# MAJESTIC NORTHERN LAKES, TUSCANY, AND FASCINATING CORSICA

MAE-LAG-FAS-COR-MtL-1817

18 💥 days | 17 🕻 nights

MILAN - STRESA - BORROMEAN ISLANDS - COMO - BELLAGIO PORTOFINO - SANTA MARGHERITA LIGURE - RAPALLO - CINQUE TERRE
- FLORENCE - ROME - OLBIA - PORTO VECCHIO - ALERIA - BASTIA - ILE
ROUSSE - CALVI - CORTE - AJACCIO - SARTENE - BONIFACIO - OLBIA





## DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY

## MILAN

Arrival at Milan airport and transfer to the hotel. Free time. At 6:00 PM, meet with the tour leader at the hotel reception.

## DAY 2 - THURSDAY

## MILAN

Breakfast at the hotel and visit to Milan, which boasts an invaluable historical, artistic, and architectural heritage. Milan is also famous for other aspects: it is the Italian fashion capital, an industrial hub, and a key center for the Italian economy. A tour of Milan wouldn't be complete without visiting some of the city's iconic spots: Piazza del Duomo, one of Italy's largest and most enchanting squares, with the imposing Gothic-style Duomo and La Scala Theatre, a cultural symbol of Milan and one of the most prestigious theaters in the world for its history, architecture, and performances, not to mention the Vittorio Emanuele II Gallery. Free time and return to the hotel.

## **OPTIONAL EXCURSION:**

## Navigli District of Milan: A Symbol of Milan's Nightlife

An excursion to explore the Navigli district, one of the most picturesque areas of Milan, renowned worldwide for its vibrant nightlife and the hundreds of venues along its canal banks. During the visit, take a break to admire the illuminated, one of the most striking Gothic cathedrals, the impressive Duomo of Milan. After a short walk to discover the history of this charming neighborhood, you'll have the opportunity to enjoy an aperitif during the "happy hour."

## DAY 3 - FRIDAY

MILAN - LAKE MAGGIORE: STRESA











## AND BORROMEAN ISLANDS - MILAN

Breakfast at the hotel and departure to Stresa, a splendid tourist destination on Lake Maggiore. This charming town is nestled in an unparalleled scenic setting, offering breathtaking views of the Alps and Lake Maggiore, home to the famous Borromean Islands. Next, enjoy an excursion to the Borromean Islands, featuring the monumental Isola Bella, the picturesque Isola dei Pescatori, and Isola Madre, renowned for its botanical garden filled with rare plants. During the excursion, lunch will be served on Isola dei Pescatori, featuring typical dishes of the local cuisine. Return to Stresa and enjoy free time before heading back to the hotel in the afternoon.

## DAY 4 - SATURDAY

# MILAN - LAKE COMO: COMO, VILLA CARLOTTA, AND BELLAGIO - MILAN

After breakfast, departure to Como for a guided tour of one of the most beloved cities in northern Italy. Highlights include the Duomo, the Broletto (medieval town hall), the Terragni Palace, ancient alleys, and remnants of the medieval city walls. Transfer to Tremezzo for a guided visit to Villa Carlotta, which overlooks the lake and is surrounded by a magnificent park filled with stunning plants and flowers. From Tremezzo, take a boat transfer to Bellagio, one of the most beautiful tourist destinations on Lake Como. Enjoy free time to soak in the charming atmosphere and explore the enchanting corners of this gem, often called the "Pearl of Lake Como." In the afternoon, return to the hotel. In the evening, enjoy a dinner featuring typical local dishes from the region.

## DAY 5 - SUNDAY

MILAN - PORTOFINO -SANTA MARGHERITA LIGURE - RAPALLO - LA SPEZIA After breakfast at the hotel, we will dedicate the day to exploring the Gulf of Tigullio. Visit Portofino, renowned for its elegant charm and vibrant-colored buildings overlooking the sea, and Santa Margherita Ligure, famous for its pastel-colored facades and its stunning promenade. In the afternoon, take a boat ride back to Rapallo, a city rich in historical heritage, situated at the heart of the Gulf of Tigullio. Later in the day, transfer to the hotel in La Spezia and enjoy free time.

