

# ALPS AND MOUNTAIN TOWNS

# AUD 7080

## 24 DAY TOUR, DEPARTS: 1 JULY 2019

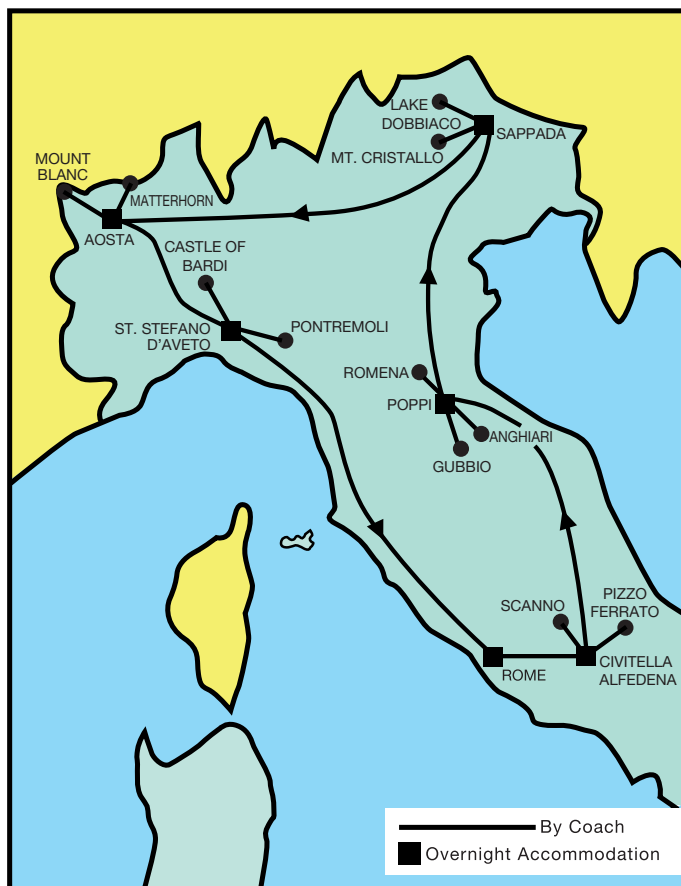
(Share Twin)

FLYING  
 CATHAY PACIFIC

LAND ONLY **AUD 5350**

**FOUR NIGHTS IN EVERY HOTEL !!**

**GROUP SIZE: 14 PASSENGERS**



## AT YOUR OWN COST

- Meals, other than those included in the package. (Optional group dinners in picturesque restaurants will be arranged at special reduced prices).
- Entry tickets into: museums, monasteries, fortresses and castles.
- Cable cars and chairlifts.
- Single accommodation supplement.
- Travel Insurance.

**SINGLE SUPPL. \$1480**

**OPTIONAL DINNERS:  
3 COURSE MEAL & WINE \$50**

## WEATHER

From mild conditions in day time to cool conditions at night  
Max Day Temp 18-23°C - Min Night 09-14°C

This tour is focusing on some of the most beautiful landscapes and picturesque towns of the Alps, Dolomites and Appennini Mountain Range.

Our relaxed approach with easy gradient short optional walks and a number of chairlift/cable cars makes it suitable for everyone.

Our hotels, located at altitudes between 500 and 1200 meters will guarantee pleasant nights away from the hot temperatures typical of the month of July.

## INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- Return air travel to Italy flying Cathay Pacific economy class with all taxes included.
- Nine gastronomic dinners with 1/4 bottle of wine and 1/2 bottle of mineral water included!
- Three and four star hotel accommodation (bed and breakfast). Some hotels are set in high spectacular positions and offer excellent panoramic views of the surrounding areas.
- Modern air conditioned mini coach with English-speaking tour manager.
- A wide range of local excursions available daily from all the major centres of the itinerary. These tours, provided at no extra cost, are on an optional basis.
- Optional extension to your international ticket.

**Mon 1 Jul** – Departure from Australia flying Cathay Pacific to Rome, via Hong Kong.

**Sun 2 Jul 07.30** – Arrival at Rome Airport. Departure for Civitella Alfedena, a picturesque mountain village (at 1,100m) surrounded by forests, in high position, above a scenic little lake. **14.30** – Arrival at the hotel. Afternoon at leisure. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel (included).

