



## GRAND TOUR OF ITALY

10 days

*A big journey in Italy from north to south: from Milan to Venice passing through Padua; from Florence to Rome and then Naples with an exclusive trip to Pompei, the worldwide known archeological site. An itinerary that reminds the first adventures of rich aristocrats and sponsors, who, starting from the XVII century, had long-lasting stays across the Bel Paese finding beauty, knowledge, culture and arts to be inspired by.*

### SCHEDULE:

#### Day 1 Milano

*Included meals: dinner*

You are going to meet the guide at Malpensa airport. The driver is going to help you loading your luggage onto the private bus and you will start to visit the city, known as the economic center of Italy and the reference point for fashion industry all over the world. A sightseeing tour is planned, with photographic stops around the modern districts and recently renewed areas in town, such as City Life, the "Bosco Verticale" and Gae Aulenti Square. You will have free time for lunch and then conclude the sightseeing tour to the Darsena, the ancient harbour of Milan where Naviglio Grande and Naviglio Pavese meet each other. The area is nowadays one of the funniest nightlife centers of the city. Finally, you will be transferred to the hotel where accommodation in the rooms, dinner and overnight is planned.

#### Day 2 Milan/Verona/Padua

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

After a breakfast in the hotel, you are going to take a guided tour of the Duomo Cathedral, the biggest one in Italy. Its construction started in 1386 and still ongoing. It is adorned with more than 3400 statues, 135 steeples and you will be amazed by the beauty of the golden Madonnina on the top of the building. You can then walk around the streets nearby: Vittorio Emanuele gallery, the Alla Scala theatre and the shopping district. After that, you will leave for Verona, city of Romeo and Juliet. You will admire the Arena from the outside and have free time for lunch before leaving for Padua and visit the Basilica of Saint Anthony, one of the most important places of catholic worship that preserves the remains and the tomb of the Saint. Finally, you are going to check-in at the hotel, have dinner and overnight.

#### Day 3 Trip to Venice

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

After a breakfast in the hotel, you are going to be transferred to the railway station to reach the city of Venice. At the arrival, you will reach San Marco Square on a traditional steamer, floating on Canal Grande with its historic and picturesque buildings along its banks. You will visit by walk the city center passing by the Basilica of San Marco, the Palazzo Ducale, the Rialto bridge. Navigation towards the two famous lagoon island Murano and Burano: the former famous for glass manufacturing, the latter for vivid colored buildings. Finally, you will go back to the railway station by steamer and then catch the train to Padua. In the evening, you are going to have dinner at the hotel and overnight. Free time for lunch is planned during the visits.

#### Day 4 Padua/Florence

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

After a breakfast in the hotel, you will leave for Florence, Tuscany. When arrived, you are going to have some free time for lunch and in the afternoon free time at your disposal in the city center. Finally, you will check-in at the hotel, have dinner and overnight.

#### Day 5 Florence

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

After a breakfast in the hotel, you are going to visit the city, which has been the cradle of the Italian Renaissance where lots of well-known artists such as Michelangelo, Botticelli and the great Leonardo Da Vinci have worked. You will pass by Santa Maria Novella Church, Repubblica Square, Signoria Square, Uffizi Gallery, Ponte Vecchio and all workshops on it. You will enter in Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral. After some free time, you are going to enjoy an exclusive view upon the city from Piazzale Michelangelo belvedere. You will check-in at the hotel, have dinner and overnight. Some free time for lunch is planned during the visits.

*Rimani aggiornato sulle proposte Duomo Viaggi & Turismo e seguici su*



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## Day 6 Florence/Rome

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

After a breakfast in the hotel, you are going to leave for Rome, the Italian capital city, political center and the historic basis of roman empire. A sightseeing tour is planned, passing through Circo Massimo, Caracalla thermal baths, the Colosseum and Fori Imperiali with photographic stops. Then you will visit San Giovanni in Laterano Church, Santa Maria Maggiore Church and the Patria altar. Free time for lunch during visits. You are finally going to check-in at the hotel, have dinner and overnight.

## Day 7 Rome

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

You will have a breakfast in the hotel and then going to be transferred with private bus to Saint Peter's Square for a guided visit to the Cathedral\*. After this, you will have a walk along Conciliazione Street up to Sant'Angelo Castle and the homonym evocative bridge. Free time for lunch. In the afternoon, you are going to visit on foot the mundane center of the city: Navona Square, the Pantheon, Spagna Square and Trevi fountain. After some free time, you will return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

*\*according to the annual timetable, there will be the opportunity to take part to the papal Hearing on Wednesday and the Angelus on Sunday.*

## Day 8 Rome/Naples

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

After a breakfast in the hotel, you will leave for Naples, birthplace of Pizza and superstitions. After your arrival, you are going to have a sightseeing tour covering some distances by bus and some by walk passing by Castel dell'Ovo along the promenade, San Carlo theatre, Plebiscito Square, the Cathedral and the underground station of Toledo, which is considered the most beautiful and modern one in Europe. You will have some free time for lunch during visits. In the afternoon, you are going to have a guided visit of the city center walking through Spaccanapoli and workshops in San Gregorio Armeno Street, the Saint Claire cloister and the San Gennaro's treasure Chapel. Finally, you will check-in at the hotel, have dinner and overnight.

