TAILOR MADE RAIL

Grand Tour of Italy

From £2,399 per person // 21 days

This epic exploration of Italy's finest cities and most beautiful countryside takes you from Venice down to Sicily and back. En route, visit the elegant cities of Rome and Florence, relax on the Amalfi Coast and cruise on Lake Como.

The Essentials

- Nine fantastic destinations in three weeks
- The cultural capitals of Venice, Rome and Florence combined with Lake Como and the destinations of the Amalfi Coast and Catania in Sicily
- Return rail travel to Italy via Munich on the way out and Zurich on the return

Tailor make your holiday

- Decide when you would like to travel
- Adapt the route to suit your plans
- Upgrade your hotels
- Add extra nights, destinations and/or tours

What's included

- Standard Class rail travel with seat reservations
- 20 nights' handpicked hotel accommodation with breakfast
- City maps and comprehensive directions to your hotels
- Clearly-presented wallets for your rail tickets, hotel vouchers and other documentation
- All credit card surcharges and complimentary delivery of your travel documents

- Suggested Itinerary -

Day 1 - London To Munich

Leave London St Pancras late morning and take the Eurostar to Brussels Midi. Here, connect onto a service to Munich, via Frankfurt. You will arrive in the late evening so you might like to stock up on food for the second leg of the journey in Frankfurt, or enjoy dinner in the restaurant car on the train. Upon arrival, check into the Courtyard by Marriott City Centre (or similar) for an overnight stay.

Day 2 - Munich To Venice Via The Brenner Pass

Take one of Europe's most scenic journeys as you cross the Alps through Austria's Tyrol region and into Italy over the famous Brenner Pass. Glide across the lagoon into the heart of Venice island and alight the train into the bustle of Santa Lucia station. Take the Vaporetto down the Grand Canal to the Giorgione Hotel (or similar) where you will spend 2 nights.

Day 3 - Venice

Spend a full day exploring magical Venice. Gravitate towards St Mark's Square, the regal piazza that opens out onto the mouth of the Grand Canal and the Venetian Lagoon. Elsewhere, don't miss the art collection at the Accademia, or a boat ride to one of the other islands in the lagoon, such as Murano or Burano. TMR RECOMMENDS: Stay longer in Venice so that you have more time to explore this unique city.

Days 4, 5 & 6 - Rome

After a leisurely breakfast, take a train of just under 4 hours to Rome, arriving in the afternoon. Check into The Guardian Hotel (or similar) for your 3-night stay. Spend two full days exploring this iconic destination and its landmarks including the Colosseum and Roman Forum, the Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain, and the Vatican City including St Peter's Cathedral and the Sistine Chapel.

Days 7 & 8 - Vietri Sul Mare

In the morning, board a direct train of less than 2 hours to Salerno. Take a short taxi ride to the Hotel Raito (or similar) in Vietri sul Mare at the eastern end of the Amalfi Coast. You will have a 2-night stay here. From your base in Vietri you will be able to explore this stunning stretch of coastline at leisure. Don't miss visits to stunning Positano or the lovely town of Amalfi itself, both carved out of the cliffs along the Amalfi Coast.

Day 9 - Amalfi Coast To Sicily

Take a mid-morning train from Salerno station that runs down the western coast of Italy and right onto the “toe” arriving at the Straits of Messina. The train then runs onto a boat as you cross the Straits, seamlessly connecting with the Sicilian rail network and onwards down to Catania. Upon arrival, check in at the centrally located Romano House Hotel (or similar) for your 4-night stay.

Days 10, 11 & 12 - Catania, Sicily

Enjoy three full days at leisure in the historic port city of Catania on the Ionian Sea. There’s plenty to discover here including a richly decorated cathedral and the Castello Ursino housing a museum of Catania’s history. For the more adventurous types, it’s possible to take in a tour to Mount Etna, the tallest active volcano in Europe. Jeep safaris and trekking tours are also possible. Ask one of the team for details.

Day 13 - Catania To Naples

Board a direct train from Catania to Naples, arriving in the afternoon. Check into the Grand Hotel Parker’s (or similar), for an overnight stay on a quiet hilltop overlooking Mount Vesuvius and the Bay of Naples. Naples is one of the oldest cities in the world with plenty of attractions to discover. No visit here would be complete without trying a slice of pizza in the city where the pizza was born!

Days 14, 15 & 16 - Florence

Take a short train journey from Naples to Florence, the stunning capital of Tuscany, and check into the Hotel Berchielli (or similar) for a 3-night stay. Explore the UNESCO World Heritage listed historic centre and famous sights including the magnificent cathedral and the Boboli Gardens. Take a memorable day trip to Pisa and the Cinque Terre, a collection of pastel-coloured villages dotted along the Ligurian coastline.

Days 17, 18 & 19 - Lake Como

Travel from Florence to beautiful Lake Como via an easy platform change in Milan. Upon arrival, check in for 3 nights at the Barchetta Excelsior Hotel (or similar), located right on the waterfront. Spend your two full days exploring the pretty town of Como, or head to the pier where you can board boats to a range of destinations up and down the lake. Visit Cernobbio and its famous millionaires’ villas, or the smaller resorts of Moltrasio or Faggeto Lario for an authentic Lake Como experience.

Day 20 - Lake Como To Zurich

Your grand tour of Italy draws to a close today as you travel from Lake Como to Zurich for your final night. Take a scenic journey through the Gotthard Pass, high in the Alps. Arrive into Zurich and check into the conveniently located Hotel Sorell Rütli (or similar) for an overnight stay. Enjoy an evening strolling the lakeside promenade or wandering through the cobbled streets of the Old Town.

Day 21 - Zurich To London

After breakfast in your hotel, return to the station and take a high-speed train from Zurich to Paris. Here, transfer to the Gare du Nord where you will board your Eurostar back to the UK.

Pricing

From £2,399 per person

Low season (November-March) from £2,399pp

High season (April-October) from £2,799pp

These prices are based on two people sharing a twin or double room. Single supplements will apply for sole occupancy. It is based on Standard Class rail travel and includes seat reservations as necessary. It is based on the best fares on the trains. If you travel during a peak period, particularly at short notice, then supplements may apply.