

DETAILED ITINERARY Italy> Best of Italy

AED 6,490/- per person, prices are based on twin sharing.

Duration: 8 Days / 7 Nights.

Destinations: Rome, Vatican, Naples, Capri, Florence & Venice.

1 DAY

Arrival at Rome Airport



Welcome to Italy

On arrival at Rome International Airport you will be met by our local representative and you will be transferred to the hotel.

Day is free, for you to explore the city at your own pace.

Rome, Italy's capital, is a sprawling, cosmopolitan city with nearly 3,000 years of globally influential art, architecture and culture on display. Ancient ruins such as the Forum and the Colosseum evoke the power of the former Roman Empire. Vatican City, headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church, has St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums, which house masterpieces such as Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel frescoes.

Overnight in Rome.

2 DAY

Rome

Breakfast at the hotel.

The best way to discover the city of Rome is through the Hop on Hop off. Get on board and stop at your pleasure to the most famous monuments of Rome! Suspended between history and legend, myth and beauty, from Baroque to modern times, every age saw the Eternal City shining in its magic splendour. City Sightseeing Rome will allow you to travel through history and visit the places where the ancient Romans lived their social and political life as well as to admire the great Papal Rome, with its fine buildings and beautiful churches, by just sitting comfortable on board our buses. You will be able to visit the many churches, monuments, palaces, squares and streets of Imperial and Christian Rome, of Baroque and Modern Rome. You can admire the great monuments of ancient Rome like the Imperial Forums, the Coliseum and the Circus Maximum. You will see the most beautiful Christian places like St. Peter's Basilica and Santa Maria Maggiore. One must also visit the squares and streets where the history of Rome was written such as Piazza Venezia, Piazza della Repubblica, Piazza del Popolo and Piazza Barberini. Then you can enjoy a walk among the coffee shops of the Dolce Vita in Via Veneto and later drive along the river Tevere and admire Trastevere, one of the old quarters of the City, with its typical restaurants and bars, where you can taste typical Roman dishes.

Overnight in Rome.

3DAY

Rome

Breakfast at the hotel.

Day is free, for you to relax in your hotel or explore other iconic and historical places in Rome.

There are a variety of **OPTIONAL TOURS** that you can choose from & book with us.

Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, Raphael's Rooms

Explore one of the world's most extensive art collections with an expert local guide on this fascinating tour of the Vatican. Your guide will share the stories and secrets contained within the Museums' walls, pleasures originally meant for the exclusive enjoyment of the Pope. Experience Michelangelo's famous Creation of Adam with your own eyes as you explore the Sistine Chapel and wander Raphael's Rooms.

Cost per person AED 350.00

Naples-Capri

Take a day out of Rome to visit Capri and Anacapri.

Leaving Rome in a southerly direction you take the Highway of the Sun crossing the fertile Roman countryside and the area known as Castelli Romani. Approximately halfway along the highway you will be able to see the Benedictin Abbey of Montecassino, noted for the famous battle and its complete destruction during the Second World War. Arriving in Naples you will board the jet boat for the 45 minute crossing to Marina Grande, the port of Capri.

Cost per person AED 800.00

Exclusive Pompei and Amalfi Coast

One of the most interesting archaeological sites in the world and the breathtaking views of the Amalfi Coast...the perfect recipe for an unforgettable tour! On the way to the Amalfi coast, stop at some scenic view points before reaching Positano, one of the most famous and charming towns along the coast, with its delightful white and

pastel-coloured houses. Along with the beautiful beaches, its ancient fishing port, the splendid majolica dome of the church of Santa Maria Assunta and artisan shops you will enjoy a taste of the Dolce Vita. We leave Amalfi and following the road uphill, we will stop at another scenic view point to enjoy the last magnificent view of this enchanting part of Italy. Last but not least we will visit the ancient ruins of Pompei.

Cost per person AED 1,200.00

Overnight in Rome.

4DAY

Rome-Florence

Breakfast at the hotel.

Prepare for check out and make your way to the train station. Board the 2nd class train from Rome to Florence.

On arrival in Florence station, and make your way to the hotel and check in.

Day is free, for you to explore the city at your own pace.

In the afternoon join a group on the Hop on Hop Off tour around the beautiful city of Florence.

