GO AHEAD TOURS



Northern Italy & Cinque Terre Walking Tour

11 days | 13 days with Florence extension

Go north and step into a land where rock spires rise above lush landscapes, Austrian influences characterize the village streets, and tranquil lakes and perfumed vineyards are always on the horizon. An epic coastline runs alongside towering cliffs and terraced vineyards. From Lake Maggiore and the staggering Dolomites to the "Five Worlds" tucked within the Riviera's Cinque Terre, tread through Italian landscapes at their most surreal and surprising on this small group Adventure Tour.



Your tour package includes

9 nights in handpicked hotels
9 breakfasts
1 lunch
4 dinners with beer or wine
1 wine tasting
1 tasting
4 guided walks
6 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

Sacro Monte
San Giulio Island
Valpolicella wine tasting
The Dolomites
Bolzano
Bullaccia Ring Trail
Cinque Terre upper trails walk
Bike tour of Lucca's city walls

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 3.5 hours daily across uneven terrain, including unpaved trails, cobblestone streets, and slippery walkways, with some steep hills.

Group size

12–22

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Northern Italy & Cinque Terre Walking Tour

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day
Board your overnight flight to Milan today.

Lake Maggiore Region → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Italy
Included meals: welcome dinner
Welcome to Italy! Arrive in Milan Malpensa and transfer to the Lake Maggiore region. Then, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Lake Orta & Sacro Monte walk
Included meals: breakfast
Travel into a region famed for its classic Italian landscapes as you make your way to picturesque Lake Orta.

- Explore the UNESCO-recognized Sacro Monte, a series of small, fresco-lined chapels and ornate statues dedicated to Saint Francis of Assisi
- Walk along the lakeside trail to the village of Orta San Giulio where you'll enjoy free time
- Hop aboard a water taxi and cruise to San Giulio Island, which is home to a massive, ancient monastery now serving as a convent for cloistered nuns

Day 4: Free day in the Lake Maggiore Region
Included meals: breakfast
Enjoy a free day in the Lake Maggiore region or add an excursion.
+ Lake Maggiore Cruise & the Borromean Islands

Dolomite Region → 3 nights

Day 5: Valpolicella vineyard walk & wine tasting
Included meals: breakfast, light lunch, dinner, wine tasting
Leave the waters of Lake Maggiore behind for the rolling vineyards of Valpolicella, a countryside region acclaimed for its olive groves and superior wine vintages.

- Embark on a Tour Director-led walk along a path surrounded by beautiful vineyards and olive trees
- Head to a local wine estate to have lunch and taste some of the region's most famous labels: Ripasso, Amarone and Recioto
- Continue to Bolzano, the region's capital, set against the UNESCO-listed Dolomite mountain range

Day 6: Dolomites walk
Included meals: breakfast
Experience the Dolomites from Seiser Alm, a sprawling meadow set amidst the surreal limestone peaks. *(Please note: Depending on local weather conditions, the activities and sequence of your included walk may change)*

- Board a cable car and ride to the village of Compatsch to begin your walk on the scenic Bullaccia Ring Trail *(Please note: Depending on the season, Compatsch may be reached by bus.)*
- Take in panoramic views of the surrounding stone spires and mountain valleys

Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Bolzano
Included meals: breakfast
Discover Bolzano, or *Bozen* in German, a city comprised of two distinct cultures.

- Starting in the main city square, Piazza Walther, make your way through the famous open markets to the Gothic-style cathedral
- Step into Piazza del Grano, the heart of Bolzano's medieval village
- Tour the main streets, including Via dei Portici-Laubengasse
- Enter the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology to see Ötzi the Iceman

Enjoy a free afternoon in the Dolomite region or add an excursion.
+ Bolzano Castles & Santa Maddalena Wine Tasting

Italian Riviera → 2 nights

Day 8: Transfer to the Italian Riviera
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Wave goodbye to the Dolomites as you travel south to the Italian Riviera.

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Cinque Terre
Included meals: breakfast, tasting
Get a taste for the unique villages of Cinque Terre on a Tour Director-led walk along the upper trails and a coastal boat ride.

- Travel to Levanto and board a train to Riomaggiore
- Set off on a scenic uphill trail walk from Riomaggiore to the pathways above the town of Manarola
- Learn about the eroding seaside paths and why walking on the upper trails is a more sustainable way to see the beauty of the area
- Enjoy sweeping views of the villages and coastline from above
- Meander through vineyards and farmland built on steep terrain, known as heroic agriculture
- Stop at a vineyard or olive oil press to sample local products grown on the hillside
- Walk down into Manarola and board a boat to the town of Vernazza, enjoying stunning views of the coastline and villages from the water
- Enjoy free time to eat lunch and shop in the seaside town before taking the train back to Levanto
- Admire the Liguria region's varied landscape as you transfer back to your hotel by bus

Please note: Depending on the season and weather, today's activities may vary.

