

TOURS IN ITALY



Italy from the South to the North

Rome-Florence-Bologna-Verona-Lake Garda-Brescia-Bergamo

Rome



About the city

Modern and old, past and present go side by side, all the time. Whether you are in Rome for 3 days, 3 weeks or 3 months, be prepared to step into the world's biggest open air museum. Rome will seduce you and it will hardly leave you indifferent. It will surprise you, since has so much to offer to any visitor, and it's beauty is just been merely blurred by time passing by. Rome is one of world's most photogenic cities - not surprising when you remember what's here - The Vatican, the Trevi Fountain, St Peter's Square, Spanish Steps, Colosseum... Whether you spend your time sightseeing, or lazing in cafés watching the world go by, it will be your turn to feature in your very own Roman Holiday. If you can plan to stay as long as a week, you won't run out of things to do and you'll still feel like you're leaving too soon.

Dark Heart of Rome

Looking for mystery, intrigue and a reintroduction to the city you thought you knew? The Dark Heart of Rome Tour will stimulate the imagination as much as the eye! When the sun sets on Rome, another city comes to life, a Rome known by only few. Welcome to an older and more mysterious Rome, one where fact and legend are intertwined to create a world that, for most, was

thought to live solely in the past. Rome's only English language night-time walking tour invites you into this privileged club who embark on the Eternal City's most enthralling historical and supernatural tour. Our passionate and knowledgeable guides will whisk you into a world of ghoulish ghost stories and lingering legends as you delve deep into Rome's vast and exciting history. Our tours are always held in small, intimate groups which ensures that you feel as though you are in the story as opposed to just an observer. Rome has long been one of Europe's foremost cities, and a capital with a history spanning more than two and a half thousand years doesn't survive without accumulating a few eerie and gruesome stories, particularly whilst enduring the Middle Ages, papal corruption, the Inquisition and Italian Fascism. Prepare to be whirled into legends of vice, heresy and supernatural mysteries, in the backdrop of stunning piazzas and some of the world's most famous architectural creations, lit up in the night's sky. The Dark Heart of Rome will captivate your eyes and your imagination.



About the activity

Meeting/ Pick up point: On the steps of the church of San Andrea della Valle, which is located on Corso Vittorio Emanuele II about 150 meters from Largo di Torre Argentina, on the left hand side heading towards the Tiber river. The church is located right next to Piazza Vidoni and Piazza Sant'Andrea della Valle.

Duration: 1.5 hours.

Languages: English.

Florence



About the city

Florence is as vital and beautiful today as when its wool and silk merchants and bankers revolutionized the economy of 13th century Tuscany, and the art of Dante and Michelangelo stunned the world. Florence was the centre of the Italian Renaissance. The fruits of the city's rebirth are still evident in its seemingly endless array of museums, churches and palazzi. With its historic centre classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Duomo, the elegant and beautiful cathedral, dominates the city and is an unmistakable reference point in your wanderings. The River Arno, which cuts through the oldest part of the city, is crowned with the Ponte Vecchio bridge lined with shops and held up by stilts. Dating back to the 14th century, it is the only bridge that survived attacks during WWII. Standing by the river at night, when the city is illuminated with a myriad twinkling lights, is unforgettable. But more remains of Florence's incomparable heritage than stones and paint, the city's indomitable spirit has also survived the centuries, ensuring Florentine life today its liveliness and sophistication.



Welcome to Florence

Get the lowdown on Florence with this introductory tour to this fascinating and culturally rich city. Find out why it's the birthplace of the Renaissance and discover its main attractions. **HIGHLIGHTS:** * Get to grips with the history of Florence * Discover why Florence was the birthplace of Renaissance * See the Ponte Vecchio, Uffizi Courtyard and Duomo Baptistery. Let your expert and friendly guide navigate you around the courtyards and squares in the historical

centre of Florence as they regale you with 2,000 years' worth of facts and secrets from Florentine history. Get background information and context on some of the city's most well-known treasures and every step and corner on the tour will reveal more captivating sights and stimulating stories. Be led through Florence and pass by the picture postcard Ponte Vecchio, crossing over the Arno River, up to the famous Uffizi Courtyard. Admire the Uffizi Palace and Gallery from the exterior before making your way to the heart of the city: the Duomo. You'll be spellbound by the work of art that is Brunelleschi's Dome from outside and your guide will take you to the exterior of the Duomo Baptistery and its golden "Gates of Paradise". Allow yourself to be charmed by Florence, and by the end of the tour you'll know about the important role this city played in history; from its Roman origins to present day.

