

VENICE, ROME & SORRENTO

The tours and excursions below are shared organised tours, where possible these will be small group, to a maximum of 20 people; it is possible to make all of these tours private.

DAY 1 ARRIVE IN VENICE

Today you arrive in Venice the first of your three cities in Italy. On arrival you will be met in the arrivals hall, by one of our partners, who will then take you down to the water taxi station, where you will then be ferried/transferred into central Venice, where you can check-in to your hotel and relax for the remainder of the day.

Hotel:

DAY 2 VENICE IN A NUTSHELL

Walking Tour, Canal Cruise, St. Marks Basilica - Skip The Line! & Doge's Palace Priority Access Guided Tour.

This morning we have the perfect tour which provides the perfect introduction to Venice. You will explore the two sides of Venice; start in St Mark's Square, the large piazza which is the heart of Venice and continue to explore the intricate, narrow and winding back streets of Venice. The first stop for many visitors to Venice is Piazza San Marco. This large square is at the very heart of the city and is home to the famous Basilica di San Marco and the distinctive pink and white Doge's Palace. You will also explore the back streets of Venice; the narrow alleyways are home to beautiful canals, churches and piazzas that enthral visitors. One of those you will visit was the home of Marco Polo, while there you will learn more about the famous explorer.

To complete your Venice sightseeing, board your motor launch for a cruise along Venice's canals. You will cruise down the bustling Grand Canal as well as some of the smaller canals.

The tour lasts around three hours and will finish at 1pm, giving an hour for lunch before joining your next tour around the Doge's Palace at 2:15pm, this tour lasts around 1 hour.

Explore the magnificent Doge's Palace, once the center of the imperial power of Venice. Walk the corridors of history with an expert guide and learn about the singular government of the Venetian Republic in its heyday. Admire the splendid Palace chambers with their decorated ceilings and glorious paintings by Bellini, Titian, Tintoretto, Veronese and others.

Gain insights into the dark side of the 'Serene Republic'. Hear shocking stories of plot and intrigue, deadly power struggles and rough justice.

Walk eerie narrow passages to the dreaded lead-roofed prison cells. Marvel at the amazing story of the notorious Casanova's incredible break-out from the supposedly escape-proof lock-up.

DAY 3 VENETIAN ISLANDS TOUR

Murano Glassblowing & Burano Lacemaking

No trip to Venice is complete without discovering the Venetian Lagoon's two most cherished islands. This half-day trip to Murano from Venice with Burano offers perks

not usually found on other group tours, like transport by private water taxi and a dedicated guide throughout. Gain perspective on the ageless arts of glassblowing and lace making and the mastery of artisans, as well as delight in the unique charm of the tranquil canals and piazzas of these vibrant islets.

Take a Private Water Taxi to Murano

Once you reach the meeting point in central Venice, you'll be whisked off to Murano to see its world-famous blown glass. On the way, admire the 'City of Bridges' from the water with sweeping views and entertaining commentary from your guide as you get ready to witness the magic of Murano glass.

All glassmaking was moved to this tiny group of islands in the Middle Ages, and it was the only place where mirrors were made for centuries. Techniques were so secret that perpetrators risked execution for leaking them. Times have changed, but you'll behold exactly what has made Murano glass so sought after for nearly 750 years.

Learn More with our Expert Guides

Upon arrival, you'll dock at a specially chosen glassblowing workshop where you'll marvel as craftsmen shape molten glass into dazzling works of art. See these sparkling treasures come to life as you learn how colours and the most ambitious shapes come to be. You can also browse in the gallery, or shop with our discount. Afterward, explore Murano to enjoy its sleepy canals and San Donato church, a stunning example of Byzantine architecture; without being hurried.

Discover the Finest Handmade Lace at Burano

The next stop on your Venice cruise is Burano. Considered by many as one of the most colourful places in the world, this small fishing community with its brightly coloured houses also has some of the finest handmade lace anywhere. Watch this cultural tradition in action as women stitch by hand, like countless generations before them. After the demonstration, you will have free time to visit the lace museum; stroll Burano's vibrant waterways, or shop for souvenirs.

DAY 4

VENICE TO ROME

Today you head for the wonderful city of Rome. After breakfast and checking out you will be transferred to Venice train station where you take a direct line to Rome, the journey takes 3 hours 45 minutes, and you can enjoy the scenery of Italy as you pass through the country.