Florence is an art and culture lover's paradise. However this charming Tuscan city offers so much more. You can pass an entire holiday in Florence without entering a museum and still go home fulfilled. The ocre or terracotta hue that the streets and rooves take when seen from the various panoramic view points above the city in the morning or evening light are unique. From our open top buses you will be a privileged observer of the narrow cobbled viuzze, tiny medieval streets, the enchanting artisan shops and the elegant boutiques and trendy individual shops. Our new bus route will bring you to Fiesole the Etruscan hill town just a few kilometres out of Florence which no trip to the city would be complete without visiting. As well as the stunning panoramic views over the Tuscan countryside the opportunity for cultural visits are well worth the trip. The Roman amphitheatre, the Cathedral, the Civic museum, to name just a few and of course the splendid paths and trails which lend themselves so well for trekking or strolling. This is an ideal itinerary for relaxing after the hustle and bustle of the city. Sit back and let your driver slowly take you along the winding country roads. Sunset is especially magical and quite romantic!

Florence, capital of Italy's Tuscany region, is home to many masterpieces of Renaissance art and architecture. One of its most iconic sights is the Duomo, a cathedral with a terracotta-tiled dome engineered by Brunelleschi and a bell tower by Giotto. The Galleria dell'Accademia displays Michelangelo's "David" sculpture. The Uffizi Gallery exhibits Botticelli's "The Birth of Venus" and da Vinci's "Annunciation."

Overnight in Florence.

5DAY

Florence

Breakfast at the hotel.

Day is free, for you to relax in your hotel or explore the Tuscan region.

There are a variety of **OPTIONAL TOURS** that you can choose from & book with us.

Best of Tuscany Tour

The Best of Tuscany Tour: Siena, San Gimignano, Pisa and Chianti winery lunch ...All in one day!

Famous for its wealth of art, history, striking landscapes, delicious food and superb wines, Tuscany really does have it all! See the Best of Tuscany on this full-day guided coach trip from Florence! View Siena through the eyes of a local as you join a

guided walking tour through the medieval city made up of yellow-ochre buildings, terracotta rooftops and green shutters. A scenic drive through classic Tuscan countryside will take you to your final stop, Pisa. Here, take a close inspection of the iconic Leaning Tower, the Cathedral and the Baptistery.

Cost per person AED 475.00

Walks of Italy Tuscany day trip: Siena, Chianti, San Gimignano

If you want to enjoy the best of Tuscany's culture, food and history without the hassle of trying to find your way around its beautiful but often confusing country roads, our Tuscany Day Trip From Florence With Chianti, Siena & San Gimignano is the perfect trip for you. We will worry about getting you to the best spots, all you have to do is indulge your senses with wine, food, and medieval architecture that exists nowhere else in the world.

Cost per person AED 700.00

Full Day Visit of Florence including Uffizi and Accademia

Drive along the romantic Viale dei Colli up to Piazzale Michelangelo: a stop to admire the wonderful panorama of the city. Visit of the Duomo complex: the Baptistery and a visit to the Cathedral with the Cupola of Brunelleschi and Giotto's bell tower. A short walk through the heart of Florence brings you to the renowned Galleria dell'Accademia where you can admire among the others, the famous David by Michelangelo. After the visit you will have some free time for lunch. This will offer panoramic views of the unparalleled beauty of Florence, taking in Fiesole, a delightful town of Etruscan origin set on the hills overlooking Florence and the Arno Valley. The tour continues to the old city centre for a visit to the Franciscan Church of Santa Croce (exterior). A short walk brings you to the famous Piazza Signoria, with the imposing Palazzo Vecchio (exterior) and the beautiful Loggia del Lanzi. The tour of the famous Galleria degli Uffizi where you can admire the paintings of Botticelli, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Raffaello, Giotto.

Cost per person AED 575.00

Overnight in Florence.

6DAY

Florence-Venice

Breakfast at the hotel.

Prepare for check out and make your way to the train station. Board the 2nd class train from Florence to Venice.

On arrival in Venice station, make your way to the hotel and check in.

Day is free, for you to explore Venice Island at your own pace

Venice, the capital of northern Italy's Veneto region, is built on more than 100 small islands in a lagoon in the Adriatic Sea. It has no roads, just canals – including the Grand Canal thoroughfare – lined with Renaissance and Gothic palaces. The central square, Piazza San Marco, contains St. Mark's Basilica, which is tiled with Byzantine mosaics, and the Campanile bell tower offering views of the city's red roofs.

Overnight in Venice.

7DAY

Venice

Breakfast at the hotel.

Day is free, for you to relax and unwind in the hotel and enjoy the scenery in your surroundings, but if you still want to explore more of Venice Island.

There are a variety of **OPTIONAL TOURS** that you can choose from & book with us.

