Treasures of Italy

Tour Length: 20 Days

Tour Departs: 14 September 2027

Discover the essence of Italy on this immersive journey from ancient cities to alpine peaks and tranquil lakes. Begin in Rome, exploring iconic landmarks, Vatican treasures and enjoying an authentic Italian cooking experience. Travel north through Umbria, visiting Assisi and Orvieto, before entering Tuscany to experience Siena, San Gimignano and Renaissance Florence, complete with vineyard dining and timeless scenery. Continue to the dramatic Ligurian coast, exploring Porto Venere and the Cinque Terre, then journey into the Dolomites for breathtaking mountain views, gondola rides and scenic touring. Conclude in the elegant Italian Lakes, staying on Lake Maggiore with visits to Lake Como, Bellagio and Isola Bella, before finishing in Milan, Italy's fashion and cultural hub. This well-balanced tour blends history, culture, cuisine and scenery, offering a comprehensive and unforgettable Italian experience.

Highlights

- Rome – The Eternal City
- Umbria – explore medieval hill towns & olive groves.
- Tuscany – Siena and San Gimignano, surrounded by rolling vineyards.
- Cinque Terre & Ligurian Coast
- Lake Maggiore & the Italian Lakes
- Italian food & wine – A feast for the senses!
- Savour regional flavours, fine wines, and hands-on cooking experiences.

Tour Costs Per Person

Tour Cost Twin/Double Room

$22,500 per person

Tour Cost Single Room

$27,400

Tour Costs

Inclusions

- Economy Class air travel from Auckland. Upgrades to Premium Economy & Business Class are available on request.
- All Airport, Government & Security Taxes
- Superior Class hotel accommodation
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Air-conditioned coach transportation for all touring
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Services of local guides for touring and sightseeing
- Baggage handling of 1 piece per person – where possible
- Tips to local guides and coach drivers
- Fully escorted by a Maher Tours leader

Exclusions

- Any meals and sightseeing tours not specifically mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel insurance (advice and assistance supplied, visa fees, if required)
- Items of a personal nature such as room service, laundry, drinks, telephone charges etc.

Booking Conditions

- Initial Deposit due at time of booking:
  NZD$3,000 per person
- Second Deposit due Monday 15 March 2027
  NZD$3,000 per person
- Final Payment Balance
  Due Thursday 01 July 2027
- This tour is not suitable for those that require wheelchair assistance or mobility assistance. A good level of health and fitness required.

To register for this tour please contact us at 0800 500 518 or tours@mahertours.co.nz

Tour Itinerary

20 Days

Day 1 | Home – Dubai

TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

Late this afternoon, we report to the airport and join the flight to Dubai.

Day 2 | Dubai

WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER (D)

We arrive in Dubai early this morning and after clearing Customs and Immigration formalities, we are met and transferred to our hotel for an overnight stay. There is time to rest up after the flight until mid-afternoon when we visit the Museum of the Future. One of Dubai's most famous landmarks, the museum takes pride of place along the city's superhighway, Sheikh Zayed Road. Founded by the Dubai Future Foundation and launched on 22 February 2022, the museum explores how society could evolve in the coming decades using science and technology. Termed a 'living museum', it incorporates elements of traditional exhibitions, immersive theatre and themed attractions, so visitors can look beyond the present and towards the future's limitless possibilities. Visitors have the chance to engage with this game-changing technology. Each floor of the museum is designed like an expansive, interactive movie set, brought to life by expert storytellers, technologists and visionary artists. There is time for exploration before we return to the hotel for dinner this evening.

Day 3 | Dubai - Rome

THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

We arrive in Rome early afternoon. On arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel. The rest of the day is free until we meet for dinner this evening.

Day 4 | Rome

FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER (B,L)

Something totally different today. The Italian's love their food – for them it is one of the pleasures of life and a meal is an "event" and a very social occasion. This morning, we transfer to Ristorante La Carovana for a cooking class – a chance to learn about the delights of Italian food and its preparation and afterwards enjoy a 4-course lunch. This afternoon, afternoon we discover Imperial Rome with a treasure trove of historical sites and monuments including the Coliseum (outside view), the Roman Forum, the Palatine Hill and Circus Maximus.

Day 5 | Rome

SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

A big day today, as we embark on a full day sightseeing tour of Rome. We glimpse into the history and wonder of the most powerful force in the development of Western civilization. This afternoon, we visit the Vatican and its museums and marvel at the beauty of Michelangelo's ceiling in the Sistine Chapel before visiting St. Peters Basilica. This evening, we dine at a local restaurant.

Day 6 | Rome - Assisi

SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

Depart Rome after breakfast and begin your journey north to Umbria. Explore this stunning hilltop town known for its dramatic location and rich history. Visit the Orvieto Cathedral (Duomo), famous for its striking façade and frescoes. We continue to Assisi, arriving early evening.

