

# ITALY: TOUR-1 AUD 8980

24 DAY TOUR, DEPARTS: 18 APR 2019

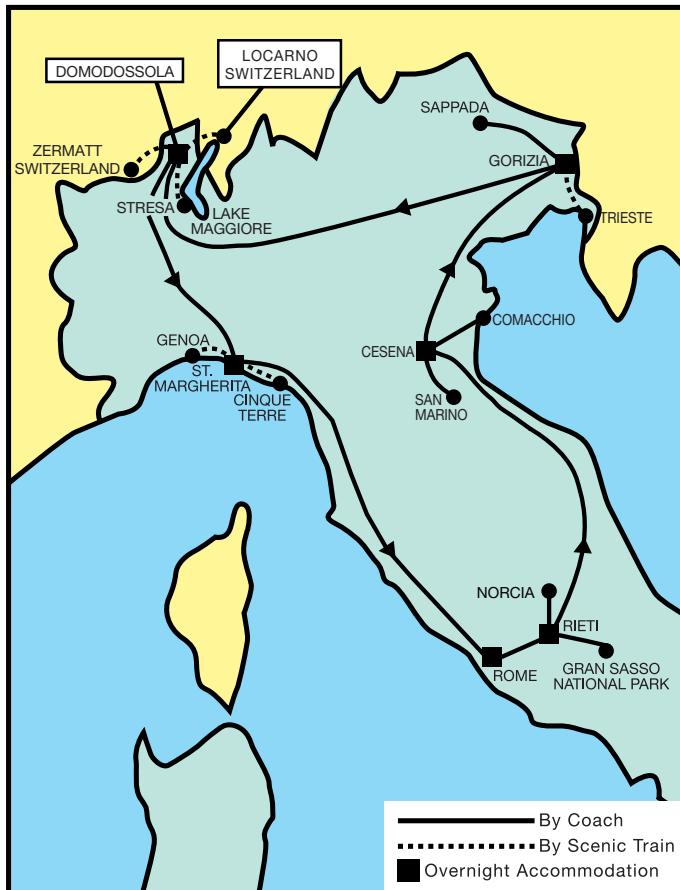
(Share Twin)



**LAND ONLY AUD 7300**

**FOUR NIGHTS IN EVERY HOTEL !!**

**FOUR STARS IN EVERY HOTEL !!**



## 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, palaces, fortresses and castles.
- Cable cars at Locarno and Zermatt in Switzerland.
- Cog-train to Mt. Matterhorn in Switzerland.
- Single accommodation supplement.
- Travel Insurance.

**SINGLE SUPPL. AUD 1840**

**OPTIONAL DINNERS:  
3 COURSE MEAL & WINE AUD 50**

## WEATHER

From mild conditions on the coast to cool conditions in the Alps  
IN THE CENTRE: Max Day Temp 18-23°C - Min Night 09-14°C  
IN THE NORTH: Max Day Temp 15-20°C - Min Night 07-11°C

## INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- Return air travel to Italy flying Cathay Pacific economy class with all taxes included.
- Seven gastronomic dinners with 1/4 bottle of wine and 1/2 bottle of mineral water included!
- 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 motor 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.
- Exclusive navigation in the Delta of River Po Regional Park.
- Cable car at the Republic of San Marino.
- Taxi boat from Stresa to Bella Island.
- Scenic train to Zermatt, Switzerland.
- Spectacular scenic train across Italian and Swiss Alps to Locarno, northern Lake Maggiore.
- Spectacular scenic train with a "go as you please pass" along the Cinque Terre to enable you to stop at different villages.
- Optional extension to your international ticket.



Miramare Castle

# SOME HIGHLIGHTS

**Norcia** – It's one of the most elegant and best preserved medieval towns in central Italy, still circled by impressive defence walls. It rises at 600m in a green unspoilt valley of the National Park of Mts. Sibillini. Norcia is renowned for its black truffles and offers a wide range of truffle based dishes.

**San Marino** – It's one of the oldest small republics in Europe, dating back to the 11th century. It rises in splendid panoramic isolation at 750m and the easiest access is by cable car. From an architectural point of view it's considered one of the greatest outdoor museums of the world because of its medieval features.

**Trieste** – This very elegant city, located in a beautiful gulf of the Adriatic sea has been part of the Austrian Empire until a century ago when, after the first world war, it was annexed to the Italian Kingdom. The Viennese architecture and Austrian style coffee houses still dominate the streets of Trieste.

**Sappada** – The spectacular mountain chain of the Dolomites are unique to Italy and also listed by UNESCO as a world heritage site. We have selected Sappada for its sheer beauty and excellent facilities. An easy local walk will enable you to enjoy the beauty of these mountains with their awesome vertical peaks.

**Cinque Terre** – It's one of the most impressive coastlines in Italy, dotted with picturesque villages perched on cliffs and steep slopes plunging into the blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea. A high frequency train links the five villages, thanks to a series of tunnels through the rocky coastline, providing scenic views at every exit.

