

ITALY EXPLORER TOUR



MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

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Italy Explorer Tour with Flights

Duration: 19 days

Departs: 2023 & 2024

Stay: 16 nights hotels, 1 night ferry cabin

Travel style: Escorted tour, plus flights from Australia

Booking code: EUTE19M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience

Email hello@mytravelxp.com

19 Days Italy Explorer Tour with Flights

About the holiday

Bask in the beauty of Italy and discover the must-see destinations of Rome, Venice, Florence, Pompeii and more!

See the Leaning Tower of Pisa and drink in the beauty of Cinque Terre. Admire the Tuscan countryside and explore stunning Sicily - a hotspot for Italian summer holidays. Experience ancient cities, historic monuments and marvel at Renaissance art. Not to forget the fantastic food, rich culture and beautiful landscapes at every turn - this is how to explore Italy!

Everything you want on an Italian holiday and more - this escorted journey is one of our most popular all-encompassing tours to Italy!

Why you'll love this tour...

- This comprehensive tour ticks the boxes for included highlights & free time
- Walking tours of Rome and Florence with expert local guides
- Explore Cinque Terre and the ruins of ancient Pompeii
- Free days to explore Venice, Tuscany, Sorrento and Sicily
- See the Trulli houses of Alberobello & take a photo with the Leaning Tower of Pisa
- Delve into history and greet the colourful Italian culture from one exciting city to another, while frequenting popular hotspots and gems off the beaten track.
- Enjoy 2-night stays in Rome, Venice, Tuscany, Sorrento, Taormina & Palermo.
- Plus, flights are included from Australia!

Travel dates:

Departs Australia

2023 & 2024 - See our website for departure dates

Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price will vary depending on your travel date. Please contact us for current rates and availability.

Call our office on 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com
for current rates & travel deals.



Escorted Tour Includes:

Flights

- Return economy airfares to Rome
- Fly from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth

Accommodation

- 16 nights in twin share hotel rooms with private en-suite facilities
- 1 night in twin share cabin on ferry with private en-suite facilities
- *Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room/cabin*

Meals

- 16 breakfasts, 7 dinners
Vegetarian options available for all meals on request

Transport

- Modern air-conditioned coach with reclining seats and toilet onboard
- Overnight ferry from Palermo to Naples
- Any public transport used as part of the tour days (excludes free days)

Escorted Tour

- Services of your English-speaking tour leader, who will be on hand with advice and tips to ensure that you get the most from your trip
- All taxes and fees included

Package excludes:

Airport transfers

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Optional tours & activities

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry etc.

Gratuities for guides, representatives & drivers

Travel insurance is essential

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

***Subject to confirmation by airlines, hotels, tour company & local operators.
Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.***

Top Experiences on Tour:

- Discover Rome on a guided walking tour
- Enjoy a welcome dinner in Rome
- Take a funicular ride to historic Orvieto
- See the top sights of Venice on an orientation tour
- Stop at Lake Garda; Italy's biggest lake
- Explore Florence; the 'Jewel of the Renaissance'
- Learn about the craft of Italian leather-making
- Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant in Florence
- Explore the colourful villages of Cinque Terre
- See the iconic Leaning Tower of Pisa
- Visit the gorgeous hill town of San Gimignano
- Taste Italian wine in Siena
- See Rome by night on a driving tour
- See Mount Vesuvius and explore the ruins of Pompeii
- Visit Matera; an ancient cave city
- Explore Alberobello; famous for its conical houses
- Catch a scenic ferry from mainland Italy to Sicily
- Discover Taormina; a hilltop town in Sicily
- Enjoy dinner at a beachside hotel in Taormina
- Visit Syracuse; a historic Sicilian city
- Explore the Valley of the Temples
- Visit Cefalù; home to Italy's finest beaches
- See the sights on a walking tour of Palermo

Itinerary:

Day 1: Depart Australia

Depart for your overnight flights to Europe.

Day 2: Arrive in Italy

Welcome to Rome, the Eternal City! Arrive Rome and take a taxi to your tour hotel. Enjoy one night in the Italian capital prior to the start of your tour. Rome is the capital city of Italy. It is also the capital of the Lazio region, the centre of the Metropolitan City of Rome. There's time to head into the city and see some of the sites that make Rome famous the world over. An ancient city that has seen the rise and fall of entire empires, there is no shortage of historical real estate to feast your eyes on. Not to mention designer shopping and brilliant food.

Day 3: Start of tour in Rome

Welcome to Rome; the Eternal City! Meet up with your tour leader at the hotel this morning and prepare for the tour of a lifetime! Then, join a local guide for a guided walking tour to see some of the sites that make Rome famous the world over.

