



# Grand Tour of Italy

15 days | 17 days with Rome extension

The true question on a tour of Italy is, “Where not to go?” The country is bursting with personality and beauty, making the possibilities for cultural discovery virtually endless. On this sweeping Italian tour, you’ll see the best of the country, exploring legendary cities like Venice, Florence, and Rome and smaller-yet-iconic towns like Ferrara and Assisi.



## Your tour package includes

- 13 nights in handpicked hotels
- 13 breakfasts
- 6 dinners with beer or wine
- 7 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Villa Carlotta
- Roman Theater of Verona
- St. Mark’s Basilica
- Florence Duomo
- Assisi’s basilicas
- Pompeii ruins
- Colosseum
- Roman Forum

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you’ll walk for at least 2 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with some hills and stairs.

## Group size

15–38

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Milan today.

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## Lake Como Region → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Milan & transfer to Lake Como Region

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Italy! Transfer to your hotel in the Lake Como region. Then, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

### Day 3: Como & Villa Carlotta

*Included meals: breakfast*

Head out on a morning trip to explore Como, a city known for its mix of cultural and natural attractions.

- Enjoy free time in Como for lunch and shopping, while admiring the lakeside vistas
- Transfer to the beautiful Villa Carlotta to soak in spectacular views from the elaborate villa gardens

*Please note: From November through March, a funicular to Brunate will replace the visit to Villa Carlotta.*

Enjoy a free evening in the Lake Como region or add an excursion.

+ Lake Como Cruise & Bellagio

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## Venice → 2 nights

### Day 4: Venice via Verona

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

En route to Venice, stop in Verona and walk through the city with your Tour Director.

- Stroll through the city's UNESCO-recognized historic center
- Admire the Roman arena, Piazza delle Erbe, and the balcony of Shakespeare's Juliet

Enjoy free time before continuing on to Venice where you'll enjoy an included dinner.

### Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Venice

*Included meals: breakfast*

Admire historic churches, winding canals, and picture-perfect piazzas on a guided tour of the city known as the Queen of the Adriatic.

- Step into the iconic St. Mark's Square and enter St. Mark's Basilica
- View the stately Doge's Palace, built in the Venetian Gothic style in 1340
- Marvel at the Bridge of Sighs, the link between Doge's Palace and the New Prison
- See a glassblowing demonstration to learn about the city's most celebrated art

Enjoy a free afternoon in Venice or add an excursion.

+ Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise

+ Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

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## Florence → 3 nights

### Day 6: Florence via Ferrara

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

On your way to Florence, stop in Ferrara. There, you'll have free time to eat lunch and explore the city's historic center, home to beautiful Renaissance architecture including Este Castle and Palazzo dei Diamanti.

Continue on to Florence and sit down for an included dinner.

### Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Florence

*Included meals: breakfast*

Set off on a guided tour of Florence, the city at the center of the Renaissance.

- View the legendary Florence Cathedral, known as the Duomo
- Pass Giotto's Campanile, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture
- See the medieval Ponte Vecchio and Piazza della Signoria, center of Florentine life
- Step inside the Basilica of Santa Croce, burial site of Michelangelo, Machiavelli, and Galileo

Enjoy free time in Florence or add an excursion.

+ Accademia Gallery

### Day 8: Free day in Florence

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Florence or add an excursion.

+ Siena & San Gimignano: Tuscan Hilltowns

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## Assisi → 2 nights

### Day 9: Transfer to Assisi and sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Drive through spectacular Umbria to hillside Assisi, where you'll enjoy a guided tour of the town's UNESCO World Heritage sites.

- Visit Assisi's lower and upper basilicas
- See Giotto's magnificent frescoes and other late-medieval art

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

### Day 10: Free day in Assisi

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Assisi or add an excursion.

+ Perugia: City Highlights & Wine Tasting

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## Sorrento Peninsula → 2 nights

### Day 11: Sorrento Peninsula via Pompeii

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

En route to the Sorrento peninsula, stop in Pompeii for a guided tour of the city's famed ruins.

- Discover how Roman citizens lived before Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 A.D.
- View the excavated Roman ruins of theaters, villas, temples, and baths

Continue on to the Sorrento peninsula and sit down for an included dinner.

### Day 12: Free day on the Sorrento Peninsula

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day on the Sorrento peninsula or add an excursion.

