



Best of Italy

Viaggio Italia Travel escorted tour

2020-2021 dates and prices

19 April - 2 May 2020	\$4450
6 - 19 September 2020	\$4600
4 - 17 April 2021	\$5250
22 Aug - 4 Sept 2021	\$5450

Highlights

- Personally-escorted 14-day tour with expert local guides in each location
- Stays in Rome, Sorrento, Florence and Venice.
- Enjoy a cruise to the Isle of Capri and the chance to explore this wonderful island.
- Spend a day in Tuscany, visiting Siena and San Gimignano, with lunch in a gorgeous wine estate in the Tuscan hills.
- Wander the backstreets of Venice and learn the secrets of this romantic city.
- Visit the famous Amalfi Coast, stopping at Positano, Amalfi and Ravello.
- See Michelangelo's David at the world-famous Accademia Gallery.
- Arrive in Venice on a private water taxi and a tour of the Grand Canal.
- Ride a gondola along Venice's quiet back canals.
- Throw a coin in the Trevi Fountain to make sure you will return again to visit Rome.
- Take guided walking tours of Rome's old centre, Vatican City, the Colosseum and Roman Forum, St. Mark's Square and the Doges Palace, and the Uffizi Gallery



If you only have two weeks and really want to see the highlights of Italy, this tour has it all.



Starting in Rome, we head down to Sorrento before turning north and staying in Florence and then on to Venice.

www.viaggioitaliatravel.com.au

Your itinerary

Day 1 – Rome: the eternal city

Guests will be arriving at different times and we will be on hand to assist when you check into our hotel and to help orient you. You will then have free time until 5:00pm, when you will enjoy a welcome drink and discuss the plans for our time in Rome. Later you will take a walk to familiarise yourself with the local area which will finish at a lovely traditional Italian restaurant for our first meal together, and an opportunity to get to know the others who will be sharing this tour with you.

Inclusions: Welcome drinks, orientation walk
Meals: Dinner



Day 2 – Rome: the historical centre

Our Roman adventure begins with a guided walking tour of the old centre or 'centro storico'. As we wander through meandering alleys and cobblestone streets, our local guide will share stories and secrets of this beautiful city, which has existed for over 2,500 years. We'll visit the fantastic Pantheon - famous for its 2000-year-old concrete dome - the Spanish Steps, and the most famous fountain of Rome: the Trevi fountain, where you'll throw a coin and, according to tradition, ensure you return to Rome one day! We'll take a break to enjoy a coffee in the best coffee shop in Rome and then you will have the rest of the afternoon to explore central Rome and its many highlights. We can give you many ideas on what to do and where to go.

Inclusions: 3-hour guided tour of the historical centre
Meals: Breakfast



Day 3 – Rome: Vatican glory

Today we will travel to one of the smallest countries in the world - Vatican City - for a 3-4 hour guided walking tour. We'll begin at the Vatican Museums, where we will be taken by our experienced local guide to admire one of the most important collections of art in the world and visit the Sistine Chapel with some of the most famous masterpieces of art history: Michelangelo's *Creation* and the *Last Judgment*. We will visit St. Peter's Cathedral and conclude in the magnificence of Bernini's Piazza. You will have the rest of the afternoon to explore Rome and its many highlights.

Inclusions: Metro transfer, Vatican and St Peter's guided tour
Meals: Breakfast



Day 4 – Rome: the ancient city

This morning we'll take a 3-4 hour guided walking tour starting in ancient Rome. We'll take the Metro to start at the massive Colosseum - echoing with tales of gladiatorial battles - before venturing into the Palatine Hill, Roman Forum and Capitoline Hill from where the Romans ruled most of the known

world at the time. We'll walk on 2000-year-old streets and get an insight to the Roman way of life at that time.

Inclusions: Skip-the-line access and guided tour of the Colosseum, Palatine Hill and the Roman Forum
Meals: Breakfast



Day 5 – Sorrento: gateway to the Amalfi Coast and Capri

Today we transfer to beautiful Sorrento: gateway to the famous Amalfi Coast and the Isle of Capri. On the way, we will stop at Pompeii, where we will take a guided tour of the world-famous ancient ruins before the final leg of our journey to gorgeous Sorrento, which will be our base for the next 3 nights. After settling into our new hotel, we'll take an early evening walk to try to catch the fabulous Sorrento sunset before making our way to a wonderful rooftop restaurant, where we enjoy dinner together.

Inclusions: Bus transfer, Pompeii guided tour, orientation walk for Sorrento
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6 – Sorrento: Amalfi Coast adventure



Today after breakfast we will board our air-conditioned minivans and begin a day trip along the Amalfi Coast driving on the amazing 'Mama Mia' Highway. First stop is beautiful Positano where we can take in the famous views and wander to the beach before hopping back on the minivans for the town of Amalfi. You will be able to explore Amalfi at your own pace, visiting the iconic multi-coloured 9th-century cathedral or browsing the rows of shops along the town's side-streets. After visiting Amalfi, we board the bus once again to climb up to hilltop Ravello, where there are a number of options for lunch. Later we will take in the gardens and breathtaking views of the sea from Villa Rufolo, before soaking in more of the Amalfi Coast's famous views on the drive back to Sorrento.

Inclusions: Amalfi Coast guided tour
Meals: Breakfast



Day 7 – Sorrento: cruising to Capri

Today we are off to see the Isle of Capri! We will transfer to the little port to board our boat and cruise across the blue Mediterranean waters to the island, where we will visit the village of Anacapri and enjoy free time to visit the grounds of the Villa San Michele for some great views of the island. From there we will take the chairlift to Monte Solaro at the top of the island for even more impressive views. Afterward, we take a scenic drive to the town

of Capri: known for its designer shopping, whitewashed buildings and bustling little streets. You will have time to explore the village, including the Gardens of Augustus. We then return to our boat for a light lunch and a cruise around to see the sights of the island by sea, including the famed Faraglioni rock formations before returning back to Sorrento.

