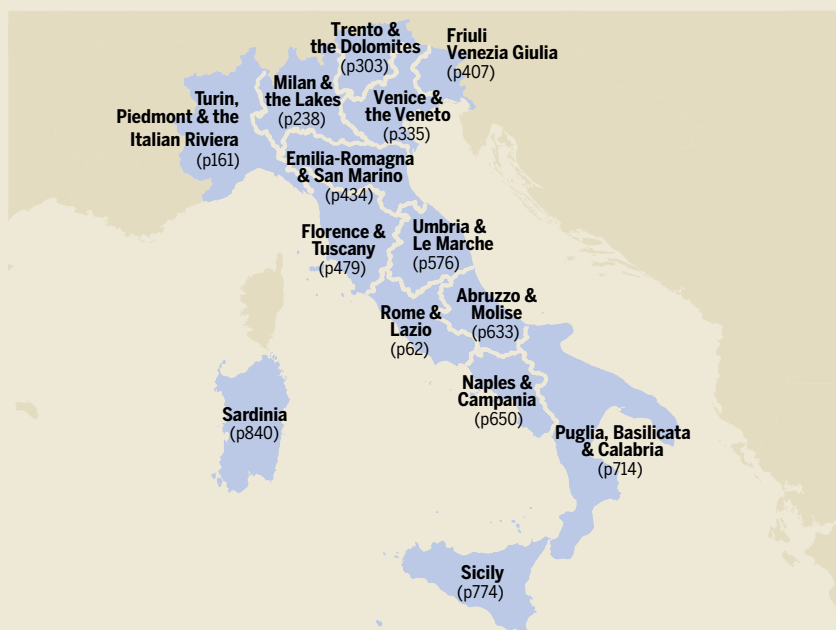




# Italy



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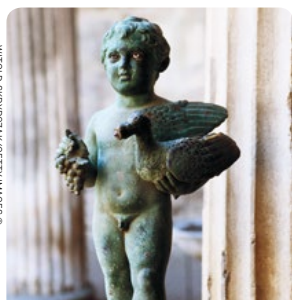
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# Itineraries



## 9 DAYS Italian Highlights

A perfect introduction to Italy, this easy tour ticks off some of the country's most seductive sights, including Roman ruins, Renaissance masterpieces and the world's most beautiful lagoon city.

Start with three days in mighty **Rome**, punctuating blockbuster sights like the Colosseum, Palatine and Sistine Chapel with market grazing in the Campo de' Fiori and late-night revelry in Trastevere.

On day four, head to Renaissance **Florence**. Drop in on Michelangelo's *David* at the Galleria dell'Accademia and pick your favourite Botticelli at the Uffizi Gallery. For a change of pace, escape to the Tuscan countryside on day six for a day trip to Gothic **Siena**.

The following day, continue north for three unforgettable days in **Venice**. Check off musts like the mosaic-encrusted Basilica di San Marco, art-slung Gallerie dell'Accademia and secret passageways of the Palazzo Ducale, then live like a true Venetian, noshing on the city's famous *cicheti* (Venetian tapas), and toasting with a Veneto *prosecco* (sparkling wine).



## Northern Jewels

Like a jewel-studded necklace, this route takes in some of northern Italy's most extraordinary assets, from cultural powerhouse cities to one of Italy's most arresting stretches of coastline.

Begin with three days in **Venice**, its trading port pedigree echoed in the Near East accents of its architecture and the synagogues of its 500-year-old Ghetto. On day four, continue to **Ravenna**, former capital of the Western Roman Empire and home to eight Unesco World Heritage-listed Sites. Among these are the basilicas of San Vitale and Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, adorned with extraordinary Byzantine mosaics.

Spend days six and seven in erudite **Bologna**, home to the world's fifth-largest church and its oldest university. The university district is the location of the Pinacoteca Nazionale, its powerhouse art collection including works by regional master Parmigianino. One of Bologna's fortes is gastronomy, a fact not lost on its deli-packed Quadrilatero district.

