



Tour Information

*The specialists in designing
individualised European
travel experiences.*

Luxury Tours for Independent Travellers

Choose from a smorgasbord of unique travel experience options and we will design your very own tailor-made holiday of a lifetime.

Add extra days, sightseeing, experiences or excursions. As an independent traveller you can even undertake the tour in either direction, take a detour or a break in the tour to do 'your own thing' for a while, like hiring a car in Tuscany to explore the hills and villages to create a truly individualised and unique itinerary.

Italian Loop





Italian Loop

Highlights

11 DAYS | ROME | FLORENCE | CINQUE TERRE | COMO | VENICE | ROME

Rome

Michelangelo's ceiling in the Sistine Chapel, the Vatican, Colosseum and Roman Forum, Spanish Steps, Pantheon, Trevi Fountain.



Florence

The art, culture and history of this magnificent city, the pink, white and green marble façade of the Duomo, the 14th Century Ponte Vecchio lined with gold and silversmith artisan shops, Michelangelo's David. Excursion into Tuscany and the leaning tower of Pisa.



Cinque Terre

The breathtaking view of the Mediterranean Sea from the vineyard terraces, walking the Via Dell'Amore that connects the picturesque villages, the Gulf of Poets.

Como

The myriad of colours and patterns in the silk shops. Views from your hotel over Lake Como surrounded by the majestic Alps.



Venice

Canale Grande and gondolas, St. Mark's Square, the Doges' Palace and the Bridge of Sighs, glass blowing factory, losing yourself in the labyrinth of canals, bridges and cobble-stoned alleyways.

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Itinerary

As these tours are for independent travellers they can commence at any time of the year.

Inclusions in italics

Day 1 - Rome: Your hotel is right in the heart of the city, close to the Trevi fountain and the Spanish Steps. Explore the city and some of Rome's best known ancient sights, the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Capitoline Hill, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon and Piazza Navona in the afternoon with a 'hop-on-hop-off' bus.

Day 2 - Rome: During your days in Rome you will have the 'Roma Pass', which entitles you to *admission into 2 of the sights, like the Colosseum, free transport* in the inner city and a reduction in admission fees for most other attractions. See Rome options for extra sightseeing and extensions on our website.

Day 3 - Florence: In less than 2 hours you arrive in the midst of artistic splendor in Florence. In the afternoon choose one of 3 options to familiarize yourself with this magnificent city by either *a luxury coach tour* with English speaking local guide, *a hop-on hop-off bus tour* or by joining a *small group guided bicycle tour*.

Day 4 - Florence: During a *full day excursion into Tuscany* take in the spectacular countryside views and landscapes. You have plenty of time to explore Siena, San Gimignano and Pisa at your own pace. Get up-close to the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa. Take part in a *guided tour through Siena* and visit the gothic cathedral. Enjoy a *hearty lunch with wine* served at an organic wine estate in Chianti.



Day 5 - Cinque Terre: After a *train ride through beautiful Tuscany* you arrive in Monterosso, your base from where you explore the Cinque Terre. In the afternoon take the boat along the coast and past the villages to Porto Venere. The picturesque harbor is lined with brightly coloured houses, the narrow medieval streets lead up the hill to a castle and the 6th century church made of black marble.

Day 6 - Cinque Terre: Walk the scenic Via Dell'Amore that connects the 5 villages of Cinque Terre and take in the dramatic views of the coastline and fishing villages. Taste one of Liguria's specialties – razor clam soup and take a boat trip to the tiny island of Palmaria and its grottoes. See Cinque Terre options for extensions on our website.

Day 7 - Lake Como: You will feel overwhelmed by the beauty of Lake Como and its surroundings. Take the funicular up to Brunate (2000 feet) for an even more spectacular view. Como has been producing silk since the 14th century and has since then a rich history in the art and craft of silk weaving. Visit the many silk shops and silk factory outlets.