See ancient Roman architecture, medieval buildings, Renaissance artworks and more remnants of Rome's illustrious past as capital of this incredible country and the Roman Empire at large. Tonight, taste delicious Italian cuisine and enjoy an included welcome dinner at a local restaurant with your tour group.

Day 4: Rome: Free Day

Enjoy a free day to explore Rome and discover more of the city's famous sights. Wander the streets, do some shopping and be sure to sample local food. There is an opportunity to join a Roman Food Tour today to discover some of the city's top foodie hidden gems! Alternatively, join the optional excursion to the Vatican City, the world's smallest country and home of the Pope! Visit the Vatican museums and marvel at the artistic masterpieces, as well as Michaelangelo's incredible frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. An expert local guide will provide great insight into the history and significance of this fascinating microstate.

Day 5: Rome - Orvieto - Venice

Leaving the capital behind, drive through the scenic Umbria region and look forward to the truly incredible sight of Orvieto. This small but beautiful city is perched atop a sheer vertical volcanic rock. Take the funicular up to the historic centre and enjoy some free time to explore. See the city's top sights including the 14th-century Cathedral of Orvieto, the papal residence, and the Albornoz fortress. Next, travel on to Venice! The evening is free. Choose to relax at the hotel or join your tour leader on an optional twilight water taxi cruise of the floating city's iconic canals and see the twinkling lights of Venice!

Day 6: Venice

Start this full day in Venice with an orientation tour led by your tour leader. The rest of the day is free to explore this magical city at your leisure. A gondola ride, which can be organised by your tour leader, is highly recommended today as no trip to Venice is complete without this quintessential experience! An optional trip further out into the lagoon to visit Murano and Burano is also available today. These islands are famous for their glass-blowing and lace-making crafts respectively, and rows of beautiful multi-coloured houses. Alternatively, if the weather is good, relax and soak up the sun on the sandy beaches at Jesolo or Lido. The choice is yours!

Day 7: Lake Garda - Florence - Tuscany

Today, travel to Florence and the beautiful region of Tuscany. Along the way, stop at the gorgeous Lake Garda. This is the biggest lake in Italy, and a destination that has inspired artists of all persuasions for centuries. On arrival in Florence, join a passionate local guide and explore the iconic sights and landmarks of this magnificent city. A cultural and political focal point during the Renaissance, the city is endowed with a huge variety of Renaissance artworks and Roman ruins. Next, it's time to visit Leonardo Leather for a leather-making demonstration. Later, enjoy an included dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 8: Cinque Terre - Pisa - Tuscany

This morning, drive north to La Spezia in the Liguria region. This city is the gateway to Cinque Terre; five picturesque fishing villages on the rugged Italian Riviera coastline. The harbours are filled with fishing boats, vines climb the terraces and the houses are painted in bright colours. It's a photographer's dream! Each village is linked by hiking trails and a railway, allowing for exploration without any cars or traffic. This afternoon, head back to Tuscany, stopping off on the way at the iconic Leaning Tower of Pisa. A highlight of any tour to Italy, enjoy snapping photos of this legendary structure and explore the grounds that include a cathedral and baptistery.

Day 9: San Gimignano - Siena - Rome

Today, the tour makes its way through Tuscany's idyllic countryside. During the drive, admire rolling hills complete with Tuscan farmhouses, vineyards and olive groves. The first stop is the walled hilltop town of San Gimignano. Known as the 'Town of Fine Towers', San Gimignano is home to incredible Romanesque and Gothic architecture and 14 well-preserved medieval tower houses. Then, drive to Siena; a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for the Palio horse race. Here, taste some local Italian wines. Then, travel back to Rome and round off the day with an included dinner.

Day 10: Rome: Free Day

Welcome back to Rome! Enjoy a free day to explore any of the sights you may have missed on your first visit to this historic city. Later on, meet back up with your tour leader and fellow travellers, including those joining from the Highlights of Southern Italy & Sicily Tour. Experience Rome by night and explore some of the iconic sights of the Eternal City illuminated in the evening. These sights include the Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona and the Pantheon on a driving tour. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant tonight.

Day 11: Rome - Pompeii - Sorrento

Leaving Rome, head to the Sorrento Peninsula, stopping off along the way to see Mount Vesuvius and explore the ancient ruins of Pompeii, destroyed in 79 AD in a catastrophic volcanic eruption. Get transported to a different time and gain fascinating insight into life during the Roman empire during a guided tour. Later this afternoon, settle in for a two-night stay on the Sorrento Peninsula. This area is famous for limoncello (a sweet lemon liqueur); the perfect way to finish off the included dinner this evening!

