FAQs
AAIDD 2023 Delegation to Italy

**What are the dates of the Delegation?**
The dates of the program are **October 1-11, 2023**. Delegates should plan to arrive in Milan, Italy on Sunday, October 1, 2023. Delegates should plan on departing from Rome, Italy to their home city on Wednesday, October 11, 2023.

**What is included in the program fee?**
The program fee of **$3,995 double/$4,995 single occupancy** includes all arrangements for professional visits, in-program travel, transfer to the airport in Rome on October 11, lodging, local guides, emergency health/evacuation insurance, and admission to cultural attractions on the itinerary, most meals, and tips.

**What is not included in the program fee?**
Air travel between Delegates’ home city to Milan and from Rome, transfer between the airport and hotel in Milan, excess baggage fees on in-country transportation, vaccinations/medications, and trip cancellation insurance are not included in the program fee. Three dinners and three lunches during the program and pocket money are at the Delegates’ discretion.

**Are scholarships or discounts available from AAIDD to participate in the Delegation?**
No. AAIDD Delegations are offered “at cost”; no discounts are available, nor does AAIDD offer scholarships for its Delegations.

**How strenuous will the trip be?**
Each day of the Delegation has been structured to provide a full day of group activities. Delegates are informed that public accommodations, historic sites, and walking pathways outside the US are typically not optimally accessible to those who have mobility impairments.

The Delegation will be based in four cities with travel each day to various destinations, which will necessitate entering/exiting airports, airplanes, motor coaches, and buildings; walking on uneven ground and over hills; and climbing stairs. Based on planned destinations for this trip, Delegates will be expected to climb up to 3 flights of stairs and walk up to 2.5 miles each day over uneven ground and over hills.

**When should I apply?**
The Delegation is limited in size, and once all the slots have been filled, no further applications will be considered. Past Delegations were fully subscribed soon after the program was announced.

Applications are reviewed as they are submitted and applicants will be contacted by phone for additional information before a determination is made on their application. Individuals are strongly encouraged to apply as early as possible and to respond to any requests for additional information as quickly as possible.

**When are payments due?**
A deposit is required at the time their application is accepted and the final payment is due to AAIDD by July 7, 2023. AAIDD accepts all major credit cards.

**Is a visa required for this trip?**
Tourists from the US and Canada may stay up to 90 days in Italy without a visa.

**Will I need vaccinations/medication for this trip?**
For travel to Italy, the CDC recommends that travelers be up to date on routine vaccinations. Delegates with special health concerns should consult their physician.

**Can I share this invitation with other professionals in our field?**
Yes. The Delegation is designed to be a professional exchange (“study tour”) in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. Delegates are encouraged to let others in the field know about this delegation; however, all interested individuals must individually apply, be at least 18 years old, and commit to participate in the entirety of the program.

**Can I bring a guest on this Delegation?**
No. Other than support staff necessary for a Delegate’s participation, no personal guests or traveling companions
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will be included. Delegates are informed that the arrival of a Delegate’s personal guest or traveling companion at any time during the Delegation will result in their immediate dismissal from the program without a refund.

Will there be opportunities to present my work?
The itinerary of every Delegation is different. For the Delegation to Italy, no formal presentation opportunities by Delegates are planned.

How will my health information be treated?
Delegates are asked to disclose health information (conditions, medications, etc.) for the tour leader to access for the purpose of assessing reasonable accommodations and assisting medical professionals in the event that emergency health care is required. This information is treated confidentially prior to and during the trip and will be destroyed after.

What kind of lodging can I expect?
Delegates can expect to stay in three-star hotels equipped with WiFi and breakfast service.

How should I pack for this trip?
For professional meetings, participants are encouraged to dress “business casual” and wear comfortable walking shoes. In addition, Delegates are strongly encouraged to dress appropriately for the climate.

Over the period of the Delegation, the weather is typically moderately cool (45-60°F/7-18°C) and rain is likely on several days. Delegates are encouraged to pack clothing that could be layered for warmth. Laundry services will be available during the Delegation.

Delegates are encouraged to bring a voltage converter. While WiFi will be complimentary at the Delegation’s hotels, Delegates are encouraged to check with their cell provider about international calling/data plans.

Delegates are expected to manage their own bags onto and off trains and buses throughout the delegation and are strongly encouraged to limit themselves to one rollaboard-sized bag (22x14x9 inch) and one personal item. Delegates are encouraged to check the baggage policies for their international flights to determine the cost of any additional bags.

Will AAIDD provide supports for people with disabilities to participate?
AAIDD encourages people with disabilities to apply. AAIDD requires that all applicants disclose any condition or need that may require reasonable accommodations at the time of their application for the program.

Delegates that require personal support staff to fully participate in the program must provide such supports (including salary, travel, program costs, etc.) at their own expense and provide information found on the delegation application for their support personnel.

Failure to disclose any condition or need that would require reasonable accommodation may result in the inability of AAIDD and its representatives and agents to provide accommodations, and further, Delegates are informed that should they fail to disclose such information, they may be dismissed from the program without a refund.

Can I get a refund if I cannot go/Is trip cancellation insurance available through AAIDD?
No. AAIDD will not refund deposits or program fees. Trip cancelation insurance is not included in the program fee but may be purchased (at your discretion) from your airline and/or travel insurance companies such as Allianz. The program fee includes a group insurance policy that covers emergency health and medical evacuation costs (up to a cap) while on the trip.

When should I plan to arrive in Milan and how should I get to the hotel?
Our Delegation will begin with an orientation dinner on October 1. Delegates should plan to arrive in Milan on Sunday, October 1, 2023 in the late morning or early afternoon. Delegates who wish to arrive one or more days earlier may arrange extra nights at the hotel at their own expense. Delegates will be provided with information for transferring from the airport to the hotel in Milan.

When should I plan to depart from Rome?
A full day of activities and a farewell dinner are scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, 2023. Transfers will be provided to the airport in Rome on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at no additional cost. Delegates who plan to depart Rome following this date should plan to make their own airport transfer arrangements at their own cost.

Who should I contact for more information?
For more information on the AAIDD Delegation, contact Gabrielle Herald at 301-392-2485 or gherald@aaidd.org.