+ Capri: A Day on the Iconic Island

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## Rome → 2 nights

### Day 13: Transfer to Rome & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel to Rome and follow in the footsteps of the ancient Romans on a guided tour of the Eternal City.

- Soak up over 2,000 years of history in Imperial Rome, viewing the Arch of Constantine and the Arch of Titus

- Enter the Colosseum, the largest amphitheater of the Roman Empire
- Stop at the ruins of the Forum, once the setting of parades, elections, and trials
- Pass by Palatine Hill to see Circus Maximus, the stadium where ancient Romans raced chariots, and the Baths of Caracalla

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**Day 14: Free day in Rome**

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Enjoy a free day in Rome or add an excursion.

Then, join your group at tonight's farewell dinner.

Tonight, as you dine, you'll be treated to a multi-course traditional Italian meal with a live musical entertainment.

+ Iconic Sights: Vatican City

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**Flight Home****Day 15: Departure**

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay in Rome.

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**+ Rome extension**

Have your sights on more art, history, and street life? Rome is sure to deliver. Only in the Italian capital can you sip cappuccino in front of the Pantheon and have an audience with the pope all in one morning. Your Tour Director will tell you their favorite ways to savor the city, and all you have to do is soak it in.

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**Rome → 2 nights****Day 15: Free day in Rome**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in Rome or add excursions.

+ Pasta-Making Class & Dinner

+ Walking Tour of Rome's Iconic Sights

**Day 16: Free day in Rome**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Rome or add an excursion.

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs

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**Flight Home****Day 17: Departure**

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.com/MIT](https://goaheadtours.com/MIT) | 1-800-597-0350

## Day 3: Lake Como Cruise & Bellagio

\$99/\$109\* (5 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

Hop aboard a scenic cruise of Lake Como to soak in some of Italy's most beautiful estates and gardens. Float past charming lakeside towns to Bellagio, a village whose scenery has inspired poets and young lovers for centuries. You'll have time to take in Bellagio's classic beauty before heading to a local restaurant, where you'll sample cuisine from a carefully chosen menu. Please note: Your included meal may be lunch or dinner as departure time varies by season. This excursion is weather-dependent.

## Day 5: Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise

\$79/\$89\* (25 minutes, departure time varies)

More than 100 canals crisscross Venice, and boarding a sleek, black gondola to explore them has become a time-honored tradition. On this memorable excursion, join your fellow travelers for a tour through the canals of Venice, with a gondolier deftly guiding your boat along. Please note: This excursion runs as weather permits, and travelers should feel comfortable getting into and out of the gondolas. A private, two-person gondola ride is available for an additional cost.

## Day 5: Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

\$159/\$169\* (25 minutes, departure time varies)

More than 100 canals crisscross Venice, and boarding a sleek, black gondola to explore them has become a time-honored tradition. On this memorable excursion, you'll enjoy a private gondola cruise for two through the canals of Venice, with a gondolier deftly guiding your boat along.

Please note: This excursion requires two passengers. Cost is per person, and each traveler must book the excursion. Travelers should also feel comfortable getting into and out of the gondolas. This excursion runs as weather permits.

## Day 7: Accademia Gallery

\$59 (2 hours, departure time varies)

Home to Michelangelo's masterpiece David, the Accademia Gallery is one of the most famous museums in Florence. Skip the ticket lines, and join a local guide on a tour of the museum as you learn about Renaissance art history and view a variety of pieces, including the marble statue of David. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 70 days prior to departure.

## Day 8: Siena & San Gimignano: Tuscan Hilltowns

\$119/\$129\* (10 hours, departs in the morning)

Discover the essence of Tuscany on a full-day excursion. In Siena, a local guide introduces you to the town and its black-and-white marble duomo, where you'll find brilliantly colored 16th-century frescoes in the Piccolomini Library. You'll have some free time to explore the Campo, the square that serves as the center of civic life in Siena. Then, journey through the

countryside to the town of San Gimignano, where you'll have some free time to explore the city's medieval towers or simply admire the Tuscan hills. Later, you'll head to a nearby vineyard, where an included wine tasting awaits. Please note: This excursion involves a moderate amount of walking.

