Bella Italia: Highlights of Italy

MILAN · VENICE · FLORENCE · PISA · ROME

7D 6N | 25–30 PAX | STARTS MILAN | NOT INCLUDED

Experience five defining Italian cities in seven efficiently planned days, with the transport and logistics handled for you. Begin among Milan's Duomo, Galleria and La Scala, then continue to Venice for San Marco, Murano, the Rialto and an included gondola ride. Florence brings Renaissance landmarks, artisan leather and views from Piazzale Michelangelo before a stop at Pisa's Campo dei Miracoli. The journey ends in Rome with a locally guided day covering the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, St Peter's Basilica and Vatican City. Accommodation, breakfasts, selected dinners, airport transfers, coach travel and tipping are included, making this ideal for travellers who want Italy's classic route without arranging each connection themselves.

DAY

01

MILAN · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 1

Arrive Milan — evening to yourself

You arrive in Milan and the tour begins on landing. A private or shared transfer brings you to the hotel, with check-in from 14:00. The evening is yours — Milan's Navigli canal district is a short taxi ride and a good introduction to the city if you arrive with energy. If not, the hotel works equally well.

Milan Airport Transfer — Private or SIC transfer from the airport to the hotel. Your tour leader meets you on arrival.

Note on flights — Flights are not included in this tour. You arrange your own arrival into Milan (Malpensa MXP or Linate LIN) and departure from Rome (Fiumicino FCO or Ciampino CIA). Ensure your outward flight arrives by early afternoon on Day 1 to allow check-in time before the Day 2 departure.

OVERNIGHT

Milan

DAY

02

MESTRE · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 2

Milan — Duomo, Galleria and La Scala, then east to Mestre

Milan gets a morning before the coach heads east to Mestre. The orientation covers the city's most significant public spaces — the Duomo, the Galleria, La Scala — in a compact walk that takes two to three hours. This is Milan as architecture and history, not shopping; the fashion district is nearby but time is limited.

Duomo di Milano — The Gothic cathedral on the central piazza, begun in 1386 and not completed until 1965. The façade has 3,400 statues; the roofline is a forest of pinnacles. The exterior is the standard stop on this itinerary; interior and rooftop access require a separate entrance fee.

Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II — The 19th-century glass-and-iron shopping arcade connecting the Duomo to La Scala. One of the oldest shopping malls in the world; the mosaic floor has a famous bull that shoppers spin their heels on for luck. Photo stop.

Shopping time, Piazza del Duomo — Independent time in the square and surrounding streets before the coach departs for Mestre.

MEALS

Breakfast

Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Mestre

DAY

03

VENICE · OVERNIGHT 2 OF 2

Venice — San Marco, Murano glassblowers and the back canals by gondola

Venice is reached by water taxi from Tronchetto Pier — the approach across the lagoon is the best first view of the city. The island has no cars, no coaches and no streets wide enough to move quickly; the pace is determined by the water and the alleyways. The San Marco district is the formal part of the day; the gondola takes you through the quieter back canals that most visitors never reach on foot.

Tronchetto to San Marco by Taxi Boat — A 15-20 minute water transfer across the Venice Lagoon. Return included.

San Marco Orientation — The Piazza San Marco is Venice's formal centre: St Mark's Basilica (exterior, with its five domed bays and gilded mosaics), the Campanile, the Torre dell'Orologio clock tower, the Doge's Palace, the Bridge of Sighs (from the embankment), and the Colonna di San Marco. Allow 60–90 minutes.

Murano Glass Factory — The island of Murano, a short boat ride north of Venice, has been producing glasswork since 1291. The factory visit includes a live demonstration of the glassblowing technique — the heat of the furnace, the way the glass moves, the speed of the shaping. A shopping opportunity follows; there is no purchase obligation.