Day 8 - Lake Como: Spend the day criss-crossing the lake by boat and visiting its tiny waterside villages, in particular 'Bellagio', the pearl of the lake. See Lake Como options for extensions on our website.

Day 9 - Venice: Stepping out from Venice Santa Lucia train station will make you feel that you have arrived on a movie set. Nothing can prepare you for that first moment when you see Venice and the Canale Grande spread out before you. Spend the day in awe just walking around and losing yourself in Venice and its tiny cobble-stoned alleyways, canals, bridges and piazzas.

Day 10 - Venice: Choose between one of 4 walking tours: *The 'Hidden Venice Walking tour', the 'Venice walking tour with St. Mark's Basilica', the Doges Palace 'hidden itinerary tour' or in the evening the 'Venice Ghost walking tour'.* In the afternoon enjoy a *canal boat trip to Murano* and visit glass blowing and lace making workshops. Celebrate the last evening of your tour with a dinner in a renowned restaurant with spectacular views across the lagoon to St. Marks. See Venice options for extra sightseeing and extensions on our website.

Day 11 - Rome: A train ride of less than 4 hours takes you back to Rome. Enjoy the views of the countryside and villages you are passing from your first class window seat or perhaps even from the club car while enjoying some 'refreshments'.

Average travel time between destinations: 3 hours and 10 minutes.



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Prices & Inclusions

Accommodation

- 10 nights in first class hotels, some in historic buildings.

Travel

- 1st class train tickets between destinations. Seat reservations where required and available.

Meals

- 10 breakfasts.
- Lunch with wine tasting during the excursion into Tuscany.
- Dinner in Venice with spectacular views across the lagoon towards St. Marks. (If staying on the Lido)

Sightseeing and Excursions

- Sightseeing with a double-decker 'hop-on-hop-off' bus in Rome. (Or instead the '3 hour Classic Rome Tour')
- 3- day transport pass in Rome
- Admission into the Colosseum (priority entry ticket), Roman Forum and the Galleria Borghese.
- Sightseeing tour with professional local guide in Florence.
- Full day Tuscany excursion from Florence.
- Venice canal boat pass.
- Sightseeing tour in Venice with professional local guide.
- Canal boat excursion to Murano and visit to glass blowing artisans.



Tour prices

All tour prices are published on our [website](#)

We also cater for families and groups. Prices by application. Surcharges apply if travelling during Easter and Christmas holidays, New Years Eve and Venice Carneval and other local events. The prices and tour information are correct at the time of the website going live, however are subject to confirmation at the time of booking.

Travel in Style

Comfort & Luxury

Travelling

Travel in style in Europe's luxurious superfast trains and arrive relaxed and in next to no time at your holiday destinations. Comfortable, fast and stress free. Enjoy the spacious seats, plenty of leg room, ability to move around and the magnificent views from the comfort of your reserved first class seat, the dining car or a standard seat in the famous Eurostar. Travel by coach between Venice and Austria. No early morning starts and no late afternoon arrivals at the next destination.



Accommodation

Your luxurious hotels will not just be a comfortable place to stay at but will be a feature in itself and enhance your European experience – the hotel with views to the Alps, a lakeside hotel, a renovated 17th Century building right in the heart of the cities, close to all the historic sites and within 'strolling' distance of restaurants and cafes. Step out of the front door of your hotel and be surrounded by the sounds, sights, music and ambience of the town. Your hotel will also be a place to retreat to - be that in a peaceful inner courtyard, a lakeside terrace, a garden, or rooftop terrace.

Food

Taste the regional specialties. Your tour dinners feature the best of local produce and flavours. We will also provide you with information prior to your departure on local markets, restaurants, wine taverns or little 'hole in the wall' eateries that you might like to check out.

Atmosphere and sights

You will have ample time to explore and become familiar with each place as you are not spending a lot of travelling time getting from one destination to the next and staying 2 nights minimum everywhere. All of us have our own preferred way of how and what to see in a city and how much time to spend where. We have therefore given you sightseeing options to choose from that will fit your personal preferences.