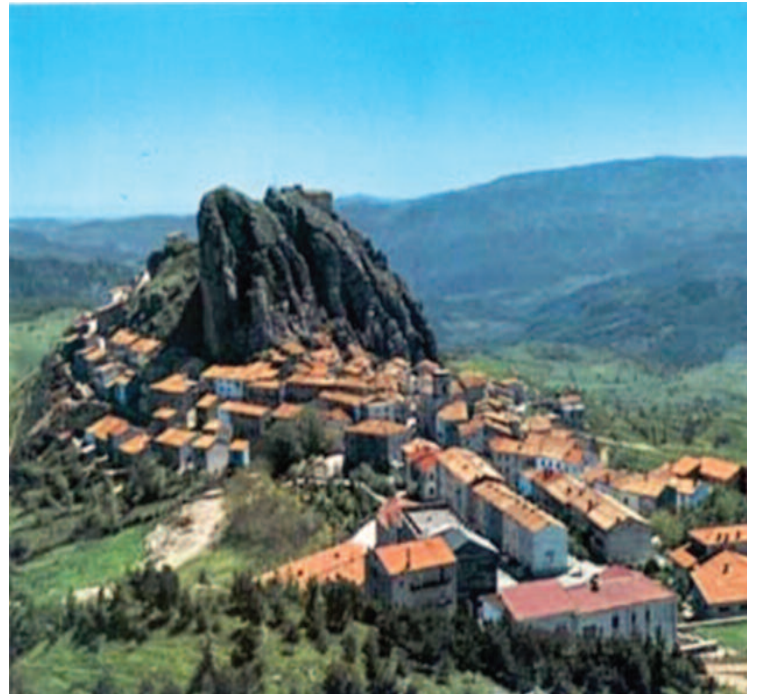


*The village of Civitella Alfedena – Abruzzo National Park*

**Wed 3 Jul 09.30** – Scenic drive to Pescasseroli, an ancient village in the heart of the Abruzzo National Park, where bears, chamois and wolves still live in the wilderness. Relax and stroll in Pescasseroli. **11.00** – Visit to National Park Centre. **13.00** – Return to hotel. **15.00** – Excursion to the Chamois Valley. Scenic drive + easy scenic walk. **17.30** – Departure for Civitella Alfedena. **19.30** – Optional dinner in picturesque local restaurant.



*The Chamois Valley – Abruzzo National Park*



*Pizzoferrato – Abruzzo Region*

**Thu 4 Jul 08.30** – Scenic drive through the Appennini Mountain Range which in this area display a very pristine landscape alongside traditional villages where the clock seems to have stopped a long time ago. Our trip includes a few panoramic stops. First we stop at Pizzoferrato for sightseeing and a short scenic walk. Then we continue to visit the village of Gamberale with its imposing castle built on a cliff at 1,350m. After lunch in picturesque restaurant we drive to Barrea set in a panoramic spot on the banks of a lake. This town boasts an impeccable medieval architecture as well as a fortress with sweeping views over the lake. **16.30** – Arrival back in Civitella Alfedena. **19.30** – Very special optional gastronomic dinner in the nearby village of Villetta Barrea.



**Fri 5 Jul 08.30** – Scenic drive across high rising mountains to Scanno, a small picturesque town built on a mountain spur (at 1,100m) with an oriental flavour whose origins are still a mystery. On the way to Scanno we stop briefly at the scenic Pass of Godi (1,600m). Then it's downhill to Scanno. Local orientation and time at leisure. **13.30** – Departure from Scanno for a short drive to Lake Scanno. Local sightseeing and time at leisure. **15.00** – Departure from Lake Scanno. **17.00** – Arrival back in Civitella Alfedena. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel (included).



*Costumes in Scanno - Abruzzo Region*



*Poppi – Eastern Tuscany*

**Sat 6 Jul 08.30** – Departure for Poppi, located in a panoramic position on top of a scenic hill (at 500m) in the Eastern Appennini mountain range of Tuscany. This picturesque town is still in pristine condition surrounded by an impeccable circle of medieval walls and has been miraculously by passed by the herds of tourists who invade Tuscany. **17.00** – Arrival in Poppi. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel restaurant (included).

**Sun 7 Jul 08.30** – Local orientation in Poppi, covering the main highlights and time at leisure. **13.30** – Departure from Poppi for a scenic drive to the Eremo of Camaldoli (at 1,120m). Local visit and return to Poppi. **17.00** – Arrival at the hotel. **19.30** – Optional dinner.