Day 7 | Assisi

MONDAY 20 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

Spend the day exploring Assisi and surrounding Umbria. We start with the visit to the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and Rocca Maggiore, a medieval fortress with panoramic views. Visit nearby Spello, Bevagna, or Montefalco (famous for wine) before doing an olive oil tour in the Umbrian countryside.

Day 8 | Assisi – Siena - San Gimignano

TUESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER (B,L)

Today, we immerse ourselves in the remarkable sights of Siena. Our journey begins at the iconic site of the Palio, the city's legendary bareback horse race that unfolds with breathtaking intensity each year. From there, we stroll through the beautifully preserved, shell-shaped Piazza del Campo, taking in landmarks such as the elegant Palazzo Pubblico and the ornate Fonte Gaia. We then make our way to Siena's extraordinary cathedral, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture unlike any other in Italy. We continue to our San Gimignano hotel, where we stay for 3 nights.

Day 9 | San Gimignano

WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER (B,L)

This morning, we explore the old town before enjoying a beautiful vineyard lunch. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 10 | San Gimignano (Florence)

THURSDAY 23 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

Today we journey to Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance, to explore its world-renowned art, architecture, and vibrant streets. After a day immersed in the city's beauty and culture, we return to our hotel in the afternoon.

Day 11 | San Gimignano - La Spezia

FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

We travel northwest, stopping in Pisa en route to see the infamous leaning tower. Continuing on to Porto Venere, a beautiful seaside village at the edge of the Cinque Terre area. We stop at the Church of San Pietro, perched on the rocky cliff and the Porto Venere Castle with panoramic views. Arrive in La Spezia late afternoon.

Day 12 | La Spezia (Porto Venere)

SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER (B)

Enjoy a full day exploring Porto Venere and 5 Terre area. Return to La Spezia for relaxing evening.

Day 13 | La Spezia – Selva di Val Gerdena

SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER (B,L)

Today we travel to the Dolomites. Our first stop enroute will be Modena where we will visit the Ferrari Museum and discover the history of Ferrari Formula 1 cars. After a traditional Italian lunch in Modena, we continue north through the dramatic mountain scenery of Trentino-Alto Adige, arriving in the afternoon in Selva di Val Gardena, one of the most beautiful alpine villages in the Dolomites. Selva sits at the foot of the towering peaks of the Sassolungo massif and is perfectly positioned for exploring the Sella Ronda ski area. We check into our hotel and enjoy incredible mountain views.

Day 14 | Selva di Val Gerdena

MONDAY 27 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

Today we take a gondola from Selva up to Ciampinoi, offering stunning panoramic views over the Dolomite peaks. From here, we continue into the high alpine terrain toward Passo Sella, entering the spectacular Sassolungo area. At Passo Sella, we experience the dramatic scenery beneath the Sassolungo group, where the lift system provides access to mountain viewpoints and scenic walks surrounded by some of the most iconic limestone peaks in the Dolomites.

Day 15 | Selva di Val Gerdena – Stresa, Lake Maggiore

TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

We depart the Dolomites, making our way through the countryside before arriving in Stresa, located on beautiful Lake Maggiore. Our hotel is located lakeside and set in beautiful gardens facing the Borromean Islands, a magical setting for our 3-night stay.

Day 16 | Lake Maggiore

WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER (B)

Today we visit and explore the famous Lake District. We drive to the town of Como and follow the shore of the lake to Cadenabbia, where we visit the world-famous Villa Carlotta, facing across Lake Como to Bellagio Peninsula. Later we join the ferry which takes us across the Lake to delightful Bellagio. This beautiful village is situated at the tip of the peninsula - there are century old buildings, cobblestoned lanes filled with cafes and shops showcasing the finest Italian wares. There is time to explore and relax in this delightful town which boasts peaceful villas and gardens by the lakeside.

Day 17 | Lake Maggiore

THURSDAY 30 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

This morning, we take the ferry to visit the beautiful Isola Bella palace and gardens. The rest of the afternoon is free for you to take up any optional activities or to simply enjoy the surroundings. We enjoy our last night in Italy tonight with our group farewell dinner.

Day 18 | Lake Maggiore – Milan - Dubai

FRIDAY 01 OCTOBER (B,L)

This morning, we drive to the city of Milan, Italy's second largest city and home to its fashion industry as well as many major business and of course La Scala Opera House. We enjoy a city tour of Milan before having a late lunch together. After lunch we are transferred to the airport in time to join our late evening flight to Dubai.

Day 19 | Dubai – Auckland

SATURDAY 02 OCTOBER

We arrive in Dubai early morning. After a few hours in transit, we join our aircraft for the last leg of our journey.

Day 20 | Home

SUNDAY 03 OCTOBER

Arrival time is mid-morning.

Treasures of Italy

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FULLY ACCREDITED

IATA TAANZ

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