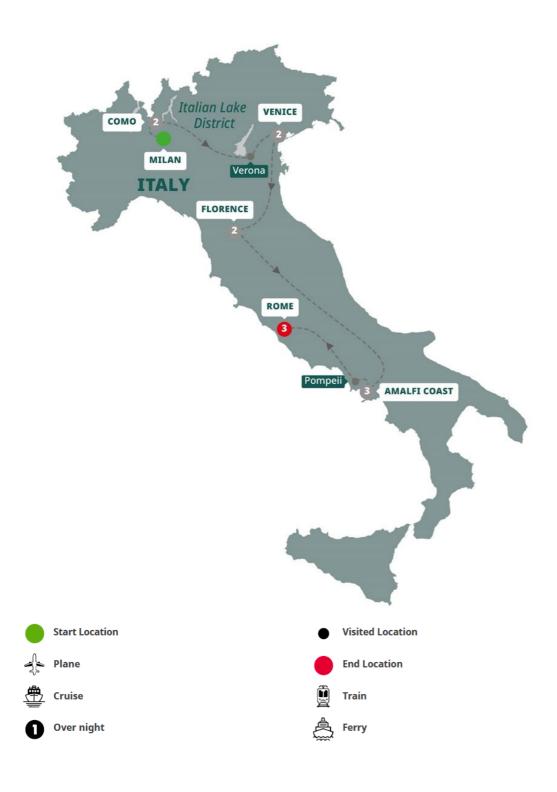
Italian Glory



Italian Glory



Day 1 | Journey from Milan to Como



Stylish Milan is our launch pad to the Lake District where we spend the first night of our leisurely jaunt through Italy. After arriving in Como, unwind and soak up the peaceful atmosphere. Admire the mesmerising reflection of the surrounding peaks in its deep blue waters which makes this one of Italy's most soulstirring settings. Enjoy a leisurely stroll past exquisite lakeside villas and gardens before meeting your travel companions and Travel Director for a Welcome Reception. Tonight, you'll stay at one of Trafalgar's Stays With Stories and a Lake Como institution, frequented by local aristocrats since the late 19thcentury.

Meals: Welcome Reception Hotel: Barchetta Excelsion

Day 2 | Discover Fashionable Milan



The runways of Milan take centre stage today as we explore the fashion capital of Italy. Join a Local Specialist to see the iconic and unexpected highlights of this hardworking city. View the exquisite Gothic architecture of the Duomo, decorated with over 3400 sculptures, the neo-classical La Scala Opera House and ornate Galleria with its imposing iron and glass-domed roof - of course, all in the company of the trendsetting Milanese.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Barchetta Excelsior

Optional Experiences:

Treasures Of Milan - A fantastic opportunity to take in some of the highlights of elegant Milan. Amongst other sights, we'll visit La Scala, the world's most famous opera house, where Giuseppe Verdi, Maria Callas and others have left their mark. Our wonderful Local Specialist will bring the city's eventful past to life. Adult: **45.00 EUR**

Visit Lake Como and Bellagio - On this visit to the shores of Lake Como you'll witness many beautiful villages and villas that retain true Italian charm. A private boat will take us from the lakeside to visit the gem of the lake, Bellagio. We'll also have some time to stroll and shop.

Adult: 48.00 EUR

Day 3 | Venture to Verona and Venice



The tragic story of Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers is revealed during our visit to romantic Verona, where we will view Juliet's Balcony and the ancient Roman Arena, still in use today. Indulge in a leisurely cappuccino stop in the city's beautiful Piazza Bra, admiring the imposing bronze statue of King Victor Emanuel II. Or shop up a storm on trendy Via Mazzini before continuing to Venice, where we will spend the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Regional Dinner

Hotel: Le Boulevard Lido

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: **79.00 EUR**

Day 4 | Explore the Floating City



Glide through the canals of Venice by private launch visiting some of the jewels in the crown of the 'Queen of the Adriatic'. On your unforgettable MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, you'll witness the centuries-old Venetian tradition of glassblowing. Watch as the master craftsmen shape the molten glass into the exquisite works of art for which Venice is justifiably famous, then it's on to St. Mark's Square to admire the profound beauty of the Doge's Palace and St. Mark's Basilica. See the Bridge of Sighs, so named because of the sound prisoners would make when taking one last longing look at their beloved city before being imprisoned. Later, you'll have the rest of the day to indulge your inner explorer and discover the many treasures of Venice your way, or consider an Optional Experience to the island of Burano, renowned for its colourful fishermen houses.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Le Boulevard Lido

Optional Experiences:

Venice's Secrets and St. Mark's Basilica - Explore the hidden maze of streets which 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 admire magnificent mosaics in one of the most ornate churches in the world. Adult: 38.00 EUR

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 multicoloured houses - a photographer's paradise.

