

# *Minooka*

*Travel Abroad Program*



*Italy 2009*

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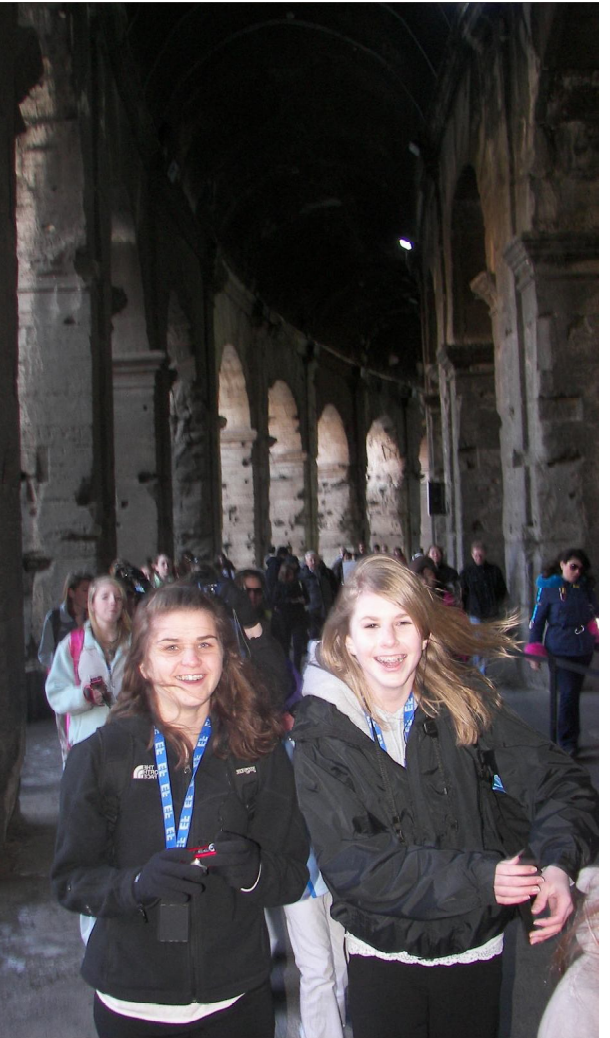
Rome







In March of 2009, a group of students and teachers from Minooka, Illinois spent twelve days traveling through Italy to see and learn all that they could.







Our first stop was Rome and the famous Coliseum. After a few minutes walking around outside, we made our way through the tunnels under the ancient building.







Once' inside, you  
had to stop to  
take' a picture'  
of the' place'  
where' gladiators  
fought and  
emperors decide'd  
their fate'.





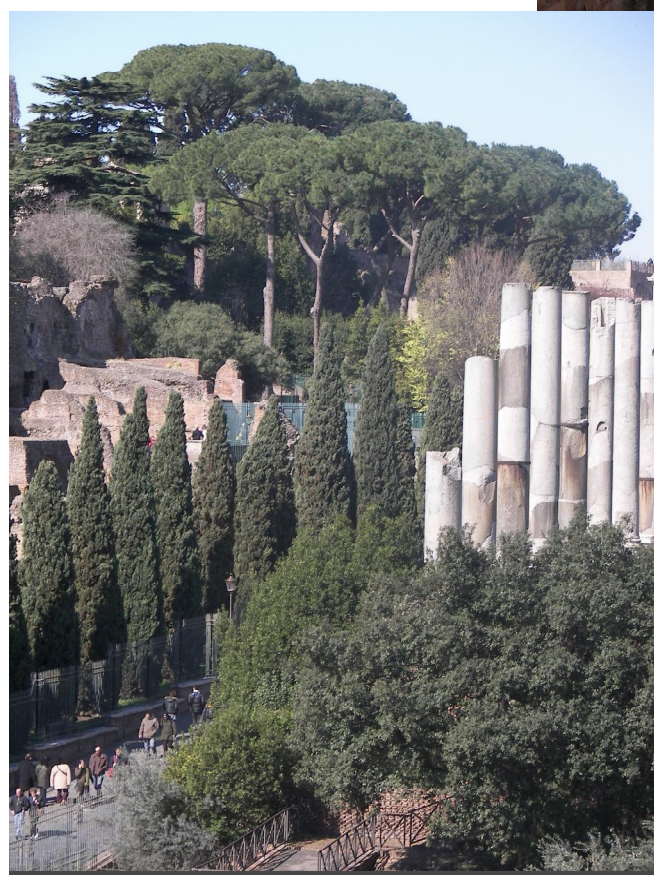


Inside the Coliseum, we paid special attention to the holes where wood supports used to be and strong arches that made the building last.





Inside, outside,  
everywhere you  
looked, the Coliseum  
was awe inspiring.  
And made you feel  
like you'd been  
magically transported  
back to Ancient Rome











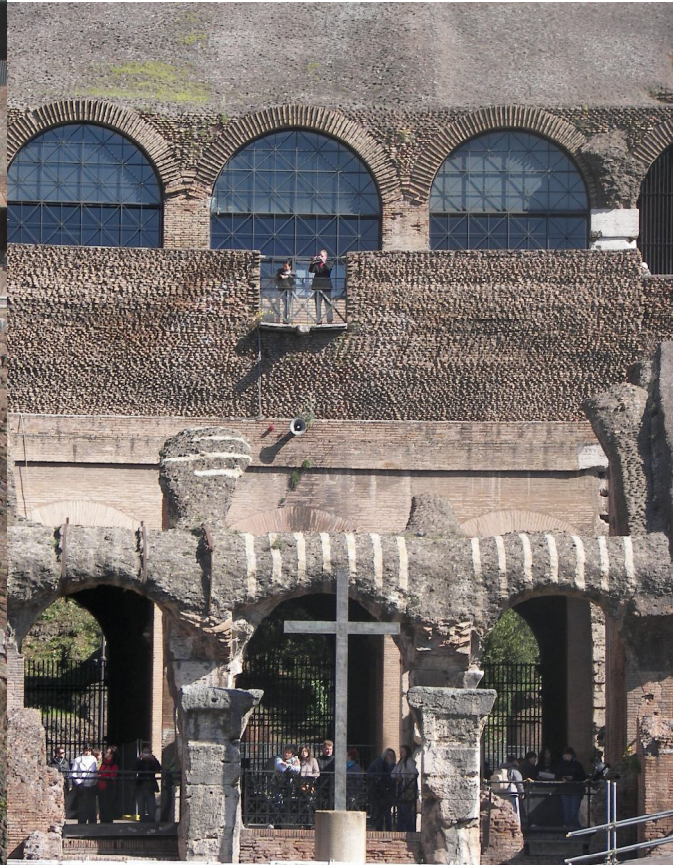
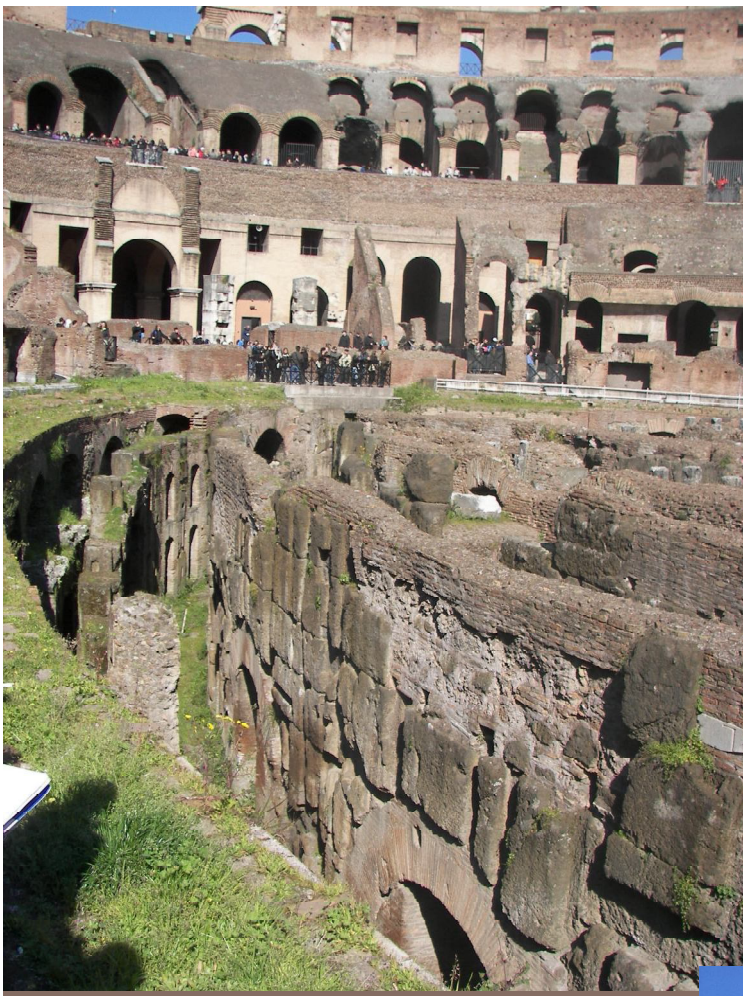
From inside the  
Coliseum, you could  
see out into the  
Roman Forum and  
Hadrian's Arch.













