



## **Northern Italy**

### **From the Alps to the Adriatic**

*This leisurely exploration of Italy's varied northern regions, from the romantic Lake District and dramatic Cinque Terre to beloved Tuscany, the majestic Dolomites, and canal-laced Venice, offers a refreshing perspective on a well-known land. In the company of our congenial small group, we celebrate the Italian penchant for hospitality, good food, and good living. In a word, splendido!*

**With an Post-Tour Extension:  
Venice – On Your Own**

### **Itinerary**

Created on Feb 29, 2024

# Northern Italy

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

### **DAY 1: Depart U.S. for Milan, Italy**

### **DAY 2: Arrive Milan/Stresa**

After arriving in Milan, we drive to the international resort of Stresa on lovely Lake Maggiore, straddling the border between Italy and Switzerland. This afternoon is at leisure before tonight's welcome dinner.

*Accommodations:* Hotel La Palma

*Meals:* Dinner

### **DAY 3: Stresa**

We embark this morning on a cruise to Isola Bella, the beautiful Borromean island in the middle of Lake Maggiore. Fully occupied by 17<sup>th</sup>-century Palazzo Borromeo and its extravagantly landscaped gardens, the island offers lovely views of the lake and surrounding mountains. We take a guided tour of the *palazzo* with its priceless works of fine art and stroll through the flower-decked gardens, and then enjoy lunch together on the nearby Isola dei Pescatori.

*Accommodations:* Hotel La Palma

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch

### **DAY 4: Stresa/Orta San Giulio**

This morning we visit the lovely lakeside town of Orta San Giulio – dubbed “God’s watercolor” by Italian writer Piero Chiara – with its cobblestoned streets, 16<sup>th</sup>-century town hall, and medieval houses flanking the inviting town square. After lunch on our own here, we return to our hotel for an afternoon at leisure.

*Accommodations:* Hotel La Palma

*Meals:* Breakfast

### **DAY 5: Stresa/Barolo/Santa Margherita**

We leave the Piedmont region today, bound for Santa Margherita and the Cinque Terre. En route, we stop in the village of Barolo for lunch and to sample Barolo, the “king of wines,” at Marchesi di Barolo, Italy’s premier vintner of its greatest wine. We continue on to the Italian Riviera resort town of Santa Margherita, with its palm-lined esplanade overlooking the harbor. Tonight we enjoy dinner together at our hotel.

*Accommodations:* Hotel Metropole

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## **DAY 6: Santa Margherita/Portofino**

This morning we travel by boat to the renowned – and beautiful – resort town of Portofino, a former fishing village where palatial yachts now crowd the port and the good life is celebrated. We have free time to wander the colorful streets and visit the chic boutiques and galleries here before we return to our hotel at midday.

*Accommodations:* Hotel Metropole

*Meals:* Breakfast

## **DAY 7: Santa Margherita/Cinque Terre/Portovenere**

We depart this morning by train for the hour-long trip to the Cinque Terre (literally, “Five Lands”), the five cliff-clinging villages seemingly carved from the mountains. Originally medieval fishing villages, the Cinque Terre were inaccessible by land for centuries; even today, no road connects all five. We stop in scenic Vernazza then board a boat for a comfortable cruise along the rugged coastline to visit another village of the Cinque Terre. From here, we cruise to the port town of Portovenere, with its cluster of colorful column-shaped houses. After a brief walking tour of the Old Town, we have time to explore and enjoy lunch on our own. We dine together tonight at our hotel.

*Accommodations:* Hotel Metropole

*Meals:* Breakfast, Dinner

## **DAY 8: Santa Margherita/Lucca/Radda-in-Chianti**

Moving on today, we travel south to beloved Tuscany, stopping first in the atmospheric medieval town of Lucca. We take a walking tour of this incredibly well-preserved gem whose city walls and ramparts remain intact and are a popular attraction. After time for lunch on our own, we continue on to our lodgings.