Exclusive Dolomites and Cortina from Tronchetto

An excursion into the soaring Dolomites with visits to Titian's mountain birthplace, the spectacular Lake Misurina, breathtaking views across a myriad of snow-covered peaks from the Tre Cime di Lavaredo and free time in the jetset resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo. Visit some of the most beautiful scenery that the Dolomites has to offer. Our day will start with a stop at the town where Titian was born. In this enchanting mountain village we will discover the history and legends of the people of the mountains, and their unique culture. On our way to the Tre Cime di Lavaredo, we will make a stop at Lake Misurina where you enjoy some free time for a walk around this beautiful lake overshadowed by the towering peaks of the Dolomites. In the Tre Cime di Lavaredo, at an altitude of 7500 ft, you will enjoy a spectacular view across a myriad of peaks and mountain ranges as far as the eye can see.

Cost per person AED 750.00

Hidden Venice Evening Walk and Shared Gondola

Start this intriguing walk by meeting by the Rialto Bridge at the beginning of Ruga dei Oresi where the Rialto Market starts. We will start this magical walk timed in order to pick Venice with the magic sunset light. Visit Campo San Polo, Campo San Marherita and the Campo San Barbara. Walk by the Basilica dei Frari and look at its spectacular facade before walking past the Scuola di San Rocco. Also walk by Peggy Guggenheim's museum and hear about the story of the patron that lost her father to the Titanic, but managed to build one of the world's most notable art collections. After this you will enjoy the magic of a forty minute shared gondola tour, allowing you to enjoy the view of this city from the Canali in the twilight of sunset.

Cost per person AED 350.00

Overnight in Venice.

8DAY

[Venice / End of trip](#)

After breakfast. The day is free until checkout time. The driver will pick you up and drop you to the airport for your onward flight.

TOUR COST, TERMS & CONDITIONS



AED 6,490/- per person, prices are based on twin sharing.

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The rates are subject to availability at the time of booking request. The rates include all applicable taxes, in Govt taxes, or hotel charges a surcharge, or BAR rates (Best available rate) without notice. The exchange rate is subject to change. Please ensure you have the necessary visas, permits & valid passport. The best source of visa information is the



If you are interested in going ahead with this booking, we would require payment in the form of cash or cheque:

- 30 days to 21 days prior to departure date: 50%.
- 21 days to 01 days prior to departure: 100%.
- Prices in this quotation are subject to availability. Al-Tayer Hotel reserves the right to a higher standard based in the event of non-availability at the time of booking.



Please ensure that the names given to us for reservations match the names on the passports. Our companies are very particular about name changes. Mismatched names may result in the booking being cancelled. We strongly recommend travel insurance as part of your package – we can arrange this for you – please let us know if you wish us to add this to your package.

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

INCLUSIONS



Flights

Economy class, Dubai / Rome / Venice / Dubai.



Accommodation

3 nights in Rome based on twin sharing basis.
2 nights in Venice based on twin sharing basis.
2 nights accommodation in Venice based on double room occupancy.



Transportation

Arrival airport transfer in Rome on private car.
Departure airport transfer in Venice on private car.



Train

2nd class train from Rome-Florence-Venice.



Sightseeing

City tours in Rome & Florence on seat in coach.



Meals

Daily breakfast.



Complimentary travel insurance.



All airline and hotel taxes.

EXCLUSIONS



- Visa fees.
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary.
- Items of personal nature viz. telephone calls, drinks, laundry
- Except all the above mentioned in inclusion.
- Some European Countries may charge a local city tax payable

TRAVEL TIPS

Italy-a European country with a long Mediterranean coastline, has left a powerful mark on Western culture and cuisine. Its capital, Rome, is home to the Vatican as well as landmark art and ancient ruins. Other major cities include Florence, with Renaissance masterpieces such as Michelangelo's "David" and Brunelleschi's Duomo; Venice, the city of canals; and Milan, Italy's fashion capital.

Entry and Exit formalities: Visitors must hold a passport valid for at least six months & beyond at the time of entering the country. Some nationalities can obtain visa on arrival and for nationalities who requires visa please refer to the Italian

consulate website: <https://www.it.ckgs.ae/>. Italy is part of the 26 Schengen State Countries.

Trip Planning: The planning stage of your trip can be instrumental in its success and an enjoyable part of the experience itself. You have a world of options...and plenty to consider.

Transportation: Figuring out how to get around is one of your biggest pre-trip decisions. Get our holiday expert best advice on deciding between your options. Based on your trip itinerary, our experts will help you choose wisely. You'll also find a wealth of practical travel tips.

Money: Use your money wisely. Know the best time to use cash or card — and how to avoid unnecessary fees either way — as well as tipping etiquette, and how shoppers can take advantage of VAT refunds.

Phones and Technology: Phones and other smart devices can be huge time-savers...or expensive distractions. Get our tips for making the best use of technology during your trip, and for calling home with or without your own phone.

Packing Light: On your trip you'll meet two kinds of travelers: those who pack light and those who wish they had.

