






INSIGHT VACATIONS

Grand Italy & Sicily





KEY

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 Central Hotels + Nights |  Cruise |
| ① Scenic Hotels + Nights |  Train |
| ● Place Visited |  Join/Leave Options |
| ○ Optional Place Visited |  Included Flights |
| ▬ Trip Option |  UNESCO Heritage Site |

Day 1 | Welcome to the Eternal City of Rome



Welcome to Rome, a glorious city filled with classical antiquities, medieval buildings, Renaissance palaces and Baroque churches. Settle in before joining your Travel Director and get to know your fellow travellers over Roman specialities during dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Dinner

Hotel: St. Martin, Rome

Day 2 | Vatican City and Rome with a Local



Rome is a city of art, antiquity, piazzas and palaces. Join your Local Expert for an in-depth exploration that brings its layered history to life. Begin at the Vatican Museums, where you'll see an extraordinary collection of priceless artworks curated by the Popes. Marvel at Michelangelo's frescoes in the Sistine Chapel and admire the iconic dome of St. Peter's Basilica. Then cross the Tiber into ancient Rome to visit the Circus Maximus and the Arch of Constantine. Enjoy a guided visit of the Colosseum and uncover the legends, construction and daily life of this monumental arena. Later, you may choose to continue your exploration, from the grandeur of the Pantheon to the fountains and piazzas that define Rome's vibrant street life.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: St. Martin, Rome

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Piazzas and Fountains - Enjoy a guided *passaggiata* with a Local Expert through Rome's cobblestone streets. Venture into the heart of Ancient Rome, wander through its charming squares, and marvel at the city's iconic landmarks that define its unique character, all while soaking up the vibrant atmosphere that makes the Eternal City so captivating.

Adult: 50.00 EUR

Roman Dinner Party - Enjoy an evening of delicious Roman cuisine with drinks and a great Italian ambiance.

Adult: 79.00 EUR

Day 3 | Pisa and Santa Margherita Ligure



Enjoy a delightful drive to Pisa through rolling countryside dotted with cypress trees, passing vineyards and olive groves. With a Local Expert, view the incredible Leaning Tower in the Square of Miracles from which Galileo is said to have conducted experiments on velocity and gravity. See the splendid cathedral and baptistery, decorated with mosaics and designs in solid marble. Your journey continues to the pretty seaside resort of Santa Margherita Ligure.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Best Western Regina Elena, Santa Margherita Ligure

Day 4 | The Charms of the Cinque Terre



Head to the famous Cinque Terre, which translates to Five Lands. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is located on a gorgeously wild yet hospitable part of the coastline. With a Local Expert, approach one of the fishing villages by boat (weather permitting). In Monterosso, spend some time exploring the medieval quarter or the popular sandy beach before continuing to the village of Portofino, famed for its colourful houses. Browse the boutiques and stay a while in the cafe bars on the piazzetta, watching the yachts moored in the harbour. Then cruise along the rugged Ligurian coast to your hotel in the resort of Santa Margherita.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Best Western Regina Elena, Santa Margherita Ligure

Day 5 | Lake Maggiore



Head north to beautiful Lake Maggiore in the Italian Lakes District and the town of Baveno, noted for its narrow cobbled streets and charming square. On arrival, settle into your hotel and take in the magical scenery. In the afternoon, why not join an Optional Experience cruise to Isola Bella to explore the palace and admire the stunning and immaculate Italian style gardens.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Grand Hotel Dino, Baveno

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Isola Bella - The premier attraction of Lake Maggiore is the Borromean Islands. We'll take a private boat over to Isola Bella, the most famous island, renowned for its incredible palace and stunning Botanical Gardens. Our Local Expert will take us on a guided tour of this privately-owned palace, with free time to admire the gardens. A must!