Adult: **72.00 EUR**

Day 5 | Onwards to Florence



From Venice, we cross the Apennine Mountains to Florence, the 'Cradle of the Renaissance'. Consider ioining your Travel Director for a traditional Florentine dinner in the heart of the Chianti Hills.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Grand Mediterraneo

Optional Experiences:

You will be offered one of the following three 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: **49.00 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: **42.00 EUR**

Bargello Museum Visit - Join us today for a visit to the Bargello museum, housed in one of the oldest and most intriguing buildings of Florence. As you'll learn from your Local Specialist, there was rarely a dull moment in this former barracks and prison! Learn how the Bargello has witnessed crucial episodes of history including fires, sieges and political executions. This fascinating building is now home to the National Museum and boasts awe-inspiring works by Donatello, Brunelleschi and Michelangelo to name but a few.

Adult: 42.00 EUR

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

Dinner, Wine and Music in the Tuscan Hills -

This evening we'll 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: **65.00 EUR**

Tuscan Dinner at Villa Machiavelli - Through the Chianti hills, we'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, we'll enjoy the best of Tuscan cuisine accompanied by great music and drinks, including of course, Chianti from the Villa's own vines. Adult: **68.00 EUR**

Day 6 | Ponte Vecchio and More in Florence



This morning we join a Local Specialist on a leisurely walking tour to delve into the culture and history of Florence. We'll visit the Piazza del Duomo to view the multi-coloured marble Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore, Piazza della Signoria with its exquisite art and palazzi, and the Ponte Vecchio bridge that has straddled the Arno River for almost 700 years. Admire spectacular views of the city from Piazzale Michelangelo. Later, learn about the quality and workmanship of two of this city's historic industries at demonstrations of Florentine leathercraft and 18-carat gold. This afternoon, consider an Optional Experience to the Fine Arts Academy to see Michelangelo's 'David'. Join your fellow travellers this evening to Connect With Locals over a Be My Guest dinner set against the backdrop of Tuscan vineyards and olive groves. Here you'll learn all about the plot hatched by the Pazzi family within these very walls against the Medici rulers of Florence centuries ago. As you enjoy a delicious meal in the magnificent grand hall of the 12thcentury castle, you'll be captivated by the dedication and passion of your hosts, the Baj Macario family who are committed to running the estate in harmony with nature.

Meals: Breakfast, Be My Guest Hotel: Grand Mediterraneo

Optional Experiences:

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 be treated to a delicious local gelato. Adult: **36.00 EUR**

Day 7 | Off to the Sunny Amalfi Coast



Journey south through the Arno Valley, passing the Bay of Naples bound for Maiori on the Amalfi Coast, where we will spend the next three nights. This evening we dine at our hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: San Pietro Maiori

Day 8 | Uncover the Treasures of Amalfi



This morning travel to Amalfi, perched perfectly on this dramatic stretch of coastline. See the 10th-century Sant'Andrea cathedral in the heart of the town, with its beautifully striped Byzantine façade, and soak up the laid-back atmosphere. You'll also have time to join an Optional Experience to Positano.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: San Pietro Maiori

Optional Experiences:

Amalfi Coast and Positano - Join us as we take in delightful villages and spectacular scenery along the incredible Amalfi Coast. You'll visit the celebrated town of Positano, which is also a Unesco World Heritage site. There will be time to shop for local goods or enjoy a drink in a cafe overlooking the beach.