Leaving the Coliseum  
wasn't easy, most of  
us actually walked  
backwards as we left  
to catch a few more  
glimpse's of the  
amazing building, but  
next we headed off  
to the Roman Forum.







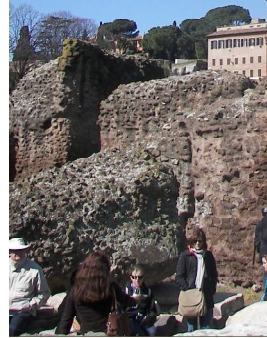
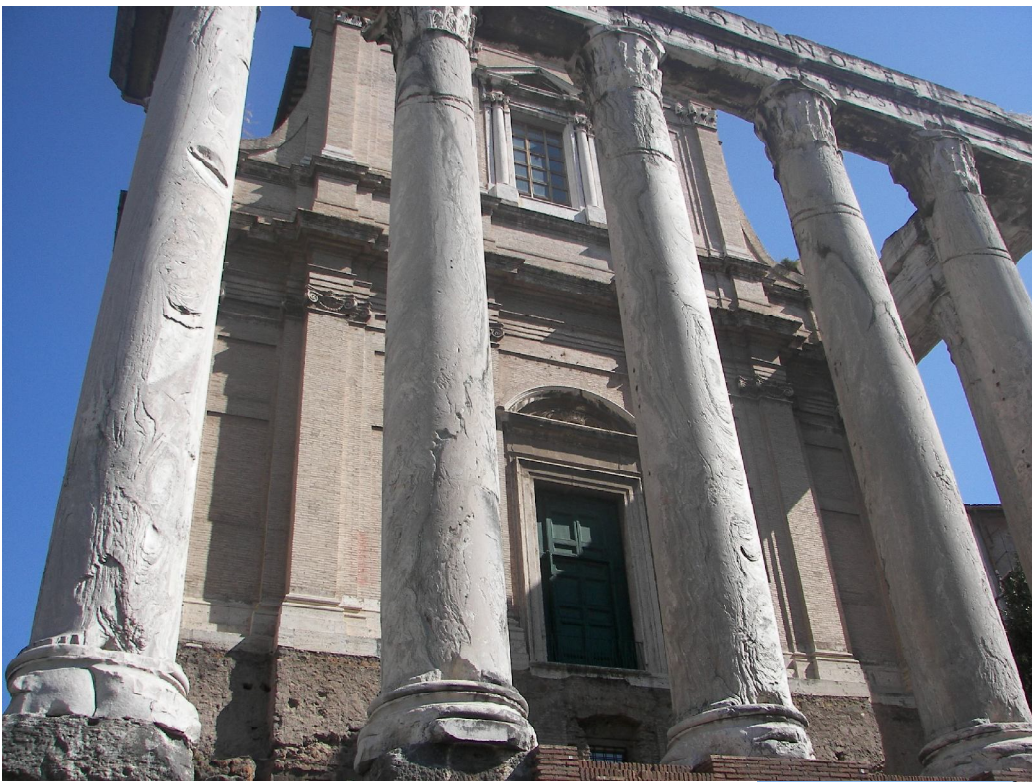




Our guide's took some time to explain each of the buildings in the former center of Roman government. One of these buildings might have been the spot where Marc Antony gave his famous "Friends, Romans, countrymen..." speech.











The group left ancient Rome, walked through the centennial monument, and headed towards the Vatican.





Vatican City







The Sistine Chapel  
was unbelievable.  
We weren't  
allowed to take  
pictures or talk inside  
the Sistine Chapel,  
so our tour guide  
pointed out to us  
what to look for  
once we entered the  
chapel.



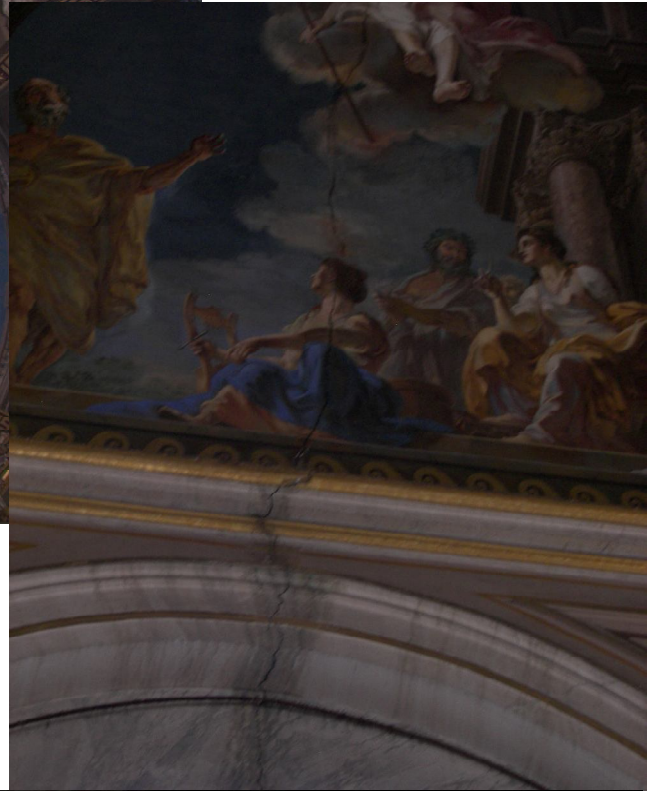




The halls of the  
Vatican were  
load'ed with  
priceless  
works of art...



