vernazza-Corniglia: 2 miles hiking ~2 hours. Corniglia-Manarola: 4.5 miles hiking ~3 hours.*

HOTEL VIS-À-VIS (B, L)

**DAY 9 : FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1**

## Monterosso al Mare

Today, we'll take a short train ride to Monterosso al Mare and enjoy a brief hike to the striking convent of the Capuchin friars. There, we'll meet a local monk, who will explain life in the convent and show us a beautiful orchard perched on a cliff by the Mediterranean Sea. We'll enjoy a glass of limoncello made from the convent's own production. Afterward, we'll return to the heart of Monterosso for lunch at a local restaurant, then travel back to Sestri Levante for a relaxing afternoon at leisure before gathering for a farewell dinner. *Activity level: 0.4-mile walk (uphill) ~20 minutes (each way); there are 150 steps to reach the convent.*

HOTEL VIS-À-VIS (B, L, D)

**DAY 10 : SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2**

## Genoa to U.S.

Following breakfast, transfer to the Genoa airport for flights back to the U.S. (B)



UFFIZI GALLERY

## OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION TO Florence

SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2027

Arrive independently two days early in Florence and immerse yourself in the city's rich Renaissance heritage. With the guidance of a local art historian, explore Florence's historic center on a walking tour, starting at Piazza della Repubblica, where you'll learn about the city's Roman origins. Stroll through medieval streets, pass fortified towers, and reach Piazza della Signoria, the political center of the city since the Middle Ages. Marvel at iconic sights like the Duomo and Ponte Vecchio, and visit the Accademia to see Michelangelo's David. Afterward, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

The next day, tour the renowned Uffizi Gallery, home to masterpieces by Renaissance greats like Leonardo da Vinci, Botticelli, Titian, and Michelangelo. You'll also have free time to explore the city at your own pace before joining the group for the main tour.

Extension includes 2 nights' accommodations at Hotel Executive, portorage, city taxes, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner, an English-speaking tour director and professional guides, airport transfers for group flights, entrance fees, and all tips. The extension price is based on a minimum of 8 participants.



# Accommodations



## Hotel Executive

Superbly located just 350 feet from the River Arno in Florence's historic center, Hotel Executive is a former nobleman's residence dating back to the 18th century, featuring original frescoes and antique furniture. The warmly decorated rooms are equipped with air-conditioning, satellite TV, a mini-bar, Wi-Fi, a hairdryer, toiletries, and private en-suite bathrooms. The hotel also offers a range of amenities, including a garden, an inviting bar and lounge with a grand piano, a delicious breakfast buffet to start your day, and attentive concierge services to enhance your visit to Florence.

## Hotel Borgo San Luigi

Borgo San Luigi is a serene countryside retreat that captures the timeless beauty and charm of rural Tuscany. Set within a restored 17th-century hamlet and surrounded by expansive parkland dotted with cypress trees, the property offers a peaceful escape in the heart of the Tuscan countryside. Each room at Borgo San Luigi reflects classic Tuscan style, blending rustic elegance with modern comfort, and many feature views of the gardens or surrounding landscape. Room amenities include comfortable bedding, en-suite bathrooms with quality toiletries, air conditioning, a flat-screen TV, and complimentary Wi-Fi. The hotel also offers a range of amenities, including a large outdoor swimming pool, beautifully landscaped gardens, a traditional restaurant serving regional cuisine, and inviting outdoor spaces perfect for relaxation.

## Hotel Vis-à-Vis

Vis-à-Vis Hotel in Sestri Levante is a coastal retreat that embodies the essence of Mediterranean charm and luxury. Perched along the magical Italian Riviera, the hotel offers breathtaking views of the Ligurian Sea and the enchanting Bay of Silence. Each room at Vis-à-Vis is a haven of comfort and style, featuring stunning views of the azure waters and picturesque hillsides. Room amenities include plush bedding, modern en-suite bathrooms with premium toiletries, air conditioning, a flat-screen TV, and complimentary Wi-Fi. The hotel also offers an array of amenities, including a rooftop terrace with a panoramic bar, a Mediterranean restaurant specializing in seafood, an outdoor swimming pool, and a wellness center for ultimate relaxation.



