

9 DAYS - ITALIAN EXPERIENCE

Dep Date : 17 Apr 2019

Lose yourself in the beauty of Tuscany

ITINERARY

Day 1: Welcome to Rome

Welcome to Rome! The first day of the tour is an arrivals day: meet up with your tour guide at our accommodation in the afternoon and prepare for the tour of a lifetime! If you arrive early, 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. Tonight, you'll meet the rest of the tour group at our included welcome dinner.
Dinner.

Day 2: Rome

Today we'll take a guided walking tour of the city, stopping off at the landmarks that have made Rome a perennial favourite with travellers all over the world. See ancient Roman architecture, medieval buildings, Renaissance artworks and more remnants of Rome's illustrious past as capital of this incredible country – and of the Roman Empire at large. Be sure to see sightseeing highlights like the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, the Roman Forum, the Pantheon and the countless other attractions that make Rome famous the world over. Later, you'll have the option of taking a guided walking tour of the Vatican City. Marvel at glittering artworks, vast marble halls and opulent architecture – all part and parcel of the Vatican's status as the seat of papal power. Eating and drinking well is also an important part of Roman life, and as they say, 'When in Rome, do as the Romans do.' Try excellent Italian cuisine, and be sure to grab a famous Roman gelato while you're sight-seeing!
Breakfast

Day 3: Rome - Venice

Leaving the capital behind, we'll drive through the region of Umbria. Known as the 'fruit bowl of Italy', it is famous for its produce, food and beautiful mountainous landscapes. Prepare for one of the most spectacular sights in Europe as we approach Orvieto, a city perched dramatically atop sheer vertical volcanic rock. We'll take the funicular up to the historic centre, where you'll have some free time to explore and see the sights, including the exquisite facade of the Cathedral of Orvieto, the papal residence and the Alborno fortress, before we travel on to Venice. We'll get a classic Venetian view from the famous Rialto Bridge on our orientation walking tour. While in Venice you also have the opportunity to board a gondola and see Venice the traditional way, try classic Venetian cuisine, visit the famous museums and art galleries and simply get the full Venetian experience!
Breakfast, dinner



Day 4: Venice free day

Take the time to explore today on your free day in Venice. Marvel at this incredible city, which features more artistic masterpieces per square kilometre than any other place on earth! Speak with your tour leader for suggestions for your free day in Venice. You also have the option of joining our evening excursion to Verona, where you can see Juliet's balcony – where Juliet is said to have been wooed by Romeo in Shakespeare's most famous play – and see the ancient amphitheatre built by the Romans.
Breakfast.

Day 5: Venice - Florence - Tuscany

Today, we make our way to the beautiful city of Florence, stopping along the way in Lake Garda for a photo stop. The next stop is Verona for a look at Juliet's balcony – where Juliet is said to have been wooed by Romeo. Then, we make our way to Florence for a guided walking tour. Learn more about the heritage of this city, which stretches back through the ages to encompass Renaissance artworks and Roman ruins. Sights to see in Florence include Ponte Vecchio, Palazzo Vecchio, Florence Cathedral, the Basilica of Santa Croce and of course Michelangelo's David. A cultural and political focal point during the Renaissance, Florence is endowed with a huge variety of important buildings and famous artworks. We'll then make our way to our accommodation in Tuscany.

Breakfast, Antipasto in Tuscany

Day 6: Tuscany free day or the Cinque Terre & Pisa

Enjoy the option of a free day today in beautiful Tuscany, where options include further time in the city of Florence or exploring the spa town of Montecatini. You also have the option of joining an optional excursion to Pisa and Cinque Terre! A highlight of any tour to Italy, you'll be able to snap photos of the legendary Leaning Tower of Pisa and explore the grounds. We will then continue on to the stunning coastal town of La Spezia, the gateway to the Cinque Terre. Cinque Terre literally means 'Five Lands' and consists of five coastal cliff-side towns linked by rail and by footpaths. On this excursion return transport via Pisa is included in your tour package, and you have the option of purchasing a pass to enter Cinque Terre.

Breakfast



Day 7: Tuscany - Rome

Today will give you more chance to enjoy Tuscany! We make our way through one of the world's most picturesque countryside landscapes, admiring Tuscan farmhouses, vineyards and olive groves as we drive by. We will make a stop in San Gimignano to sample local wines and antipasto, before rounding off the day with dinner when we arrive back in Rome.