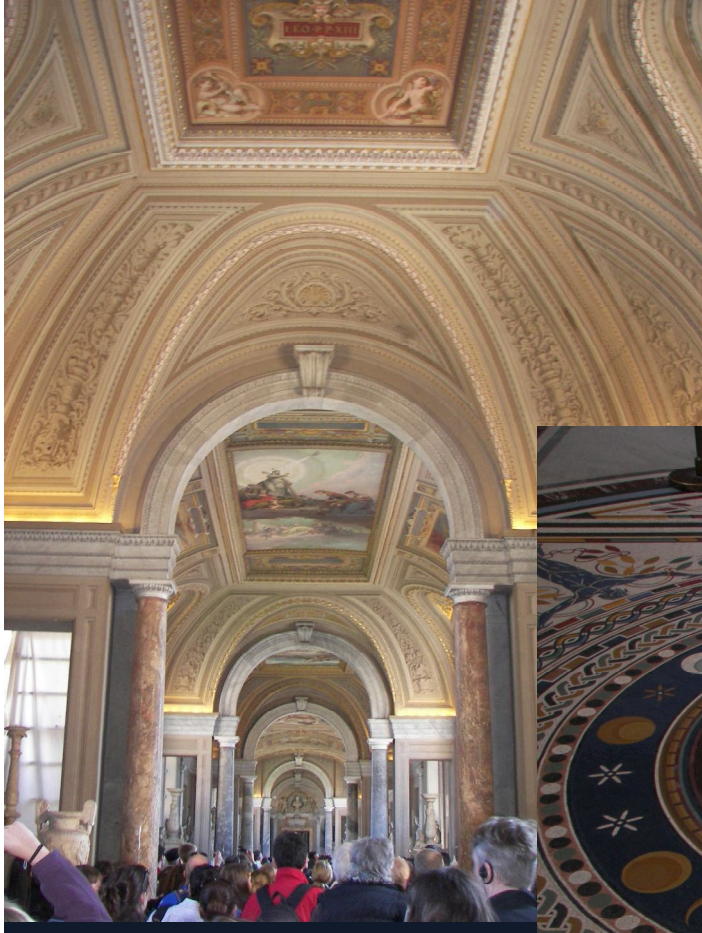




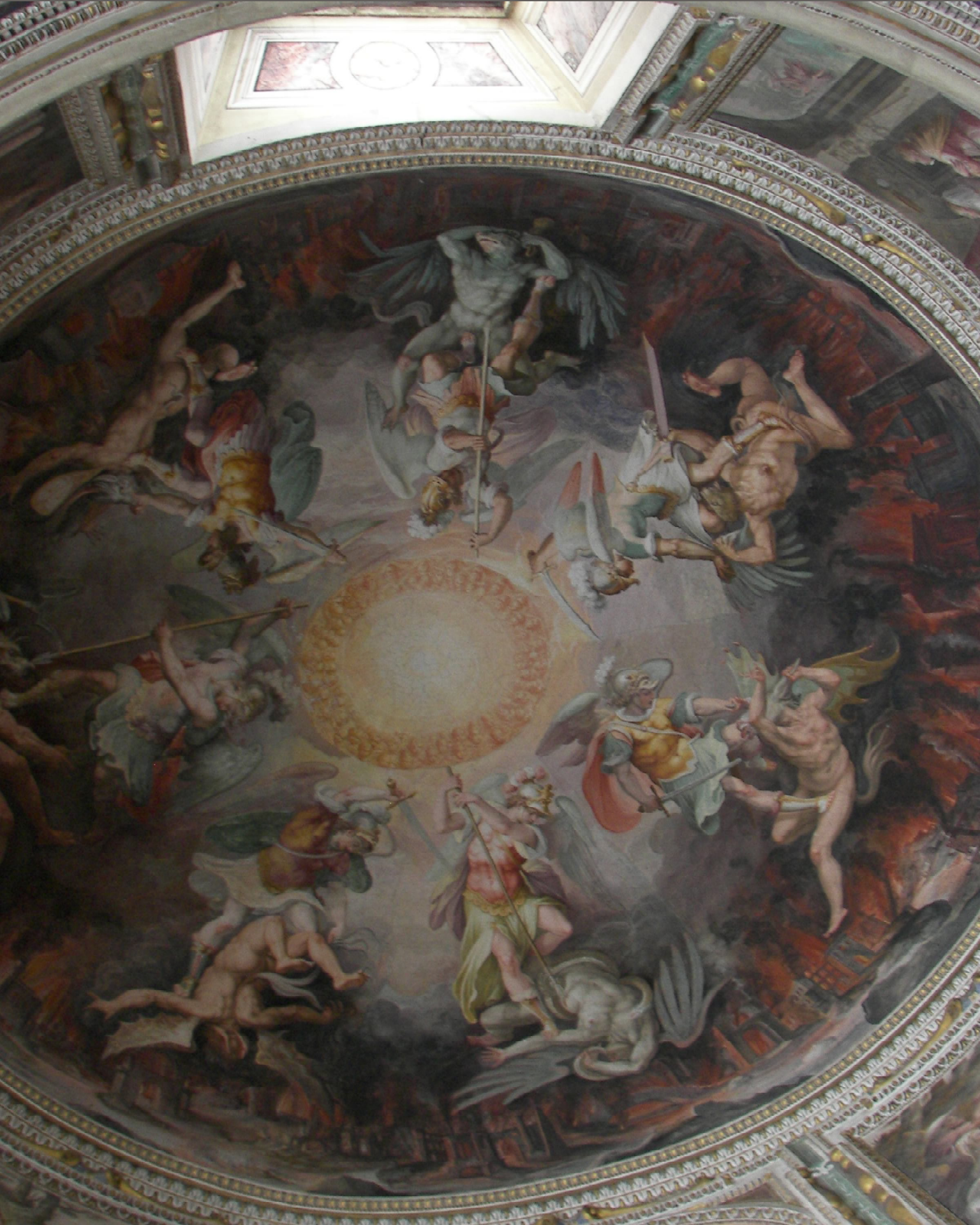
...so were the floors  
and ceilings.















Inside St. Peter's was incredible.  
We got to touch Peter's toe for  
luck and see Michelangelo's Pietà.





Outside of St. Peter's  
Basilica we saw the  
hilariously dressed  
Swiss guards and the  
pope's balcony.







For many of us,  
the Vatican was a  
special place.





after the Vatican, we had free time to explore Rome. The first stop... Trevi Fountain. The legends say that if you throw a coin into the fountain and make a wish, you'll return to Rome someday. Most of us made that wish, and it came true. Just 6 days later, we did return to Rome and saw the fountain all lit up at night.





The Spanish Steps, the Egyptian Obelisk  
the Pantheon, and a weird drinking fountain  
also made the list of sites to visit in Rome.







*Florence*











The Duomo is the  
nickname for St.  
John's Cathedral.  
The best views of  
Florence are from  
atop the Duomo.  
It was about a  
bazillion steps to  
the top, but we got  
an amazing view of  
the city and a  
really good workout.

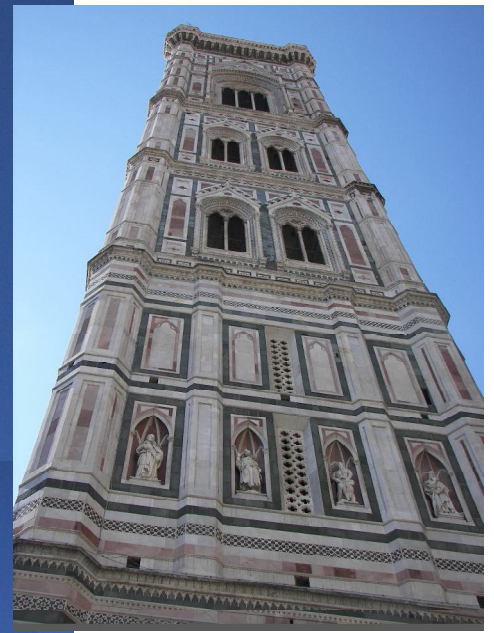






after walking  
all the way  
around and  
climbing all the  
way to the top,  
we got to go  
inside St. John's  
Cathedral.





Before exploring Florence, we stopped to get a look at the tower we'd just climbed.





Following our guide, we wandered  
across the river and got a look at the  
only bridge in Florence to survive  
allied bombings during WW II.











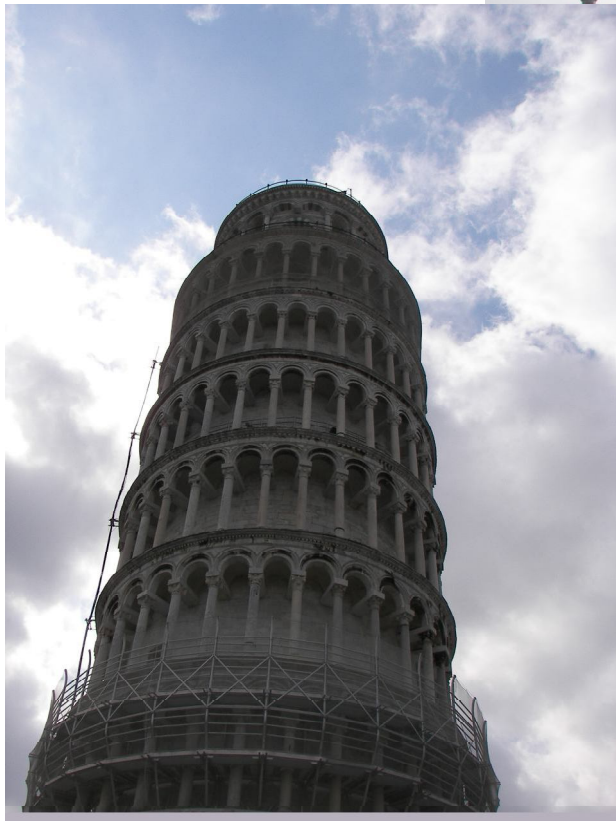
We crossed the famous bridge, the Ponte Vecchio. The bridge was enclosed and full of small shops and awesome views.



Florence, the home  
of Pinocchio author  
Carlo Collodi, was a  
beautiful place to  
watch the sunset.







*Pisa*





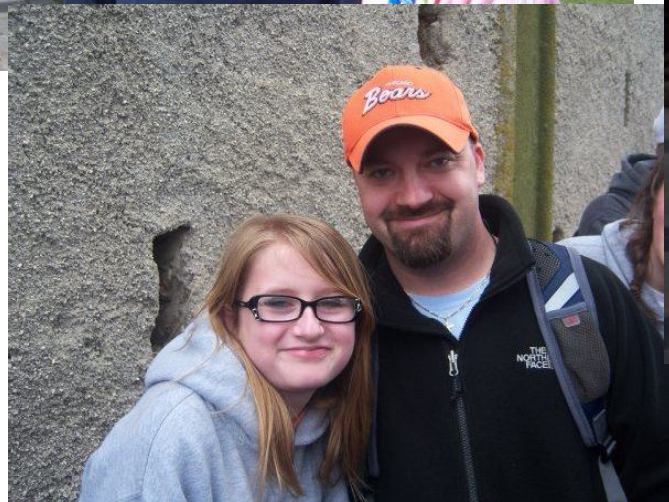






Pisa was beautiful, but one of the fun things to do there is take silly pictures of the monuments.





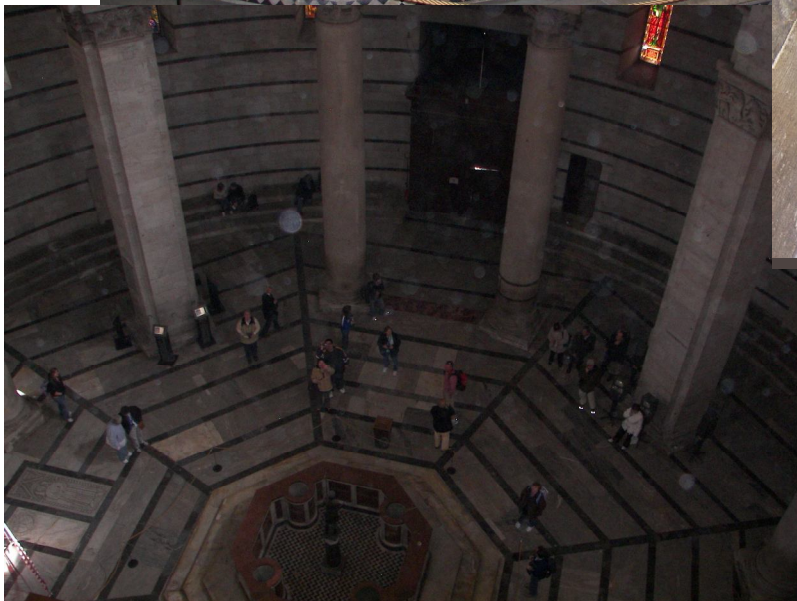




one of the best  
guides we had all  
week told us the  
history of Pisa's  
three famous  
buildings—  
the cathedral,  
the baptistery,  
and, of course,  
the leaning tower.