Adult: 69.00 EUR

** This optional is only able to be operated between mid-March and the end of October.*

Dinner on Isola dei Pescatori - This evening escape to the charming and tranquil island of Isola dei Pescatori. A short boat ride from the shores of Lake Maggiore, this fisherman's Island is inhabited year round by only 50 permanent residents. Stroll through the small piazza, surrounded by tight and winding alleys, to enjoy dinner at one of the Island's restaurants.
Adult: 85.00 EUR

Day 6 | On to Venice



Your Italy and Sicily tour continues past the Soave vineyards, the city of Padua and on to the canals of Venice. In the evening, enjoy dinner with your travelling companions.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Indigo - Sant'Elena, Venice

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Venetian Splendour - Venice is one of the most unique cities in the world and, after the crowds have left, it's at its most beautiful. Board private water taxis as you are whisked down the most famous canal in Venice - the Grand Canal. You'll witness the beautiful and spectacular palazzi adorning the most famous 'street' in Venice then travel under the remarkable Rialto Bridge to arrive in the centre of it all, Piazza San Marco. There, you have seats reserved outside a famous Venetian cafe, in front of a live orchestra. Enjoy a drink and gaze out at the illuminated sights of St Mark's Square while being serenaded. This is Venice at its most unique and magical, an evening not to be missed, with images and sensations you'll never forget!
Adult: 71.00 EUR

Day 7 | Venice and the Magic of La Serenissima



Cruise by private boat on a journey of discovery past churches and palaces reflecting the rich architectural history of Venice from the 13th to the 18th centuries. Marvel at the intricate facades and learn about the stories behind these historical buildings. Arrive close to St Mark's Square and stroll along the waterfront, passing the iconic Bridge of Sighs and the majestic Doge's Palace. It was from here that the infamous Casanova made his daring escape. Turn the corner into St Mark's Square and be captivated by the grandeur of the basilica. Afterwards, board a traditional gondola for a serenade along the romantic canals. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience and witness the artistry of expert glassblowers as they create beautiful, handcrafted glass pieces, preserving centuries-old techniques and traditions.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Indigo - Sant'Elena, Venice

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Hidden Venice - Experience Venice's big set pieces is to miss out on a hidden world full of surprises! Join a Local Expert for a fascinating walk through some of the lesser known quarters of Venice. The back lanes and 'campi', small squares, where tourists seldom tread are full of history and great places to sample local life.
Adult: 47.00 EUR

Burano Excursion & Meal - Leave the hustle of St Mark's Square behind on a delightful private cruise around the islands of the Venetian lagoon. Alight at the island of Burano, a photographer's paradise, famous for its candy coloured houses, artisan lace makers and leaning bell tower that would give Pisa a good run for its money. Enjoy a superb meal sampling the local specialities

with wine included. An excursion not to be missed!
Adult: 90.00 EUR

Day 8 | A Scenic Journey to Florence



Bid farewell to Venice as you travel south to Renaissance Florence. Upon arrival, enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore the city at your own pace. Later, perhaps join an Optional Experience to the hilltop town of San Gimignano, known for its medieval towers and timeless charm. End the day with a traditional bistecca alla Fiorentina dinner, perfectly paired with local wine—a regional speciality not to be missed.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Hilton Garden Inn Florence Novoli

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

San Gimignano Excursion -Join your Local Expert in San Gimignano, Tuscany's 'medieval Manhattan', where 14 towers still rise above cobbled lanes. Discover how rival families built these structures in a show of power, and explore Romanesque and Gothic architecture that has remained untouched since the 14th century. As you take in the town's timeless charm and historic wealth in saffron trade, you'll also savour a local treat specially selected for your visit.
Adult: 59.00 EUR