Bologna



About the city

People have strained themselves over the years inventing nicknames for wondrous Bologna: la Dotta, the learned, for being the home of Europe's oldest university, an institution which still attracts thousands of students; la Grassa, the fat, for being a gastronomic marvel with more and better restaurants than many world capitals; finally Bologna Rossa, due to its leftist politics. Stroll among the endless miles of porticos which grace the burnt-orange buildings, and catch the energy which hums quietly in the streets. Check out the elegant galleries of via dell'Indipendenza and via Ugo Bassi. At piazza Nettuno and Maggiore the crowds gather under the Corinthian columns of the Palazzo del Podestà, shifting in the afternoon with the shade to the steps of the Basilica of San Petronio, a huge Gothic structure with a spectacular doorway. In the fountain outside, the bronze Neptune and Attendants splash happily. The two towers to the west of piazza di Porta Ravegnana are considered the symbol of the city. You can climb the taller of the two for a great view of Bologna and the Po valley. The capital of the Emilia-Romagna region is rich in history, art, culture, cuisine and music, and is often overlooked in favour of the country's more well-known tourism honeypots nearby but is all the more appealing for it.

Verona



About the city

Set amid endless vineyards and cypress groves, this melange of Roman ruins, pink palazzi and fanciful sepulchres has a romantic beauty that is difficult to over-praise. Shakespeare set Romeo and Juliet here, and would likely be amused to know that his imaginary lovers have become Verona's hottest tourist attraction. Nonetheless, Verona has more to offer than just Romeo and Juliet. In Verona's centre, Brà square, there is the almost perfectly preserved Roman Arena. Up via Mazzini from the Arena is piazza delle Erbe, where corny gadgets are sold amid the Renaissance palazzo of former Veronese merchants and has a lively atmosphere with pretty cafes and dazzling restaurants. Through an arch on the right are piazza dei Signori and the Tombs of the Scaligeri, the peculiar Gothic remnants of della Scalla, Verona's medieval tyrants. The equestrian statue of Cangrande I, head of the Scalla clan is a glorification of raw power and can be visited at the museum of Castelvecchio. But if you are an incurable romantic, at 23 via Cappello you'll find Juliet's house, where lovers graffitit their hopeful pleas. The house where Romeo used to live is now a bar. This ancient city exudes history from every brick and is well worth a visit.

Verona Lake Garda

Lake Garda



About the city

Lake Garda is an important tourist area in the shadow of the Dolomite Mountains in Northern Italy. It is a popular holiday location, about half-way between Brescia and Verona, and between Venice and Milan. Glaciers formed this alpine region at the end of the last Ice Age. Lake Garda becomes pretty deep just a few metres from the coast. The best beaches, not over-crowded, can be found from Punta San Vigilio to Torri del Benaco and the water is very clean. The beach of Sirmione is great for swimming, so there you will find the clearest water of all Lake Garda. The quality of the water is constantly checked and certified. The beach of Sirmione is made of large smooth rocks and pretty clean. The sight is breathtaking because Sirmione peninsula lays right in the middle of Southern Lake Garda.

Brescia



About the city

"Brescia is the city and comune in the region of Lombardy in northern Italy. It is situated at the foot of the Alps, between the Mella River and the Naviglio, a few kilometres from the lakes Garda and Iseo. The urban area of Brescia extends beyond the administrative city limits. The city is the administrative capital of the Province of Brescia, one of the largest in Italy. Brescia is home to several great museums and is a primary tourist city of Italy. Among main attraction tourist, you can find: • Tempio Capitolino. Old Roman ruins, built it by the emperor Vespasian. • Old and New Duomo. The unique pre-renaissance church has a massive stone dome and 12th century crucifixes. • The Castle. Dating to pre-Roman times and Venetian overlords of the 16th century, the city's stronghold houses museums of armory and of the Risorgimento. • Santa Giulia's cloister: This museum and former convent houses a massive collection of art and archeology dating back more than 10,000 years and exploring the region's history from pre-history to Roman occupation to the Lombard invasion, etc. • La Loggia. The city hall and center of regional government, this large and oddly shaped building presides over the city's central square. • Mille Miglia. The Mille Miglia, which starts in Brescia, was one of the world's top automobile races. The actual race, now a parade of refurbished and custom designed cars that slowly winds its way through 1000 miles of northern Italy, starts in May of each year."