Dedicate the next three days to **Florence**. It's here that you'll find many of Western art's most revered works. The city's Renaissance credentials extend to its architecture, which includes Filippo Brunelleschi's show-stopping Duomo dome. Even the city's gardens are manicured masterpieces, exemplified by the supremely elegant Giardino di Boboli.

On day 11, pit-stop in **Pisa** to eye-up the architectural ensemble that makes up the Piazza dei Miracoli, then continue to nearby Renaissance show pony **Lucca**. Spend the following day exploring Lucca's elegant streets, picnicking on its centuries-old ramparts and meditating on Tintoretto's soul-stirring *Last Supper* in the Cattedrale di San Martino. Human ingenuity merges with natural beauty on days 13 and 14, where your sojourn ends among colourful fishing villages and weathered vines of Liguria's fabled **Cinque Terre**.

4  
WEEKS

## The Grand Tour

From salubrious northern cities and lakes to bewitching southern seas and dwellings, this grand tour encapsulates Italy's incredible natural and cultural diversity.

Start in style with two days in **Milan**. Shop its coveted boutiques, dine its hotspot restaurants and demand an encore at its gilded La Scala. Come day three, continue to **Lago di Como** (Lake Como), basing yourself in Como or Bellagio and spending two romantic days among its sublime waterside villas and villages. If you haven't been wooed by Hollywood royalty, continue to **Venice** on day five, where the following trio of days burst with Titians and Tintoretts, artisan studios and convivial *bacari* (Venetian-style bars). On day eight, shoot southwest to **Florence**, allowing three days to tackle its blockbuster art and sink your teeth into its legendary *bistecca alla fiorentina* (T-bone steak). Gluttonous acts are forgiven on day 11 as you travel to the pilgrimage city of **Assisi**, its Gothic basilica lavished with Giotto frescoes. Head southwest to **Rome** on day 13 and spend three full days exploring its two-millennia-worth of temples, churches, piazzas and artistic marvels.

On day 17, slip south to **Naples** and its explosion of baroque architecture and subterranean ruins. Day-trip it to the ruins of Pompeii on day 19, then sail to **Capri** on day 20 for three seductive days of boating, bucolic hikes and piazza-side posing. If it's high season, catch a ferry directly to laidback **Sorrento** on day 23, spending a night in town before hitting the hairpin turns of the glorious Amalfi Coast. Allow two days in chi-chi **Positano**, where you can hike the heavenly Sentiero degli Dei (Walk of the Gods). Spend day 26 in deeply historic **Amalfi** before continuing to sky-high **Ravello**, long-time haunt of composers and Hollywood stars. Stay the night to soak up its understated elegance, and spend the following morning soaking up its uber-romantic gardens. After an evening of bar hopping in upbeat **Salerno**, shoot inland to **Matera** on day 28 to experience its World Heritage-listed *sassi* (former cave dwellings) and dramatic Matera Gravina gorge. Come day 30, continue through to architecturally astounding **Lecce**, the 'Florence of the South' and your final cross-country stop.





## Venice to Milan

Aristocratic villas, renegade frescoes, star-struck lovers and cult-status wines; this easy two-week journey serves up a feast of northern highlights.

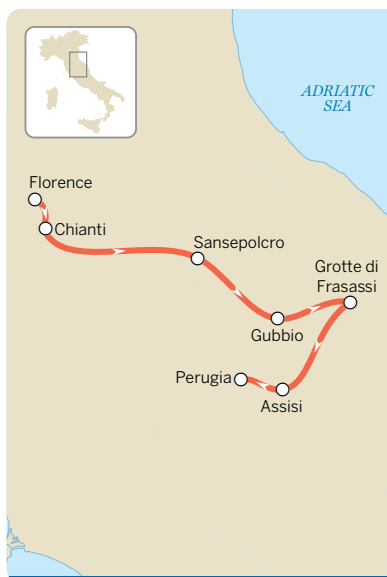
In the 16th century the Venetian summer began early in June, when every household loaded onto barges for a summer sojourn along the **Brenta Riviera**. You too can make like a Venetian on a boat trip along the Riviera after spending a few days in **Venice**. Marvel at the Tiepolo frescoes of Villa Pisani Nazionale, drop in to the Shoemakers' Museum at Villa Foscari Rossi and stop in at Palladio's Villa Foscari.