#### DAY 6 - MONDAY

## LA SPEZIA - CINQUE TERRE – LA SPEZIA

Breakfast at the hotel, and we will continue our journey to the Cinque Terre, traveling by boat or train depending on weather conditions. Over centuries, human ingenuity has shaped this territory by building the famous terraces that make use of the geography of its slopes, creating one of the most beautiful and iconic landscapes of Liguria. The guided tour begins with Manarola, an urban gem with its charming harbor and a cluster of pastel-colored houses. Next is Vernazza, considered one of the most beautiful villages in Italy, preserving its long maritime traditions. Its natural harbor, shaped like an amphitheater extending into the sea, attests to this legacy. Finally, we visit Monterosso, the westernmost and most populous town of the Cinque Terre. Located in a small natural gulf, it consists of two settlements: the historic center to the east and the more modern, tourist-oriented area to the west. In the afternoon, return to the hotel.

#### DAY 7 - TUESDAY

## LA SPEZIA - FLORENCE

Breakfast and departure to Florence, a city with an atmosphere that invites you to travel back in time. Renowned worldwide as the birthplace of the Renaissance, Florence is the cradle of architecture and art. Enjoy a guided tour of its historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, surrounded by churches, monuments, and stunning Renaissance buildings praised by poets

throughout history. Highlights include the Baptistery of St. John, dedicated to the city's patron saint, the famous Giotto's Campanile, the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, and Brunelleschi's imposing dome—just a few examples of Florence's wonders. After the visit, transfer to the hotel.

#### OPTIONAL EXCURSION:

## The Uffizi Gallery

The Uffizi Gallery, designed in the mid-16th century by Giorgio Vasari, consists of 90 rooms housing some of the most important and famous paintings in the history of art. It features masterpieces by Giotto, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Botticelli, as well as numerous works by Flemish and Dutch painters, all displayed in chronological order. A visit to this museum is truly a journey through time, exploring the evolution of art and its timeless beauty.

## DAY 8 - WEDNESDAY

## FIORFNCF

After breakfast, we will begin our second day in Florence by exploring one of the most authentic areas of the city: Oltrarno, located on the left bank of the Arno River. This district exudes a unique and timeless atmosphere, offering a glimpse into a more genuine Florence, populated mostly by locals. A visit to the Ponte Vecchio is a must. With its hanging shops and houses, it stands as one of the most famous landmarks in the world. We will also visit the Palazzo Pitti, the last residence of the Medici family and now the largest museum complex in Florence. Enjoy free time before returning to the hotel.

## **OPTIONAL EXCURSION:**

## The Accademia Gallery

The Accademia Gallery is one of the most important museums in Florence and the world. Among its most significant works is Michelangelo's unparalleled David, one of the most famous sculptures globally and a universal symbol of the city of Florence.







## DAY 9 - THURSDAY

## FLORENCE - ROME

Breakfast and departure by train to Rome. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel and enjoy free time to explore the city at your own pace. In the evening, savor a delightful dinner featuring typical Roman dishes in the charming Trastevere district, known for its lively atmosphere and authentic local cuisine.

## DAY 10 - FRIDAY

## ROME

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by a panoramic tour of Rome to admire the magnificent monuments of Ancient Rome: the Colosseum, Circus Maximus, Palatine Hill, Baths of Caracalla, and the most iconic Christian basilicas of the city: St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. John Lateran, Santa Maria Maggiore, and St. Peter's Basilica. The tour continues along the Tiber River, offering views of Castel Sant'Angelo and the Ara Pacis. The bus will then pass through the splendid Villa Borghese gardens and the elegant Via Veneto, famous for its connection to Hollywood stars, luxurious bars, and elegant hotels. During the tour, there will be a stop at the Capitoline Hill for a panoramic view of the Roman Forum and the magnificent Piazza Venezia. Another stop will be made at St. Peter's Square, where you will have the option to continue with a visit to the Vatican Museums. Enjoy free time in the afternoon before returning to the hotel.

## **OPTIONAL EXCURSION:**

## **Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel**

The Vatican Museums, considered one of the most important in the world, and the Sistine Chapel, the site of the Papal Conclave, masterfully painted by Michelangelo Buonarroti. This visit immerses you in the highest expressions of art across all eras, where beauty and faith converge in a unique and unparalleled combination. A must-see experience in Rome.