## Day 10: Perugia: City Highlights & Wine Tasting

\$99/\$109\* (6 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Discover Perugia on a guided tour. While the city is the capital of the Umbria region, it still maintains a charming feel thanks to its rich collection of Renaissance art and sweeping countryside views. You'll see Perugia Cathedral, Palazzo dei Priori, Fontana Maggiore, and the shops of Corso Vannucci. Enter the Collegio del Cambio, home to the historic exchange guild. The building dates back to the 13th century and you'll step inside to view famous, well-preserved frescoes by Renaissance painter Pietro Perugino. Then, head to the Rocca Paolina fortress for a lunch of typical Umbrian cuisine that incorporates seasonally fresh ingredients. Warm, hearty foods like lentil soup will be served in the fall and winter. Whereas summer will bring fresh, bright pasta dishes. You'll also visit a cave wine cellar to enjoy a tasting of three wines—a local white, red, and Vin Santo, or dessert wine.

## Day 12: Capri: A Day on the Iconic Island

\$115/\$125\* (8 hours, departs in the morning)

Travel by ferry to the fabled isle of Capri, a beloved resort since the days of the Roman Republic. Weather permitting, you'll enjoy a boat ride around the island. Later, you'll enjoy free time to discover why everyone from Roman emperors to Sophia Loren has spent their vacations in Capri. If the weather prohibits a boat ride, you'll travel to the village of Anacapri, which offers stunning views of the surrounding scenery. Please note: This excursion is weather-dependent. Travelers prone to seasickness should take the proper precautions.

## Day 14: Iconic Sights: Vatican City

\$115 (3.5 hours, departure time varies)

This guided tour takes you inside Vatican City—a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most sacred places in Christendom. This independent city-state within Rome serves as the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church and is home to the Pope. Upon arrival, turn on your pre-distributed headset and dive into the Vatican's rich history with your local guide. First, visit the Vatican Museums, which are more than 500 years old and house many of the world's most important Classical- and Renaissance-era sculptures. Next, step inside the Sistine Chapel, whose frescoed ceiling is arguably Michelangelo's greatest masterpiece. Finally, pay a visit to the enormous St. Peter's Basilica, the epicenter of the Roman Catholic faith. The artists who have contributed to its glory are some of the best Italy has ever known: Bramante, Peruzzi, Raphael, and

Michelangelo. Masterpieces await at every turn, from Bernini's magnificent bronze canopy to Michelangelo's Pietà.

Please note: Should this excursion fall on a Sunday, it will be moved to another day of the tour. Backpacks are not allowed in the Vatican, and shorts and sleeveless shirts are strictly prohibited. Due to closures of certain entrances and pathways, wait times may extend to several hours during busy travel months. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 45 days prior to departure.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 15: Pasta-Making Class & Dinner

\$115/\$125\* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

In this hands-on cooking class led by an experienced Italian chef, you'll learn to make pasta—perhaps pillowy ravioli or castellane, a ridged shell pasta that's rolled into a long, oval shape—using traditional techniques you can keep on practicing when you get back home. Then, sit down for dinner and enjoy the dishes you've prepared, along with wine.

### Day 15: Walking Tour of Rome's Iconic Sights

\$65/\$75\* (3 hours, departs in the morning)

Set out for a stroll through central Rome with a local expert. From the Spanish Steps, where Bernini's Baroque-style fountain has stood since the 1600s, head to the intricately carved Trevi Fountain. (Don't forget to toss in a coin and wish for a return trip to Rome!) Enjoy a gelato tasting before entering the Pantheon, the best-preserved ancient Roman temple. Your walking tour ends at Piazza Navona, the city's most famous square, where you'll view Bernini's stunning the Fountain of the Four Rivers. Please note: Comfortable shoes are recommended, as this excursion involves a moderate amount of walking on cobblestone streets. Entrance is not guaranteed to the Pantheon depending on the day of the week and public holidays.

### Day 16: Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs

\$79/\$89\* (4 hours, departure time varies)

Descend into Rome's ancient catacombs, where early Christians buried saints and popes alongside commoners. A local guide will lead you through the burial chambers before your visit to St. Paul's Basilica, one of the four most important basilicas of Rome. Originally founded by Constantine the Great, the Basilica also houses the tomb of St. Paul. Please note: Shorts and sleeveless shirts are not permitted within the Basilica. Also, this excursion involves extensive walking and may be challenging for claustrophobic travelers.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.com/terms](https://goaheadtours.com/terms)