Inside the baptistery, the guide gave a singing demo and let us climb the narrow winding staircase to the top.





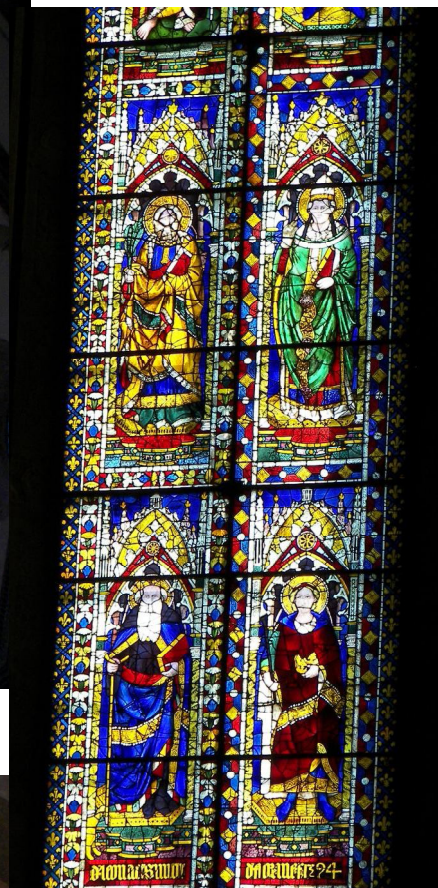
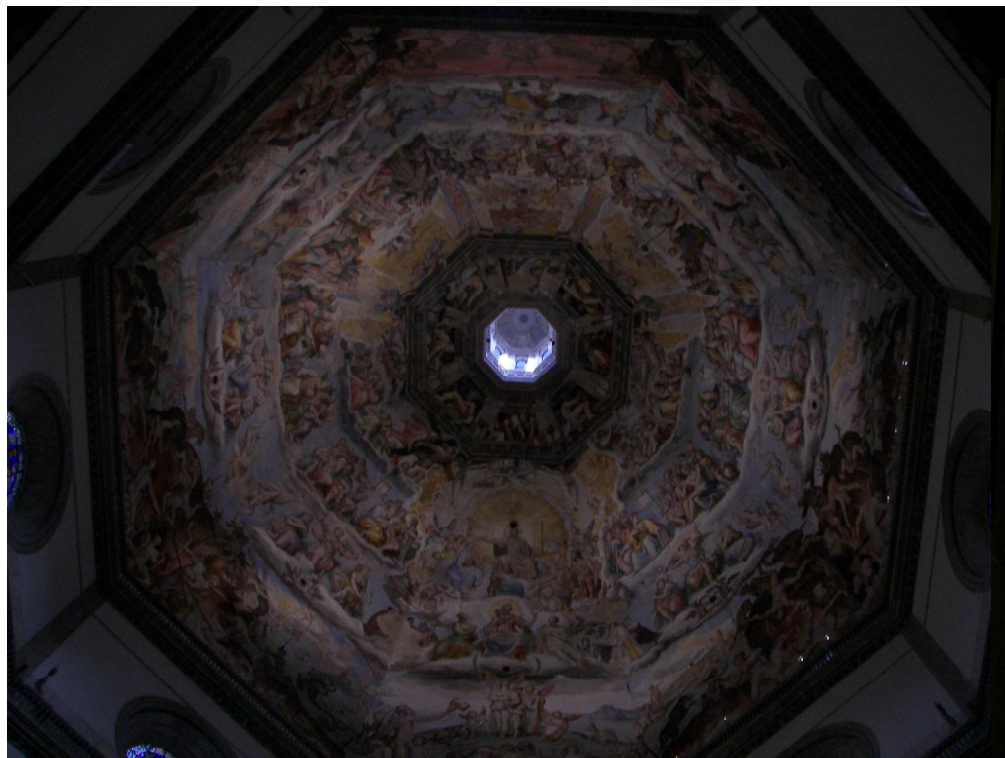
The cathedral door told a bible story, and inside you were drawn to the enormous gold ceiling.











After Pisa, we  
went back to  
Florence and  
went inside  
the Duomo.

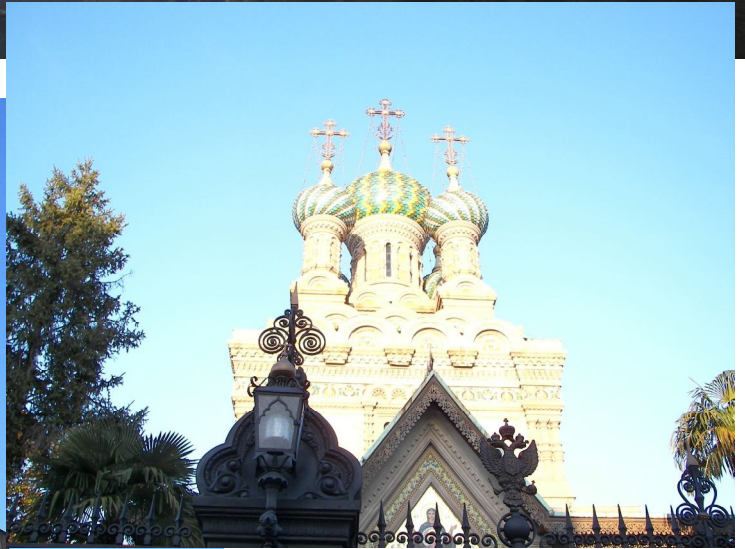




Our last day in  
Florence' was  
spent enjoying a nice  
relaxing walk  
around the city and  
some' pizza.











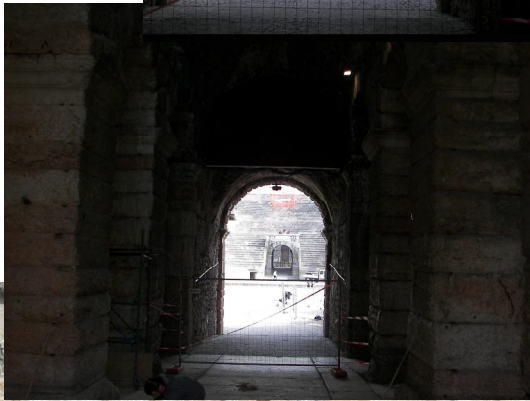
# Verona











Verona was filled with wonderful sights, — a small coliseum, Roman ruins, and a some' little' known inspiration for this writer you've probably never heard of...

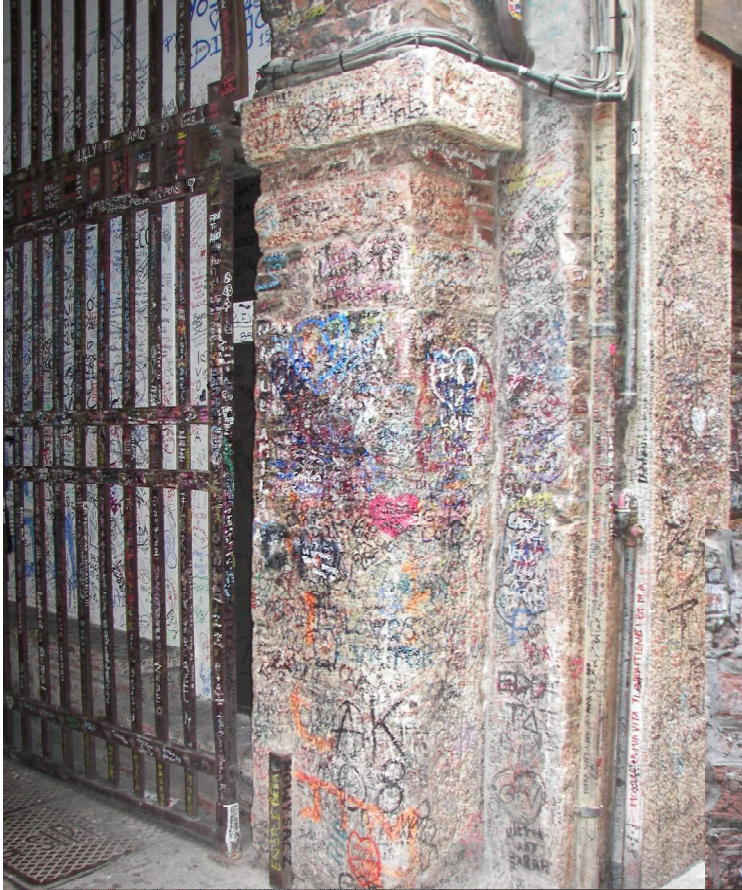






DIVIETO DI AFFISSIONE

Verona was the  
home of William  
Shakespeare's most  
famous couple,  
Romeo and Juliet.  
We were lucky  
enough to visit  
Juliet's home.