**Genoa** – Along with Venice, Genoa was a Sea Republic exerting its power over the Mediterranean between the 11th and 15th century. Its magnificent architecture is so impressive that Richard Wagner commented: "Paris and London if compared with this divine city disappear as simple aggregations of buildings and roads".

## PROGRAM

**Thu 18 Apr** – Departure from Australia flying Cathay Pacific to Rome via Hong Kong.

**Fri 19 Apr 07.30** – Arrival at Rome Airport. Departure by coach to Rieti (400m): a well preserved medieval town in a high position on top of a hill flanked by snowy peaks. **11.00** – Arrival at the hotel. **15.00** – Brief walking orientation downtown. **19.30** – Local dinner (included).



*The serene village of Piediluco on the banks of its lake*

**Sat 20 Apr** – Morning at leisure in Rieti. **14.30** – Short scenic drive (45 min) to Lake Piediluco in picturesque setting amongst unspoilt green hills. Local sightseeing and time at leisure. **16.30** – Return to Rieti. **19.30** – Optional dinner.

**Sun 21 Apr 08.30** – Departure for Norcia. **11.00** – Arrival in Norcia, a small picturesque medieval town (at 600m in the National Park of Mts. Sibillini), in a beautiful green valley. Norcia prides itself for its gastronomic traditions. It is renowned for its black truffles and offers a wide range of truffle based dishes. Local orientation and time at leisure. **13.30** – Departure. On the way back, stop at the scenic historic town of Leonessa. **16.30** – Arrival in Rieti. **19.30** – Optional dinner.



*Norcia*



*Gran Sasso National Park - Lake Campotosto*



*The town of Castelli - Abruzzo Region*

**Mon 22 Apr 08.30** – Scenic drive to the Gran Sasso National Park, which encompasses the highest peaks in Central Italy reaching a top of 3,000m. What makes this park very picturesque are the lovely medieval villages which grace the landscape and date back many centuries before the Park was established. First we stop at Campotosto, on the banks of the lake at 1,400m with the background of the Gran Sasso Mountain Range. Then we continue along a scenic road to the village of Castelli, famous in the Abruzzo Region for its ceramic tradition. Lunch and sightseeing at Castelli. **17.00** – Arrival in Rieti. **19.30** – Optional dinner.



*Cittá di Castello*

**Tue 23 Apr 08.30** – Departure for Cesena, one of the most prominent cities of the Romagna Region. This is mostly a freeway journey, but we break for sightseeing and lunch in the picturesque town of Città di Castello. **17.00** – Arrival in Cesena. **19.00** – Local dinner (included).



*Downtown Cesena*

**Wed 24 Apr 08.30** – Orientation in Cesena, covering the main architectural highlights of this historic city. Afternoon at leisure. **19.30** – Optional dinner.



*Town of Comacchio and our exclusive navigation in the nearby Regional Park of the Delta of the River Po*

**Thu 25 Apr 08.30** – Departure for the town of Comacchio, graced by a network of picturesque canals. **10.00** – Arrival, local sightseeing and time at leisure. **11.30** – Continuation on a scenic road to River Po Delta Regional Park. Lunch in beautiful setting. **14.00** – Local navigation by exclusive boat along the untouched canals of the Delta of River Po. **17.30** – Arrival in Cesena. **19.30** – Optional dinner.



*Republic of San Marino: The Government Palace and the fortification system*

**Fri 26 Apr 08.30** – Departure for San Marino, the oldest small republic in Europe. It rises at 750m on the steep cusp of Mt. Titano and it dates back to the 11th century. The access is obviously difficult, but a modern cable car will enable us to get to San Marino easily. **10.00** – Arrival and local orientation. Time at leisure. **13.30** – Departure from San Marino. On the way back we stop at Gradara, a fascinating small medieval town featuring an impeccable pristine architecture. **17.00** – Arrival back in Cesena. **19.30** – Optional dinner. **Sat 27 Apr 08.30** – Departure for Gorizia, a very elegant city which has been part of the Austrian Empire until a century ago. Austrian influence is still evident in the city architecture. **13.00** – Arrival in Gorizia. **15.00** – Local orientation covering the main architectural highlights and the local castle. **19.30** – Dinner in local restaurant (included).



*Gorizia - St. Antonio Square and our hotel on the right*

**Sun 28 Apr** – Morning at leisure in Gorizia. **13.30** – Departure for Miramare Castle, This sumptuous castle was developed by Maximilian of Hapsburg, heir to the throne of Austria in the 19th century. **14.30** – Arrival and local visit. The castle also boasts a beautiful park. **16.00** – Departure for Gorizia. **19.30** – Optional dinner.



*Trieste's main city square is in prime seaside location*

**Mon 29 Apr 08.30** – Departure by train to Trieste, a major elegant city by the sea. **09.30** – Arrival and local orientation covering the main architectural highlights, including Trieste's panoramic castle. Time at leisure with plenty of options to choose from. **17.00** – Departure from Trieste. **19.30** – Optional dinner.