Day 9 | Florence, Birthplace of the Renaissance



Today, discover the artisan traditions of Florence with a leatherwork and gold demonstration—crafts deeply rooted in the city's heritage. Later, you'll explore the city with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the Accademia Gallery to admire Michelangelo's David, followed by a guided walk past the city's marble cathedral, bell tower and baptistry, where Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise have been recreated in stunning detail. Alternatively, join your Travel Director for a relaxed stroll and enjoy a typical Italian treat in a local cafe. Continue into the Piazza della Signoria, the city's political heart and open-air gallery of Renaissance sculpture, and pause to view statues of Neptune, Hercules and Cacus standing proudly before the Palazzo Vecchio. This evening, consider an Optional Experience featuring a traditional Tuscan dinner paired with regional wines—including a glass of Chianti from the nearby vineyards.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hilton Garden Inn Florence Novoli

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Dinner in Tuscany - This evening, journey into the Tuscan countryside for a relaxed yet flavourful experience. Step into a welcoming local restaurant, where the chef prepares regional dishes using freshly sourced ingredients from the local farmer's market. Each course brings Tuscany's rich culinary heritage vividly to life in an authentic and inviting setting.
Adult: 80.00 EUR

Day 10 | Ill-fated Pompeii and on to Sorrento



Journey south through the volcanic hills of Frascati to Pompeii, which was buried in A.D. 79 by Mount Vesuvius' catastrophic eruption. Walk with a Local Expert through the preserved cobbled streets for a glimpse into the daily life of civilisation during the Roman Empire. Follow the clifftop road to the resort town of Sorrento, overlooking the Bay of Naples.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Isabella, Sorrento

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Sorrento Evening - A chance to enjoy a delicious dinner of local specialities. We arrive at one of the area's unique local restaurants for an incredible dining experience featuring some of the famous dishes of this region!

Adult: 85.00 EUR

Day 11 | Capri, the Isle of Dreams



Meet your Local Expert and cross the Bay of Naples to reach the beautiful Isle of Capri, a rock rising sheer from the Mediterranean! For 2,000 years, Capri has beckoned visitors from Tiberius Caesar to Gracie Fields. Arriving at the Marina Grande by boat, ascend to Capri town. Explore the narrow alleyways and descend to the port by funicular railway for the return to Sorrento. Later, perhaps explore the Amalfi Coast?

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Isabella, Sorrento

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Island Tour of Capri - Experience a private, guided cruise along the beautiful southern coast to see spectacular cliffs, the famous Faraglioni Rocks and White Grotto sea cave with its small red coral. View the turquoise waters and private villas and hear the stories of Roman Emperors and famous people through history who have called Capri home before ascending to Capri town. This optional experience is weather dependent and may be replaced by a minibus tour of the Island with a visit to Anacapri and either the Villa San Michele or the Anacapri chairlift.

Adult: 60.00 EUR

Amalfi Coast Drive & Positano Visit - Drive along the clear blue waters and picturesque resorts of the Amalfi Coast, arguably the most glamorous and scenic stretch of coast in Europe. Minibuses wind their way down serpentine roads to the exclusive artists' paradise, Positano. Explore elegant shops, watch artists at work, or enjoy an *aperitivo* in a beachside cafe.

Adult: 81.00 EUR

Day 12 | Sassi di Matera and Alberobello



After breakfast, discover two UNESCO World Heritage Sites. First, visit Matera for an in-depth guided exploration of the extraordinary Sassi, ancient troglodyte dwellings and churches dug out of the rock. These are the most extensive example of their kind in the Mediterranean and were inhabited by about 20,000 people up until the 1950s. Matera was also used as the setting for the film 'The Passion of the Christ'. Continue to Alberobello, the second UNESCO World Heritage Site, and your home for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Grand Hotel La Chiusa di Chietri, Alberobello

Day 13 | The Trulli of Alberobello



Admire another of Italy's record number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites with a Local Expert. The trulli of Alberobello are circular structures with conical roofs that are domed within. They are built from local limestone and stacked without using mortar. In the evening, delight at the freshly prepared Farm-to-table dinner. Savour a traditional meal and discover regional life through its local cuisine.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Grand Hotel La Chiusa di Chietri, Alberobello

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Ostuni - In the company of our Local Expert experience the town of Ostuni which is reminiscent of a North African Arab Medina. Admire the stark white-washed buildings, narrow cobbled streets and arched stairways. Set against three hills, 'The White Town' is a photographer's delight.