## DAY 11 - SATURDAY

## ROME

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by a guided tour with included admission to the most iconic and imposing monument of antiquity, the Colosseum, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Next, visit the archaeological area of the Roman Forum, a symbol of the Italian capital that showcases the architectural mastery of the Roman Empire. Enjoy free time in the afternoon before transferring to Civitavecchia to board the overnight ferry to Olbia.

#### DAY 12 - SUNDAY

## **OLBIA**

Upon arrival in Olbia, transfer to the hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to explore or relax at your leisure.

#### DAY 13 - MONDAY

# OLBIA - SANTA TERESA DI GALLURA -PORTO VECCHIO - ALERIA - BASTIA

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to Santa Teresa di Gallura for the ferry to Bonifacio (Corsica) and onward to Porto Vecchio, a charming town in a bay designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Originally of Genoese origin, this picturesque village has transformed into an exclusive tourist destination, especially popular among lovers of seaside luxury and nightlife. Continue with a guided tour of Aleria, a town that encapsulates the rich history of the island, from its Greek colonization in the 6th century BC to the Genoese period, which ended in 1769. In the old town, you'll find one of Corsica's most renowned museums, featuring numerous artifacts such as Greek, Roman, and Etruscan ceramics, coins, everyday objects, and vases with intricate depictions. Late in the afternoon, transfer to the hotel

## DAY 14 - TUESDAY

## BASTIA - ÎLE ROUSSE - CALVI - BASTIA

After breakfast, visit Bastia, an enchanting city perched on a cliff overlooking the sea. Its pink-hued historic buildings, winding alleys in the old town, and bustling port welcoming ferries provide a picturesque scene. Transfer to Île Rousse, a quaint coastal town known for its history and stunning landscapes. Finally, visit Calvi, one of Corsica's most beautiful cities, situated on a rocky promontory. Nicknamed the "Garden of Corsica," Calvi is surrounded by fertile hills, expansive flower fields, and pine forests that stretch down to the beach. After the tour, return to the hotel for the night.

## DAY 15 - WEDNESDAY

## BASTIA - CORTE - AJACCIO

Breakfast at the hotel and departure towards Corte, a picturesque town in the heart of Corsica, considered one of the island's most beautiful villages. Surrounded by rugged landscapes, it exudes authentic Corsican charm. Continue to Ajaccio, the capital of Corsica and the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte. Built around the port and citadel, Ajaccio's old town is characterized by charming alleys lined with colorful, tall houses. After a guided tour of Ajaccio, transfer to the hotel.

## DAY 16 - THURSDAY

## AJACCIO - SARTÈNE - BONIFACIO

After breakfast at the hotel, depart for Sartène, a delightful village steeped in history, known for its tales of piracy and banditry. Having left its turbulent past behind, the town now offers a serene atmosphere with its stone houses and quiet streets. Continue to Bonifacio, dramatically perched on cliffs overlooking the sea and nestled around a small fjord that plunges into the stunning waters of the Strait of Bonifacio. After exploring this







breathtaking locale, transfer to the hotel for an overnight stay.

## **OPTIONAL EXCURSION:**

## **Boat Tour: Discovering Bonifacio**

A visit to Bonifacio is incomplete without a boat tour to explore the cliffs, beautiful caves, true gems set in the white limestone cliffs, charming coves, and to admire the Staircase of the King of Aragon.

DAY 17 - FRIDAY

# BONIFACIO - SANTA TERESA DI GALLURA - OLBIA

Breakfast at the hotel and return by ferry to Sardinia. Transfer to

the hotel and free time.

## **OPTIONAL EXCURSION:**

## Costa Esmeralda, the Jewel of Sardinia

The tour visits the most famous villages of the Costa Smeralda, a favorite vacation spot for international celebrities from the worlds of fashion and cinema: Baja Sardinia, one of the most beloved destinations of the Costa Smeralda, located across from the La Maddalena archipelago. Porto Rotondo, a cornerstone of both national and international tourism, a true gem alongside Porto Cervo. Porto Cervo, a jewel of the Gulf of Arzachena, symbolizes unrestrained luxury and represents the quintessence of the Costa Smeralda with its dreamy beaches, crystal-clear waters, and glamorous social life.

## DAY 18 - SATURDAY

## **OLBIA**

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the airport/station. End of service.