## Day 9 Trip to Pompei/Rome

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

After a breakfast in the hotel, you are going to leave for the archeological site of Pompei, UnEsco heritage site since 1997. The city of Pompei was covered and destroyed by the red-hot ash of Vesuvio eruption in 79 b.C. that stopped the time-clock of the city forever. In the archeological site casts of persons being covered by the ash while escaping through Pompei' streets are perfectly preserved, Domus Romanae frescos have been discovered after centuries and restored with their original colors. You then will have some free time for lunch and leave for Rome. Finally, you are going to arrive at the hotel, check-in, have dinner and overnight.

## Day 10 Rome

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

After a breakfast in the hotel, the driver is going to help you loading your luggage onto the private bus and leave for the airport. End of services.

*Note: The itinerary could change due to organizational reasons. Visits will be respected or substituted with others with the same value, if necessary.*

### **TOUR PRICE PER PERSON STARTING FROM:**

- € 1.600 with minimum 20 persons
- € 1.365 with minimum 30 persons
- € 300 single supplement (limited availability)

#### **Tour price includes:**

- Transfers from/to airport in Italy
- Sightseeing and transfers with private coach during the journey
- Train ticket in II class Padua-Venice a/r
- Accommodation in double occupancy at 3-4 stars hotels as indicated in itinerary with private bath or shower
- Meals: breakfast and dinner as indicated in itinerary
- Guide: professional English-speaking local guide
- Entrance ticket: Milan Duomo Cathedral, St. Anthony Padua, San Marco Venice, S. Maria del Fiore Cathedral, S. Maria Maggiore Church, Saint Claire cloister, St. Gennaro Chapel, Pompei archeological site
- Wireless head-phones
- Taxes: all taxes charged by local government on services which are part of the land program are included except those imposed by airports or accommodation which are subject to change
- Not refundable administration fee

#### **Tour price DOES NOT include:**

- Any meals and beverages not specified in the itinerary
- Personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, room service, excess baggage charges, travel insurance and travel documentation.
- Any local accommodation charges which must be paid locally
- Tips to coach driver, guide and local guides will be collected by the tour escort from each participant
- Any other items not indicated as included on the itinerary

#### **Documents:**

Regular Passport valid for 6 months beyond the conclusion of the trip. You will be informed if there will be any change about it.  
Visa: you will be given any information to obtain it, if necessary

### **THE SITES YOU WILL VISIT:**



**Milan Duomo Cathedral:** it is consecrated to the Nativity of Saint Mary (Santa Maria Nascente) and it is considered the emblem of the Lombardy County Seat, as well as the seat of the Archbishop of Milan. Moreover, it is the largest Church of Italy, the third one in Europe and the sixth one in the world. The bespoken "Duomo Factory" (Fabbrica del Duomo), has been created to supervise the construction which started in 1386, and the never-ending maintenance. An ambitious plan has led to the demolition of St. Tecla Church, the baptistery of San Giovanni alle Fonti and Santa Maria Maggiore Church to leave space for the new Duomo Cathedral. The construction involved many international artists, as Gian Galeazzo Visconti, first duke of Milan, asked to French and German architects and artists to enrich and decorate the five internal naves while the external facade of the Cathedral has been built thanks to the marbles coming from Candoglia caves, a Visconti property. The peculiarity of Duomo Cathedral, in addition to its unquestionable artistic and architectural beauty, is the presence of 135 steeples, the highest of which hosts the "Madonnina" (statue of St. Mary) which is 4 mt high and it is covered by golden leaves. The building is adorned by 3500 statues each one different from the other and distributed in and out of the Cathedral together with more than 700 illustrations inserted in the marble high-relievs.



**The Basilica of St. Anthony:** It is one of the main places of Christian faith, the most important in Veneto region and a papal church also recognized as International Sanctuary by the Holy Seat. It is dated 1200 a. D. but its builder is still nowadays unknown. As a whole, the structure has strong venetian influence reminding the Basilica of San Marco, but also solid structure from roman and gothic style. This mix makes the entire building the one of its kind. The Basilica, that in Padua is simply called "The Saint", preserves the tomb and the remains of St. Anthony in a chapel adorned with some of his miracles and life scenes.

*Rimani aggiornato sulle proposte Duomo Viaggi & Turismo e seguici su*





**The Basilica of San Marco:** The first church building started in 828 a. D., when the remains of St. Marco have been brought from Alessandria of Egypt to Venice. The construction of the second and current one started in 1063 a. D., after a fire of the previous one, and ended around 1617 a. D., whereas the title of “Basilica” was given only in 1807 a. D. It is seat of venetian patriarchy and together with the bell tower and the square it is not only the emblem of venetian art and Christianity, but also the symbol of the city all over the world. Since the construction of the current building, the Basilica is known as “the golden church” because of the mosaics and precious decorations that characterize it inside and outside, a sign of the power and wealth of the Serenissima Republic.



