

Splendours of Italy



📍 Start Location

● Visited Location

✈️ Plane

📍 End Location

🚢 Cruise

🚆 Train

🕒 Over night

🚢 Ferry

Day 1 | Arrive Rome (2 Nights)



Take time to embrace the Italian passion for life on this grand adventure that starts and ends in the 'Eternal City' of Rome. You'll see reminders of an ancient world, a holy empire and the Renaissance around every turn should you wish to spend the day exploring on your own, after checking in to your hotel. Meet your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a glimpse of what's in store. You could continue your independent exploration of Rome later this evening or join your travel group for an Optional Experience featuring typical Italian cuisine with music.

Hotel: Ergife Palace

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Roman Delights with Dinner - Make the most of your Roman holiday, living la dolce vita as the locals do with a relaxed dinner in a characteristic trattoria. Soak up the atmosphere of the charming city as you dine, sampling typical Italian cuisine and drinks as you enjoy live music. This is the Italian experience you've been dreaming of!

Adult: 60.00 EUR

Day 2 | Rome sightseeing and free time



Take a moment. Standing in St. Peter's Square, you are in the midst of the world's holiest Catholic shrine – where people have worshipped since the fourth century. This expansive place of pilgrimage and prayer gives way to the lofty vaults of one of the greatest churches in the world, St. Peter's Basilica. Your Local Specialist will reveal the treasures and talents of Bramante, Michelangelo and Bernini, who all had a hand in its construction. Continue your guided sightseeing tour across the Tiber River to Ancient Rome and imagine a time when soldiers and senators built a city that became the centre of the world. The foundations of that city still stand today as a tribute to its former might and you'll have the opportunity to view its iconic ancient ruins before spending time on your own exploring or joining your fellow travellers on an Optional Experience to discover Rome's beautiful piazzas.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Ergife Palace

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Inside The Vatican & Colosseum - We skip the lines at the Vatican Museums for an enlightening tour led by our Local Specialist, which shows not just the remarkable works of art collected and commissioned over the history of the Papacy, but also Michelangelo's renowned ceiling frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. Later, we'll hear tales of gladiatorial combat and more on our visit to the Colosseum, again with a time-saving entrance.

Adult: 95.00 EUR

Piazzas and Fountains - Discover the most charming areas of the city as you explore quintessential Italian piazzas and fountains with a Local Specialist. Wander through the labyrinth of narrow streets and beautiful squares in Rome's historic centre, stopping to marvel at highlights such as the Trevi Fountain, The Pantheon and hidden corners of the Eternal City.

Adult: 41.00 EUR

Day 3 | Rome – Bay of Naples (2 Nights)



This morning, consider joining an Optional Experience to the Vatican Museums, home to an impressive collection of art and antiquities. Then the Bay of Naples beckons and you'll head south past the Abbey of Monte Cassino, the site of fierce battles during World War II. Perhaps spend the afternoon taking an Optional Experience drive along the picture-perfect Amalfi Coast, with a visit to the artistic hub of Positano and its pastel-hued houses that seem to tumble into the Tyrrhenian Sea, or else spend the rest of your day in search of the best Margherita pizza. Its ingredients reflect the red, white and green of Italy's flag – could there be anything more patriotic?

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: La Panoramica

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Amalfi Coast and Positano - Join us for an unforgettable drive along the picturesque Amalfi Coast, the jewel of Italy's southern coastline. Visit the world-famous paradise of Positano, with eye-catching colourful homes scattered along the cliffside village and rows of striking beach umbrellas set up alongside vivid blue waters. This is the Mediterranean encounter you've been dreaming of.

Adult: 66.00 EUR

Day 4 | Sorrento excursion



Today you'll take a scenic journey along the craggy Mediterranean coast, tracing the footsteps of artists, writers and high society who have long revered the sweet shores of Sorrento. Centuries on, there are no signs of the hypnotic sirens that once tempted soldiers to run their ships into the deadly rocks. Instead, fresh scents of citrus are likely to accompany your every step as you explore this beautiful resort town with plenty of time to explore on your own. Don't leave the town's historic harbour without sampling some local specialties. Then say salute to a swift and zesty limoncello – it's the perfect after-dinner digestivo.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: La Panoramica

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Sorrento Countryside and Farmhouse Meal - Enjoy a beautiful drive into the Sorrentino countryside, where you'll explore the gardens of a traditional local farm. During a tour of its lemon, orange and olive groves, your hosts will show you how mozzarella and other cheeses of the region are made. And then you'll get to try cheeses, salamis and marinated vegetables, washed down with local wine and homemade bread.