*Gubbio – Umbria Region*



*Downtown Gubbio*

**Mon 8 Jul 08.30** – Departure for Gubbio (at 520m), one of the most picturesque towns of the Umbria Region. Its impeccably preserved medieval architecture and prominent highlights maintain the fascinating ambience of bygone times. **11.00** – Arrival, local orientation and time at leisure with plenty of options to choose from, including a cable car taking you up to 827m. **14.30** – Departure from Gubbio. **17.00** – Arrival back in Poppi. **19.30** – Optional dinner.





*Anghiari – Eastern Tuscany*



*Sappada – Dolomites*

**Tue 9 Jul 08.30** – Panoramic circuit of the charming eastern countryside of Tuscany boasting impressive highlights: Caprese-Michelangelo on a hilltop (at 650m) features the house where Michelangelo was born; Anghiari, a lovely small town built on a hillside and still circled by medieval walls. **15.00** – Arrival in Poppi. **16.00** – Departure for the nearby Castle of Romena, located on a spectacular peak at 650m overlooking a pretty traditional Tuscan landscape. It dates back to the 10th century. **18.00** – Arrival back in Poppi. **19.30** – Optional dinner.

**Wed 10 Jul 08.30** – Departure for Sappada (1,200m) in the spectacular mountain chain of the Dolomites which are unique to Italy and also listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. **16.00** – Arrival in Sappada. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel (included).

**Thu 11 Jul 08.30** – Brief scenic walk through the picturesque old district of Sappada. Chairlift to a panoramic chalet at 2,000m with sweeping views of the Dolomites. Relax and enjoy. Go for a scenic walk. Lunch at the chalet or return to Sappada at time of your choice. **15.00** – Easy local scenic walk on the banks of a clear stream, flanked by the impressive vertical peaks of the Dolomites. **19.30** – Optional dinner.



*Chairlift at Mt. Cristallo*



*Cable car at Falzarego Pass – Dolomites*

**Fri 12 Jul 08.30** – Super spectacular drive into the heart of the Dolomites. At Mt. Cristallo a chairlift + cable car will take you to a chalet at 2,900m with breathtaking views. After descending from the chalet we continue to Cortina d'Ampezzo, the "Pearl of the Dolomites" at 1,200m for some sightseeing and lunch. We then drive up to the Falzarego Pass at 2,100m where a spectacular cable car will take you up to a panoramic chalet at 3,000m. And after this unforgettable "Grand Finale" we return to Sappada. **18.00** – Arrival back at the hotel. **19.30** – Optional dinner.





*Lake Antorno – Dolomites*



*Lunch at Lake Dobbiaco – Dolomites*

**Sat 13 Jul 08.30** – Start of another spectacular day!! First stop is at Lake Misurina (1,800m) with a background of high Dolomitic peaks. Local sightseeing and easy scenic walk. Continuation to nearby Lake Antorno (1,900m). Then we drive downhill to Lake Dobbiaco (1,200m) for lunch. From Lake Dobbiaco we return to Sappada via alternative scenic route. **17.00** – Arrival in Sappada. **19.30** – Optional dinner.



*Mt. Matterhorn (4,478m) is half Italian half Swiss*



*Cable cars over the glaciers of Mount Blanc*

**Sun 14 Jul 08.30** – Departure for Aosta (at 600m). Aosta is an historic town of ancient Roman origins and it's the capital of the Region of Valle d'Aosta. This is mostly a freeway journey. **17.30** – Arrival at Aosta. **19.30** – Local dinner (included).

**Mon 15 Jul 08.30** – Sightseeing orientation covering the main historical highlights of Aosta. Afternoon at leisure. **19.30** – Optional dinner.

**Tue 16 Jul 08.30** – Spectacular scenic drive to Cervinia (2,050m), a resort at the foot of the Matterhorn (peak of 4,478m). To most people the Matterhorn is synonymous of Switzerland .... but only the northern 50% is Swiss. The southern half is Italian, known in Italy as Mt. Cervino. **10.00** – Arrival at Cervinia. Local sightseeing and optional cable cars can easily fill your time !

There are three prominent cable cars. The first one can take you up to Plan de la Maison at 2,550m. From Plan de La Maison another two super spectacular cable cars can take you up to the perennial glaciers of Plateau Rosa at 3,500m. **17.00** – Arrival back in Aosta. **19.30** – Optional dinner.

**Wed 17 Jul 08.30** – Departure for Courmayeur (1,200m) at the foot of Mount Blanc, the highest peak in Europe (4,810m). From Courmayeur a series of three cable cars will take you through one of the most fantastic scenic journeys you could ever dream of, “flying” high above spectacular glaciers and immaculate white peaks at more than 3,500m all the way into France to the peak of Aiguille du Midi at 3,843m ! **17.00** – Arrival back in Aosta. **19.30** – Optional dinner.