MEALS

Breakfast | Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Mestre

DAY

04

FLORENCE · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 1

Florence — Ponte Vecchio, the Piazza della Signoria and the view from the hill

The drive from Mestre to Florence takes approximately 2.5 hours south through the Apennines. Florence is where the Renaissance happened — the Medici spent the 15th and 16th centuries funding the artists who rebuilt the visual language of Western Europe, and the results are still mostly where they were left. The city is compact enough to cover on foot, and the orientation today gives you the main piazzas and the river crossing before the evening.

Pierotucci Leather Workshop — A Florentine leather workshop near Santa Croce, one of the oldest in the city. The visit includes a demonstration of hand-crafting techniques and a shopping opportunity. Florentine leather — particularly gloves and bags — is made on site here, not imported. There is no purchase obligation.

MEALS

Breakfast

Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Florence

DAY

05

ROME · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 2

Pisa — the Campo dei Miracoli, then south into Rome

Pisa is a 90-minute stop on the drive south to Rome — enough time to walk the Campo dei Miracoli and understand why the tower's tilt has been the subject of engineering intervention for 800 years. The Piazza dei Miracoli is one of the best-composed public spaces in Italy: four major medieval monuments on a lawn of improbably green grass.

Campo dei Miracoli (Piazza dei Miracoli) — UNESCO World Heritage Site comprising the Leaning Tower (Torre di Pisa), the Cathedral (Duomo di Pisa), the Baptistery and the Camposanto cemetery. The tower leans at 3.97 degrees following decades of structural stabilisation work completed in 2001. Exterior visits are included; tower entry requires a separate timed ticket not included in the tour. Allow 60 minutes.

Return shuttle bus to the coach — Included.

Drive to Rome — Approximately 3.5 hours south on the A1 autostrada.

MEALS

Breakfast · Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Rome

DAY

06

ROME · OVERNIGHT 2 OF 2

Rome & Vatican — with a local guide who knows the city

Rome gets a full day with a local English-speaking guide — the one city on the itinerary where you have someone who knows the site rather than an orientation walk. The density here is genuinely different to anything else on the tour: within a square kilometre of the Colosseum, you have 2,000 years of continuous urban history visible above ground. The afternoon is yours for Via Condotti and the area around the Spanish Steps.

Colosseum — The Flavian Amphitheatre, completed in 80 AD, with a capacity of 50,000–80,000 spectators. The exterior is the photo stop; interior entry requires a separate timed ticket not included in the tour. The guide covers the history and context from the exterior.

Via Condotti — The main street of Rome's luxury shopping district, running from the Spanish Steps toward the Tiber. Independent time in the afternoon for shopping or exploring the surrounding streets.

MEALS

Breakfast · Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Rome

DAY

07

ROME

Check out of Rome — airport transfer and departure

After breakfast, check out and transfer to Rome's Fiumicino or Ciampino airport for your onward flight. The tour ends at the airport. Arrange your return flight home independently — allow sufficient time for the airport transfer from the hotel, which is typically 30–60 minutes depending on traffic and which airport you use.

Note — No dinner is included on the departure day.

MEALS

Breakfast

YOUR TRIP AT A GLANCE

What's Included

DEPARTS FROM	FLIGHTS	GROUP SIZE
Milan	**Not included**	**25–30 pax**

INCLUDED

- check 6 nights accommodation at 3-star hotels
- check 6 daily breakfasts at hotels
- check 5 dinners at restaurant / packed / hotel
- check Private or SIC return airport transfers
- check Transportation as per itinerary
- check Return boat transfer: Tronchetto Pier to San Marco Pier
- check Return shuttle bus in Pisa
- check English-speaking local guide in Rome
- check Orientation tours (by Tour Leader) in Milan, Venice, Florence, and Pisa
- check Murano Glass Factory visit
- check Venice Gondola ride
- check Hard Rock Café Venice
- check Pierotucci Leather Factory visit
- check Tipping
- check City / Tourist taxes
- check Tour Leader

NOT INCLUDED

- Air ticket (unless stated as included)
- Traveling visa
- Dinner on first and last day
- Lunch daily
- Personal / travel insurance
- Attraction entrance fees (unless stated as included)
- Porterage
- Personal expenses