## What to Expect

Designed exclusively for Saint Anselm College alumni, family, and friends, this active journey combines Italy's extraordinary cultural heritage with scenic walking experiences through Tuscany and the Italian Riviera. Guided by expert local guides and featuring approximately 2-4.5 miles of walking or hiking on most days, the program offers an engaging way to experience Italy's art, history, landscapes, and traditions at a relaxed pace.

Walks follow medieval streets, historic pilgrimage routes, and spectacular coastal trails, with opportunities to explore remarkable architecture, sample regional cuisine and wines, and discover the unique character of each destination. Most walks are rated easy to moderate, though some include uneven terrain and elevation changes. On days with scheduled hikes, participants who prefer not to walk may travel by the group's support vehicle to the next destination.

Please note that portions of the itinerary travel through rural areas, historic villages, and scenic coastal landscapes where flexibility with timing, road conditions, trail conditions, and weather is essential. Travel will be by private motor coach, ferry, and train, providing comfortable access to each destination while preserving the spirit of discovery that makes this journey so rewarding. Throughout the tour, safe drinking water is readily available, and refill stations and public fountains are common, allowing you to refill your reusable water bottle and helping reduce the use of single-use plastic.

## Costs and Conditions

### MAIN PROGRAM

|                        |                                        |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Double Occupancy.....  | \$7,545*, <i>per person</i>            |
| Single Occupancy ..... | \$1,560*, <i>per person supplement</i> |

### FLORENCE PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

|                        |                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Double Occupancy.....  | \$1,195, <i>per person</i>          |
| Single Occupancy ..... | \$260, <i>per person supplement</i> |

### SAMPLE ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE

|       |         |
|-------|---------|
| ..... | \$1,200 |
|-------|---------|

*(Not included, quoted separately, subject to change)*

**NOTE:** International airfare from Boston, MA to Florence returning from Genoa is not included. Estimated airfare is based on coach fares in September/October 2026 and is subject to change. A recommended flight itinerary will be made available to registered passengers departing and returning from Boston.

## Program Cost Includes

All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • Wine with all dinners • All activities and entrance fees per itinerary • Professional English-speaking guides and tour director throughout • Professional English-speaking hiking guides • Cycling guide in Lucca • Wine tasting experience in Tuscany • Transportation by private motorcoach • Airport transfers for group flights • All local train tickets in the Riviera • Ferry boat tickets in the Riviera • Cinque Terre Card • Bicycles in Lucca (e-bikes available on request) • Tips to local guides, drivers, and waiters at included meals • Service charges and taxes • Baggage handling • Pre-departure information, coordination, and administration

## Program Cost Does Not Include

U.S. domestic and international airfare (quoted separately) and departure taxes • Excess baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary • Personal items such as laundry, email, fax, or telephone calls • Alcoholic beverages except those mentioned above • Dishes or beverages not included with meals • Room service • Passport fees • Private transfers • Covid testing or quarantine expenses • Medical expenses • Travel insurance • Optional extensions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Airport taxes and/or security fees • Fuel surcharges • Tip to the tour director is not included and is at the passengers' discretion • ETIAS authorization fees

*\*The price of the trip is based on the exchange rate with the Euro and fuel prices as of January 2026. If there is a significant change in the Euro in relation to the U.S. dollar or fuel surcharge, the price may need to be adjusted.*

# Terms & Conditions

**RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT:** To reserve a space on this program, a \$1,500 per person deposit is required, plus \$250 per person for the optional pre-extension to Florence, if applicable. Please either mail, email, or fax your registration form. If you wish to submit your registration online, please visit [royaladventures.intellibook.co/site/#/saint-anselem-college-italy-2027/book](https://royaladventures.intellibook.co/site/#/saint-anselem-college-italy-2027/book) or scan the QR code on the reservation form with your smartphone camera. Initial deposits may be charged to a credit card. Final payment is due June 15, 2027, and must be paid by check, wire transfer, or ACH payment only. Royal Adventures handles all invoicing. CST #2009579-40.

**TOUR SIZE:** This tour is exclusively designed for Saint Anselm College alumni, family and friends on a first-come, first-served basis. The minimum group size is 14. Should the minimum not be met, we reserve the right to levy a small group surcharge.

**CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** All cancellations must be received in writing by Royal Adventures from the participant. Cancellations received on or before June 15, 2027, are eligible for a refund less a \$500 per person cancellation fee. After June 15, 2027, there are no refunds of any deposits or payments, regardless of booking date. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, including 'Cancel for Any Reason.' Trip cancellation insurance can be purchased through one of our recommended providers: [Travel Insured International](#) — Please call 1-800-243-3174 and mention Royal Adventures #53140; or [Generali](#) — Please call 1-800-874-2442 and mention Royal Adventures #20241120. Alternatively, you may purchase insurance from the company of your choice. Most plans need to be bought within 14 days of the deposit to waive pre-existing conditions and add 'Cancel for Any Reason' coverage. Some providers offer the 'Cancel for Any Reason' option within 24 hours of booking.

**QUESTIONS:** For questions or new reservations, contact Royal Adventures at 925-820-6260 ext 120 or 1-800-453-4754 ext 120 or [christina@royaladventures.com](mailto:christina@royaladventures.com).

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Royal Adventures (CST #2009579-40), its owners, and employees act only as agents for the various independent suppliers and contractors providing transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant, and other services connected with this tour. Such travel and services are subject to the terms and conditions under which such accommodations, services, and transportation are offered or provided, and Saint Anselm College and Royal Adventures and their respective employees, agents, representatives,

and assigns accept no liability therefor. Saint Anselm College and Royal Adventures assume no liability for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or other irregularity which may be caused by the defect of any aircraft or vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages, or expenses of any kind due to sickness, epidemics, pandemics, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, quarantine, *force majeure*, animal or insect bites, or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. Saint Anselm College and Royal Adventures reserve the right to withdraw this tour without penalty, in which case participants will be issued a full refund, except in the case of a *Force Majeure* Event. A *Force Majeure* Event, in relation to this tour, shall mean any circumstances beyond our control, including, but without limitation, to acts of God, explosion, flood, forceful wind, fire or accident, war or threat of war declared or undeclared, acts of terrorism, sabotage, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil disturbance, sickness, epidemics, pandemics, quarantines, government intervention or other unforeseeable event. Saint Anselm College and/ or Royal Adventures shall not be deemed to be in breach of these terms and conditions or otherwise be liable to you, and shall not provide any refund, by reason of delay in performance, withdrawal of the tour or by nonperformance of any of our obligations hereunder to the extent that any such delay or nonperformance is due to any *Force Majeure* Event. Limitations on travel arising from the COVID-19 pandemic shall be considered a *Force Majeure* Event. If this tour is affected by a *Force Majeure* Event, Saint Anselm College and Royal Adventures shall be entitled to, and may in their sole and absolute discretion, vary, or postpone the dates of any itinerary, departure date or other arrangements in relation to this trip. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a tour member or to substitute another qualified leader or special guest. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. The price of the program is given in good faith based on current tariffs and rates and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, security surcharge, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Neither Saint Anselm College nor Royal Adventures accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline ticket. The air ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release, an assumption of risk, and a hold harmless agreement.

# Italian Walks

## Walking in Tuscany and the Riviera

September 23-October 2, 2027



## Reservation Form

For the ease of registering online, please visit <https://royaladventures.intellibook.co/site/#/saint-anselem-college-italy-2027/book> or scan this QR code.

If you prefer to mail your registration, please complete the form below and return it to Royal Adventures with deposit check (if applicable) payable to "Royal Adventures" at: Royal Adventures, 9 Crow Canyon Ct, Ste 205, San Ramon, CA 94583

Enclosed is my deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_ \$1,500 per person to hold \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on *Italian Walks: Walking in Tuscany and the Riviera*, plus \$250 per person for the pre-extension to Florence, if applicable, departing September 21, 2027, with **Saint Anselm College**. Final payment is due June 15, 2027, and must be paid by check, wire transfer, or Royal Adventures ACH payment.

NAME AS ON PASSPORT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

NAME AS ON PASSPORT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL(S) \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

- ☐ Pay by check made out to "Royal Adventures" OR  
☐ Please charge my deposit for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to:  
☐ AMEX ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP DATE / SEC CODE \_\_\_\_\_

### ACCOMMODATIONS

- ☐ Double 1 Bed ☐ Double 2 Beds  
☐ Single (*limited availability*)  
☐ I will share accommodations with \_\_\_\_\_

### OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR EXTENSION TO FLORENCE

- ☐ I/We wish to join the Florence pre-tour optional extension,  
September 21-24, 2027

I/We have carefully read the Terms and Conditions and Responsibility sections of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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# *Italian Walks*

## Walking in Tuscany and the Riviera

SAN GIMIGNANO

September 23–October 2, 2027