Sleeping and Eating: Your hotel and restaurant choices can be a matter-of-face chore...or they can provide rich opportunities to connect with locals and their culture.

Health & Hygiene: Take comfort: Doctors, hospitals, laundrettes, and bathrooms aren't that different. Dealing with them can even be part of the fun of travel.

Sightseeing & Activities: Once you're on the ground, the real fun begins...but it pays to have a thoughtful plan. Our experts will help you get oriented to your surroundings, use your sightseeing hours wisely, and find your way off the beaten path.

Things do & see:

Rome-capital city and a special comune of Italy as well as the capital of the Lazio region. The city has been a major human settlement for almost three millennia. With 2,860,009 residents in 1,285 km², it is also the country's most populated comune.

Vatican City- a city-state surrounded by Rome, Italy, is the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church. It's home to the Pope and a trove of iconic art and architecture. Its Vatican Museums house ancient Roman sculptures such as the famed "Laocoön and His Sons" as well as Renaissance frescoes in the Raphael Rooms and the Sistine Chapel, famous for Michelangelo's ceiling.

Florence- capital of Italy's Tuscany region, is home to many masterpieces of Renaissance art and architecture. One of its most iconic sights is the Duomo, a cathedral with a terracotta-tiled dome engineered by Brunelleschi and a bell tower by Giotto. The Galleria dell'Accademia displays Michelangelo's "David" sculpture. The Uffizi Gallery exhibits Botticelli's "The Birth of Venus" and da Vinci's "Annunciation."

Pisa- a city in Italy's Tuscany region best known for its iconic Leaning Tower. Already tilting when it was completed in 1372, the 56m white-marble cylinder is the bell tower of the Romanesque, striped-marble cathedral that rises next to it in the Piazza dei Miracoli. Also in the piazza is the Baptistry, whose renowned acoustics are demonstrated by amateur singers daily, and the Caposanto Monumentale cemetery.

Siena- a city in central Italy's Tuscany region, is distinguished by its medieval brick buildings. The fan-shaped central square, Piazza del Campo, is the site of the Palazzo Pubblico, the Gothic town hall, and Torre del Mangia, a slender 14th-century

tower with sweeping views from its distinctive white crown. The city's 17 historic "contrade" (districts) extend outward from the piazza.

Venice- capital of northern Italy's Veneto region, is built on more than 100 small islands in a lagoon in the Adriatic Sea. It has no roads, just canals – including the Grand Canal thoroughfare – lined with Renaissance and Gothic palaces. The central square, Piazza San Marco, contains St. Mark's Basilica, which is tiled with Byzantine mosaics, and the Campanile bell tower offering views of the city's red roofs.

Milan- metropolis in Italy's northern Lombardy region, is a global capital of fashion and design. Home to the national stock exchange, it's a financial hub also known for its high-end restaurants and shops. The Gothic Duomo di Milano cathedral and the Santa Maria delle Grazie convent, housing Leonardo da Vinci's mural "The Last Supper," testify to centuries of art and culture.

Lake Como- Northern Italy's Lombardy region, is an upscale resort area known for its dramatic scenery, set against the foothills of the Alps. The lake is shaped like an upside-down Y, with three slender branches that meet at the resort town of Bellagio. At the bottom of the southwest branch lies the city of Como, home to Renaissance architecture and a funicular that travels up to the mountain town of Brunate.

Positano- a cliffside village on southern Italy's Amalfi Coast. It's a well-known holiday destination with a pebble beachfront and steep, narrow streets lined with boutiques and cafes. Its Chiesa di Santa Maria Assunta features a majolica-tiled dome and a 13th-century Byzantine icon of the Virgin Mary. The Sentiero degli Dei hiking trail links Positano to other coastal towns.

Naples- a city in southern Italy, sits on the Bay of Naples. Nearby is Mount Vesuvius, the still-active volcano that destroyed nearby Roman town Pompeii. Dating to the 2nd millennium B.C., Naples has centuries of important art and architecture. The city's cathedral, the Duomo di San Gennaro, is filled with frescoes. Other major landmarks include the lavish Royal Palace and Castel Nuovo, a 13th-century castle.

Sorrento- a coastal town in southwestern Italy, facing the Bay of Naples on the Sorrentine Peninsula. Perched atop cliffs that separate the town from its busy marinas, it's known for sweeping water views and Piazza Tasso, a cafe-lined square. The historic center is a warren of narrow alleys that's home to the Chiesa di San Francesco, a 14th-century church with a tranquil cloister.

Pompeii- a vast archaeological site in southern Italy's Campania region, near the coast of the Bay of Naples. Once a thriving and sophisticated Roman city, Pompeii was buried under meters of ash and pumice after the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. The preserved site features excavated ruins of streets and houses that visitors can freely explore.