Adult: **59.00 EUR**

Explore Ravello - Join us on a trip to the balcony of the Amalfi coast. Ravello is perched high above the terraced groves with breathtaking views. Your Local Specialist will show you the gardens of the Villa Rufolo, which inspired Wagner, and you'll have free time to visit the 11th century cathedral. Adult: 41 00 FUR

Day 9 | Amalfi Coast Your Way



Relax at your hotel on the Amalfi Coast or wander past fragrant lemon terraces. You have a full free day to indulge in your heart's desires – consider a fresh seafood lunch, from sea to table, or take a dip in the welcoming, warm Mediterranean waters.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: San Pietro Maiori

Optional Experiences:

Dinner on the Amalfi Coast - Come with us for a short drive to a restaurant we know and love on the Amalfi Coast. You'll get to try some favourite local dishes and drinks, all served alongside Neapolitan hospitality and beautiful views. Adult: **66.00 EUR**

Day 10 | The Ruins of Pompeii and on to Rome



Embark on a walking tour with a Local Specialist and discover the lost city of Pompeii, which was buried under volcanic ash when Mount Vesuvius erupted. Continue to the 'Eternal City' of Rome later, enjoying views of the 6thcentury Benedictine Abbey in Cassino en route. Spend the evening exploring the extraordinary heritage of Rome, which spans millennia, or consider an Optional Experience to see the exquisite art and architecture of what was once the capital of the world.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Il Cantico

Optional Experiences:

Piazzas and Fountains - Discover the most charming areas in the city with a Local Specialist. Wander through the labyrinth of narrow streets and beautiful squares of Rome's historic centre, leading to highlights such as the Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon, as well as hidden corners of the Eternal City. Adult: **37.00 EUR**

Day 11 | Experience Ancient Rome and the Vatican City



Spend the morning in the Vatican City with a Local Specialist, visiting the imposing St. Peter's Basilica to view Michelangelo's sorrowful Pietà. Consider an Optional Experience to the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel with its exquisite frescoed ceilings crafted by Michelangelo. Then, cross the Tiber into Ancient Rome to see the Circus Maximus, once the site of exhilarating chariot races that entertained thousands, and visit the impressive Colosseum. This afternoon we have time to explore the city on our own terms. Perhaps toss a coin in the Trevi Fountain to secure your return to Rome, soak up the coffee aromas on Piazza Navona or wander through the ruins of Palatine Hill.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Il Cantico

Optional Experiences:

Inside the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel - Join us for an extension to your included sightseeing tour, which gives you a chance to see the artistic masterpieces collected and commissioned by the Popes. With our Local Specialist, we'll visit the Tapestry Gallery, Gallery of Maps and the Sistine Chapel. Michelangelo spent four years preparing the vault and altar wall, and we'll give you plenty of time to admire just how much painstaking work went into his creations.

Adult: **58.00 EUR**

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences which may take place on different days.

Roman Evening with Dinner - Tonight, spend a lively evening with us in Rome. After a short drive, we'll arrive at a characteristic trattoria to relax and enjoy a typical Italian meal, soaking up The Eternal City's unique atmosphere all the while.

Adult: **62.00 EUR**

Ancient And Christian Rome - Join us on an exploration of Rome's past with our Local Specialist. On this trip you'll visit the Catacombs, where the early Christians assembled to escape persecution and which were used as underground cemeteries. We'll also pass by the pyramid of Cestius and the baths of Caracalla. Adult: 39.00 EUR

Day 12 | Rome Your Way



Indulge in a full free day to explore the passionate embrace of the city and its zesty locals. Ease into la dolce vita, or consider an Optional Experience to Tivoli, where you can visit Villa d'Este with its magnificent Renaissance gardens and exquisite fountains. This evening, we enjoy a Farewell Dinner with newfound friends and your Travel Director before bidding arrivederci to Rome.

Meals: Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

Hotel: Il Cantico

Optional Experiences:

Tivoli And Gardens Of The Villa D'Este - Visit the ancient Sabine town of Tivoli with our Local Specialist to enjoy the gardens and fountains of the Villa D'Este. We'll see its grottos and pavilions, the Avenue of a Hundred Fountains, and the Dragon Fountain of the Organ.

Adult: 46.00 EUR

*On occasion, the price of this optional may increase due to group size.

Day 13 | Arrivederci Italy



Our unforgettable encounter with Italy comes to an end today. Find out more about your free airport transfer at trafalgar.com/freetransfers.

Meals: Breakfast