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TAILOR MADE RAIL

Venice and Lake Garda

From £1,249 per person // 8 days



Combine the unique city of Venice on the Adriatic, with a stay on the shores of Italy's largest and most popular lake on this essential Italian holiday by rail.

The Essentials

- London to Turin by Eurostar and high-speed TGV
- Explore Lake Garda from the resort town of Desenzano
- The canals, cuisine and carnival culture of Venice
- Through the Gotthard base tunnel to Zurich on your way home

Tailor make your holiday

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

What's included

- Standard Class rail travel with seat reservations
- 7 nights' handpicked hotel accommodation with breakfast
- 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 Turin

Board a Eurostar this morning at London St Pancras bound for Paris. On arrival in the French capital make your way to Gare de Lyon, just two stops away on the rapid metro, the RER. Once at Gare de Lyon, your TGV service awaits, taking you across the border into Italy. The journey starts on the high-speed line at speeds of up to 200mph before continuing through the picturesque French and Italian Alps, arriving at the home of Fiat and Juventus shortly after 8pm. Stay overnight at the Starhotels Majestic (or similar).



Day 2 - Turin To Desenzano Del Garda

Spend a free morning in Italy's first capital city, with its fine architecture and fantastic museums. If you have the time, the Egyptian Museum is a must-see. After lunch, board a sleek Eurostar Italia Frecciarossa and zoom across the north of Italy, passing through the large important cities of Milan and Brescia. Before you know it, the train will pull in at the station of Desenzano del Garda / Sirmione, where you alight and make your way to the Hotel Villa Rosa (or similar), right on the shore of the lake.



Days 3 & 4 - Lake Garda

You have two full days at this beautiful Italian lake. If you prefer a more leisurely sojourn, simply relax at one of the pavement cafés or bars at the marina in the town of Desenzano. If you prefer to explore the lake, regular boat services run to the iconic town of Sirmione on a long peninsula, and all the way up the eastern and western shores of the lake to Riva del Garda in the mountainous north.



Day 5 - Desenzano To Venice

This morning you rejoin the rail network for the journey into Venice, which takes just over an hour. Passing through Verona and the flat arable land around the Po delta, you cross the causeway into Venice and arrive at the Mussolini-era Santa Lucia station. Stepping out of this station is a unique experience, as the Grand Canal opens up before you and you couldn't be anywhere else. Take a vaporetto (water-bus) a few stops along the Grand Canal to the Duodo Palace Hotel (or similar), your home for the next 2 nights.



Day 6 - Venice

You have a full day in Venice to explore the charms of this wonderful city. Make an early start and beat the day-tripping crowds by heading down to St Mark's Square – visit the Doge's Palace and see the iconic Bridge of Sighs, before wandering over the the Arsenale district and having a coffee in one of the less touristy cafeterias in this largely residential district. Maybe take a boat trip over to Murano, famous the world over for its glass, or indulge in some culture at the Peggy Guggenheim Museum



Day 7 - Venice To Zurich

It's time to leave Venice this morning as you travel back across northern Italy to Milan on a high-speed Italian train. Once you reach Italy's financial and industrial hub at its imposing Centrale station, you make an easy platform change onto a Swiss EuroCity service, which takes you north. You will first pass Como, where you will catch brief glimpses of the famous lake, and then cross into Switzerland alongside Lake Lugano. The train passes through the 22-mile Gotthard Base Tunnel. When you emerge at the northern entrance to the tunnel, you will soon be alongside Lake Lucerne, and into Zurich in time for dinner. Check in at the Hotel Adler (or similar).



Day 8 - Zurich To London

The swansong to your holiday today comprises of two trains, a TGV Lyria service covering the journey to Paris in 4 hours, followed by a Eurostar to London in 2 hours 30 minutes. The change of station in Paris is once again required, and we provide complimentary metro tickets and directions to make that as hassle-free as possible.

Pricing

From £1,249 per person

Low season (November-March) from £1,249pp

High season (April-October) from £1,499pp

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.