Bérgamo



About the city

The city of Bergamo is the capital of the province of the same name, in the Lombardy region, about 40 km from Milan. The foothills of the Alps begin to the North of the city. By this fact the city presents a great tourist activity during the ski season and in summer also found activity tourism but not as strong with activities focused on the mountain such as climbing, abseiling...

Kids in Rome

Rome is a magical place for all, especially kids. Usually tales of **Emperors and Gladiators** are confined to story books but here in Rome they are part of the city's legendary past. The endless amounts of pizza and gelato helps of course too! We want kids to be inspired by Rome.

We have designed **new activities for kids** that combine sightseeing with a fantastic workshop in a 17th century palazzo. Choose which site kids would like to explore: there is the mighty **Colosseum** which never fails to inspire kids and offers a perfect template for children's illustrations. Or **Castel St. Angelo**, where kids can feel like Knights as they discover this complex fortress which houses Renaissance art, a prison and the Mausoleum of an Emperor. The other includes a trip to Rome's marble zoo. What is this you ask? Well if you look hard enough as you walk around Rome's historical centre, a series of marble animals will reveal themselves to you. There are lions, elephants and beasts to be discovered.

After exploring the Colosseum, Castel St. Angelo or the **marble zoo** kids will partake in an especially designed kids **drawing workshop** with a brilliant illustrator of children's books. The setting of the workshop is a treat and kids will be offered drinks and gelato as they draw what they have discovered in Rome.

Our two new activities for kids in Rome are a great chance for kids to engage in Rome's historic past.

They are educational and fun and will leave kids with unforgettable memories of Rome!

2/3 hours. Includes a tour and a workshop with a children's book illustrator. Gelato and drinks will be offered too the children as they draw.

MOSAIC AND ART WORKSHOP FOR KIDS

TOUR DESCRIPTION:

Kids learn to paint and make mosaics with a Roman artist. What better way for kids to really engage with Rome's artistic past then to have them create their own masterpieces.

Rome has given us the most **beautiful art in the world**. There are beautiful paintings from the Renaissance, Baroque and telling artefacts from the Roman Empire. Some artists are lucky enough to restore these old masterpieces. Take a workshop with a master of restoration.

Kids will discover their inner Michelangelo's with a special kid's workshop. Alternatively, discover the ancient craft of fresco painting or Mosaic making. A beautiful handmade mosaic is the perfect souvenir from your Roman holiday.

For something extraordinary, we even offer the chance for you to **try your hand at decorating in gold leaf**. Re-connect with the past of Rome by trying the crafts that made the city so beautiful and unique.

TREASURE HUNT AT THE VATICAN FOR KIDS

TOUR DESCRIPTION:

A fun and engaging **tour of the Vatican for children!**

We are excited to introduce a new, kid-friendly tour: the **Treasure Hunt at the Vatican**. This **3-hour tour**, ideal for families with children between the **ages of five and ten**, is an excellent way to actively engage your children in the history and art of the **Vatican Museums**. After **skipping the entrance line**, our guides will lead your family through the museum with riddles and clues that will reveal hidden secrets in the various artistic **masterpieces of the Vatican**, with a prize for each child at the end of the tour!

This **Treasure Hunt at the Vatican** will introduce your kids to some of the most famous works of art in the entire world, such as the **Laocoon**, the famous **Greek statue** treasured in the Vatican collection, the various **Gods and Goddesses** who populated the Roman and Greek Mythology with their fascinating stories and adventures; the amazing tapestries with their **optical illusion** and the maps that are so incredibly faithful to the present ones.

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We will obviously introduce your kids to the life and works of **Michelangelo** in the **Sistine Chapel** - the famous **Creation** as well as the **Last Judgement** - and we will also explain how the election of the pope takes place in the Sistine Chapel.

Finally, **St Peter's Basilica**, one of the largest churches in the world, longer than two football fields!

***PLEASE NOTE:** With the **Holy Year** and **Jubilee celebrations** - St Peter's basilica is an active religious centre and is strongly influenced by liturgical ceremonies and needs: we are therefore not responsible for any inconvenience resulting from sudden closure of the basilica.*