Hassle free travelling

We take care to plan and organize your holiday in every detail and to your personal liking. Just pack your bags, get on the plane and enjoy a stress-free and well-paced holiday. Our programs are a well-balanced mix of magnificent architecture but also markets, river or lake cruises, walks in the countryside, themed excursions or strolls along rivers and little cobble-stoned alleyways.





Independent travelling

You are travelling as independent travellers, with your own tickets, reservations, detailed itinerary, directions, timetables, admission tickets, maps etc. Every day will be quite clearly laid out in your itinerary, with train departure and arrival times, seat reservation details, destination information, directions and maps where sightseeing tours will leave from or how to get to or from the train station to your hotel, usually in easy walking distance. The various sightseeing tours at your destinations will be pre-booked and we will provide you with detailed information regarding the time and content of the tour, and departure points.

Communication

Travelling in Europe, in particular Western Europe, you will find that you won't have any communication problems as good English is widely spoken. Sharing of local knowledge and insights into the culture and history of the country you are visiting, usually provided by a tour leader, will be available during your sightseeing tours by local expert guides.

Increased flexibility and choices

Having your own tickets gives you more flexibility. For example in Venice if you want to see the glass blower artisans on of Murano and your travelling partner prefers to take the canal boat to the Lido you can do that - it's your choice. If you happen to fall ill and prefer to stay for another day you can catch the train the next day as your train ticket will be valid for up to two months. (Obviously you would have to pay for the extra day in the hotel and another train seat reservation). The usual departure time for the train is around 10 am, giving you plenty of time for a leisurely breakfast.

The choice is yours

We ensure that our tours are planned and organized with attention to every detail and we feel confident that you will find that everything works smoothly. You will have the advantage of the substantial savings of the 'self-guided' tour price and you can choose to use these savings to splash out on some exciting optional travel experiences, like extra excursions, pamper treatments or indulging in some regional delicacies.



Tailor Made

About Us

Many years of travelling, living in various countries in Europe and intensive research of travel destinations have inspired us to create the tours in our program. Our personal experience has taught us that rushing from one place to the next is not the best way to experience a different culture. To enjoy every moment and have a truly memorable holiday one needs to travel at a leisurely pace.

We know that a holiday has to be well structured and balanced – not just a string of major European cities with their magnificent architecture. And we also know that tastes and preferences in regards to travel experiences vary greatly – while one traveller might want to spend an entire day in Paris at the Louvre another traveller would rather spend the day at EuroDisney. Our concept of self-guided, individualised tours can accommodate both with ease.

And this is what makes our tours unique.

We realize that not everyone wants to experience Europe with 40 other travellers in a bus on the exact same itinerary. Or – at the other end of the spectrum – not everyone wants to hire a car and make their own way, driving on the highways and into the cities of Europe.

That's why we have chosen the comfort and flexibility of train travel for you.

Travelling in Europe's super fast trains nevertheless gives you the feeling of 'slow travel', as you have more time at each destination and never rush from place to place. We have designed the itineraries so that most mornings you will leave at about 10am and on average your travel time between destinations ranges from 2 ½ hours to 4 hours and 20 minutes, depending on your tour.

We are continually researching and visiting the destinations on the tours to ensure that all the services you receive are of the absolute highest standard.

As a registered travel agency and member of the Australian Travel Compensation Fund you can have the peace of mind that your money is secure and you will not find yourself stranded and without tickets or valid reservations. The Travel Compensation Fund has an ongoing financial monitoring system in place that helps prevent the failure of a participating travel agency. In the case of a financial collapse of the participating travel agency however, eligible travellers are provided with compensation through the TCF if the traveller has suffered a financial loss.

Our Travel Compensation Fund Number is: 10067

<http://www.tcf.org.au/index.as>

Our Travel Agent Number is: 3402878

<http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/travel-agent-licence-check.htm>

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Terms & Conditions

See our website for full details regarding our Terms and Conditions.

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