**Florence Cathedral S. Maria del Fiore:** commonly known as “Florence Duomo Cathedral”, it was consecrated to Santa Maria del Fiore in 1412 a. D. as a clear reference to the lily flower, emblem of the city. With its 153 mt length, 90 mt width and 90 mt height, it is the third church in Europe for its size after St. Peter in Rome and the Duomo Cathedral in Milan, whereas it was the biggest one in the world when finished during the XV century. The construction of the Cathedral started in 1296 a. D. and ended only in 1436 a. D.: more than two centuries of works continuously interrupted at first by the plague, then by the handover from one architect to another and finally by the lack of funds. The Cathedral was built upon the

remains of St. Reparata and the variety of styles are the result of the different artistic trends across two centuries of works. The Cathedral of Florence is worldwide famous not only for the Giotto’s bell tower near it, but also for its Brunelleschi’s dome, which is the biggest brick dome ever realized.



**The Basilica of St. Peter:** It is the emblem of the Vatican State, the biggest church among the four papal ones, the heart of Catholicism and seat of all important religious events such as canonizations, opening and closure ceremony of Jubilees and Pope proclamations. The construction of St. Peter’s Church has been sponsored by Pope Julius II and started in 1506 a. D. Works ended approximately after a century, a short period of time if compared to other churches and despite its final magnificence. The building place is particularly important for the Catholics, since the Basilica has

been built upon a previous Constantinian temple, on the same place where the first Apostle Peter is told to have been buried after his crucifixion. Lots of architects and artists contributed to the building. Among them there was Michelangelo Buonarroti who designed the major dome, Bramante, Raffaello and Gian Lorenzo Bernini who realized the arcade around St. Peter Square, finished in 1667 with 284 pillars and 140 statues of Saints upon them. Nowadays the Basilica is visited by tourists to admire the famous statue “Pietà di Michelangelo” and to enter the Vatican Caves where Peter’s and Pope John Paul II’s tomb are placed.



**The Basilica of San Giovanni in Laterano:** It is the first one among the four major papal churches and well-known as the “Cathedral of Rome”, the most ancient and important Church of the West. Its construction began between 310 a. D. and 314 a. D. under Milziade papacy. During the same period the decree of Milan was legalizing the proclamation of Christian faith. Works have been followed by several architects, each one contributing to merge different styles: paleochristian, medieval, renaissance and baroque. The Basilica is part of a main complex that includes the Lateran Papal University, the cloister, the baptistry and other buildings under the Holy Seat jurisdiction.



**The Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore:** it is one of the four papal churches and the only one that has preserved the original paleo-Christian structure of the building. According to the legend, the Virgin Mary has appeared to the patrician John and Pope Liberio in a dream to indicate the exact place where to build a Church in her honor. The morning of 5th August of 432 a. D. an extraordinary fact surprised the whole romans: the Esquilino Hill was covered by snow so that Pope Liberio interpreted it as a sign of Virgin Mary’s will. The Basilica, called also Liberian Church after its patron, was completed on 1375 a. D. with the bell tower, the highest one in Rome with its 75 meters.



**Saint Gennaro Treasure Chapel:** It is a chapel in the Naples Cathedral that was built under the will of citizens themselves at the beginning of 1600 a.D. because of an “ex voto” to Saint Gennaro, whose bones and two ampoules with his blood are kept there. The Chapel is one of the highest artistic expressions of the city because of its collection of masterpieces by several artists. Since 2003 some settings near the Chapel host the Treasure of St. Gennaro Museum, in which all the “ex voto” from both eminent persons such as popes, kings, aristocratic and common people collected during seven centuries are preserved. Every year the Chapel is protagonist of a particular tradition from Naples folklore: on the

death date of Saint Gennaro the entire city of Naples waits for the “melting of blood” kept in the ampoules as a sign that brings good luck for the rest of the year.



**Historical Complex of St. Claire:** it is among the most important and biggest monastic complexes of the city of Naples. Its construction began in 1310 a.D. thanks to the will of King Roberto D'Angiò and his wife, who gave order to build two cloisters in gothic style: the first one dedicated to Poor Clares and the second to Minor Franciscan Monks. The complex includes four monumental cloisters with amazing gardens and a Museum with remains of Giotto's frescos and some treasures escaped from the bombing attack to the complex in 1943.



**Archeological Site of Pompeii:** It is the third most visited public archeological site in Italy and declared Unesco World Heritage Site together with Ercolano in 1997. The eruption of Vesuvio in 79 b. C. entirely covered the city of Pompeii with ash and lava, so that excavations revealed not only the walls of ancient roman villas, workshops and simple houses, but also common objects and perfectly preserved calcs of persons paralyzed by the ash when it surprised them that night: someone was sleeping in bed, someone was trying to escape, someone else was hugging the loved ones or trying to protect themselves from the lava. Discoveries in Pompeii are considered extraordinary since they tell

in details what happened that night and give us a slice of life, customs and traditions of that time in this area of Campania region.