Boat trips along the Brenta Riviera end in **Padua** where you can overnight overlooking the Basilica di Sant'Antonio. With advance booking, you can see Padua's crowning glory, Giotto's frescoed Scrovegni Chapel.

On day six hop on the train to **Vicenza**. Spend the afternoon watching sunlight ripple across the soaring facades of Palladio's *palazzi* (mansions) and illuminate the Villa Valmarana 'ai Nani', covered floor-to-ceiling with frescoes by Giambattista and Giandomenico Tiepolo, then head on to **Verona** for three or four days.

Here you can view Mantegnas at Basilica di San Zeno Maggiore, and explore modern art at the Galleria d'Arte Moderna Achille Forte. Then listen to opera in the Roman Arena and wander Verona's balconied backstreets where Romeo wooed Juliet. From Verona, consider a day trip northwest to **Valpolicella** to sip highly prized Amarone (red wine) by appointment at Giuseppe Quintarelli, or back east to **Soave** for a sampling of its namesake DOC white wine at Azienda Agricola Coffele.

On day 11 dip southwest to regal **Mantua** for an impressive display of dynastic power and patronage at the Gonzagas' fortified family pad, the Palazzo Ducale. Finish up with a two-day stop in **Cremona** where you can chat with artisans in one of the 100 violin-making shops around Piazza del Comune before hearing them in action at the Teatro Amilcare Ponchielli and then heading on to end your tour in **Milan**.



**10  
DAYS**

## Central Italian Escape

Revered vineyards, medieval hilltop towns and Unesco-lauded artwork: this trip takes in evocative landscapes, from well-trodden Tuscany to lesser-known Umbria and Le Marche.

Begin with two cultured days in **Florence**, then enjoy two decadent days in **Chianti**, toasting to the area's vino and indulging in lazy lunches and countryside cycling. On day five, head east, stopping in tiny **Sansepolcro** to meditate on Pietro della Francesca's trio of masterpieces and calling it a night in the Umbrian hilltop town of **Gubbio**. Spend the following day exploring the town's Gothic streets, then drive into Le Marche on day seven for a guided tour of the incredible **Grotte di Frasassi** cave system. The same day, head back into Umbria to **Assisi**, one of Italy's most beautiful medieval towns. Stay two nights, taking in the frescoes of the Basilica di San Francesco and finding peace on the hiking trails flanking Monte Subasio. Come day nine, make your way to the lively university city of **Perugia**, where your adventure ends with arresting Gothic architecture and world-famous Baci chocolates.



**2  
WEEKS**

## Northeastern Interlude

Discover a lesser-known corner of the country laced with cross-cultural influences, hot-list wines, cult-status charcuterie and stunning Alpine landscapes.

After three days in **Venice**, head east to Trieste via the Roman ruins of **Aquileia** and the medieval heart of **Grado**. Take two days for **Trieste's** gilded cafes, literary heritage and central European air, then catch a ferry to **Muggia**, the only Italian settlement on the Istrian peninsula. On day seven, head inland for celebrated whites in the **Collio** wine region, slumbering among the vines at Terra & Vini. Spend two days in **Udine**, dropping in on the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art and sidestepping to **Cividale dei Friuli**, home to Europe's only surviving example of Lombard architecture and artwork. On day 10, pit-stop in **San Daniele del Friuli** for Italy's best prosciutto before hitting breathtaking mountain scenery on your way to ski town **Cortina d'Ampezzo**. Allow two days to ski in winter or hike in summer. Either way, head south on day 14, stopping for afternoon bubbles in the *prosecco* heartland of **Conegliano** before wrapping things up in Venice.



## 1 WEEK A Lakes Tour

Tickling the snow-capped Alps, Italy's glacial lakes have lured romantics for centuries. Live the dream, if only for a week.