Verona- a city in northern Italy's Veneto region, with a medieval old town built between the meandering Adige River. It's famous for being the setting of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet." A 14th-century residence with a tiny balcony overlooking a courtyard is said to be "Juliet's House." The Verona Arena is a huge 1st-century Roman amphitheater, which currently hosts concerts and large-scale opera performances.

Amalfi- a town in a dramatic natural setting below steep cliffs on Italy's southwest coast. Between the 9th and 11th centuries, it was the seat of a powerful maritime republic. The Arab-Norman Sant'Andrea cathedral at the heart of town, with its striped Byzantine facade, survives from this era. The Museo Arsenale Amalfi is a medieval shipyard-turned-exhibition space.

Capri- an island in Italy's Bay of Naples, is famed for its rugged landscape, upscale hotels and shopping, from designer fashions to limoncello and handmade leather

sandals. One of its best-known natural sites is the Blue Grotto, a dark cavern where the sea glows electric blue, the result of sunlight passing through an underwater cave. In summer, Capri's dramatic, cove-studded coastline draws many yachts.

Palermo- capital of the Italian island of Sicily. The 12th-century Palermo Cathedral houses royal tombs, while the huge neoclassical Teatro Massimo is known for opera performances. Also in the center are the Palazzo dei Normanni, a royal palace started in the 9th century, and the Cappella Palatina, with Byzantine mosaics.

Sardinia- a large Italian island in the Mediterranean Sea. It has nearly 2,000km of coastline, sandy beaches and a mountainous interior crossed with hiking trails. Its rugged landscape is dotted with thousands of nuraghi – mysterious Bronze Age stone ruins shaped like beehives. One of the largest and oldest nuraghi is Su Nuraxi in Barumini, dating to 1500 B.C.

Sicily- the largest Mediterranean island, is just off the "toe" of Italy's "boot." Its rich history is reflected in sites like the Valley of the Temples, the well-preserved ruins of 7 monumental, Doric-style Greek temples, and in the Byzantine mosaics at the Cappella Palatina, a former royal chapel in capital city Palermo. On Sicily's eastern edge is Mount Etna, one of Europe's highest active volcanoes.

Bologna- is the lively, historic capital of the Emilia-Romagna region, in northern Italy. Its Piazza Maggiore is a sprawling plaza lined with arched colonnades, cafes and medieval and Renaissance structures such as City Hall, the Fountain of Neptune and the Basilica di San Petronio. Among the city's many medieval towers are the Two Towers, leaning Asinelli and Garisenda.

Turin- is the capital city of Piedmont in northern Italy, known for its refined architecture and cuisine. The Alps rise to the northwest of the city. Stately baroque buildings and old cafes line Turin's boulevards and grand squares such as Piazza Castello and Piazza San Carlo. Nearby is the soaring spire of the Mole Antonelliana, a 19th-century tower housing the interactive National Cinema Museum.

Palermo- is the capital of the Italian island of Sicily. The 12th-century Palermo Cathedral houses royal tombs, while the huge neoclassical Teatro Massimo is known for opera performances. Also in the center are the Palazzo dei Normanni, a royal palace started in the 9th century, and the Cappella Palatina, with Byzantine mosaics. Busy markets include the central Ballarò street market and the Vucciria, near the port.

Genoa- (Genova) is a port city and the capital of northwest Italy's Liguria region. It's known for its central role in maritime trade over many centuries. In the old town stands the Romanesque Cathedral of San Lorenzo, with its black-and-white-striped facade and frescoed interior. Narrow lanes open onto monumental squares like Piazza de Ferrari, site of an iconic bronze fountain and Teatro Carlo Felice opera house.

Catania- is an ancient port city on Sicily's east coast. It sits at the foot of Mt. Etna, an active volcano with trails leading up to the summit. The city's wide central square, Piazza del Duomo, features the whimsical Fontana dell'Elefante statue and richly decorated Catania Cathedral. In the southwest corner of the square, La Pescheria weekday fish market is a rowdy spectacle surrounded by seafood restaurants.

Bari- is a port city on the Adriatic Sea, and the capital of southern Italy's Puglia region. Its mazelike old town, Barivecchia, occupies a headland between 2 harbors. Surrounded by narrow streets, the 11th-century Basilica di San Nicola, a key pilgrimage site, holds some of St. Nicholas' remains. To the south, the Murat quarter has stately 19th-century architecture, a promenade and pedestrianized shopping areas.

Trieste- is the capital city of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region in northeast Italy. A port city, it occupies a thin strip of land between the Adriatic coast and Slovenia's border on the limestone-dominated Karst Plateau. Italian, Austro-Hungarian and Slovenian influences are all evident in its layout, which encompasses a medieval old city and a neoclassical Austrian quarter.