Breakfast, dinner

Day 8: Free day in Rome

Today you will have a free day in Rome. You can enjoy the whole day shopping in one of countless boutiques and department stalls in the centre of Rome or if you are after bargains visit one of outlet malls on the outskirts of Rome. You could also take one of our optional tours and visit Naples and Pompeii.

Breakfast

Day 9: Rome

After breakfast, our tour concludes, and it's time to say your goodbyes. Private transfer will take you from your hotel to the airport. In case you have an afternoon or late evening left you can continue with your last-minute shopping or gallery and museum hopping. Arrivederci Italia! Breakfast. Private airport transfer.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 8 nights' accommodation in twin rooms. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 8 Breakfasts, 3 Dinners, 1 Antipasto in Tuscany.
- 10 included Experiences, 2 optional Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences).
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- Free Wi-Fi in hotels
- Services of your tour leader from day one till day seven, who will be on hand with advice and tips and ensure that you get the most from your trip.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days and arrival and departure days).
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

ACCOMMODATION

ROME

Club House Roma
Christophoro Colombo
Hotel American Palace
Park Hotel Ginevra

TUSCANY

Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio
Hotel Autopark
Hotel Raffaello

VENICE

Hotel Centrale
Hotel Residence Elite
NH Venezia Congress Center
Hotel San Guiliano
Hotel Venezia

IE

9 days - Italian Experience

START DATE

17-Apr-19

END DATE

25-Apr-19

PRICE IN GBP

£973

European Guaranteed Tours Terms & Conditions

1. Guaranteed departures

All Comfort tours operated by Happy Tours are guaranteed departures and will operate unless force majeure circumstances arise or other unforeseen circumstances. Due to the traveller numbers on a specific tour, Happy Tours reserves the absolute right to change the type or style of transportation or other elements, to enable the tour to operate. Tours where Happy Tours acts as an agent on the behalf of the Principal operator in Turkey and Croatia are also guaranteed to operate unless force majeure circumstances arise or the Principal operator ceases trading. Under these circumstances an alternative tour of comparable standard or a full refund of monies paid will be offered.

Force Majeure: We will not pay you compensation if we have to cancel or change your travel arrangements in any way because of unusual or unforeseeable circumstances beyond our control. These can include, for example, war, riot, industrial dispute, terrorist activity and its consequences, acts of God, natural or nuclear disaster, fire, adverse weather conditions, epidemics and pandemics, unavoidable technical problems with transport.

2. Accommodation

a) All Tours

On any of our Comfort, Europe Short Trips, Turkey & Greece Tours and Croatia Tours, accommodation is provided in twin accommodation. Singles travellers will be accommodated in same-gender twin rooms. Two travellers booking together will be accommodated in a twin room. Three travellers booking together will be accommodated in one twin room, the third person will be accommodated in a same gender twin share room. Happy Tours will use astute discretion at allocating the third person to a room share; unless we are otherwise advised in writing as to who will be sharing with whom. Triple rooms can be requested, in writing, but cannot be guaranteed in every location in which event the above situation applies. In certain locations, particularly in Austria and Switzerland, a twin is commonly accepted as referring to two separate mattresses and duvets contained in one large frame. Most hotels have rooms that will take an extra bed if required. These extra beds may be bunk beds, fold-away beds or sofa beds. Where an extra bed is added this may limit the space available. Rooms with extra beds are still bookable for two person occupancy although, in this case, the hotelier may allocate a standard-sized twin bedded room without extra beds. Single rooms do not always match up either in size or facilities to twin bedded rooms. Please note that in some properties, lifts may not directly service all floors and access to and from these floors may be by stairway only.

b) Star Categories / Country Standards

We use a range of star rated accommodation establishments, and standards differ from country to country. The star ratings are primarily intended to give a guide to the range of facilities and services available in each property. 2 and 3 star properties generally have a more limited range of facilities and services. In general the overall standard of services and facilities can sometimes vary within star categories. For example, an officially rated 3 star property may only possess 2 star standards (and vice versa) despite having an extensive range of services and facilities. This is because of the many different criteria that are used from country to country to assess star ratings.