A short drive northwest of Malpensa airport, **Milan**, and you're on the edge of serene Lago Maggiore. Start with three nights in belle époque **Stresa** and visit the lavish **Borromean Islands**: Isola Madre for its romantic gardens and wisteria-clad Staircase of the Dead; and Isola Bella for its priceless art collection, vast ballrooms and shell-encrusted grotto. Take the funicular up to **Monte Mottarone** and day trip to **Lago d'Orta** and bijou **Isola San Giulio**. On day four head north from Stresa to **Verbania**, picnicking amid the tulips of Villa Taranto before gliding east across the lake to **Laveno** and straight on to celebrity haunt **Como**. Amble the flower-laden lakeside to view art exhibits at Villa Olmo before finding a sun lounge at the Lido di Villa Olmo. You could spend days in Como, hiring out boats or hiking the mountainous Triangolo Lariano. If you're ambitious you can walk to chic **Bellagio**. Otherwise, take the lake road and lunch on perch in **Lezzeno** before one last romantic night lakeside.



## 2 WEEKS Southern Coastal Route

Graeco-Roman ruins, a Bourbon palace and some of Italy's most dramatic coastline: crank up the romance on this journey through the sun-baked south.

Rev things up with three days in exhilarating **Naples**, day-tripping it to **Caserta** to explore Italy's largest royal palace. On day four, head south to the Amalfi Coast, allowing for two nights in **Positano**, followed by a day in **Amalfi** and **Ravello** on your way to **Salerno**. Come day seven, continue to the World Heritage-listed temples of **Paestum**, then through the **Parco Nazionale del Cilento e Vallo di Diano** to cognoscenti coastal jewel **Maratea**. Spend two nights in town, followed by lunch in **Tropea** (one of Calabria's most beautiful coastal towns) on your way to **Villa San Giovanni**. Catch the ferry across to Sicily and treat yourself to three nights in fashionable **Taormina**, Sicily's former Byzantine capital and home to the world's most spectacularly located Greek amphitheatre. Sun-kissed and relaxed, continue to **Catania** on day 13, taking two days to soak up the city's ancient sites, extraordinary baroque architecture and vibrant market life.

# Map Legend

## Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

## Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

## Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

## Eating

- Eating

## Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

## Entertainment

- Entertainment

## Shopping

- Shopping

## Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

## Geographic

- Beach
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

## Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

## Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

## Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

## Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

## Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

## Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

*Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book*



**Belinda Dixon**

**Milan & the Italian Lakes** Having cut her travel teeth on Italy's ferries and trains, rarely has a year passed when Belinda hasn't been back. Research highlights include gazing at mountains while ferry-hopping those gorgeous lakes, encountering Mantua's extraordinary art, tasting olive oil in Malcesine and Bardolino in, well, Bardolino – and always delighting in this, the *bel paese*.



**Duncan Garwood**

**Rome & Lazio** A Brit travel writer based in the Castelli Romani hills just outside Rome, Duncan has clocked up endless kilometres walking around the Italian capital and exploring the far-flung reaches of the surrounding Lazio region. He's co-author of the *Rome* city guide and has worked on the past six editions of this book as well as guides to Piedmont, Sicily, Sardinia, and Naples and the Amalfi Coast. He has also written on Italy for newspapers and magazines.



**Paula Hardy**

**Milan & the Italian Lakes, Venice & the Veneto, Fashion, Design** From Lido beaches to annual Biennales and spritz-fuelled aperitivo bars, Paula has contributed to Lonely Planet Italian guides for over 15 years, including previous editions of *Venice & the Veneto*, *Pocket Milan*, *The Italian Lakes*, *Sicily*, *Sardinia* and *Puglia & Basilicata*. When she's not scooting around the *bel paese*, she writes for a variety of travel publications and websites. Currently she divides her time between London, Italy and Morocco, and tweets her finds @paula6hardy.



**Brendan Sainsbury**

**Abruzzo & Molise, Puglia, Basilicata & Calabria** An expat Brit from Hampshire, England, now living near Vancouver, Canada, Brendan has covered Italy five times for Lonely Planet, reporting on 16 of its 20 regions. For this edition he braved world record snowfall in Abruzzo (in March!), suffered horizontal rain in Matera, and spent three minutes in a decontamination chamber in Reggio di Calabria.