Adult: 59.00 EUR

Day 5 | Bay of Naples – Assisi (1 Night)



Enjoy a relaxing morning, unless you choose to join an Optional Experience to see the excavations of Pompeii in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius. Buried under ash when Vesuvius blew her top, Pompeii remains frozen in time and your Local Specialist will reveal what life was like as a local resident of the time. Later, we journey to the heart of Italy, through the rolling hills of Umbria, to Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis. Your orientation tour around this medieval hill-top town will include views of the Basilica of St. Francis, the final resting place of a saint who preached obedience, chastity and poverty.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Frate Sole

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Discover Pompeii - Join our Local Specialist on a tour of the excavations of Pompeii - the perfectly preserved Roman town that was engulfed by Mount Vesuvius' eruption in 79 A.D. This is an opportunity to travel back in time and catch a glimpse of ancient Roman life and architecture, frozen for almost 2,000 years.

Adult: 57.00 EUR

Day 6 | Assisi – Venice (Oriago) (2 Nights)



Today we cross the dramatic Apennine Mountains bound for the charismatic calle of Venice, once a maritime powerhouse whose influences can be found all across the Eastern Mediterranean. The winged lion remains an enduring symbol of Venice, and is an image you'll see often as you explore the city over the next few days. You will arrive just in time for an optional gondola ride and Grand Canal cruise – grand palazzi, churches and ornate bridges lining your journey. Then later, enjoy dinner at your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Il Burchiello

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Gondolas & the Grand Canal - Join us for a breath-taking cruise by private water taxi along Venice's Grand Canal, catching glimpses of impressive sights such as the Palazzi Barbaro, Rialto Bridge and St Mark's Square. Later on, you'll glide gracefully on a gondola along Venice's dreamy, narrow waterways, discovering the irresistible charm of the world-famous canals.

Adult: 84.00 EUR

Day 7 | Venice orientation and free time



We take to the waters of the lagoon and cruise by private launch to St. Mark's Square, the gateway to the city. Admire the ornate Doge's Palace, the Basilica of St. Mark and the Bridge of Sighs, whose bittersweet views once elicited sighs from prisoners who were unlikely to see their beloved city ever again. There's time on your own to explore before we visit a glassblowing workshop to see the talents of master craftsmen at work at a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. This afternoon, perhaps join an Optional Experience to the vibrant rainbow-coloured façades of Burano Island, beacons for resident fishermen seeking a safe journey home across the lagoon.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Il Burchiello

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Venice's Secrets and St. Mark's Basilica - Explore the hidden maze of streets that make up this unique city as your Local Specialist gives you a fascinating insight into Venice's past and present. You'll visit the majestic Basilica of St Mark, where you'll have a chance to view some of the prized trophies looted by the Venetians in their rise to power.

Adult: 42.00 EUR

Lagoon Cruise to Burano with Food and Drinks - Discover the Venetian Lagoon by private boat, travelling to the heritage-listed fisherman's island of Burano. Known for its picturesque, technicolour houses and restaurants serving up fresh seafood, this tour is a must for food lovers and photography buffs alike. Enjoy a delicious meal before cruising back to Venice, taking in magic views of the famous city as we return.

Adult: 82.00 EUR

Day 8 | Venice - Verona - Lugano - Italian Lakes (Saronno) (2 Nights)



From Roman ruins to Romeo and Juliet, Verona certainly is the stuff of legends. Our first stop today is the city that served as the backdrop for Shakespeare's famous love story and you'll have an opportunity to view the very balcony where the fictional Juliet once called for her Romeo. Admire the Roman Arena where thrilling performances are held to this day, then continue across the Swiss border to visit the pretty lakeside resort of Lugano. Your brief brush with Switzerland provides a beautiful introduction to the shimmering allure of the Italian Lakes, which you'll explore over the coming days. Return to Italy this evening where tonight you'll dine at your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Starhotels Grand Milan Saronno