Perugia- is an Italian city and the capital of the Umbria region. It's known for its defensive walls around the historic center. The medieval Priori Palace exhibits regional art from the 13th century onward. Looking onto Piazza IV Novembre, the Gothic cathedral houses Renaissance paintings and frescoes. In the square's center, Fontana Maggiore is a marble fountain with carvings of biblical scenes and zodiac signs.

Lucca- is a city on the Serchio river in Italy's Tuscany region. It's known for the well-preserved Renaissance walls encircling its historic city center and its cobblestone streets. Broad, tree-lined pathways along the tops of these massive 16th- and 17th-century ramparts are popular for strolling and cycling. Casa di Puccini, where the great opera composer was born, is now a house museum.

Matera- is a city on a rocky outcrop in the region of Basilicata, in southern Italy. It includes the Sassi area, a complex of cave dwellings carved into the mountainside. Evacuated in 1952 due to poor living conditions, the Sassi now houses museums like the Casa Grotta di Vico Solitario, with period furniture and artisan tools. Nearby rock churches include St. Lucia alle Malve, with 13th-century frescoes.

Bergamo- is an Italian city northeast of Milan, in the Lombardy region. Its older upper district, called Città Alta, is characterized by cobblestone streets, encircled by Venetian walls and accessible by funicular. It's home to the Duomo di Bergamo, the city cathedral. Also here are the Romanesque Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore and the grand Cappella Colleoni, a chapel with 18th-century frescoes by Tiepolo.

Padua- is a city in Northern Italy's Veneto region. It's known for the frescoes by Giotto in its Scrovegni Chapel from 1303–05 and the vast 13th-century Basilica of St. Anthony. The basilica, with its Byzantine-style domes and notable artworks, contains the namesake saint's tomb. In Padua's old town are arcaded streets and stylish cafes frequented by students of the University of Padua, established in 1222.

Bolzano- is a city in the South Tyrol province of north Italy, set in a valley amid hilly vineyards. It's a gateway to the Dolomites mountain range in the Italian Alps. In the medieval city center, the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology features the Neolithic mummy called Ötzi the Iceman. Nearby is the imposing 13th-century Mareccio Castle, and the Duomo di Bolzano cathedral with its Romanesque and Gothic architecture.

Cagliari- is the capital city of the Italian island of Sardinia. It's known for the hilltop Castello, a medieval walled quarter situated high over the rest of the town.

Architectural highlights include the 13th-century Cagliari Cathedral. Housed in a former arsenal, the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Cagliari displays bronze objects, Roman ceramics and artifacts from the Nuragic age to the Byzantine era.

Lecce- is a city in Italy's southern Apulia region. It's known for its baroque buildings. In the central Piazza del Duomo, the Cattedrale di Lecce has a double facade and a bell tower. The Basilica di Santa Croce features sculptures and a rose window. Nearby are the Sant'Oronzo Column, a Roman column topped with a bronze statue of the city's patron saint, and the sunken Roman amphitheater.

Trento- is a city in the Trentino–Alto Adige region of northern Italy. It's known for the Buonconsiglio Castle, home to late-medieval fresco cycles. Trento Cathedral, featuring a rose window and a baroque chapel, sits on Piazza Duomo. Also on the

square is Casa Cazuffi-Rella, a Renaissance building with a frescoed facade. Southwest, MUSE is a science and natural history museum with high-tech exhibits.

Parma- is a university city in Italy's Emilia-Romagna region, famed for Parmesan cheese and Parma ham. Romanesque buildings, including the frescoed Parma Cathedral and the pink marble Baptistry, grace the city center. Classical concerts take place at the Teatro Regio, a 19th-century opera house. The Galleria Nazionale, inside the imposing Palazzo della Pilotta, displays works by painters Correggio and Canaletto.

Ravenna- is a city in Emilia-Romagna, Italy. It's known for the colorful mosaics adorning many of its central buildings, like the octagonal Basilica di San Vitale, the 6th-century Basilica di Sant'Apollinare Nuovo and the cross-shaped Mausoleo di Galla Placidia. North of the center, the Mausoleo di Teodorico built in the 6th century for King Theodoric the Great, is a Gothic, circular stone tomb with a monolithic dome.

Vicenza- is a city in the Veneto region of northeast Italy. It's known for the elegant buildings designed by the 16th-century architect Andrea Palladio. These include the Palladian Basilica and the Palazzo Chiericati, now home to an art gallery. Nearby, also by Palladio, the Teatro Olimpico replicates a classic outdoor theater, indoors. On the outskirts of town, the hilltop Villa La Rotonda has 4 identical facades.