The way to Juliet's house  
was through a graffiti covered  
alley. filled with messages of  
love from visitors from all  
around the world.









"THERE IS NO WORLD WITHOVT VERONA WALLS,  
BVT PVRGATORY, TORTVRE, HELL ITSELF.  
HENCE BANISHED IS BANISH'D FROM THE WORLD,  
AND WORLD'S EXILE IS DEATH: . . . . "

"NON ESISTE MONDO FVOR DALLE MVRA DI VERONA;  
MA SOLO PVRGATORIO, TORTVRA, INFERNO.  
CHI E' BANDITO DI QVI, E' BANDITO DAL MONDO  
E L'ESILIO DAL MONDO E' MORTE; . . . . "

(SHAKESPEARE, "ROMEO AND JVLJET", ATTO III, SCENA III)

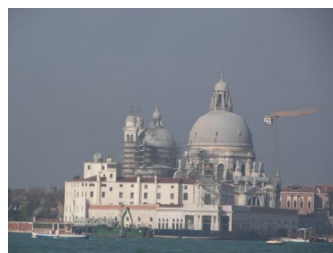


WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE









Venice











Our tour of Venice began with a ferry ride to the island and a walk to the city center, along the coast, passing over several canals.











Weaving through  
the "streets" of  
Venice, we made  
our way to the  
Grand Canal.











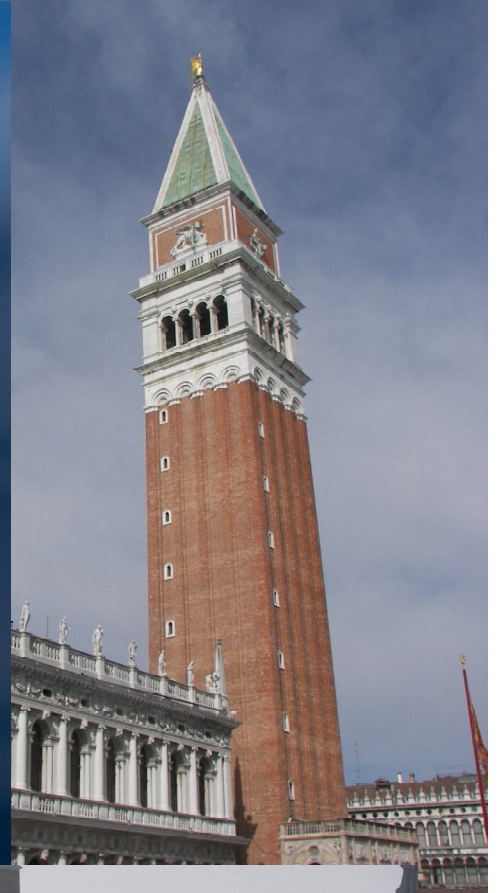
The Grand Canal was one  
of Venice's highlights.  
Everyone wanted to pose for  
a picture, some even posed  
with a picture.















Free time in Venice took us to St. Mark's, the Doge's Palace, and the Bridge of Sighs.









Venice is known  
for two main  
products...  
glass and lace, so  
we were lucky  
enough to see  
demonstrations on  
both glass blowing  
and lace making.







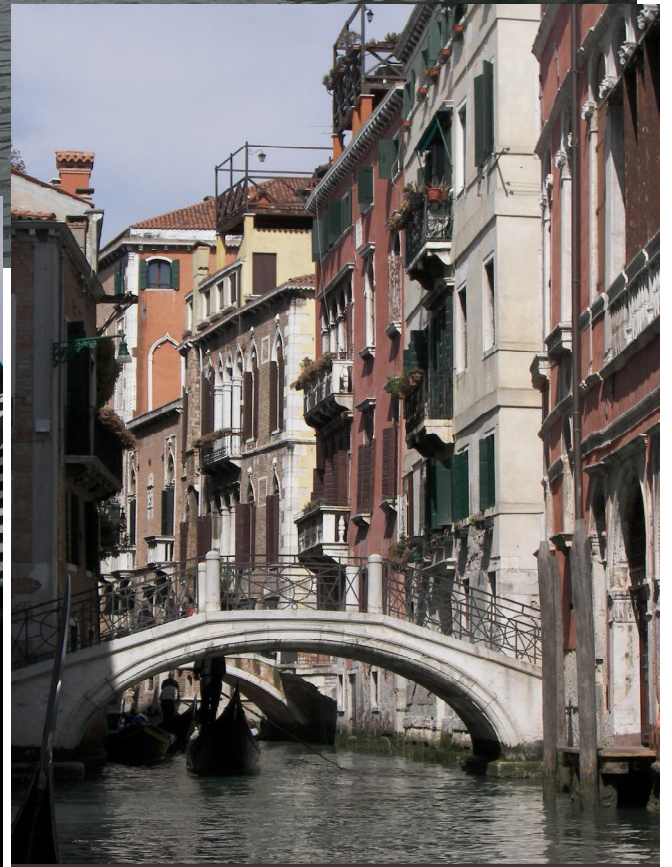
*In St. Mark's Square, Minooka kids  
made friends with some pigeons.*





In groups of five or six, we took a tour through the canals of Venice with the storytelling gondoliers.



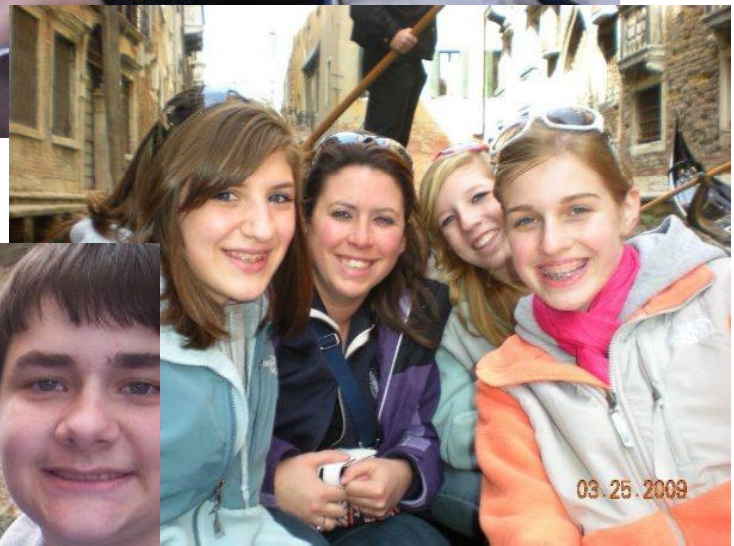


*Some of the gondoliers told us funny stories, others related historical facts, and some even sang to us.*



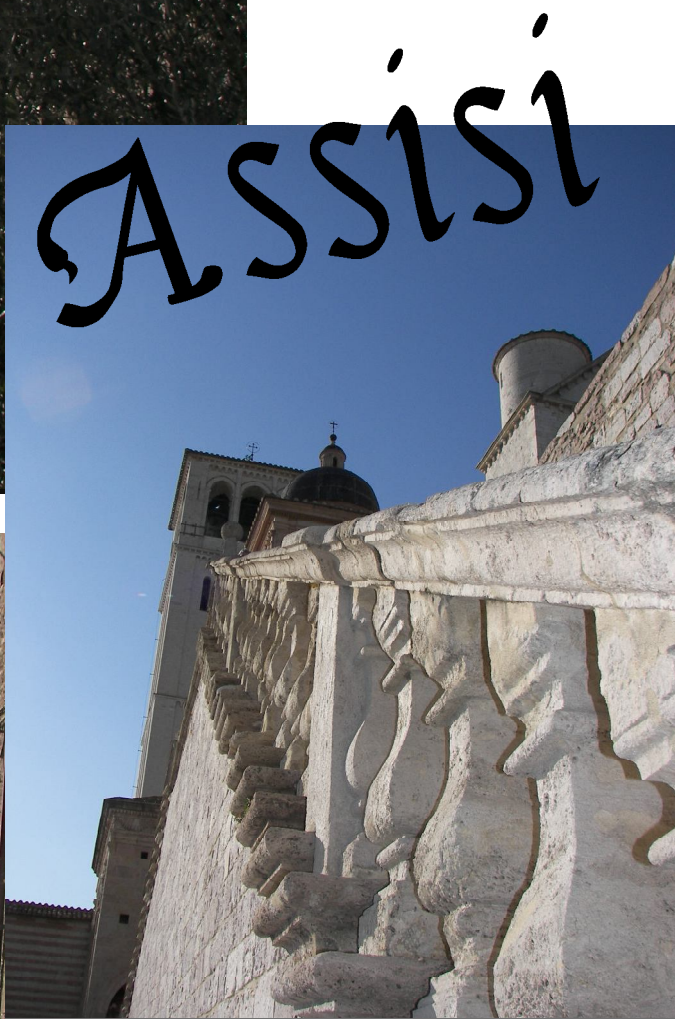






The gondola ride's in Venice are a tradition dating back hundreds of years, and we were more than happy to play along.