On arrival in Rome, you can either take a short walk or taxi to your hotel, which will not be far away.

Once you have checked in you can then relax and enjoy the city in the evening, it is a bubbly happy environment, with plenty to see and lots of choices for a good dinner.

Hotel:

DAY 5

VATICAN 3 HOUR TOUR

Either morning or afternoon you can start your Rome experience with a professional English speaking semi-private Vatican tour, the guide will lead you through the maze of the Vatican Museums, while enjoying the

many highlights and numerous works that Popes have been collecting and commissioning over the past 500 years. This is a walking tour through the palaces of the most powerful men of their time, surrounded by work of the greatest artists of their time such as Raphael, Michelangelo and Bernini.

Beginning first in the Greek and Roman Statuary Collection, you see pieces dating back from the 3rd century BC and how their power influences today's contemporary art.

Continuing on into the Gallery of the Tapestries, the extent of Raphael's talent is revealed with stunning optical illusions woven into cloth.

The Gallery of the Maps is by far one of the most impressive halls you will lay your eyes on; covering all parts of Italy we will see how the past Popes once viewed their territory.

The old Papal Apartments are often skipped as there are quicker ways to reach the Sistine Chapel, but for many, the chance to see these rooms are a once in a lifetime opportunity and we make sure you get the full experience.

These rooms are not only famous because past Popes once laid their head here, but due to the fact that the walls are covered in Raphael's masterful paintings.

One of the last things we see in the Vatican Museums is the unforgettable Sistine Chapel. Every nook and cranny is covered in detail so no matter where you look, you know exactly what you're looking at and the stress Michelangelo went through to paint it. After having some time to sit back and enjoy the view, we will continue on to St. Peter's Basilica; the largest church in the world. Learn about the legends and facts behind the death of St. Peter, the Basilica itself, Michelangelo's dome, as well as the massive St. Peter's Piazza. After the tour, you will also have the opportunity to, climb the dome, head down below to see the tombs of past Popes, send post cards home from the Vatican Post Office or visit the nuns in the Vatican souvenir shops.

DAY 6

COLOSSEUM & ANCIENT ROME TOUR WITH ROMAN FORUM & PALATINE HILL

Visiting the Colosseum is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that stays with visitors for a long time after they've returned home. Make the best of your bucket-list day with your own private tour, spending time at the sites that interest you most and finding answers to all your questions.

For three hours your dedicated English-speaking guide will lead you around the three major sights of Ancient Rome - the Colosseum, Roman Forum and Palatine Hill. As experts in their field, our Rome tour guides are the perfect people to lead your Colosseum adventure, telling you the stories that bring the stones to life. Hear about the Emperors who built, burned and rebuilt the Colosseum; debunk popular myths about the mighty gladiators (many of whom chose this profession!); and learn about some unlikely uses for an amphitheater that once held 82,000 Ancient Romans.

With our guides on hand to answer all of your questions and tell you the stories and legends you'd never hear otherwise, you'll get more from an hour in the Colosseum than you could in an entire day with a guidebook. But if you'd rather spend more than an hour here, be our guest!

You have Skip the Line Access not just at the Colosseum, but also at the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill - which is

exactly where you're going next. While the Colosseum may be the biggest draw card in Ancient Rome, the Palatine Hill is more important from a historic and archaeological point of view, as the birthplace of this mighty empire. Here you'll hear about the abandoned boys raised by a she-wolf, and see the foundations of ancient palaces.

The Roman Forum is the most telling of all the ruins. This was the heart of Ancient Rome, home to its moneylenders, stores, political rallies and the famous Via Sacra - 'The Sacred Way', once marched by victorious Roman armies on their return home. Here your guide will unravel some of the most interesting tales of Ancient Rome. Stories of the rise and fall of Caesar or the Vestal Virgins who were endowed with the power to choose life or death for condemned men.

While the Colosseum is undoubtedly a highlight of any tour, it's only a fraction of the full picture. Dig a little deeper with your own expert guide, rebuilding the great empire of Rome from the ground up on our Private Colosseum Tours - perfect for that once-in-a-lifetime visit.

DAY 7

ROME TO SORRENTO

This morning you will be collected from the hotel and transferred to Brussels airport for a flight to Naples.

On arrival in Naples you will be met by your driver who will take you 33 miles to the stunning town of Sorrento, where you can enjoy your last few days, basking under the Mediterranean sun and enjoying the Italian hospitality.