Messina- is a harbor city in northeast Sicily, separated from mainland Italy by the Strait of Messina. It's known for the Norman Messina Cathedral, with its Gothic portal, 15th-century windows and an astronomical clock on the bell tower. Nearby are marble fountains decorated with mythological figures, like the Fontana di Orione, with its carved inscriptions, and the Neptune Fountain, topped by a statue of the sea god.

Syracuse- is a city on the Ionian coast of Sicily, Italy. It's known for its ancient ruins. The central Archaeological Park Neapolis comprises the Roman Amphitheater, the Teatro Greco and the Orecchio di Dionisio, a limestone cave shaped like a human ear. The Museo Archeologico Regionale Paolo Orsi exhibits terracotta artifacts, Roman portraits and Old Testament scenes carved into white marble.

Ancona- is a city on Italy's Adriatic coast and the capital of the Marche region. It's known for beaches, such as Passetto Beach, and the hilltop Cathedral of San Ciriaco. In the city center, the Fontana del Calamo is a fountain with bronze masks of mythic figures. In the port are the ancient Arch of Trajan and the Lazzaretto, or Mole Vanvitelliana, an 18th-century pentagonal quarantine station on its own island.

Portofino- is a fishing village on the Italian Riviera coastline, southeast of Genoa city. Pastel-colored houses, high-end boutiques and seafood restaurants fringe its Piazzetta, a small cobbled square overlooking the harbor, which is lined with super-yachts. A path leads from the Piazzetta to Castello Brown, a 16th-century fortress and museum with art exhibitions and panoramic views of the town and the Ligurian Sea.

Treviso- is a city in northeastern Italy with many canals. On the central Piazza dei Signori is the Palazzo dei Trecento, with battlements and vaulted arcades. The Fontana delle Tette is a 16th-century fountain that used to dispense wine. Nearby, the Duomo features a neoclassical facade, Romanesque crypt and a painting by Titian. The Civic Museums' main site, the St. Catherine complex, has medieval frescoes.

Modena- is a city in Italy's Emilia-Romagna region. It's known for its balsamic vinegar and opera heritage, plus Ferrari and Lamborghini sports cars. The Enzo Ferrari Museum has exhibits on the life and work of the car designer, in his childhood

home, plus iconic models in a futuristic building. In the 18th-century Museum Palace is the Estense Gallery, with works by Tintoretto and Correggio, plus a bust by Bernini.

Agrigento- is a hilltop city on Sicily's southwest shore. It's known for the ruins of the ancient city of Akragas in the Valley of the Temples, a vast archaeological site with well-preserved Greek temples. On the modern city's outskirts is the Museo Archeologico Regionale 'Pietro Griffo', with artifacts and a telamon (giant male figure). West lies Scala dei Turchi, a stepped white cliff overlooking sandy beaches.

Rimini- is a city on the Adriatic coast, in Italy's Emilia-Romagna region. It's known for its beachside nightclubs and shallow waters. South of the center, the Malatestiano Temple is a 15th-century reconstruction of an old Franciscan church, now a mausoleum for Sigismondo Pandolfo Malatesta, a local nobleman. Nearby, the Malatesta-built Castel Sismondo is a medieval fortress now used for cultural events.

Brescia- is a city in the northern Italian region of Lombardy. On the eastern outskirts is the San Salvatore–Santa Giulia complex. This former monastery includes a basilica, cloisters and the Santa Giulia Museum, with items including Roman bronzes and medieval frescoes. On Cidneo Hill, Brescia Castle has a drawbridge and ramparts, plus the Luigi Marzoli Arms Museum, exhibiting ancient weapons and armor.

Taranto- is a coastal city in southern Italy. It lies between the Mar Grande (Big Sea) and Mar Piccolo (Little Sea) bodies of water. Bridges link the mainland to the old town, on a small island. This is home to the 15th-century Aragonese Castle, the Spartan Museum of Taranto, and San Cataldo Basilica, with a baroque facade. The MArTA Archaeological Museum has a collection of artifacts from prehistory to the Middle Ages.

Piacenza- is a city in Italy's Emilia Romagna region. In its central Piazza Cavalli are 2 equestrian statues and the medieval Gothic Palace. A copper angel rotates atop the bell tower of Piacenza Cathedral. The nearby Sant'Antonino Basilica has an 8-sided tower and 17th-century frescoes, plus a portal known as Heaven's Gate, with a rose window. The Farnese Palazzo Civic Museums house sculptures and weapons.