*St. Stefano d'Aveto*

**Thu 18 Jul 08.30** – Departure for St. Stefano d'Aveto (at 1,000m) on the Appennini Mountain Range which, in this area borders on the shores of the Italian Riviera for its entire length. St. Stefano d'Aveto is a winter and summer resort with excellent facilities and historic features as well. **16.00** – Arrival in St. Stefano d'Aveto. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel (included).



*Castle of Bardi*



*Typical alley at St. Stefano d'Aveto*

**Fri 19 Jul 08.30** – Departure for a scenic drive, north of St. Stefano d'Aveto, in the province of Parma, which before the unification of Italy in 1861, was a wealthy independent Grand Duchy with quite a few outstanding castles and luxurious residences. We have selected two of the most prominent castles in the district. First we visit the Bardi Castle which represents one of the most significant examples of military architecture in Northern Italy. After lunch in Bardi we drive to the Castle of Compiano which is most impressive not just for its powerful and imposing architecture but also for its elaborate inner decorations, frescoes and classic furniture. **17.00** – Arrival back at the hotel. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel (included).



*The heritage village of Compiano*





*The historic town of Pontremoli lies set in a green valley on the northern tip of Tuscany*

**Sat 20 Jul 08.30** – Scenic drive across a couple of spectacular passes to the historic town of Pontremoli, set in a green lush valley of Northern Tuscany and renowned for its heritage architecture as well as its imposing medieval castle. **10.45** – Arrival in Pontremoli. Local orientation and time at leisure. **14.30** – Departure. **16.45** – Arrival back in St. Stefano d’Aveto. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel (included).

**Sun 21 Jul 08.30** – Optional local chair lift to a panoramic chalet at 1,600m. From the chalet you can enjoy – if you so wish – an easy scenic walk. Afternoon: Time at leisure before your long flight back to Australia.

**Mon 22 Jul 08.30** – Departure for Rome Airport. **18.00** – Arrival at Rome Airport – Fiumicino.

**Tue 23 Jul 09.00** – Independent transfer (without guide) to International Terminal by way of hotel shuttle. **12.30** – Cathay Pacific flight back to Australia. **Wed 24 Jul** – Arrival in Australia.

## HOTELS

**We believe that you are entitled to know exactly what you get for your money and that’s why we clearly state not only the number of stars but also the location of the hotels we use.**

**Unless you are in a rush tour, where you get to the hotel late at night and leave early morning, we do believe that a good location makes a world of difference to the quality of your holiday.**

**Civitella Alfedena:** Hotel VALDIROSE. Three star hotel in a most spectacular location, overlooking a picturesque mountain lake. It’s a stylish small complex which blends perfectly with the immaculate medieval architecture of this 12th century historic village, set in the heart of the National Park of Abruzzo.

[www.hotelvaldirose.com](http://www.hotelvaldirose.com)

**Poppi:** Hotel CASENTINO. Charming picturesque three star hotel set on the top panoramic square of this hill town, right in front of a majestic castle overlooking a traditional tuscan landscape.

[www.albergocasentino.it](http://www.albergocasentino.it)

**Sappada:** Hotel BLADEN. Quality three star hotel built in typical alpine architecture in this premium resort of the Dolomites. Its central location close to all amenities makes it an ideal choice. [www.hotelbladen.it](http://www.hotelbladen.it)

**Aosta:** Hotel DUCA d’AOSTA. Classy four star hotel in the heart of this historic town of ancient Roman origins, flanked by some of the highest alpine peaks. Yet is located in a quiet cul de sac facing a pretty small square.

[www.alpissima.it](http://www.alpissima.it)

**Santo Stefano d’Aveto:** GRAND HOTEL SIVA. It’s an outstanding superior class three star complex with a private park adjacent to town centre. It boasts sweeping views of the valley. [www.grandhotelsiva.it](http://www.grandhotelsiva.it)

**Rome Airport:** Hotel COMFORT. Four star hotel in the picturesque village of Fiumicino, 3km from the airport.

[www.comforthotelfiumicino.com](http://www.comforthotelfiumicino.com)

### TOTAL ACCOMMODATION - 21 NIGHTS

4 in Civitella Alfedena, 4 in Poppi, 4 in Sappada, 4 in Aosta, 4 in St. Stefano d’Aveto, 1 at Rome Airport.