







What you'll find in this guide:

· Expert guidance

We have travelled through Italy extensively to find the best experiences and recommendations for you.

- Different ways to travel
 - From private transfers to first class rail, we'll talk you through all the options to find your travel style.
- Advice on when and where to go We'll recommend the best regions and best times to visit based on different interests.
- Tips for your holiday

We'll help you choose the best food and wine throughout the country, turning into a memorable part of your holiday



Why book your holiday with us?

- We have 20 years of experience
 Our award-winning team has been
 dedicated to creating bespoke
 experiences for over two decades.
- Every trip is customised
 Tailored to your preferences for the best Italian experience.
- We work with trusted local partners
 They will be there for you around the clock, allowing peace of mind.
- You can fly from regional airports
 We offer flights across the UK and
 Ireland for added convenience.
- Your money is safe with us.
 We're fully licensed with ATOL in the UK and IAA in Ireland, ensuring top service and financial security.

THE BEST TIMES TO VISIT ITALY

Italy experiences four distinct seasons, with hot summers and cold winters. Temperatures vary throughout the country, with the north averaging colder temperatures, particularly during winter (December to February), and the south averaging warmer.

Italy is a year-round destination with attractions every season, though we'd recommend skipping the cities in August and choosing the cooler months of November to March for cultural breaks. Whether it's a weekend getaway or a longer adventure, Italy always delivers la dolce vita.

May to September

- Enjoy the warm weather, perfect for outdoor activities.
- Ideal for beach trips, swimming, and water sports.
- It is peak festival season, there are lots of cultural, music and food festivals.
- Summer is a low season for cities; you will need plenty of water and sun cream if you visit during these times.
- The coasts are busy and popular, so be prepared to book accommodation and activities in advance.

February to April and October to November

- Expect milder temperatures, which vary depending on the region.
- It's quieter, you can enjoy popular destinations without the crowds.
- The weather is perfect to explore the cities, visit Florence and Venice on Valentine's Day for romance at its peak.
- Experience picturesque views with blossoming flowers or golden trees.
- Many coastal destinations are closed from November to March, but anytime from May to September is perfect for a coastal getaway.
- Enjoy lower rates for flights and accommodation.







Cities

Venice captivates with its canals, hidden squares, and timeless charm. Ride a gondola, explore the Doge's Palace, and enjoy sweeping views from the Campanile Bell Tower - the perfect Italian escape.

Romance fills every cobbled street in **Verona**. Visit Juliet's balcony, explore courtyards, and step inside the well-preserved Roman Arena, still alive with performances today.



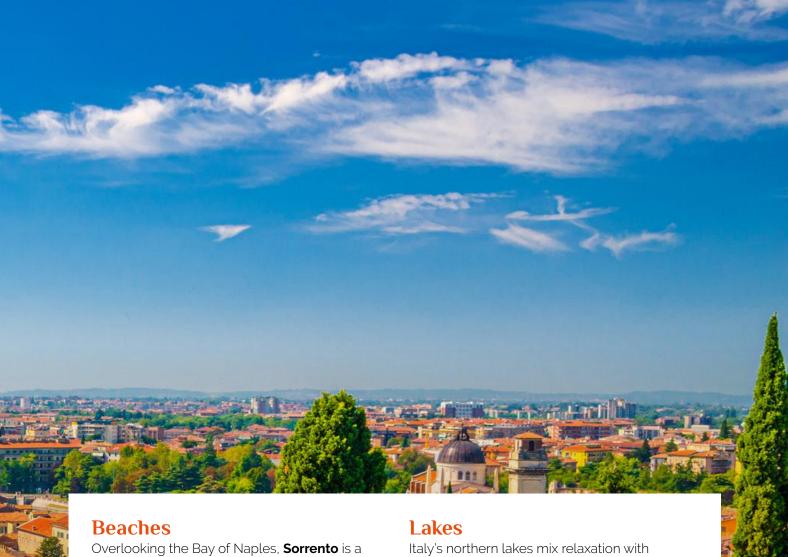
Venture inland to **Florence**, the birthplace of the Renaissance. Here, the Uffizi Gallery and the Duomo showcase artistic mastery, while the Boboli Gardens offer a green oasis in the city.