When not scribbling research notes for Lonely Planet in countries such as Cuba, Peru, Spain and Canada, Brendan likes to run up mountains, strum his flamenco guitar, and experience the pain and occasional pleasure of following Southampton Football Club.



**Donna Wheeler**

**Turin, Piedmont & the Italian Riviera, Trento & the Dolomites, Venice & the Veneto, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italian Art & Architecture** Italy's border regions are Donna Wheeler's dream assignment: Alps, the sea, complex histories, plus spectacular wine and food. Donna has lived in Turin's Quadrilatero Romano and Genova's centro storico and been an Italian-by-marriage for almost two decades. A former commissioning editor and content strategist, she's written guidebooks to Italy,

France, Tunisia, Algeria, Norway and Belgium and publishes on art, architecture, history and food for LonelyPlanet.com, BBC.com Travel, National Geographic *Traveler* and My Art Guides; she is also the creative director of travel magazine *She Came to Stay*.



**Nicola Williams**

**Florence & Tuscany, Travel with Children** British writer Nicola Williams lives on the southern shore of Lake Geneva. Thankfully for her Italianate soul, it is an easy hop through the Mont Blanc Tunnel to Italy where she has spent years eating her way around and revelling in its extraordinary art, architecture, cuisine and landscape. Hunting Tuscan white truffles in October is an annual family ritual. Nicola has worked on numerous titles for Lonely Planet, including *Italy*, *Milan*, *Turin & Genoa*, and *Piedmont*. She shares her travels on Twitter at @Tripalong.

**Contributing Writer**

**Helena Smith** wrote part of the Naples & Campania chapter.



## OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

## OUR WRITERS



### Cristian Bonetto

**Coordinating Author, Venice & the Veneto, Naples & Campania** Thanks to his Italo-Australian heritage, Cristian gets to experience the *bel paese* (beautiful country) as both a local and an outsider. His musings on Italian cuisine, culture and style have appeared in media across the globe and his contributions for Lonely Planet include more than 30 travel guide editions, including *Naples & the Amalfi Coast*, *Venice & the Veneto*, *Denmark*, *New York City* and *Singapore*. For this guide,

Cristian wrote the Plan Your Trip section, The Italian Way of Life, Italy on Page & Screen, The Italian Table and Survival Guide chapters. Follow Cristian on Twitter (@CristianBonetto) and Instagram (rexcat75).



### Abigail Blasi

**Italy Today, History** Abigail moved to Rome in 2003 and lived there for three years, got married alongside Lago Bracciano and her first son was born in Rome. Nowadays she divides her time between Rome, Puglia and London. She has worked on four editions of Lonely Planet's *Italy* and *Rome* guides, written the *Best of Rome* guide, and written the 1st edition of *Puglia & Basilicata*. She also regularly writes about Italy for various publications, including the *Independent*, the *Guardian*, and

Lonely Planet *Traveller*.



### Kerry Christiani

**Outdoor Experiences, Umbria & Le Marche, Sardinia** Kerry has been drawn back to Italy again and again ever since she toured the country one hazy post-graduation summer in a 1960s bubble caravan. For this edition, she relished the chance to tour the hill towns of Umbria and Le Marche and explore the remotest parts of Sardinia's coast and mountains. An award-winning travel writer, Kerry authors a number of Lonely Planet guidebooks, including *Sardinia*, and contributes

regularly to magazines, newspapers and blog sites. She tweets @kerrychristiani.



### Gregor Clark

**Emilia-Romagna & San Marino, Sicily** Gregor caught the Italy bug at age 14 while living in Florence with his professor dad, who took him to see every fresco, mosaic and museum within a 1000km radius. He's lived in Florence and Le Marche, huffed and puffed across the Dolomites while researching LP's *Cycling Italy* and contributed to three previous editions of this guide. A lifelong polyglot with a Romance Languages degree, Gregor has written for Lonely Planet since 2000, with an emphasis on Mediterranean Europe and Latin America.

OVER MORE  
PAGE WRITERS

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