

Great Italian Cities



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 Start Location


 Plane

 Cruise

 Over night

 Visited Location

 End Location

 Train

 Ferry

Day 1 | Welcome to Rome



You're in for a bellissimo journey through the spectacular cities of Italy, which kicks off in the 'Eternal City' of Rome. Join your fellow travellers and Travel Director for a delightful dinner. Your introduction to la dolce vita begins with an orientation drive past Rome's most magnificent sights.

Meals: Dinner

Hotel: Grand Palatino Rome/Crowne Plaza St Peters

Day 2 | Explore Ancient Rome and the Vatican City



This morning, join your Local Specialist for a very special experience in the smallest nation on earth - Vatican City. Explore the extraordinary collections of the Vatican Museums and stand beneath Michelangelo's sublime ceiling in the Sistine Chapel. Admire the artistry of great masters and walk in the footsteps of popes who have found peace within the walls of this enclave for centuries. Visit the expansive St. Peter's Basilica admiring the ethereal artistry of Michelangelo's Pietà. Cross the Tiber and venture into Ancient Rome to visit the Colosseum.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Grand Palatino Rome/Crowne Plaza St Peters

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Piazzas and Fountains - Discover the most enchanting areas of the city with a Local Specialist. Stroll through the maze of narrow streets and picturesque squares in Rome's historic centre, uncovering famous landmarks and hidden gems in the Eternal City.

Adult: 49.00 EUR

Day 3 | Rome Your Way



Enjoy a full free day to explore Rome your way, or consider an Optional Experience delving into the tragic history of Pompeii - the Roman city frozen in time by the devastating eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. Your Local Specialist will bring the ancient story of this city to life before you return to Rome, passing by the Abbey of Monte Cassino, the site of fierce fighting during the Second World War.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Grand Palatino Rome/Crowne Plaza St Peters

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Discover Pompeii - Join our Local Specialist on a tour of the excavations of Pompeii, the perfectly preserved Roman town engulfed by Mount Vesuvius' eruption in AD 79. You'll witness the devastating destruction it had on the area and have the opportunity to go back in time to catch a glimpse of everyday Roman life, frozen for almost 2,000 years. We then return to Rome, passing the formidable Abbey of Montecassino, one of the greatest shrines of Christendom and the site of an epic battle in 1944.

Adult: 111.00 EUR

Roman Delights with Dinner - Tonight, relax and enjoy typical Italian cuisine, soaking up Rome's unique atmosphere in a characteristic trattoria with drinks and music.

Adult: 67.00 EUR

Day 4 | Admire Assisi and on to Florence



Journey north through the rolling hills of Umbria to the birthplace of St. Francis of Assisi. Here your Local Specialist will reveal the story of this most venerated figure on a visit to the Basilica of St. Francis, the final resting place of this famous saint and home to a wonderful series of frescoes by Giotto. Later, continue your journey through the scenic Tuscan countryside to Florence. Tonight, enjoy dinner at a Be My Guest experience against the backdrop of picture-perfect olive groves and vineyards.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Grand Mediterraneo

Day 5 | Discover Renaissance Florence



Enjoy a leisurely encounter with the artistic and architectural marvels of Florence during your walking tour with a Local Specialist. Visit the striking Piazza della Signoria with its impressive sculptures and *palazzi*. Amble through the charming cobblestone lanes to the Multi-coloured marble Duomo and Baptistery, before admiring the scenic view of the Ponte Vecchio straddling the Arno River. Learn about the quality and workmanship of two of this city's historic industries at demonstrations of Florentine leathercraft and 18-carat gold. Spend the rest of the afternoon sauntering through the historic centre of Florence, shopping for high-quality leather for which the city is famous, or admiring the artistic contribution of the Medici at every turn.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Grand Mediterraneo

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

You will be offered one of the following two Optional Experiences depending on availability:

Michelangelo's 'David' & Accademia - Enjoy an insight into the world of Michelangelo and his masterpiece, 'David'. We'll visit the Academy of Fine Arts and its Michelangelo collection, where you'll learn all about the life and works of this immortal Renaissance genius through the expert commentary of our Local Specialist.*

Adult: 62.00 EUR

**The Accademia is not available on Mondays due to weekly closure day.*

Discover Palazzo Vecchio - Marvel at the legacy of the Medici as you visit Palazzo Vecchio, the symbol of Florence's political power for over seven centuries. With your Local Specialist you'll visit the wonderful "Hall of the Five Hundred" dedicated to the Medici popes. You'll also visit rooms decorated with masterpieces by famous artists of the Renaissance, like Michelangelo and Donatello.