Nearby, **Tuscany** beckons with rolling hills, medieval towns, and vineyards producing world-famous Chianti. Think golden sunsets, rustic cuisine, and scenic drives through timeless landscapes.

No trip is complete without **Rome**, where ancient wonders meet modern life. See the Colosseum, toss a coin in the Trevi Fountain, and discover hidden churches in lively piazzas.

Head west to the Ligurian coast, where **Cinque Terre's** five colourful villages cling to cliffs above the Mediterranean. Linked by hiking trails and rail routes, they offer spectacular sea views.

Finally, visit **Puglia**, Italy's sun-drenched heel. Explore Alberobello's trulli houses, Lecce's baroque beauty, and Polignano a Mare above turquoise seas. With endless olive groves, Puglia is full of rustic charm.



Overlooking the Bay of Naples, **Sorrento** is a classic seaside retreat with cliffside views, sunsoaked bathing platforms, and lively piazzas. It's the perfect base for exploring the region – ferry to **Capri** for dramatic cliffs, lemon groves, and the glowing Blue Grotto, or head to **Ischia** for thermal springs and quiet beaches. Both islands offer a magical contrast of glamour, natural beauty and laid-back charm.

No trip south is complete without the **Amalfi Coast**, where pastel towns cling to cliffs, Ravello blooms with gardens, and Positano dazzles with boutiques. Hike the Path of the Gods or sail between villages for stunning sea views.

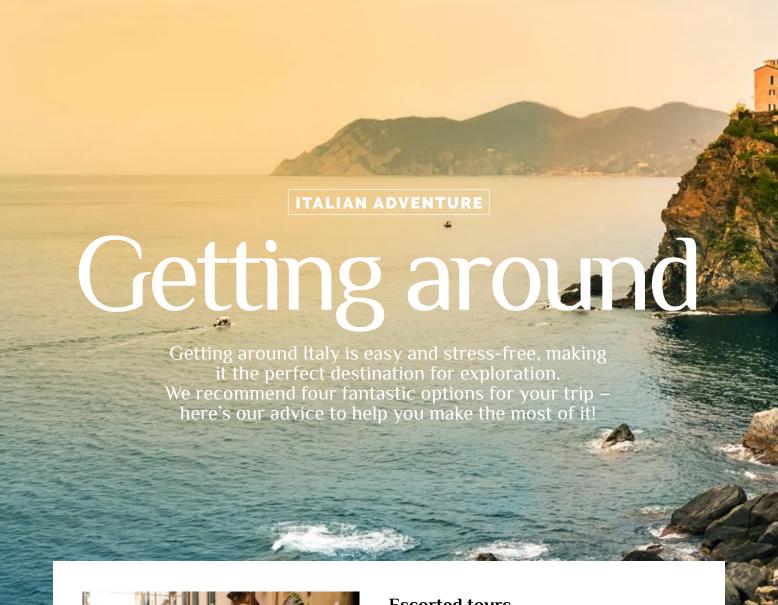
Discover **Sicily**, where history and landscapes unite. Explore Palermo's lively markets, the Valley of the Temples, and Mount Etna. Relax on sandy beaches or venture to the dramatic Aeolian Islands, from Stromboli's eruptions to Vulcano's mud baths.

Sardinia offers unrivalled beauty with pristine white sands and turquoise waters. Families enjoy sheltered bays, while adventurers hike rugged trails or sail untouched coasts.

Italy's northern lakes mix relaxation with adventure. **Lake Garda** offers windsurfing and mountain hikes, while the southern shores feature spa towns like Sirmione and the charming villages of Desenzano. Vineyard tours, cycling, and boat trips make it perfect for families and couples.

