

Discover Italy

Destination: Italy
Trip code: DILEL



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

The richness of Italy's culture and heritage is world-famous and on this holiday we'll be uncovering the most iconic monuments the country has to offer. Sites visited include Venice's St Mark's Square, Florence's Duomo Cathedral, Pisa's Leaning Tower, Rome's Colosseum and the historic heart of Lucca. We'll also visit Vatican City to admire Michelangelo's artwork masterpiece in the Sistine Chapel and discover the treasures of the Vatican Museum.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite accommodation.
- Bed and breakfasts and 2 evening meals
- The services of an experienced English-speaking Local Tour Manager
- Full day excursions with all essential transport and entrances fees
- 'With flight' holidays include return flights from the UK and hotel transfers

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Venice – sail from St Mark's Square to Murano Island – famous for glass blowing
- Florence – immerse yourself in the amazing artwork and architecture; visit the Duomo

- Explore historic Lucca and beautiful Pisa in the company of our local expert
- Discover the enchanting city of Rome, with its amazing Roman Colosseum

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Upon arrival at Venice Marco Polo Airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel in the city centre by private taxi boat.

Day 2: Explore Venice

Today, a local guide will take us through the endless mysterious passageways of Venice on a walking tour of the city. We will visit the iconic sights, including St Mark's Square and the Basilica, the Doge's Palace, the Rialto Bridge and the Grand Canal. Throughout the day we'll be soaking up the fantastic Venetian culture and enjoying the awe-inspiring architecture that this historic hub has to offer.

Day 3: Murano & Burano

We begin our day with sailing from St Mark's Square to the island of Murano taking in the magnificent views of Venice and the Venetian Lagoon as we go. The island of Murano is renowned for its long tradition of glass-making and we'll watch a glassmaking demonstration at one of the local factories before being let loose on Murano's shops. Picturesque Burano is known for its brightly-coloured fishermen's houses and its casual eateries which serve seafood from the lagoon. The Museo del Merletto has exhibits on lace-making in the area, and shops sell a variety of lace products such as linens and clothes.

Day 4: Venice To Florence

A private taxi boat will take you to the train station for today's transfer to Florence, capital of Tuscany. Once we're all checked into our hotel, we shall be heading out with our local guide who will introduce us to the many Renaissance masterpieces that the city has to offer. We will be stopping to explore the most iconic of Florence's sights including Giotto's Campanile and the Duomo – a superb terracotta-tiled dome engineered by Brunelleschi nearly 600 years ago.

Day 5: Pisa & Lucca

Our adventures today take us to the world-famous city of Pisa, home of the Leaning Tower. We'll head out on a walking tour of the city with our local guide, taking in the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, the Leaning Tower, the Baptistery and the Campo Santo. In the afternoon, we travel to the charming city of Lucca on the Serchio river, where we'll explore on foot with our local guide the well-preserved Renaissance walls encircling the historic city centre and its cobblestone streets. We'll learn more about Lucca Cathedral and its Campanile, as well as the Piazza dell'Anfiteatro, once a Roman Theatre. Finally, we'll return to Florence for the evening.

Day 6: Florence To Rome

Today we'll transfer by train to Italy's fantastic capital city before taking a private coach transfer to our hotel.

Day 7: The Vatican & Ancient Rome

Italy's capital city is known the world over for its rich culture and heritage. Today, we will discover the treasures of the Vatican Museum with the help of our local guide including Michelangelo's immortal works on the walls and ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Later, we shall explore Ancient Rome in more depth, visiting the most fantastic of Rome's attractions: the Colosseum. We'll also stop to enjoy Palatine Hill and the Imperial Forums. The final evening of our holiday will be spent in Rome.

Day 8: Departure Day

On departure day you'll be taken to Leonardo da Vinci Airport on a private coach transfer in good time for your flight home.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Residenza Cannaregio - Venice

The Eurostars Residenza Cannaregio is a perfect interplay between tradition and the architectural elements common to the Venetian style, coupled with the most exclusive modernity and comfort. In fact, the secret we at the Residenza Cannaregio have to share with you is that Venice can be romantic, nostalgic and ancient, yet it can also be comfortable and modern. The building is a former monastery whose cloister has been transformed into a lovely courtyard with a garden. The complete overhaul of the building has yielded a backdrop that features an interplay of classical elements that respect the Venetian tradition yet boast a modern, elegant style that is hard to find in the city of canals. The Residenza Cannaregio still conserves one of the most deeply rooted traditions in the ancient palaces of Venice: the porta d'acqua. As its name indicates, the porta d'acqua is the doorway leading directly to the canal, which enables our guests to come and go from the residenza directly in taxi or gondola. The Residenza Cannaregio is arranged around a gardened cloister which our guests inevitably fall in love with. During the warmer months of the year, breakfast is served in the garden.