Adult: 49.00 EUR

Visit to San Gimignano - Join us for a panoramic drive to the nearby hilltop town of San Gimignano. Magnificently preserved from the Middle Ages, this little town, known as the 'Medieval Manhattan', is one of the most beautiful in Italy - a true gem. You'll also enjoy a local treat.

Adult: 43.00 EUR

Day 6 | Uncover Pisa's Treasures



After a morning at leisure in Florence, cross the fertile Arno Valley to Pisa and join a Local Specialist to visit the Square of Miracles, home to the incredible Leaning Tower and the iconic marble cathedral. See the ornate Baptistery and the Camposanto, a monumental cemetery built on sacred soil brought back from the Holy Land during the Crusades.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Grand Mediterraneo

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

You will be offered one of the following two Optional Experiences depending on availability:

Dinner in the Tuscan Countryside - This evening, take a scenic drive to experience a fun and relaxed evening at a friendly, typical restaurant in the countryside. The chef will delight our senses with regional dishes, made with freshly-bought ingredients from the local farmers' markets. Your delicious meal will be accompanied by excellent wines from the vineyards for which this area is so well known. In short, a Tuscan dream come true in an authentic setting.

Adult: 78.00 EUR

Tuscan Dinner at Villa Machiavelli - Through the Chianti hills, you'll drive past vineyards to a delightful hamlet. Our destination is the ancient stone house of Machiavelli, where the great political theorist wrote his immortal work, 'The Prince'. After a welcome drink and a visit of the villa and its wine-cellars, enjoy the best of Tuscan cuisine accompanied by great music and drinks, including of course, Chianti from the Villa's own vines.

Adult: 78.00 EUR

Day 7 | Journey to Bologna and Venice



Travel north, through the Apennines, to the medieval city of Bologna, perhaps best known for the delicious pasta sauce that bears its name. Your sightseeing tour with a Local Specialist includes views of the Kissing Towers, which lean towards each other, seemingly poised to embrace. Then it's off to the romantic island city of Venice with its rich cultural and artistic heritage. Spend time at leisure gliding along its enchanting canals in a gondola or wander through the city's labyrinthine lanes, over bridges and into quiet campi.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Amadeus / Principe

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Gondolas & the Grand Canal - Join us for a breathtaking cruise by private water taxi along Venice's Grand Canal. You'll admire the magnificent palazzi, catching a glimpse of the Rialto Bridge and St. Mark's Square. Later on, you'll glide gracefully on a gondola along Venice's dreamy, narrow waterways.

Adult: 93.00 EUR

Day 8 | Cruise Venice's Canals



Savour the iconic and unexpected highlights of Venice as you cruise by private launch to St. Mark's Square to admire the Bridge of Sighs, Palladian churches, Customs House, St. Mark's Basilica and the ornate Doge's Palace. This afternoon, enjoy a visit to one of the city's last remaining studios where you'll gain insights into the delicate Venetian art of glassblowing. Spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure admiring this city on water or consider an Optional Experience to the island of Burano where colourful fishermen's homes line the canals.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Amadeus / Principe

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Lagoon Cruise to Burano with Food and Drinks - This afternoon, discover the Venetian Lagoon by private boat. You'll enjoy a delicious meal, with a selection of drinks, on the fisherman's island of Burano, famous for its Multi-coloured houses - a photographer's paradise.

Adult: 86.00 EUR

Day 9 | Experience Daily Life in Venice



Meet Lagoon Conservationist Davide for an engaging discussion on safeguarding environmental conditions in Venice during a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Sites made famous in poetry, song and prose are explored today when you join a Local Specialist for a walking tour from your hotel along the canals to the famous Rialto Bridge, where all the flavors of Italy come to life at a centuries-old food market. Amble through the narrow calli of Venice and admire the beautiful architecture. Walk over the Rialto Bridge before spending the rest of the day visiting the sights of your choice. Your love affair with Italy's great Italian cities comes to an end this evening as we enjoy dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Amadeus / Principe

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Doge's Palace and St. Mark's Square - Visit the magnificent Doge's Palace, once home to the rulers of the Venetian republic. Accompanied by a Local Specialist, you will walk across the famous Bridge of Sighs and before discovering the prisons. Afterwards, soak up the magical atmosphere of St. Mark's Square and delight in the stories about its unique history.

Adult: 67.00 EUR

Day 10 | Farewell Venice



For now, it's time to say a fond arrivederci to Italy and newfound friends who have shared in the memorable sights, sounds and flavours.

Meals: Breakfast