## PLANNED HOTELS OR SIMILAR

#### Milan

Best Western Antares Concorde/ Starhotel Ritz / Starhotel E.c.h.o/ WorldHotel Casati 18/ Windsor Hotel/ Milan Marriott/ Antares Hotel Rubens / Best Western City/ Unahotels Scandinavia/ Unahotels Mediterraneo/ NH Nhow or similar

#### La Spezia

CDH Hotel La Spezia/ Hotel Firenze e Continentale/ The Poet Hotel/ Hotel Ghironi/ NH La Spezia or similar

#### Florence

Hotel Grifone/ Hotel Palazzo dal Borgo/ Cellai Boutique Hotel/ FH55 Hotel Mediterraneo/Hotel Albani/ Grand Hotel Adriatico/ NH Firenze/ Smarthotel Derose or similar

#### Rome

Hotel Gambrinus/ Hotel Napoleon/ Romanico Palace Luxury Hotel / IH Cicerone/ Palladium Palace/ Best Western Ars Hotel/ Club House Hotel/ NH Villa Carpegna/ Al Manthia Hotel/ DoubleTree by Hilton Rome Monti or similar

#### Olbia

Hotel Mercure Olbia/ Hotel For You/ Grand Hotel President/ Hotel Martini/ Hotel Panorama or similar

#### Bastia

Hotel Posta Vecchia/ Hotel Des Gouverneurs/ Best Western Hotel Montecristo/ Hotel Port Toga or similar

#### Ajaccio

Hotel Fesch & Spa/ Hotel Castel Vecchio/ Hotel Napoleon/ Hotel San Carlu Citadelle/ Hotel Campo Dell'Oro or similar

#### Bonifacio

Santa Teresa Hotel/ Best Western Hotel du Roy D'Aragon/ Hotel Le Caravelle/ Hotel U Capu Biancu or similar

## THE PRICE INCLUDES:

- 16 nights of accommodation in a double room at the mentioned hotels with breakfast included.
- 1 night on a ferry in a double cabin with breakfast included; dinner is also provided on the ferry.
- Transportation in a Gran Turismo bus or tourist minibus with onboard WIFI included.
- Private arrival and departure transfers.
- Assistance of a English-speaking tour guide throughout the trip.
- Guided tours with a licensed English-speaking local guide in: Milan

APRIL: 23
MAY: 21
SEPTEMBER: 10 - 2

From € 5.181.per person in DOUBLE occupancy

From € 5.166.per person in TRIPLE occupancy

SINGLE supplement: From € 1.835.-Half Board supplement: € 889.-

- Borromean Islands Como Villa Carlotta Cinque Terre Florence Rome Aleria Bastia Ile Rousse Calvi Ajaccio Sartene.
- Audioguides available throughout the journey.
- Included entry tickets to: Milan Cathedral (Duomo), Borromean Islands, Villa Carlotta, Pitti Palace in Florence, Colosseum, Archaeological Museum of Aleria, Governors' Palace in Bastia, Bonaparte House Museum in Ajaccio
- Boat transfer to the Borromean Islands.
- Lunch on Isola dei Pescatori with traditional local dishes and drinks included.
- Boat transfer to Lake Como.
- Dinner in Milan with local specialties.
- Boat transfer to Portofino and Santa Margherita Ligure.
- Boat or train transfer to Cinque Terre.
- Train transfer to Rome.
- · Dinner in Rome featuring local cuisine.
- Ferry transfer from Civitavecchia to Olbia.
- Ferry transfer from Santa Teresa di Gallura to Bonifacio and back.

\*IMPORTANT: Portofino and Santa Margherita Ligure, Lake Maggiore, and Lake Como – In case of adverse weather conditions, the excursion may be canceled without prior notice, or the itinerary may be subject to changes without prior notice

## THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Flights to/from Italy
- Any internal connections or transfers to reach the starting point of the tour
- City tax
- Beverages during meals, unless expressly indicated under "The price includes"
- Luggage handling, tips, and general or personal extras
- Optional excursions
- Assistance and cancellation insurance (optional and upon request)
- Anything not specifically mentioned in the program and in the section "The price includes"

NOTE: FOR INQUIRIES REGARDING RATES FOR PRE AND POST-TOUR NIGHTS OR EXTRA NIGHTS IN THE RESPECTIVE CITIES, PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERAL CONDITIONS AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT.