Hotel: 4 Nights - 1 x Double,

1 x Twin with Sea Views, Inclusive of Breakfast

Hotel Residence Miramare is an elegant villa located in a panoramic position above Sorrento town centre. The outdoor pool overlooks the Bay of Naples. Studios and apartments offer air conditioning, a flat-screen TV, and a fully equipped kitchenette. Some are complete with a balcony with views of the sea. Air-conditioned rooms feature a balcony. The Miramare's top-floor sun terrace is the perfect place for sunbathing. Staff here are helpful and professional and you can make the most of the 24-hour reception with free internet terminal. Drinks and snacks are served at the bar.

DAY 8

PIZZA MAKING AND FREE TIME IN SORRENTO

Today is a more leisurely day after several busy days of sightseeing, but fun will be had at a local restaurant as you try your hand at making your own authentic Italian Pizzas.

Day 9

CAPRI

Meet your English-speaking guide and by jetfoil you will reach Capri main port, Marina Grande. Bustling with arriving ships, this is the main point of entry to the island. The view is lovely, as are the many sailing vessels moored at the pier. Tourist information, buses and the funicular (cable car) to Capri "La Piazzetta", the higher town, are available here. Weather permitting, we will catch a convertible car for an open air ride to our first destination, the famous Blue Grotto, Grotta Azzurra. (weather permitting). We will take a look inside this amazing natural cave that draws many visitors from around the world.

Your skilled guide will take scenic travel routes, including the thrilling Mamma Mia Road. We will wind round switchbacks until we reach Anacapri. Take a look to the many birds, flowers and lemon trees along the way. Then it's just a short chairlift to Monte Solaro. The highest and most panoramic view point on the island, Mount Solaro rises 589 meters above sea level.

You will marvel at views of the famed Peninsula of Sorrento, Mt. Vesuvius, the Gulf of Naples and the islands of Ischia and Procida. The coastal headlands, vineyards, villas and the Capri town center complete the stunning vista. Also interesting in Anacapri is the Villa San Michele, built by Swedish writer and doctor Axel Munthe, full of gardens, relics and art. Then, some shopping and lunch.

Next, it's the main town of Capri, and La Piazzetta.

Known locally as the Chiazza, this is where the beautiful people are followed by the paparazzi. Shop windows glitter with the latest fashions and cafés spill out onto the pavement in a festive crowd of wining and dining. The Augustus Gardens are next on the tour. In the 1900s this botanical estate was the vacation home of steel magnate Friedrich Alfred Krupp. Explore the unique flora of Capri in this island garden. It is from here that we will look down upon the renowned Faraglioni limestone sea stacks. These imposing rock formations rise from the blue Mediterranean and are one of Capri's best-known landmarks. At this point you will have free time to explore. Finally, we will return to Marina Grande by the funicular to enjoy one more incredible view of the Italian island of Capri.

DAY 10

POMPEII & MOUNT VESUVIUS

We'll whisk you directly from Sorrento by private, air-conditioned local bus to Pompeii where you'll meet your official, licensed Pompeii tour guide. Traveling in groups of only 25 people or less, you'll explore examples of every building in Pompeii - from homes and bathhouses, fast food stores to outdoor theaters.

We've selected the most entertaining and knowledgeable local tour guides to ensure that your Pompeii visit is as enjoyable as it is memorable.

Follow your guide as they recreate the hustle and bustle of this once-busy port town, explaining what each building was used for, where families ate their meals, did laundry and socialized - and where sailors went when they docked. They'll recreate for you the final days of Pompeii as you examine the harrowing death casts scattered around these ruins at the foot of Mt. Vesuvius.

Our Pompeii day trip doesn't end here, however. We'll drive a short way to perhaps the most dangerous volcano in the world - a title held for the 3 million people living around its base today. Just over a half-mile hike up Mt. Vesuvius from the parking lot below the crater offers the most stunning view of the Bay of Naples below and a taste of the utter devastation it must have caused when it exploded in 79 AD, literally wiping Pompeii off the map for 1,500 years.

This Pompeii tour includes an authentic Neapolitan pizza lunch and round-trip transport from Sorrento, so you can relax and enjoy your Pompeii day trip without worrying about the ins and outs of cross-country travel.



DAY 11

DEPARTURE DAY

Sadly today is departure day, your driver will arrive in plenty of time to pick you up and transfer you to Naples airport and your flight home.