Adult: 39.00 EUR

Day 14 | Alberobello to Sicily



The local roads will take you south, following the shores of the Gulf of Taranto to the mountainous Calabria region. Travel along the Purple Coast to the very 'toe' of Italy and board your ferry bound for Sicily. According to ancient legend, it was here at the Straits of Messina where the twin whirlpools of Scylla and Charybdis carried unwary seafarers away to their doom. After disembarking, continue to Taormina. Join a Local Expert for a visit to the Greek Theatre, graced with the most spectacular of backdrops.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Baia Taormina, Marina di Forza D'Agrò

Day 15 | The Dawn Coast of Europe to Palermo



Relax this morning on the stunning Dawn Coast of Europe or choose to join an optional experience to majestic Mt. Etna, Europe's highest active volcano, where you'll journey through dramatic volcanic landscapes and enjoy spectacular panoramic views. Later, travel through Sicily's beautiful countryside as you make your way to the vibrant capital city of Palermo, rich in history, culture and architectural splendour.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Federico II Central Palace, Palermo

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Mt. Etna - Where myth and legend merge to reality! With a Local Expert we'll drive up Mt. Etna, Europe's largest active volcano. Ascend through the fertile foothills, bypassing small villages, lush forests, ancient craters and lava flows to see amazing lunar landscapes and houses surrounded by lava. Admire astonishing panoramic views over the eastern Sicilian coast and Ionian Sea whilst discovering the history of Sicily's most popular attraction and its eruptions. (*Footwear such as trainers or boots advised*)
Adult: 65.00 EUR

Dinner in Palermo - Sicilian dining is one of life's true pleasures! We'll indulge in great food made from the freshest ingredients, accompanied by the island's delicious wines.
Adult: 76.00 EUR

Day 16 | Palermo, Capital of Sicily



Explore Palermo with your Local Expert, who shows you the capital's key sights. Venture inside Palermo Cathedral to appreciate its Arab-Norman, Gothic, Baroque and Neoclassical influences before continuing to the Palatine Chapel in the Palace of the Normans, where golden mosaics reveal Sicily's layered Byzantine, Arab and Norman heritage. Spend the afternoon at leisure, or choose an Optional Experience visiting Teatro Massimo, Italy's largest opera house, and a historic street market where vendors' traditional *abbanniati* calls animate daily trade. This evening, join your travelling companions and Travel Director at a local restaurant for regional Sicilian cuisine and wine.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Federico II Central Palace, Palermo

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Hidden Palermo - Step into the charm of this captivating city as your Local Expert unveils its hidden corners and untold stories. Immerse yourself in its vibrant atmosphere—a true melting pot of cultures—where diverse traditions and unique ambiances seamlessly intertwine. From ancient churches to magnificent palaces, every step of your journey will transport you through centuries of history, revealing fascinating tales of past civilizations. Conclude your exploration with a delightful local treat, the perfect finishing touch to your adventure.
Adult: 58.00 EUR

The Soul of Palermo: Grand Theatre and Vibrant Market - Begin at Palermo's Teatro Massimo, Italy's largest opera house, opened in 1897, where your Local Expert explains its architecture, civic role and connection to *The Godfather*. Continue to a historic street market to see fresh produce, spices and Sicilian specialities, while hearing the *abbanniati*, vendors' traditional calls that turn everyday trade into a distinctive Palermo ritual and social theatre.
Adult: 59.00 EUR

Day 17 | Depart Palermo



Your grand tour of Italy draws to an end. Departure transfers arrive at Palermo Falcone–Borsellino Airport.

Meals: Breakfast

This document was last updated 20 May 2026.

While all information is correct at the time of publication, occasionally details or timings may differ.
Please refer to our website or speak to your Travel Director for the latest updates.