Day 9 | Free day or Milan and Lake Como excursion



You have the whole day free to relax at the hotel pool, perhaps lace up your walking shoes for a stroll or simply people-watch with an Aperol Spritz in hand. Alternatively, consider an Optional Experience to stunning Lake Como with a leisurely cruise on its glacial waters before continuing to Italy's fashion capital Milan, to see the glass-roofed Galleria, La Scala and the spectacular Duomo.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Starhotels Grand Milan Saronno

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Milan and Lake Como - We'll start with a visit to Lake Como, where you'll enjoy views of the elegant villas and gardens as you cruise on the lake, one of the most beautiful places in Northern Italy. Later, you'll visit Milan, the bustling fashion and financial capital of Italy. Highlights will include views of the spectacular Duomo, the glass-roofed Galleria and the world-famous La Scala opera house.

Adult: 63.00 EUR

Day 10 | Italian Lakes region - Pisa - Florence (Prato) (2 Nights)



You've always wanted to see the Leaning Tower of Pisa and now you're here! We'll take you to snap a few strategic photos featuring you and the famous leaning tower, then there's time to admire Pisa's Romanesque Square of Miracles in all its marble glory. The structures here are said to symbolise the three main stages of human life – the Baptistery (birth), the Cathedral (life) and the Camposanto (death). Then continue towards Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance. For a taste of Tuscany, consider joining an Optional Experience in the Tuscan Hills with regional favourites, live music and a glass or two of delicious Chianti.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Wall Art

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Traditional Dinner, Wine and Music in the Tuscan Hills - Make your Florentine travel dreams a reality as we dine at a delightful regional restaurant, set among pine and cypress trees. After a scenic drive through the stunning Tuscan countryside, we'll enjoy a meal of delicious specialties from the area, accompanied by local wines and music.

Adult: 69.00 EUR

Day 11 | Florence sightseeing and free time



No expense was spared enriching the city of Florence through art and architecture and you'll see first-hand how this city paved its way to the modern age. Join a Local Specialist this morning for a fascinating account of Florentine history during a walking tour of its historic centre, including views of the Ponte Vecchio, the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Giotto's Bell Tower and the Baptistery. Visit Piazza della Signoria, the city's main square where many political and artistic treasures can be seen, then witness a leatherwork demonstration and browse the centuries-old trades of gold and leathercraft. This afternoon, perhaps head up to Piazzale Michelangelo and admire the views over Florence's iconic skyline.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Wall Art

CHOICE 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: 54.00 EUR

* This optional is subject to availability and involves reservations and entrance prepayments. If you decide to cancel this optional, a 50% cancellation fee will be incurred.

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 our Local Specialist we'll visit the wonderful "Hall of the Five Hundred", dedicated to the Medici popes. We'll also visit rooms decorated with masterpieces by famous artists of the Renaissance like Michelangelo and Donatello.

Adult: 46.00 EUR

Visit To San Gimignano - Join us for a panoramic drive to the nearby hilltop town of San Gimignano. Known as 'Medieval Manhattan' this magnificently preserved town from the Middle Ages is one of the most beautiful destinations to visit in Italy – a true gem to add to explore on your holiday. You'll also enjoy a delicious local gelato.

Adult: 40.00 EUR

Day 12 | Florence – Siena – Rome (1 Night)



Siena's fortified walls, towers and palaces emerge from the rolling countryside on your journey through the beautiful Chianti region. This former economic and military power today hosts the Palio horse race, injecting a shot of colour amidst the burnt sienna façades of the city's Il Campo. Your visit will reveal the city's rich heritage, architecture and cuisine, most notably why Siena is renowned for its signature panforte fruit cake, which you have to sample during a visit to a pasticceria. Leaving Tuscany behind, we return to Rome for one final encounter with the Eternal City, or join your fellow travellers for an Optional Experience Farewell Dinner to end your holiday on a high note.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Raganelli

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Arrivederci Roma - Rome comes alive this last evening of our trip as you savour her unforgettable sights and celebrate together with a Farewell Dinner including entertainment in one of our favourite places.

Adult: 60.00 EUR

Day 13 | Depart Rome



The Italian dream of eating well, laughing often and loving much will linger long after your Splendours of Italy tour comes to an end this morning. Say a fond arrivederci to your travel companions and Travel Director, reminiscing over epic shared memories along this unforgettable journey through Italy. Find out more about your available transfers at costsaver.com/transfers.

Meals: Breakfast