GO AHEAD TOURS



Lake Como, the Italian Riviera & Venice

11 days | 14 days with Florence extension

It would be hard to leave northern Italy feeling stressed. Along the glimmering shores of Lake Como and the meandering canals of Venice, leisure and relaxation remain mainstays of the Italian lifestyle. Amble around every corner of sleek and stylish Milan. Soak up the sun on the Italian Riviera. Escape to the picturesque villages of Cinque Terre. Just unwind and let the Italians teach you a thing or two about indulgence (trust us, they know best).



Your tour package includes

9 nights in handpicked hotels
9 breakfasts
4 dinners with beer or wine
3 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

Teatro alla Scala
Milan's Duomo
Villa Carlotta
Certosa di Pavia monastery
Cinque Terre
Verona
St. Mark's Basilica

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including cobblestone streets and unpaved paths, 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.

Milan → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Milan
Included meals: welcome dinner
Welcome to Italy! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's *apericena*-style welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Milan
Included meals: breakfast
Meet up with a local guide and embark on a sightseeing tour of Italy's fashion capital.

- Pass by the 15th-century Sforza Castle
- Walk through the Brera District and see the statue of Leonardo da Vinci, the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, and Piazza della Scala
- Enter Teatro alla Scala and view the elegant concert hall
- Visit the theater's museum to see exhibits that highlight Italy's historic connection to the opera
- Step inside the Gothic-style Milan Cathedral, Italy's largest cathedral

Enjoy a free afternoon to explore Milan at your leisure.

Lake Como Region → 2 nights

Day 4: Transfer to Lake Como Region
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Travel to the Lake Como region and sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 5: Como & Villa Carlotta
Included meals: breakfast
Head out on a morning trip to explore Como, 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 *(open March through October)*

Enjoy free time in the Lake Como region or add an excursion.
+ Lake Como Cruise & Bellagio

Italian Riviera → 3 nights

Day 6: Italian Riviera via Certosa di Pavia monastery
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Leaving the Lake Como region, stop in Lombardy to visit the exceptionally beautiful Certosa di Pavia monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Then, continue south to the seaside paradise of the Italian Riviera and sit down for an included dinner.

Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Cinque Terre
Included meals: breakfast
Join your Tour Director to discover Cinque Terre, an idyllic cluster of five villages set on seaside cliffs.

- Board a train to Monterosso and soak in views of the pebble beach that the village is known for
- Hop about a boat to the village of Vernazza and admire the colorful houses that dot the waterfront
- Continue by boat to the dramatic coastal village of Riomaggiore
- Learn about Via dell'Amore, one of the area's most famous hiking paths, which connects two of the five villages
- Enjoy short walks through each village before spending free time exploring, shopping, and eating
- Admire the Liguria regions' varied landscape as you transfer back to your hotel by train

Please note: The boat ride is weather-dependent. In the case of inclement weather, you'll visit the villages by train. In addition, the specific villages you visit may vary.

Day 8: Free day on the Italian Riviera
Included meals: breakfast
Enjoy a free day on the Italian Riviera or add an excursion.
+ Villages of the Italian Riviera & Lunch

Venice → 2 nights

Day 9: Venice via Verona
Included meals: breakfast
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.

Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Venice
Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner
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.
Later, celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner with your fellow travelers.
+ Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise
+ Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

Flight Home

Day 11: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay to explore Florence.

+ Florence extension

Not ready to say arrivederci? Continue your trip in the Tuscan capital of Florence, where Renaissance beauty and really (really) good food are practically everywhere. Travel there by train, then enjoy sightseeing with a local guide.

Florence → 3 nights

Day 11: Train to Florence
Included meals: breakfast
Say goodbye to Venice and board a train to Florence, Italy.
Please note: You will need to handle your own baggage during the train transfer.
Then, get to know Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance, as you make your way through the UNESCO-recognized historic center.

- View the legendary Florence Cathedral, known as the Duomo
- Pass Giotto's Campanile, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture
- Walk past Piazza della Repubblica to the medieval Ponte Vecchio
- Stroll along the Arno River and through the courtyard of the Uffizi Gallery to Piazza della Signoria, center of Florentine life

Day 12: Free day in Florence
Included meals: breakfast
Spend a free day in Florence or add an excursion.
+ Accademia Gallery

Day 13: Free day in Florence
Included meals: breakfast
Explore Florence at your leisure or add an excursion.
This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.
+ Siena & San Gimignano: Tuscan Hilltowns

Flight Home

Day 14: 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/VCR | 1-800-597-0350**

Day 5: Lake Como Cruise & Bellagio
$105/$115* (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 8: Villages of the Italian Riviera & Lunch
$115/$125* (7.5 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)
Drive through the countryside to Sestri Levante, a beautiful seaside village located on the Italian Riviera. Here, you'll have free time to explore on your own before setting out on a walk along the coastline to Baia delle Silenzio, one of the city's sparkling azure bays. Enjoy stunning bayside views while eating a delicious lunch of local seafood and meat specialties paired with regional wine. Then, stroll through the village castle gardens and take in views of both Baia delle Silenzio and another bay known as Baia delle Favole. Next, hop aboard a ferry to make your way to the breathtaking village of Portofino. Artists and celebrities alike flock to this celebrated destination, and you'll enjoy free time for shopping or relaxing while admiring the picturesque vistas of the harbor. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from March through November. It also involves a moderate amount of walking.

Day 10: Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise
$89/$99* (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 10: Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two
$165/$175* (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.

Extension excursion options

Day 12: Accademia Gallery
$65 (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 13: Siena & San Gimignano: Tuscan Hilltowns
$125/$135* (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.

*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