Iconic **Lake Como**, framed by mountains and elegant villas, offers a medieval centre in Como and boutique shopping in Bellagio and Varenna. Nearby, **Lake Maggiore** features grand gardens and island palaces, with Stresa's peaceful promenades and the charming Lake Orta close by.







Escorted tours

Our escorted tours are a fantastic option if you want to get around with ease. You'll travel in comfort with a group of like-minded people, and a knowledgeable guide will ensure you don't miss any highlights. With so much to see and experience, from architecture to food, an escorted tour is the perfect way to enjoy the country with others. Whether you want to stay in one place or explore multiple, an escorted tour is right for you.

Self-drive

A self-drive itinerary gives you the opportunity to explore Italy at your own pace. When booking, we can give you suggestions on where to go and which activities to book. We recommend hiring a car for some or all of your trip, for great value and flexibility.





Cruises

Take to the seas and cruise around Italy, where each port offers a blend of history, culture, and breathtaking coastlines. A cruise lets you experience Italy's highlights from a unique perspective, while unpacking just once. You can sail between iconic destinations or venture further afield on a Mediterranean journey, combining Italy with neighbouring countries for a truly enriching adventure.



Rail

Rail is a great way to explore Italy, with modern rail networks connecting popular cities, you can journey from one iconic destination to another effortlessly. We book first-class rail as standard, it's quick and great value, meaning you can relax and take in the stunning scenery along the way. Our twin and multi-centre holidays help you make the most of this fast and efficient way to travel.

Perfect for all travellers, you can enjoy historic cities, coastal beauty and sparkling lakes in a single itinerary. With so many choices, we have paired some of Italy's iconic locations.

Pair Florence and Venice for a holiday filled with romance and culture. Discover the beauty of Naples and Sorrento. Visit Rome and the Amalfi Coast for the ideal mix of architecture, vibrant culture and coastal beauty. Or uncover Italy's rich history and stunning lake views in Verona and Lake Garda.





Italian cuisine reflects each region's land, history, and traditions from Tuscany's hills to Sicily's shores.
Rooted in la cucina povera - the "kitchen of the poor" - it transforms simple, seasonal ingredients into timeless dishes. Tomatoes, olive oil, fresh herbs, and handmade pasta form the base, shaped uniquely across regions: from Casoncelli alla Bergamasca (stuffed pasta in butter and sage) in the northern lakes, to Rome's rich spaghetti carbonara, and Naples' iconic pizza with tomato, mozzarella, and basil.

Venice brings its own lagoon-inspired specialities, such as spaghetti alle vongole - spaghetti with clams gently cooked with garlic, olive oil, white wine, and parsley. Anatra all'arancia (duck with orange) reflects the city's spice and citrus trade hub history. The Veneto's wines are just as distinctive, from crisp Soave to sparkling Prosecco, both perfect with seafood dishes enjoyed along the canals.

On the **Amalfi Coast**, lemons reign supreme, flavouring everything from delicate pasta sauces to the region's iconic limoncello liqueur. Freshly caught seafood, such as prawns, mussels, tuna and swordfish, defines local menus, paired with Campania's white wines like Falanghina or Greco di Tufo, which mirror the sea's freshness.

Sicily dazzles with bold contrasts: street food like arancini, balanced with refined dishes such as pasta con le sarde, fragrant with fennel and pine nuts. The island's volcanic soils yield outstanding wines, with Mount Etna producing elegant reds from the Nerello Mascalese grape and mineral-rich whites from Carricante.

With its rugged landscapes, **Sardinia** boasts unique culinary traditions such as porceddu, succulent roast suckling pig, and crisp pane carasau bread. Cannonau, the island's signature red wine, is celebrated for its flavour and its link to the remarkable longevity of Sardinia's people.

Around **Lake Garda**, the cuisine blends Alpine and Mediterranean influences, with freshwater fish like trout sharing menus with risottos and olive oil from surrounding groves. The region is famed for Bardolino and Lugana wines - light, refreshing styles that perfectly complement lakeside dining.