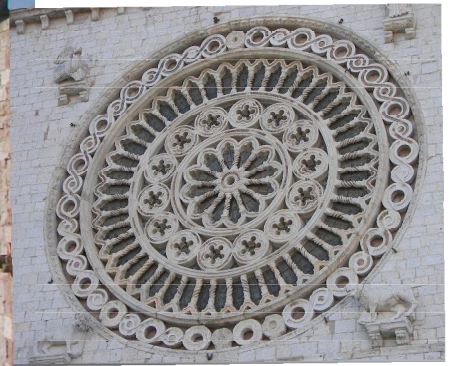
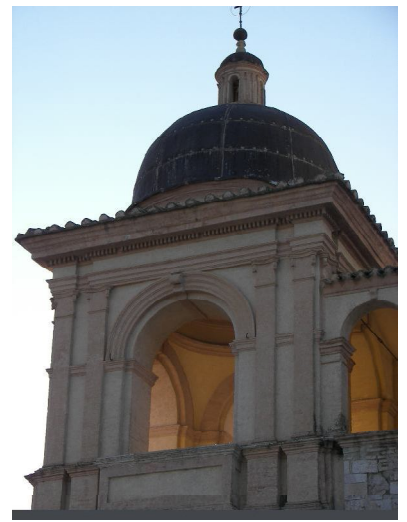


Assisi was a quiet hillside  
village and the home of  
St. Francis.









The double  
cathedral in  
Assisi was  
a perfect  
place to  
take  
pictures.



















Wandering through Assisi,  
we came across an old  
Roman well.

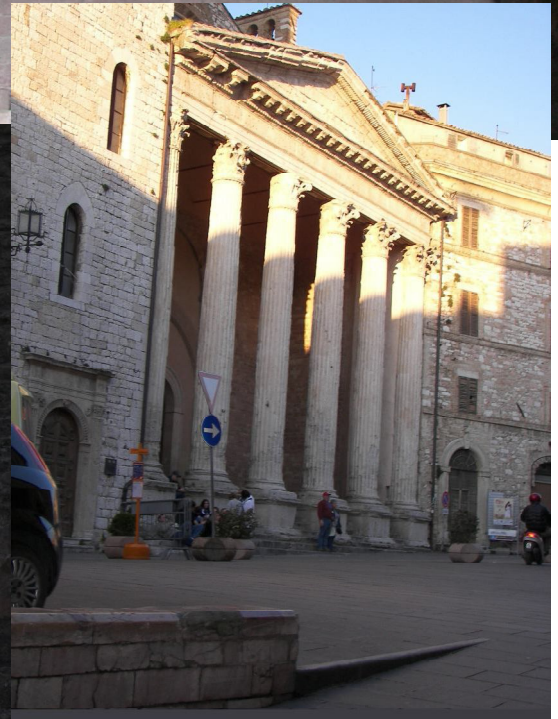




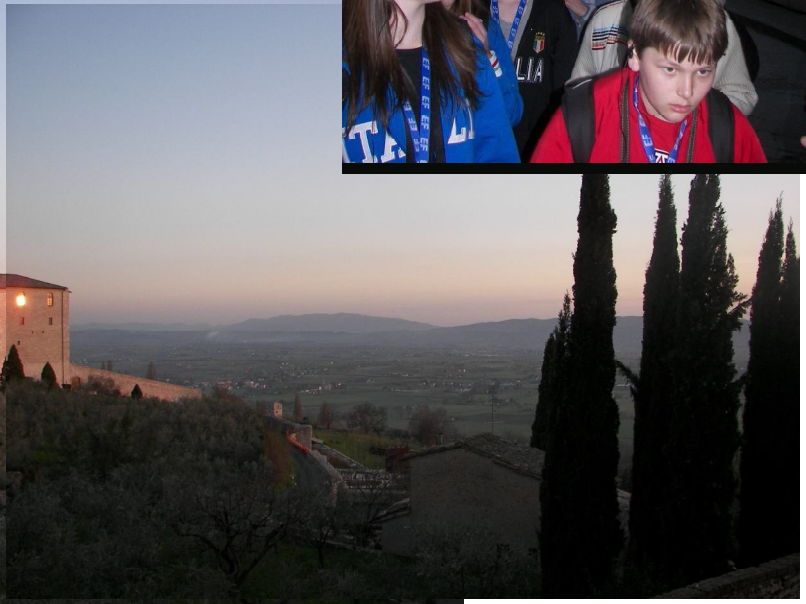
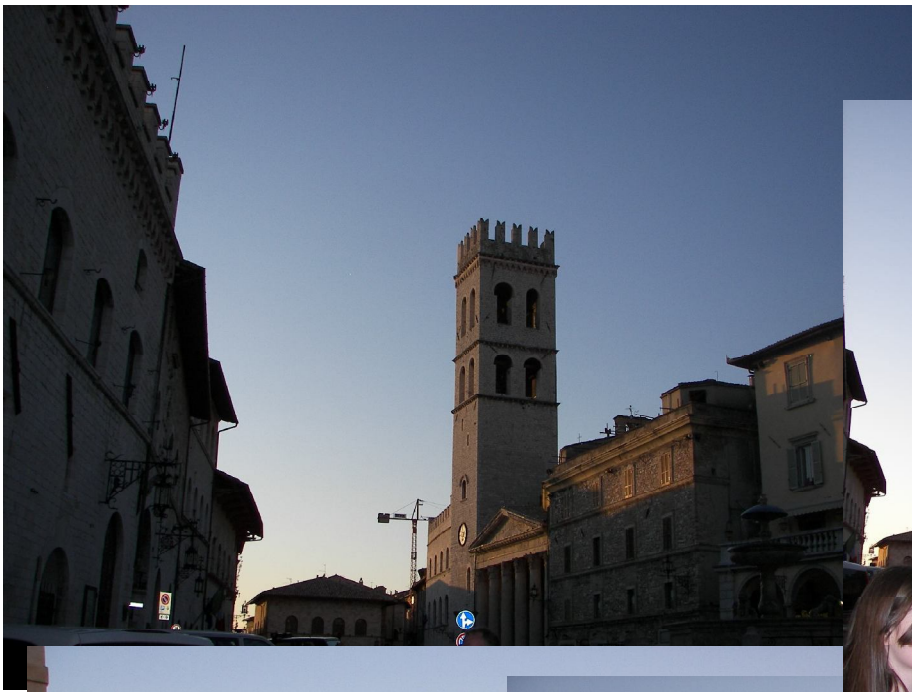


The streets of Assisi were full of surprises, like the birthplace of St. Francis and his small chapel.















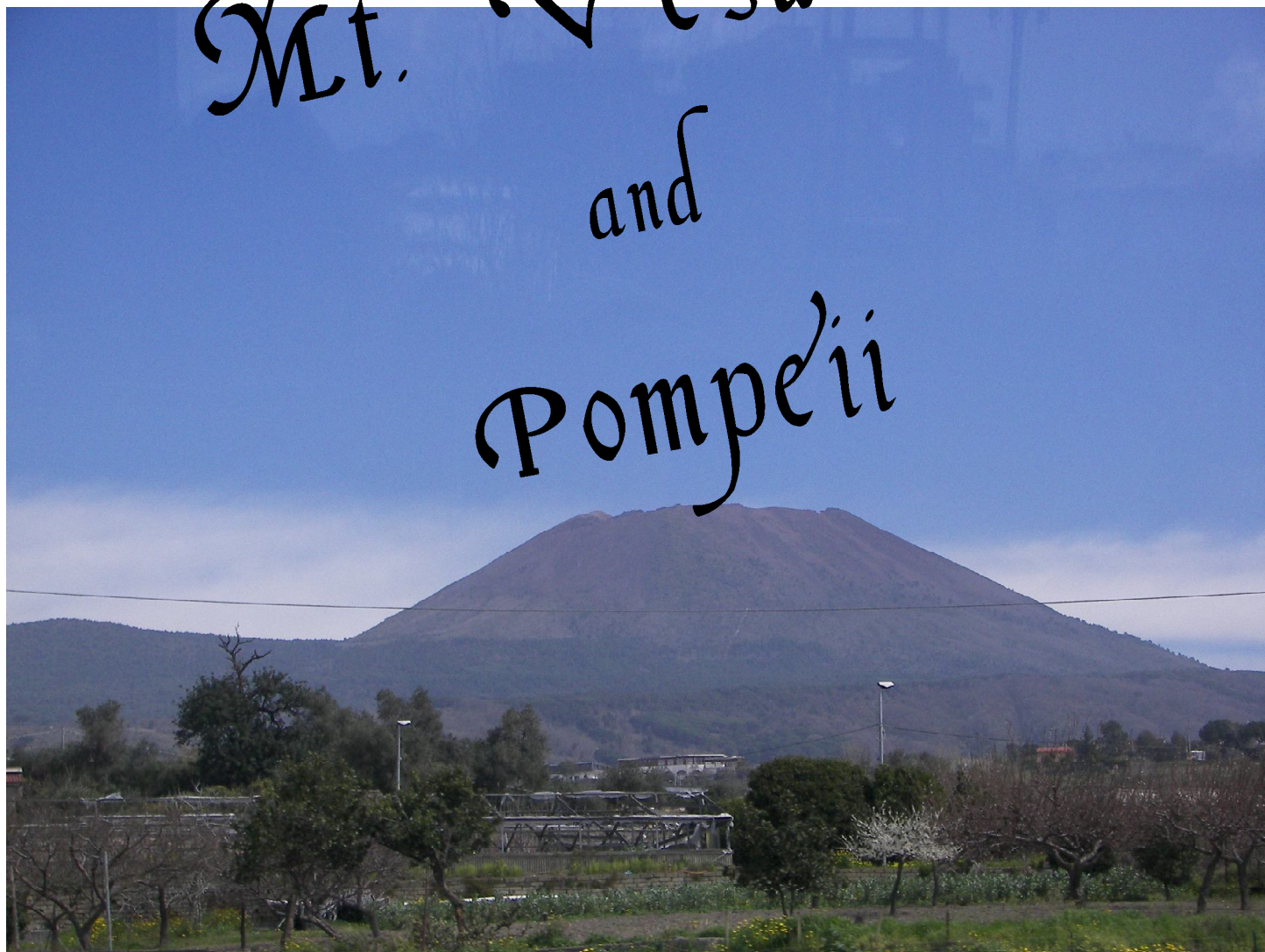
Our hotel  
in Assisi  
was  
actually  
built into  
the old  
city walls,  
which  
make for  
some  
interesting  
hotel rooms.