Ferrara- is a city in Italy's Emilia-Romagna region. It's known for the buildings erected by its Renaissance rulers, the Este family. These include the moated Este Castle, with its lavish private chambers. The family also built the Diamanti Palace, which is clad in diamond-shaped marble blocks and home to the National Picture Gallery. The Romanesque Ferrara Cathedral has a 3-tiered facade and a marble bell tower.

Cremona- is a city in Italy's Lombardy region. The Stradivarius collection at the Violin Museum testifies to the city's violin-making heritage. On Piazza del Comune are the Cremona Cathedral, with its Renaissance arcade, and the 8-sided Baptistery. Also on the square, the Torrazzo bell tower has an astronomical clock. The portico of the 13th-century Loggia dei Mili has a statue of 2 Hercules figures.

Mantua- is a city surrounded by 3 artificial lakes in the northern Italian region of Lombardy. It's known for the architectural legacy of the Renaissance Gonzaga rulers, who built the Ducal Palace. This imposing building houses the Bridal Chamber, decorated with Andrea Mantegna frescoes. The Gonzagas also built the Te Palace, known for the Chamber of the Giants, where every surface is painted with mythological scenes.

Livorno- is an Italian port city on the west coast of Tuscany. It's known for its seafood, Renaissance-era fortifications and modern harbor with a cruise ship port. Its central Terrazza Mascagni, a waterside promenade with checkerboard paving, is the city's main gathering place. The bastions of the 16th-century Fortezza Vecchia face the harbor and open onto Livorno's canal-laced Venezia Nuova quarter.

Catanzaro- also known as the "City of the two Seas", is an Italian city of 91,000 inhabitants, the capital of the Calabria region and of its province and the second most populated comune of the region, behind Reggio Calabria. The archbishop's seat was the capital of the province of Calabria Ultra for over 200 years.

Udine- is a city in northeastern Italy. The hilltop Udine Castle is home to several museums and an art gallery with works by Tiepolo and Caravaggio. It has views of the city and surrounding mountains. The central Piazza della Libertà has Renaissance buildings, including the pink-and-white-marble Loggia del Lionello and a clock tower. Udine Cathedral has a baroque interior and a museum of religious decorative arts.

L'Aquila- is a city and comune in central Italy. It is the capital city of both the Abruzzo region and of the Province of L'Aquila. As of 2013, it has a population of 70,967 inhabitants.

Calcio Storico-54 footballers dressed in ancient costumes give themselves up to the game to glorify their historic district.

Gelaterias-Don't jump to say you dislike ice-cream until you've been to Roman gelateria—these recipes have lived through centuries

Mount Etna-For over half a million years mount Etna has been in a state of continuous eruption

Zucchini Blossom-Fried zucchini blossoms, stuffed with cheese, is a masterpiece of the Italian cuisine.

Roman Pasta-Don't hesitate to try Rome's world-famous pasta. Bucatini all'amatriciana, spaghetti alla carbonara, tagliatelle cacio e pepe—these are a must!

Bougainvillea Bloom-Rome's streets become even more romantic when houses are covered by vibrant bougainvillea in bloom

Vespa Scooter Tours-Ever dream of riding like the wind with an Italian beau or belle? The teenage dream can come true!

Napoli Pizza Village-The festival of the most known Italian dish

Game of the Bridge (Gioco del Ponte)-This most spectacular tradition in Pisa celebrates the great medieval history

Trulli of Alberobello-One of Italy's best-kept tourist secrets

Beach Season on the Amalfi Coast-Visit beautiful Amalfi Coast for some awesome swimming. Turquoise water and plenty of shade make Tuscan beaches a dream summer getaway

Sunflower Fields-These large yellow flowers will please your eye throughout the summer

Panzanella-This is the summer taste of rural Tuscany.

La Sciuta di San Sebastiano-The celebration of San Sebastiano in Sicily can easily top every patron saint festival in the whole Italy

Easter Explosion of the Cart-Easter in Florence is memorable for splendid fireworks display

Carnevale Venezia-A party that simply can't be missed

Fiera del Cacio-The cheese fair held in the birthplace of pecorino itself offers the best selection of world-famous Tuscan cheese

Palio di Siena-A picturesque horse race in the heart of historical Siena

Sea Urchins-Sea urchins, also known as sea hedgehogs, are a cool weather delicacy

Skiing & Snowboarding-A lovely small ski resort close to Florence—Abetone

Birdwatching-Numerous birds choose Tuscany as their temporary winter home

Palio della Balestra-This medieval crossbow competition is a real celebration of the Renaissance era

Bravio delle Botti-A fun wine barrel race in a picturesque old town of Montepulciano

Giostra del Saracino (Joust of the Saracen)-Feel the medieval spirit during this ancient knight competition held twice a year in the city of Arezzo

Olive Harvest-Live the life of a Tuscan farmer participating in traditional harvest activities