Florence → 1 night

Day 10: Florence via Lucca
Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner
On your way to Florence, join a local guide in the town of Lucca for a bike tour.

- Bike along a section of the almost three-mile Renaissance-era walls
- Take in impressive views of Guinigi Tower, as well as the classic red-tiled rooftops and cypress trees below
- Descend into the center of town for a walking tour to view Lucca Cathedral, the Church of San Michele in Foro, Piazza dell' Anfiteatro, and Via Fillungo
- Enjoy free time to peruse the local shops

Please note: You'll bike along flat, paved paths without cars during the tour of the Lucca city walls. Travelers can opt to take a self-guided tour of the walls by foot instead of biking.
Continue to Florence and celebrate your trip with your fellow travelers at a farewell dinner.

Flight Home

Day 11: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the airport to board your flight home or extend your stay in 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. See the highlights alongside a local guide, then lean on your Tour Director's expert recommendations to seek out even more.

Florence → 2 nights

Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Florence
Included meals: breakfast
Set off on a walking tour of Florence, the city at the center of the Renaissance, with a local guide.

- Admire sweeping views of the city's skyline from Piazzale Michelangelo, a local-favorite hilltop outlook located on the south bank of the Arno River
- Walk downhill 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
- Step inside the Basilica of Santa Croce, the burial site of Michelangelo, Machiavelli, and Galileo
- Pass Giotto's Campanile, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture
- View the legendary Florence Cathedral, known as the Duomo

Enjoy a free evening in Florence or add an excursion.
+ Fiesole Villa Dinner

Day 12: Free day in Florence
Included meals: breakfast
Enjoy a free day in Florence or add an excursion.
This evening, sip a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.
+ Tuscan Vineyards Walk & Chianti Wine Tasting

Flight Home

Day 13: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the airport to board 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.ca/WNI | 1-800-754-5066**

Day 4: Lake Maggiore Cruise & the Borromean Islands

$175CAD/$185CAD* (5 hours, departs in the morning with lunch)

The Borromean Islands, a three-island archipelago on the western arm of Lake Maggiore, prove that great things come in small packages. Cruise to Isola Bella, a tiny isle that boasts a 16th-century palace and stunning, terraced gardens. After exploring the estate, hop back on your boat and sail around Isola Madre, the largest island in the chain. End your excursion on Isola dei Pescatori (Fishermen's Island), the only continuously inhabited member of the group, with 50 year-round residents. The traditional fishing village continues to pride itself on its heritage—look out for fishermen untangling their nets on shore. You'll have the chance to sample the island's specialties during an included lunch at one of the local restaurants.

Day 7: Bolzano Castles & Santa Maddalena Wine Tasting

$149CAD/$159CAD* (3.5, departs in afternoon)

Make your way from Bolzano's city center to the 14th-century Runkelstein Castle, set alongside the Talavera River valley. You'll take a guided tour to see the castle's impressive series of well-preserved frescoes, which are often literary-themed and portray the daily lives of medieval nobles. Next, set off on a one-and-a-half-mile walk along the panoramic Oswald Promenade. This relaxing walk offers stunning views of Bolzano, Maretsch Castle, Klebenstein Castle, Druso Tower, and the surrounding Dolomite mountain range. You'll learn about the history and geography of the South Tyrol province as you stroll along the promenade. Arrive in the picturesque Santa Maddalena hamlet, where you'll visit a small winery and sample unique South Tyrolean wines during a tasting. This northern region of Italy is known for its Austrian influences and unique array of grapes that you won't find growing in the other wine regions across the country. The most famous and historic wine is the St. Magdalener DOC, which you'll try during the tasting. After enjoying the local varietals, travel back to Bolzano.

Extension excursion options

Day 11: Fiesole Villa Dinner

$129CAD/$139CAD* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Head just outside Florence to Fiesole, a historic Tuscan town perched on a hill overlooking the Renaissance city. Tonight's dinner is set in a picturesque villa with panoramic views of the city below. Start your evening with an aperitif and then enjoy a refined Italian dinner with local wine. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from April to October. Additionally, the aperitif may be enjoyed inside in the case of inclement weather.

Day 12: Tuscan Vineyards Walk & Chianti Wine Tasting

$149CAD/$159CAD* (6.5, departs in the morning, light lunch included)

Travel out of Florence into the hills of Tuscany to set off a scenic walk in the countryside of Chianti. The three-mile walk will take you through vineyards and agriturismo farms, as you admire views of the rolling Tuscan hills. Your walk ends at a local vineyard, where you'll enjoy a light lunch and wine tasting. This region is home to some of Italy's most renowned red wines, which you'll get to sample. Continue on to Greve in Chianti to spend free time shopping, walking around, or relaxing. The town's main square is home to a number of wine stores and shops where you can pick up some of the region's famous prosciutto and pecorino cheese. After, travel back to Florence.

*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.ca/terms