Tuscany embodies rustic Italian cuisine, where simplicity and authenticity shine. Bistecca alla Fiorentina, a flame-grilled T-bone,

showcases the region's love of straightforward flavours. Unsalted bread stars in ribollita, a hearty vegetable soup, and pappa al pomodoro with ripe tomatoes and basil. Tuscany's vineyards produce renowned wines, from lively Chianti Classico to the celebrated Brunello di Montalcino and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano.



Cucina povera shines in **Puglia**, transforming simple ingredients into bold, satisfying flavours. Its signature dish is orecchiette, ear-shaped pasta often paired with rich tomato sauces. Olive oil, produced here more than anywhere else in Italy, enhances breads, vegetables, and seafood. The coast offers superb catches, from prized red prawns to mussels, sardines and anchovies. Puglia's wines reflect its warmth, with robust Primitivo and Negroamaro reds complemented by crisp whites like Verdeca and Fiano.











Enjoy these suggested twin and multi-centre holidays through Italy. From vibrant cities to dramatic landscapes, each pairing brings new adventures, and we can tailor every itinerary to you.

Rome and Sorrento

Discover the perfect balance of history and coastal charm on this twin-centre escape. Begin in Rome, where ancient wonders and vibrant street life coexist in effortless harmony. Wander the Colosseum, Roman Forum and toss a coin into the Trevi Fountain. Then continue south to Sorrento, perched above the shimmering Bay of Naples. With sun-soaked piazzas, fragrant citrus groves, and views of Mount Vesuvius, Sorrento is a captivating blend of culture, cuisine, and coastal tranquillity.

Sicily and Vulcano

Venture into the soul of southern Italy with an itinerary that combines cultural discovery and natural beauty. Begin in Sicily, where dramatic landscapes meet layers of history and tradition. Explore Catania's baroque splendour, sample local wines, and witness the grandeur of Mount Etna's volcanic slopes. Continue to Vulcano, a haven of serenity in the Aeolian Islands. Here, black-sand beaches, soothing thermal springs, and panoramic sea views create the perfect setting for relaxation and renewal.

Verona and Lake Garda

Experience northern Italy's romance on this enchanting twin-centre journey. In Verona, walk in the footsteps of Romeo and Juliet, admire the grandeur of the Roman Arena, and wander cobbled streets lined with Renaissance charm. Then head to Lake Garda, where sparkling waters meet elegant lakeside villages. Explore historic castles, stroll scenic promenades, and dine by the water's edge as the sun sets over Italy's largest and most enchanting lake.

Venice, Florence and Rome

Embark on an unforgettable journey through Italy's most iconic cities. Glide along the canals of Venice, where bridges and palaces rise from the water in timeless beauty. Continue to Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance, where art, architecture, and history converge in



every square and gallery. Conclude in Rome, where ancient ruins and vibrant modern life intertwine. With first-class rail links connecting each destination, this itinerary captures the very essence of Italy, elegant, inspiring, and endlessly captivating.

Florence and Tuscany Coast

Combine cultural immersion with seaside serenity on this delightful twin-centre. Begin in Florence, a masterpiece of art and history, where each street reveals architectural treasures and centuries of creativity. Then head to the Tuscany Coast, where golden sands and clear waters invite pure relaxation. Explore the artistic towns of Pietrasanta and Viareggio, discover local markets and galleries, and soak up the effortless charm of the Tuscan Riviera.

Naples and Ischia

Delve into the warmth and vibrancy of southern Italy with this coastal combination. In Naples, explore grand piazzas, historic cathedrals, and lively streets filled with art, flavour, and energy. Then sail to Ischia, a volcanic island of natural beauty and wellbeing. Unwind in thermal pools, visit the striking Aragonese Castle, and savour the relaxed pace of island life surrounded by breathtaking sea views.