Accommodation Info

Rooms

The hotel offers 64 bedrooms.

All rooms are equipped with:

- Flat-screen TV
- Free WiFi
- Free Toiletries
- Minibar
- Phone
- In-room Safe

Facilities

The Hotel has a:

- Casino
- Bar/lounge
- 24-hour front desk
- Air Conditioning
- Garden
- Free WiFi
- Safe-deposit box at front desk

Food & Drink

- Buffet breakfast daily
- Coffee shop/café
- Room service

Your Evenings

Enjoy a glass of wine or local beer before a leisurely meal, either independently or with your fellow guests.

Your leader will also be checking out for any local events.

Hotel Mercure Firenze Centro - Florence

Mercure Firenze Centro is centrally located in Florence, 350 yards from Santa Maria Novella Train Station

Accommodation Info

Rooms

The hotel offers 85 bedrooms.

All rooms are equipped with:

- Free WiFi
- Safe
- LCD TV with Sky channels
- Air Conditioning
- Tea and coffee making facilities
- Minibar

Facilities

The Hotel has a:

- Bar
- Free WiFi
- Cleaning services
- 24-hour front desk
- Room service
- Air Conditioning
- Heating

Food & Drink

A sweet and savoury breakfast buffet is available daily.

APOLLO

Enjoy our gourmet snacks and relax at Bar Apollo with our selection of cocktails, aperitifs and carefully chosen wines. WIFI available at all times. Patio lounge bar during the summer.

Your Evenings

Enjoy a glass of wine or local beer before a leisurely meal, either independently or with your fellow guests.

Your leader will also be checking out for any local events.

Welcome Piram Hotel - Rome

The Welcome Piram Hotel is an elegant 4-star hotel near the Rome Termini Station, ideal for quickly reaching

some of Rome's most popular attractions. Its roof garden provides a wonderful place to relax while getting a birds-eye view over the city.

Accommodation Info

Rooms

The hotel offers 107 bedrooms.

All rooms are equipped with:

- Free WiFi
- Air Conditioning
- Hairdryer
- Shower
- Minibar
- Video-game Console
- Private Bathroom
- Bidet

Facilities

The Hotel has a:

- Terrace
- Snack Bar
- Bar
- Restaurant
- Wellness Facilities
- 24-hour Front Desk
- Cleaning Services
- Air Conditioning
- Heating
- Safety Deposit Box
- Room Service

Food & Drink

Satisfy your appetite for lunch or dinner at Regina Giovanna, a restaurant which specializes in regional cuisine, or stay in and take advantage of the room service (during limited hours). Wrap up your day with a drink at the bar/lounge. Buffet breakfasts are available daily from 7 AM to 10:30 AM for a fee.

Your Evenings

Enjoy a glass of wine or local beer before a leisurely meal, either independently or with your fellow guests.

Your leader will also be checking out for any local events.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

What To Bring

To enjoy your holiday comfortably and safely, it's essential that your clothing and footwear is suitable for the conditions likely to be encountered. Changeable weather is possible throughout the year, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities – hot, cold, wet or dry.

All of our Discovery Tours involve active sightseeing and you should therefore be prepared for walking between the sights and wear flat, comfortable shoes. In the evening most guests wear casual clothing.

You will probably find a small rucksack or cross-body bag useful for carrying spare clothing, camera, sun protection, drinks (at least 2 litres) etc during the day. A money belt is always a good idea.

You'll also need to bring your:

- Booking confirmation
- Travel insurance cover note and contact details
- European Health Insurance Card (if applicable)
- Completed guest registration form
- Photocopy of photo page of passport
- Sunhat, sun cream and sunglasses

If you require any medication, please take adequate supplies for the duration of your holiday. It's advisable to carry your medication in your hand luggage instead of packing it in your suitcase.

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday & Sunday: 9am – 1pm Bank Holiday Monday: 9am – 1pm

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £10 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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