



Northern Italy, the Italian Riviera & Tuscany

13 days | 16 days with Venice extension | Oct 28 2023—Nov 09 2023

The true question on a tour of Italy is, “Where not to go?” The country is bursting with personality and beauty, making the possibilities for cultural discovery virtually endless. On this sweeping Italian tour, you’ll see the best of the country, exploring legendary cities like Milan, Bologna, and Florence and smaller-yet-iconic towns like Lake Como and Cinque Terre.



Your tour package includes

- 11 nights in handpicked hotels
- Breakfast daily
- 3 lunches
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 2 wine tastings
- 4 food tastings
- 1 cooking class
- 10 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 1 train ride

Included highlights

- Teatro alla Scala
- Lake Como boat ride
- Castle of Grinzane Cavour
- Barolo wine tasting
- Violin Museum
- Bolognese cooking class
- Parmigiano-Reggiano tasting
- Balsamic vinegar tasting
- Cinque Terre
- Florence Duomo
- San Gimignano

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you’ll walk for at least 3 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills.

For more information, contact

grouptoursite.com/tours/rufall2024 | 160-989-65148 | pollardn@rider.edu

Northern Italy, the Italian Riviera & Tuscany

13 days | 16 days with Venice extension

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Milan today.

Milan → 4 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Milan

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Italy! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner this evening.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Milan

Included meals: breakfast

Meet up with a local guide and embark on a sightseeing tour of Italy's fashion capital.

- Pass by the 15th-century Sforza Castle
- Walk through the Brera District and see the statue of Leonardo da Vinci, the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, and Piazza della Scala
- Enter Teatro alla Scala and view the elegant concert hall
- Visit the theater's museum to see exhibits that highlight Italy's historic connection to the opera
- Step inside the Gothic-style Milan Cathedral, Italy's largest cathedral

Please note: If there is a show or practice in session, travelers will not enter the concert hall. Enjoy a free afternoon to explore Milan at your leisure.

Day 4: Lake Como boat ride & Bellagio

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Head out on a morning trip to explore Como, a city known for its mix of cultural and natural attractions.

- Enjoy free time in Como for lunch and shopping, while admiring the lakeside vistas
- Hop aboard a scenic cruise of Lake Como to soak in some of Italy's most beautiful estates and gardens
- Float past charming small towns to Bellagio, a village whose scenery has inspired poets and young lovers for centuries
- Take in Bellagio's classic beauty before heading to a local restaurant, where you'll sit down for an included lunch

Day 5: La Morra & Barolo

Included meals: breakfast, light lunch, wine tasting

Visit the village of La Morra for a panoramic view of the Langhe, the hilly Piedmont region famous for its cheeses, truffles, and wines. While here, you'll enter the UNESCO-recognized Castle of Grinzane Cavour.

Then, visit Barolo, a small town with one of the most well-known names in Northern Italian wine.

- Enjoy a light lunch of local specialties at a winery
- Sample local Barolo vintages in the vineyard's wine cellar

Bologna → 2 nights

Day 6: Bologna via Cremona & cooking class

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner

As you head to Bologna, stop for a guided tour of the Violin Museum in Cremona which houses some of Antonio Stradivari's famous stringed violins and cellos alongside other instruments. Then, continue on to Bologna for a hands-on evening. Learn how to make tortellini, tortelloni, and tagliatelle during a cooking class. Then, enjoy eating the meal you've prepared for dinner.

Day 7: Food of Bologna walking tour

Included meals: breakfast, tasting

This morning, venture out on a food themed walking tour of Bologna with a local guide.

- Peruse the local fish and vegetable market district and explore Piazza Maggiore
- Make your way to Mercato delle Erbe to sample traditional Bolognese foods like olive oil, cured meats, and cheese
- Head to Quadrilatero, the city's oldest food market, and learn about the culture behind the area's food as you stop at various shops along the way

Italian Riviera → 2 nights

Day 8: Italian Riviera via Parma

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, tasting

As you head to the seaside paradise that is the Italian Riviera, stop to try some culinary delights.

- Visit a local Parmigiano Reggiano producer and enjoy a cheese tasting
- Tour a family-run balsamic vinegar villa and discover how they produce their high-end, aged balsamic known as Aceto Balsamico Tradizionale di Modena
- Try the balsamic vinegar during a lunch featuring a variety of appetizers, a risotto dish, and a buffet of desserts

Then, continue on to the Italian Riviera and enjoy a free evening.

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Cinque Terre

Included meals: breakfast

Join your Tour Director to discover Cinque Terre, an idyllic cluster of five villages set on seaside cliffs.