Puglia and Sorrento

Experience the contrasting beauty of Puglia and Sorrento, two of southern Italy's most captivating regions. In Puglia, olive groves, whitewashed villages, and Adriatic beaches paint a picture of rustic elegance. Discover the fairytale Trulli of Alberobello and the baroque splendour of Lecce before continuing west to Sorrento. Overlooking the Bay of Naples, this lively coastal town charms with its colourful streets, delicious cuisine, and spellbinding sunsets.

Sorrento and Capri

Revel in the glamour and charm of Italy's Amalfi region with this twincentre journey. Begin in Sorrento, where sun-drenched terraces and coastal views create an atmosphere of effortless beauty. Then cross the sparkling Tyrrhenian Sea to Capri, famed for its chic boutiques, azure grottos, and dramatic cliffs. From the Blue Grotto to the panoramic views atop Mount Solaro, Capri offers a perfect finale.















Uncover Italy's highlights in style on this 10-day escorted tour. From the ancient wonders of Rome to the Renaissance masterpieces of Florence and the timeless romance of Venice, each stop brings a new adventure, and we can tailor every itinerary to you.

DAY 1-3: Rome

Your Italian adventure begins in Rome, where you'll meet your Travel Director and fellow travellers over a delicious welcome dinner, setting the tone for the days ahead. Dive into la dolce vita on an evening orientation drive, passing illuminated landmarks like St. Peter's Basilica and the Colosseum.

The next morning, experience a explore the Vatican Museums with a local specialist. Admire masterpieces by Renaissance greats before stepping into the Sistine Chapel to gaze up at Michelangelo's transcendent ceiling. Continue to St. Peter's Basilica to view his moving Pietà, a highlight of any Roman visit. Later, cross the Tiber River to explore Imperial Rome, imagining the roar of ancient crowds at the Colosseum and Circus Maximus.

On your final day in the Eternal City, explore at leisure. Wander cobbled streets lined with cafés and fountains or join an optional excursion to Pompeii, where time stands still among the ruins. As the sun sets, find a cosy trattoria for a final Roman feast before your journey north.

DAY 4-6: Florence

Journey through Umbria's rolling hills to Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis. A local specialist brings his story to life as you visit the grand Basilica of St. Francis, adorned with frescoes by Giotto. Continue through the sundrenched Tuscan countryside to Florence, where you'll dine on a family estate surrounded by vineyards and olive groves.

In Florence, uncover centuries of art and architecture on a guided walking tour. Stroll through Piazza della Signoria, admire Brunelleschi's magnificent Duomo and the Baptistery's gilded doors, then gaze across the Arno River to the graceful Ponte Vecchio. Witness traditional





Florentine craftsmanship in leather and gold before enjoying an afternoon at leisure to shop, relax, or simply revel in the city's Renaissance splendour. On your sixth day, venture to Pisa. Stand in awe before the Leaning Tower, explore the exquisite cathedral, and admire the intricately carved Baptistery, each a marvel of medieval artistry.

DAY 7-9: Venice

Travel through the Apennine Mountains to Bologna, renowned for its medieval towers and world-famous cuisine. Discover its charming arcades with a local specialist before continuing to Venice, where canals replace streets and every view feels like a painting.

Glide by private launch to St. Mark's Square and behold the treasures of Venice, the Doge's Palace, Bridge of Sighs, and glittering St. Mark's Basilica. Visit a traditional glassblowing workshop to see centuries-old artistry come alive, then explore at leisure or opt for a gondola ride through hidden waterways.

The following morning, meet a local conservationist, learning about efforts to protect Venice's delicate lagoon. Later, wander through the Rialto Market's vibrant stalls with a local specialist, soaking in the city's timeless charm. As twilight falls, gather with newfound friends for a farewell dinner, raising a glass to an unforgettable Italian odyssey.

Depart the next day with a heartfelt arrivederci, carrying home the spirit, flavours, and romance of Italy.

Bologna



Your dream Italian adventure awaits...

We tailor every itinerary around you. Whether it's scenic road trips, first class rail between cities, or adjusting durations and destinations, it's all possible. Speak with our travel experts today and let us create a holiday that's uniquely yours.