Day 12: Sorrento: Free Day

Enjoy a full free day in Sorrento! A gorgeous old town hugging the coastline, the Sorrento Peninsula is the base for the day. Explore the town in your own time, or choose to join the optional excursion to the famous Isle of Capri.

Here, spend some free time exploring the rugged coastline, ancient Roman ruins and stylish piazzas of this glamorous island. A private cruise around the island with swim stops in the island's crystal-clear waters is a definite highlight of this trip!

Day 13: Sorrento - Matera - Alberobello

Today, head southeast to explore the southern Italian region of Apulia, taking a comfort stop along the way in the ancient cave city of Matera. Known as "la Città Sotterranea" (the Subterranean City), it is famous for its extensive cave-dwelling districts; the 'sassi'. Later, arrive in Alberobello, and enjoy a walking tour with a local guide to see the region's famous 'trulli' houses. These beautiful 14th-century whitewashed stone huts have iconic conical roofs and are specific to the Itria Valley. This evening, enjoy free time to further explore Alberobello - check out the trullo church of St Anthony and the Trulli Museum!

Day 14: Alberobello - Taormina

This morning, take a coastal drive beside the Ionian Sea before leaving the mainland. Take a short ferry ride over to the island of Sicily; home to the spectacular Mount Etna. Prepare for stunning views as the tour makes its way to Taormina. Upon arrival, your tour leader will guide an orientation walk of this hilltop town, pointing out some of the highlights that can be explored further on the free day tomorrow. Top attractions include the historic Porta Catania and the Villa Comunale. This evening, get your first taste of Sicilian cuisine with an included dinner at tonight's beachside hotel.

Day 15: Taormina: Free Day

Enjoy a free day to relax on Sicily's beautiful beaches or explore the island's quaint towns. The town of Taormina is one of Italy's most popular summer destinations. Perched on the side of a mountain, Taormina is home to medieval churches, a castle and a Greek amphitheatre. For those looking to explore further afield on their Italian tour, speak to your tour leader for their recommendations. Options include a Mount Etna day trip, boat tours of the beautiful coastline, paragliding and The Godfather tours!

Day 16: Taormina - Syracuse - Agrigento

Drive through the heart of Sicily, enjoying a visit to the enchanting city of Syracuse along the way. Syracuse is a city that was founded as a Greek colony in 734 BC. Today, it boasts a UNESCO-listed historic centre and beautiful Baroque buildings. Later this afternoon, get your cameras ready for a tour of the 'Valle dei Templi' (Valley of the Temples) led by an expert local guide. This is one of the world's most outstanding examples of Magna Grecia art and architecture! Afterwards, travel to tonight's accommodation near Agrigento.

Day 17: Agrigento - Cefalù - Palermo

Leaving Agrigento this morning, take a scenic drive through central Sicily en route to the town of Cefalù. Embark on an orientation tour of the town before enjoying free time for lunch. This historic town boasts some of Italy's finest beaches so don't miss the chance to enjoy a meal by the sea! Arriving in Palermo in the early afternoon, enjoy a walking tour which will showcase the city's highlights. Founded more than 2,700 years ago by the Phoenicians, Palermo is noted for its history, culture, architecture and food. Top sights on the walking tour include the Piazza Indipendenza, Porta Nuova (The New Gate) and the Cathedral of Palermo.

Day 18: Palermo: Free Day

Make the most of this full day to further explore Sicily's capital. Over the centuries, Palermo has been colonised by many different rulers, including the Greeks, Romans and Normans, making it a melting pot of cultures and architectural styles. Palermo is an enticing mix of ancient relics, Italian history, rich culture and mouthwatering cuisine - it's a fantastic destination for travellers to enjoy! Revisit top sights from yesterday's tour, explore the historic old town and visit the art galleries. Alternatively, join today's optional excursion to visit some local markets and tuck into authentic Sicilian dishes such as arancini and caponata! This evening, the group will take an overnight ferry back to the Italian mainland.

Day 19: End of tour in Rome - Fly to Australia

The ferry will arrive in Naples this morning. Continue on the coach with the tour leader and travel back to Rome, where the coach will drop off the group. After unforgettable Italian adventures, the tour concludes back in Rome. Arrivederci! It's time to make your way to the airport for your return flights to Australia.

Please note: The day by day descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.

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MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE BOOKING CONDITIONS

Please read the following information prior to making your reservation

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1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.
3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
4. 90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents via email.

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If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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