*Accommodations:* Palazzo Leopoldo

*Meals:* Breakfast, Dinner

## **DAY 9: Radda-in-Chianti/Florence**

We spend today touring and exploring wondrous Florence, a living monument to the Renaissance and the crown jewel of Tuscany. Our day includes a guided morning walking tour followed by free time. Together we visit the Galleria dell’Accademia to view Michelangelo’s sublime *David* and his pieces for the papal tombs, and then we see the *Duomo*, with its stupendous dome by Brunelleschi. Afterwards we’re free to stroll the 14<sup>th</sup>-century Ponte Vecchio and its many jewelry shops; visit renowned museums and churches; shop for leather goods and artful Florentine paper; and to enjoy lunch on our own. We return to our hotel in the mid-afternoon

*Accommodations:* Palazzo Leopoldo

*Meals:* Breakfast

### **DAY 10: Radda-in-Chianti/Siena**

Today we visit the walled city of Siena, whose historic center is a UNESCO site and whose ochre-colored buildings and ancient ramparts vividly evoke its medieval past. Fan-shaped Piazza del Campo is one of Europe's greatest public squares; its *Duomo*, with pillars of black and white marble, is one of Italy's finest, housing masterpieces by Donatello and Michelangelo. Following a guided walking tour that includes an inside visit to the *Duomo*, we have free time to explore on our own. We return to our hotel late this afternoon and have the remainder of the day at leisure.

*Accommodations:* Palazzo Leopoldo

*Meals:* Breakfast

### **DAY 11: Radda-in-Chianti/Verona/Bolzano**

As we travel north today, we stop in storied Verona, renowned as the setting of several Shakespeare plays, including, of course, *Romeo and Juliet*. A UNESCO site, Verona boasts well-preserved monuments from antiquity, including a 1<sup>st</sup>-century Roman amphitheater still in use today, as we see on our guided walking tour. After time for lunch and to explore on our own here, we continue our journey to the South Tyrol, Italy's German-accented northern reaches bordering Austria and Switzerland. We're bound for the regional capital of Bolzano, gateway to the Dolomites in the Italian Alps. Late this afternoon we reach our hotel, where we dine together tonight.

*Accommodations:* Hotel Scala Stiegl

*Meals:* Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 12: Bolzano**

Set in a basin surrounded by rounded forest-green hills, Bolzano boasts an enviable quality of life – and truly spectacular scenery. We take a cable car to a spot for views of the 18-peak Dolomites, their vertical walls and sheer cliffs presenting a magnificent backdrop to the surrounding woodlands, valleys, and pastures. Then we walk through Bolzano's colorful historic center and visit the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology, well known for housing the mummified corpse of Ötzi the Iceman, dating to 3300 BCE. This afternoon is at leisure to enjoy this surprisingly cosmopolitan city as we wish; tonight we dine at a local restaurant.

*Accommodations:* Hotel Scala Stiegl

*Meals:* Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 13: Bolzano/Venice**

En route to Venice today, we travel through the Dolomites themselves, enjoying jaw-dropping scenery at every turn. When we reach Venice this afternoon, we are free to begin savoring this wondrous city as we wish and enjoy dinner on our own.

*Accommodations:* Palazzo Veneziano

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch

**DAY 14: Venice**

This morning we take a guided walk through the vast St. Mark's Square. The afternoon is free for independent exploration; tonight we bid "*arrivederci*" to Italy and to our fellow travelers at a farewell dinner.

*Accommodations:* Palazzo Veneziano

*Meals:* Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 15: Depart for U.S.**

We depart early this morning for our connecting flights to the U.S.

*Meals:* Breakfast

This tour itinerary was generated for Northern Italy on Feb 29, 2024. Please visit the Northern Italy page at <https://www.odysseys-unlimited.com/tours/europe/northern-italy/> for the latest and most accurate information.