Mt. Vesuvius  
and  
Pompeii







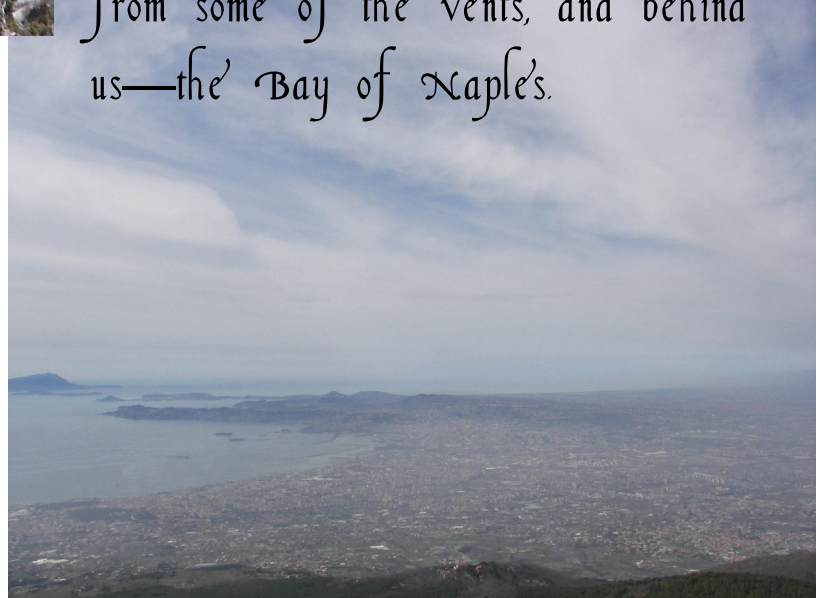
Mt. Vesuvius is an active volcano. With the city of Naples in the background, we made the long trek up to the top of the mountain. Along the way, we saw the dried lava rivets from the last few times Vesuvius erupted.







after we hiked all the way to the top of Vesuvius, we gathered around the cauldron, and a scientist explained to us how the volcano works. We could see steam coming from some of the vents, and behind us—the Bay of Naples.





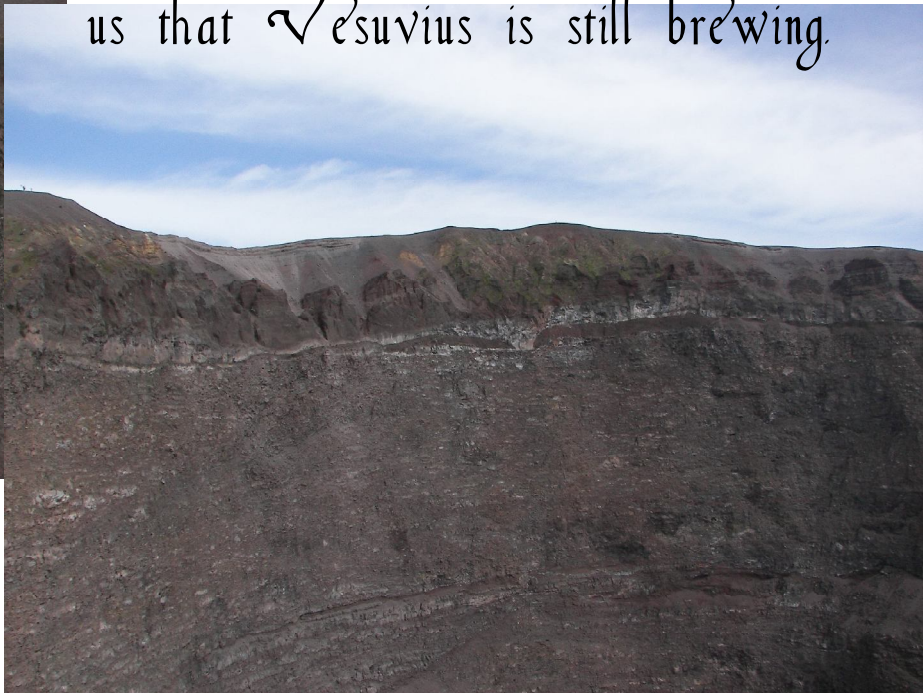


We felt safe looking down into the cauldron of Vesuvius with all the seismographs around reporting any volcanic activity.





The stripes inside the volcano showed us the ash deposits from each time the mountain has erupted and the steam from the vents told us that Vesuvius is still brewing.







Does family bonding get any better  
than climbing a volcano together?







It took a few hours, but all of us made it to the top of Mt. Vesuvius. No one fell in the volcano and no one got whacked with a walking stick, it was a great day.

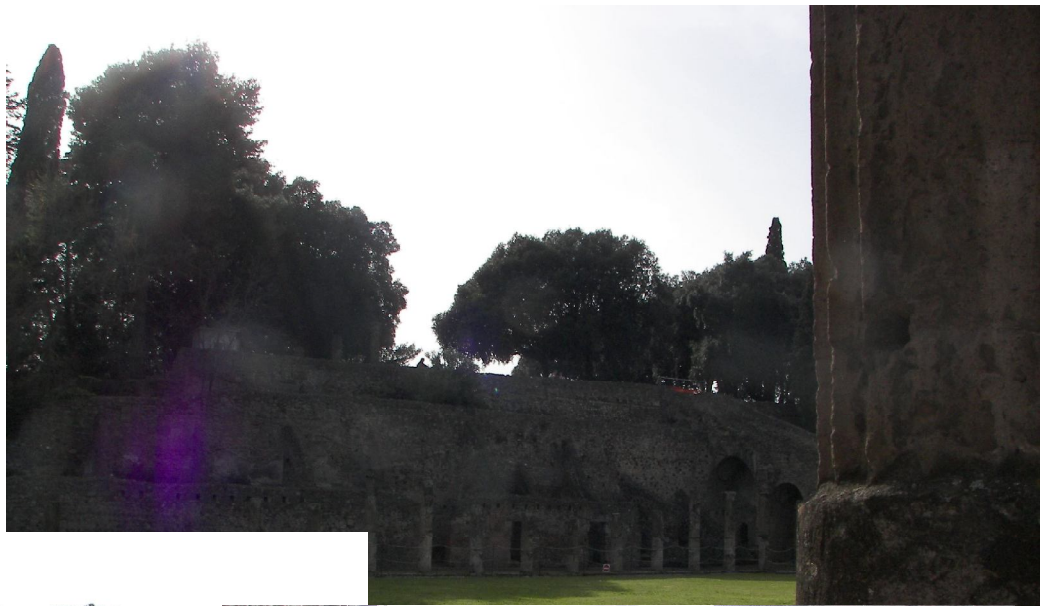


The climb to the top of  
Vesuvius was not easy,  
even with our cool  
walking sticks, but how  
many people back home  
spent their spring break  
hiking up a volcano?





Since Vesuvius  
destroyed the city of  
Pompeii, it was fitting  
that our The ruins of  
Pompeii were our  
next stop.