Please note these criteria can differ significantly to those used in the UK by motoring and other organizations and UK ratings should not therefore be compared to those overseas. In certain instances, hotels and pensions in Austria do not have official star ratings, mainly due to taxation reasons, rather than levels of standard.

3. Food

Meals are included as stipulated in the tour itinerary, check your specific tour itinerary for details of which meals are included. Vegetarians or those with special dietary needs can be catered for, so please inform us at the time of booking, as well as your tour leader at the start of the tour. Non-included meals are at your own expense. This allows you the opportunity to try the local cuisine. The food is delicious and varied with restaurants providing an important insight into local ways of life.

There is always an excellent range of restaurants to choose from. You will also need to purchase drinks and snacks for long bus or coach journeys as there may not be the opportunity once on board. Please be aware that in many parts of the world vegetarian meals are classified as meals without meat or fish, and may not be what you are used to.

4. Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is mandatory for all clients whilst on a tour organised by Happy Tours. Clients together with their personal property including baggage are at all times solely at their own risk. Clients are wholly responsible for arranging their own insurance. A suitable insurance policy should provide adequate cover for medical expenses arising through illness or accident prior to or during the holiday and loss of holiday monies through cancellation or curtailment of the holiday or other insurable reasons. Clients should ensure that there are no exclusion clauses limiting protection for the type of activities in their tour. The travel insurance cover automatically provided with credit card purchases does not provide adequate cover as standard.

5. Passports, Visas and Vaccinations

It is the responsibility of the client to be in possession of a valid passport, visa permits, vaccination and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour. Information about these matters or related items is given in good faith but without responsibility on the part of Happy Tours. Visa support documents can be provided if the request is received in writing - please email us after your booking has been confirmed, allowing 5 working days for the documents to be produced. Visa support documents do not supplement or replace tour documents which can be found on the website.

Please allow sufficient time to complete the visa process (at least 4 weeks). Should your visa application be unsuccessful, you will be able to change or cancel your tour, but standard terms and conditions (and therefore fees) will apply. Please see sections 3a. Changes by you and 4. Cancellation by you.

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides travel advice for each destination we visit – each country has a summary and general information as well as advice on safety & security, local laws & customs, entry requirements and health.

6. Age, Fitness and Participation

All clients are expected to satisfy themselves prior to booking that they are fit and able to complete the itinerary of their chosen tour as described in the itinerary.

Clients are also expected to accept that the components described constitute "Adventure Travel" and that travel to and facilities in developing countries will not be to similar standards which they may be accustomed to at home. Persons over 65 years of age may be asked to provide medical evidence of fitness to travel on certain itineraries. Minors (those under 18 years of age) are accepted on some group tours operated by Happy Tours at our discretion provided they are accompanied by a parent or guardian who accepts full responsibility for them. Unaccompanied minors will not be accepted. Happy Tours has recommended ages for participation in group tours which act as a guide only.

Clients agree to accept the authority and decision of Happy Tours employees, tour leaders, and agents whilst on tour with Happy Tours. If in the opinion of such person that the health or conduct of a client before or after departure appears likely to endanger the safe, comfortable or happy progress of a tour, the client may be excluded from all or part of the tour, without any refunds. In the case of ill health Happy Tours may make such arrangements as it sees fit and recover the costs from the client.

If a client is excluded from the tour as above or chooses to leave the tour of their own free will or leaves the tour due to ill health or any other reason there will be no refund of the tour price, extra services, surcharges, local payments/funds or any local surcharges. All services forming part of the whole package booked will be forfeited though may be recovered through travel insurance in some circumstances.

7. Local Laws

All participants in tours operated by Happy Tours are expected to obey the laws and regulations of the countries visited and any failure to do so will relieve Happy Tours of any obligation that they may otherwise have under these booking conditions.

8. Illness or Disability

Anyone suffering from illness or disability or undergoing treatment for any physical or medical condition must declare the true nature of such condition at the time of booking and make arrangements for the provision of any medication or other treatment which may be required during the tour. Failure to make such disclosure will constitute breach of these booking conditions and result in such persons being excluded from the tour in which case all monies paid will be forfeit. If you or any member of your party have any disabilities it is extremely important that you contact our offices by email via this link before completing any reservation to ensure compatibility for the holiday that you choose.

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