Inclusions: Transfers to and from the harbour, boat cruise tour to and around the Isle of Capri, transfers on the island, chairlift entry.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch on board our boat

Day 8 – Florence: Renaissance city

Today we are off to Florence – birthplace of the Renaissance! We leave Sorrento after breakfast, taking a private transfer to Naples from where we will board a high-speed train that will take us to Florence in under 3 hours. Once we've settled into our hotel: located in Florence's beautiful old centre, we will take a 3-hour guided walking tour through the city,



finishing at the Accademia Gallery and Michelangelo's sculpture of David, where skip-the-line access lets us bypass the notoriously long lines outside. We will meet together again in the evening for dinner at a lovely Tuscan-style restaurant.

Inclusions: Transfers to and from rail stations, high speed rail to Florence, orientation walk and guided tour of the Accademia gallery.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 9 – Florence: Tuscan towns

Today we visit venture into Tuscany, beginning with a visit to Siena, where our local guide will show us the main sights of the old city. Then we will drive to a rustic wine state in the foothills of San Gimignano, where we will enjoy a typical Tuscan lunch and sample



some wonderful local wine and olive oil. After lunch we will explore one of the most famous medieval hilltop villages in Italy - San Gimignano - where you can explore the maze of cobbled streets, the small squares and many local artisan shops. Our day ends with a panoramic view of the Chianti countryside as we return to Florence after a memorable day.

Inclusions: Tuscan tour, including visits to San Gimignano and guided tour of Siena.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Wine-tasting

Day 10 – Florence: the Uffizi

After a morning for independent exploration, this afternoon we will visit one of the world's oldest and largest collections of art at the Uffizi Gallery. Our guide will take us through the renowned collection of paintings and sculptures by masters like Botticelli, da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael. We will end the visit with an aperitivo and nibble on the rooftop terrace overlooking the old town

Inclusions: Guided tour of the Uffizi Galleries, aperitivo and nibbles.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 11 – Venice: City of Love

Today we are off to our final Italian destination of the tour: the unique and historical city of love – Venice. We will take a fast train to Venice where we will catch private water taxis to our Venetian hotel. On the way we will have our own personal tour of the famous Grand Canal. Once settled in to our hotel, we will take an orientation walk of the local area.

Inclusions: Transfer to rail, high-speed train to Venice, water taxi tour of Grand Canal and on to hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Day 12 – Venice: backstreets beauty



After breakfast, we will take a 3 -our guided walking tour that will give you a broad view of the history, culture and character of the city. Led by an expert local guide, we'll start by the Rialto Bridge before veering off the beaten path into one of the loveliest, most authentic areas of Venice. We'll delve into quiet streets, pass peaceful canals and go beyond the areas that visitors usually see. As we wind through Venice's hidden alleyways, our local expert will regale us with tales of the city's past and present. The rest of the day is yours to explore this unique city.

Inclusions: Guided tour of backstreets Venice

Meals: Breakfast

Day 13 – Venice: San Marco glory

St. Mark's Square has been the centre of activity in Venice for centuries and today we will take a guided walking tour of the square, where we will skip the lines for entry into the Basilica and the Doges Palace. The rest of the day is yours to explore this wonderful and unique city. Later we will gather together and take a half-hour excursion on a traditional Venice gondola through the city's canals. Sit back and enjoy exploring the city as it was meant to be seen – from the water! We'll then enjoy a farewell dinner to our Best of Italy tour.

Inclusions: Inclusions: Guided walking tour of St Mark's Piazza and Basilica, skip the line



entry to the Basilica and the Doges Palace, Gondola ride

Meals: Breakfast

Day 14 – Venice: City of Love

This is our last morning in Venice. We will be available to assist in your transfers to the airport or the rail.

Meals: Breakfast



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Useful information

Tour pace and physical requirements

The tour is easy-paced, and we stay at least 3 nights in each location, so we aren't moving hotels every day.

There will be walking tours of up to 3-4 hours in duration and some full day excursions (such as to the Amalfi Coast).

Some travel legs will be on Italy's fast train network. We travel Business Class or equivalent on these legs. The trains are great, although some trains require a few steps to get on board or to alight, and - while of course we are there to help - clients are responsible for their luggage. We usually transfer between our hotel and the train station by taxi. In Florence, the station is a short distance from our hotel, so we will walk there with our bags. On the day tour to Capri, we do need to board boats using gangplanks with railings.

The tour provides a good balance between organised guided tours and time to explore independently.

Transport

- Train (Fast train – Business Class or equivalent)
- Taxi transfers
- Metro
- Minivans
- Boats, including private water taxis and gondolas in Venice

Hotels

All hotels have been personally selected and we review our selections after every tour. Most are 3-4 star hotels.

Inclusions

- Shared twin hotel accommodation including city taxes
- Maximum 12 guests per tour
- Transfers to and from hotel with luggage
- All breakfasts, 2 lunches and 4 dinners
- Fulltime tour director and licensed local guides
- Day tours and activities as listed in the itinerary
- All entry fees to tour locations and other listed activities

The tour does not include:

- Drinks and extras in hotel unless indicated in the itinerary
- Anything not mentioned in the "Inclusions" section or itinerary

Please be sure to read our Terms and Conditions, which you can find on our website at:

<https://www.viaggioitaliatravel.com.au/bookings>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We are a family-owned company, and we want to make sure you know all you need to about our tours so that you can be well-prepared and have a great time with us.

Grazie mille!!

Gary



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