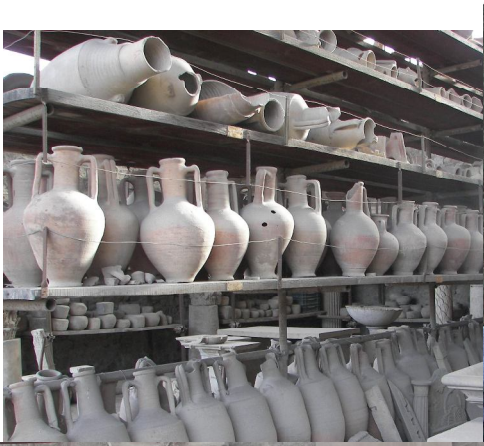






A guide led us through Pompeii, explaining to us what each building was. The city was in remarkably good shape considering all it'd been through.





Our tour took us to the residential areas, where thousands of artifacts had been preserved and plaster moldings of Pompeii's citizens were kept.



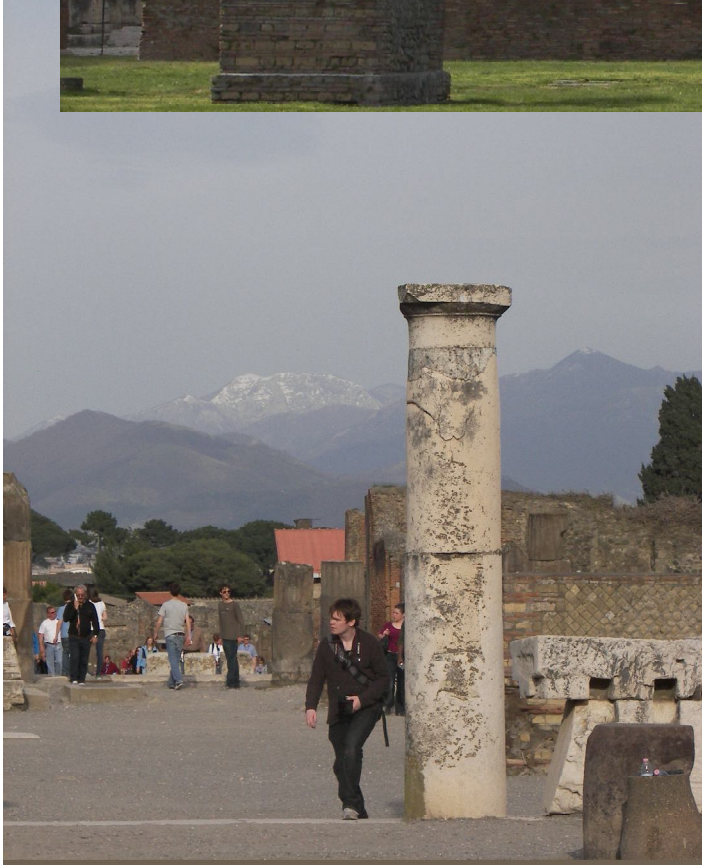




With Vesuvius looming in the background, we walked through some Pompeii home's, where the elaborate mosaic floors survived the volcano and hundreds of years underground.









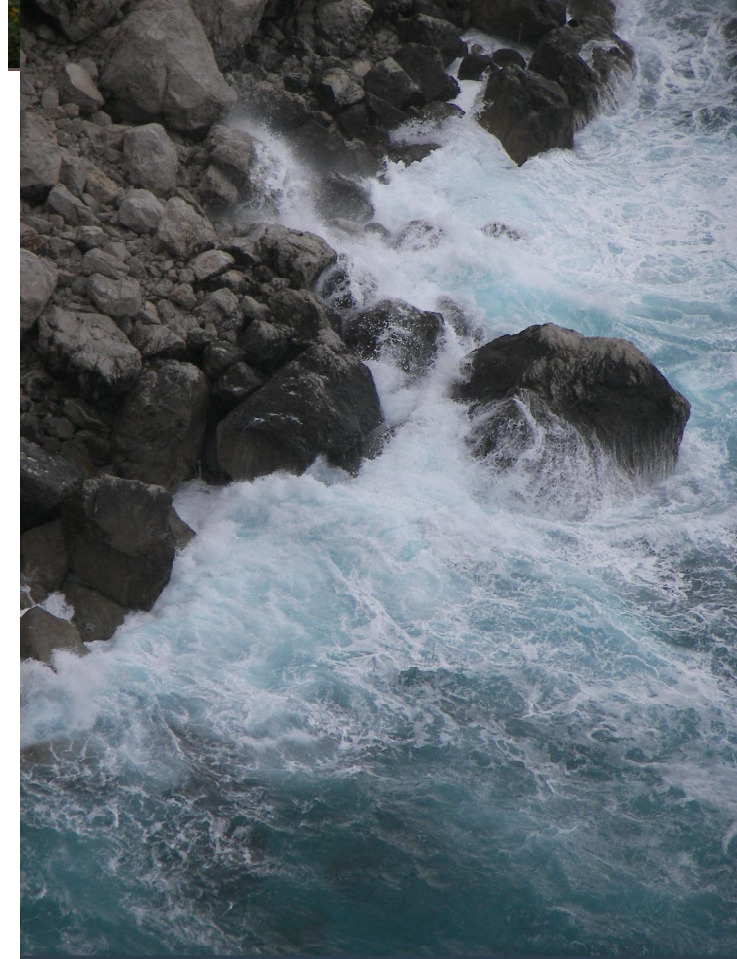




Seeing both Vesuvius and  
Pompeii on the same day  
was a great way to  
understand the power of  
the volcano, and how fragile  
life is.















The island of Capri was one of the most beautiful stops on our tour. It was the last day, and a perfect, relaxing way to end our trip



A small bus with a crazy  
driver took us up a  
winding path to the top of  
the island where we got  
amazing views of the  
Tyrrhenian Sea.





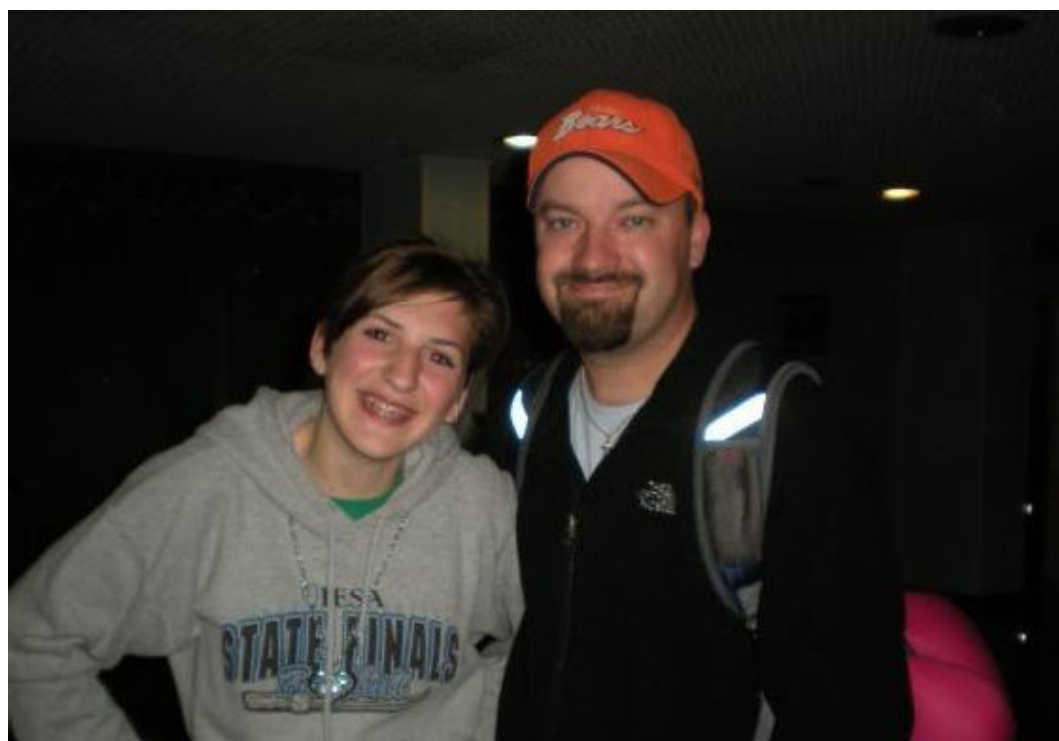


The kids were a little more lively on the boat ride to Capri than the way back but after twelve days exploring Italy, everyone was wiped out.





On our trip we learned a ton, made great memories,  
and even found a few new friends.







The whole Minooka T.A.P. gang on the top of the island of Capri, our last day in Italy..



In March of 2009, a group of teachers, students, parents, family, and friends made the long trip from Minooka, Illinois to Italy. Making stops in Rome, Vatican City, Florence, Pisa, Verona, Venice, Pompeii, and Capri. The group had an adventure they'd never forget, made friends they'll have forever, and had an opportunity to truly experience the world.

## Minooka T.A.P. 2009

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Heather Kozbiel

Michelle Hanley

Angelica Lara

Mike Curtis

Janine Lezza

Jackie Harig

Heather Lamb

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Kate Cummings

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Jessica Hutchinson

Michelle Jakaitis

Holly Kirsch

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