- Board a train to Vernazza and admire the colorful houses that dot the waterfront
- Continue by train to the dramatic coastal village of Riomaggiore
- Enjoy a scenic boat ride to Monterosso and soak in views of the pebble beach that the village is known for
- Learn about Via dell'Amore, one of the area's most famous hiking paths, which connects two of the five villages
- Enjoy short walks through each village before spending free time exploring, shopping, and eating
- Admire the Liguria regions' varied landscape as you transfer back to your hotel by train

Please note: The boat ride is weather-dependent. In the case of inclement weather, you'll visit the villages by train. In addition, the specific villages you visit may vary.

Day 10: Free day on the Italian Riviera

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day on the Italian Riviera or add an excursion.

+ Villages of the Italian Riviera & Lunch

Florence → 2 nights

Day 11: Transfer to Florence & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast

For more information, contact

grouptoursite.com/tours/rufall2024 | 160-989-65148 | pollardn@rider.edu

Cross through the Apennine Mountains as you make your way to Florence. Once you arrive, get to know the city with a local guide.

- View the legendary Florence Cathedral, known as the Duomo
- Pass Giotto's Campanile, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture
- Walk past Piazza della Repubblica to the medieval Ponte Vecchio
- Stroll along the Arno River and through the courtyard of the Uffizi Gallery to Piazza della Signoria, center of Florentine life Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 12: Galleria dell'Accademia & Fiesole villa farewell dinner

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

This morning join a local guide for a tour of the Galleria dell'Accademia as you learn about Renaissance art history and view a variety of pieces, including the marble statue of *David*. Head just outside Florence to Fiesole, a historic Tuscan town perched on a hill overlooking the Renaissance city. Tonight's farewell dinner is set in a picturesque villa with panoramic views of the city below. Start your evening with an aperitif and then enjoy a refined Italian dinner with local wine to celebrate your trip.

Flight Home

Day 13: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay to explore Venice.

+ Venice extension

All the pictures in the world couldn't prepare you for the real-life sight of Venice rising from the water. After a train ride, find out why the Queen of the Adriatic has such a special place in our hearts on a tour with a local guide.

Venice → 3 nights

Day 13: Train ride to Venice

Included meals: breakfast, light lunch, wine tasting

This morning, climb aboard a high-speed train and take off across the Italian countryside to Venice. Upon arrival, take a water taxi ride to your hotel.

Day 14: Sightseeing tour of Venice

Included meals: breakfast

Admire historic churches, winding canals, and picture-perfect piazzas on a guided tour of the city known as the Queen of the Adriatic.

- Step into the iconic St. Mark's Square and enter St. Mark's Basilica
- View the stately Doge's Palace, built in the Venetian Gothic style in 1340
- Marvel at the Bridge of Sighs, the link between Doge's Palace and the New Prison

Enjoy a free afternoon in Venice or add an excursion.

+ The Island of Murano

Day 15: Free day in Venice

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in Venice or add an excursion.

This evening, gather with your group for a farewell drink.

+ Islands of the Venetian Lagoon: Burano & Torcello

Flight Home

Day 16: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: **grouptoursite.com/tours/rufall2024 | 160-989-65148**

Day 10: Villages of the Italian Riviera & Lunch

\$105/\$115* (7.5 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Drive through the countryside to Sestri Levante, a beautiful seaside village located on the Italian Riviera. Here, you'll have free time to explore on your own before setting out on a walk along the coastline to Baia delle Silenzio, one of the city's sparkling azure bays. Enjoy stunning bayside views while eating a delicious lunch of local seafood and meat specialties paired with regional wine. Then, stroll through the village castle gardens and take in views of both Baia delle Silenzio and another bay known as Baia delle Favole. Next, hop aboard a ferry to make your way to the breathtaking village of Portofino. Artists and celebrities alike flock to this celebrated destination, and you'll enjoy free time for shopping or relaxing while admiring the picturesque vistas of the harbor. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from March through November. It also involves a moderate amount of walking.

Extension excursion options

Day 14: The Island of Murano

Visit the link above or call for pricing info.
(2 hours, departs in the afternoon)

The Venetian island of Murano is world famous for its glass-blowing and their master artisans handcrafting each piece into a true pieces of art and have honed their skills for over a thousand years. On this excursion you'll take a boat ride to this charming island and step inside a glassblowing workshop for a demonstration to see how the artists craft delicate shapes and forms from molten glass. Afterwards, enjoy free time to shop and explore the island.

Day 15: Islands of the Venetian Lagoon: Burano & Torcello

\$75/\$85* (5 hours, departure time varies)

Visit the islands of the Venetian lagoon, a favorite day trip for locals and travelers alike. First travel by water taxi to Torcello, where the story of Venice began. It was here that mainlanders sought a safe haven from invading barbarians. Step inside the Basilica of Santa Maria Assunta, whose famous mosaics depict The Last Judgement. The next stop is the tiny fishing village of Burano, where brightly colored homes greet visitors. Wander as you please throughout Burano, and be sure to stop in at the island's bakeries.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.com/terms