*Sappada - Dolomites*



*An alley in Gemona*

**Tue 30 Apr 08.30** – Scenic drive to Sappada (1,200m) in the heart of the Eastern Dolomites **10.30** – Arrival in Sappada. Easy scenic walk along the banks of a crystal clear stream, flanked by the spectacular vertical walls of the Dolomites. After lunch we drive south to the historic town of Gemona. Local orientation and some time at leisure. **17.00** – Arrival back in Gorizia. **19.30** – Optional dinner.

**Wed 1 May 08.30** – Departure for Domodossola, an historic town set amongst high Alpine peaks. Porticos and picturesque alleys give this town a special "old fashion" charm. This is an easy freeway journey. **17.00** – Arrival in Domodossola. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel (included).

**Thu 2 May 09.30** – Departure from Domodossola, boarding a scenic train travelling across Italian and Swiss Alps to reach Locarno on the banks of the Swiss northern part of Lake Maggiore. **11.20** – Arrival, guided orientation and time at leisure. Optional cable car. **14.50** – Departure from Locarno. **16.40** – Arrival in Domodossola. **19.30** – Optional dinner.



*A scenic train crosses the Alps to Locarno in Switzerland*



A spectacular Swiss cog-train climbs from Zermatt (1,600m) to 3,089m at the foot of the Matterhorn (peak of 4,478m)

**Fri 3 May 08.30** – Departure by train for Zermatt (1,600m) in Switzerland. Train connection in Visp and arrival in Zermatt at 11.15. Time at leisure in this famous resort and three very scenic options: 1) Cog-train to Cornergrat (3,089m) at the foot of the Matterhorn (peak of 4,478m); 2) Cable car to Matterhorn Glacier at 3,883m; 3) Funicular to Sunnegga at 2,300m. **16.30** – Departure from Zermatt arriving in Visp at 17.45. Free time in Visp (local dinner if you wish). **19.30** – Train to Domodossola. **20.10** – Arrival in Domodossola. **20.30** – Optional dinner.



Palace and gardens of Bella Island at Lake Maggiore

Vernazza - Cinque Terre

**Sat 4 May 08.30** – Departure by train for Stresa, a famous resort on the banks of Lake Maggiore. **10.00** – Arrival and time at leisure. **13.30** – Taxi boat to the Isle of Bella (visit to local palace/park). **15.15** – Departure from the island. **16.00** – Train to Domodossola. **19.30** – Optional dinner.

**Sun 5 May 08.30** – Departure for St. Margherita, a very famous resort in the Italian Riviera. This is mostly a freeway journey. **15.00** – Arrival in Santa Margherita. Afternoon at leisure. **19.30** – Dinner at the hotel (included).

**Mon 6 May 08.00** – Scenic train (half an hour) along the Italian Riviera to Monterosso, the first of five villages making up the Cinque Terre. From Monterosso a special “go as you please pass” (included in the package) will enable you to stop independently at any village train station, setting your own pace. The frequent train schedule will give you the maximum flexibility. **17.00** – Train back to Santa Margherita. **19.30** – Optional dinner.

**Tue 7 May 08.30** – Short drive to Portofino, the jewel of the Italian Riviera. Brief sightseeing and scenic walk to the local castle set in high position on a peak towering over the entrance of the small picturesque harbour of Portofino. Time at leisure and lunch in Portofino. **14.30** – Return to Santa Margherita. **19.30** – Optional dinner.



*Downtown Genoa*

**Wed 8 May 08.30** – Scenic train to Genoa, a fascinating city which achieved great prosperity exerting its power over the Mediterranean during the Middle Ages. **09.00** – Arrival, guided sightseeing and time at leisure. **16.30** – Departure. **19.30** – Optional dinner.

**Thu 9 May – 08.30** – Departure for Rome Airport-Fiumicino. This is an easy freeway journey. **16.30** – Arrival at the hotel.

**Fri 10 May 09.00** – Independent transfer (without guide) to international terminal by way of hotel shuttle. **12.30** – Cathay Pacific flight back to Australia.

**Sat 11 May** – 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.**

**Rieti:** Hotel QUATTRO STAGIONI. This historic four star Grand Hotel is set in the main square of the city. It features large rooms with classic furniture. Best hotel in Rieti.

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

**Cesena:** Hotel CASALI. It's the best four star hotel with a privileged location only ten minutes walk from the main square and city highlights.

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

**Gorizia:** GRAND HOTEL ENTOURAGE. It's a four star luxury historic palace which was the French Royal Family Residence in XIX century. Unparalleled location.

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

**Domodossola:** Hotel CORONA. It's the best four star hotel in the city centre, only a few minutes walk from the picturesque Market Square, graced by beautiful ancient arcades.

[www.coronahotel.net](http://www.coronahotel.net)

**Santa Margherita:** Hotel METROPOLE. Excellent four star hotel in this famous resort of the Riviera, with beautiful gardens and sweeping views over the gulf.

[www.metropole.it](http://www.metropole.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 Rieti, 4 in Cesena, 4 in Gorizia, 4 in Domodossola, 4 in St. Margherita Ligure, 1 at Rome Airport.