



Italy Road Less Traveled Tour

A Fairytale Trip Through Northern Italy

*Hosted By Travel With Me-Allen B
September 6-20, 2024*

Highlights

A 14-day tour through enchanted Aosta, charming Tuscany, and hidden gem cities and towns of Le Marche and Abruzzo. We will visit places less visited by tourists. You will be immersed in Italian culture, eat fabulous meals, see spectacular landscapes, walk cobblestone medieval and renaissance villages as your Italian speaking host, Allen Bartimioli, and his wife, Ellen, escort you throughout your journey.



We Fell in Love

The first time Ellen and I visited Italy we toured the usual places, Venice, Rome, Florence, Pizza...you get the idea. But it was on a side journey on our way between iconic cities that we decided to visit the small, hilltop village of Orvieto. We slow-walked up and down cobblestone roads visiting local artisan shops. We sampled wine, walked through a quaint market, ate pizza and gelato and at some point, Ellen looked at me and said, "I could have done this the entire time". Since then, our returns to Italy have been mostly shaped around going to places where most tourists are not. On our last trip we invited some good friends with us, and we all had an amazing time. We visited the Alps, enjoyed authentic Italian restaurants, walked through UNESCO World Heritage villages-lost in time, and ate a fantastic amount of gelato. That's where this tour was born. I'm not suggesting that Venice, Rome, Florence, Naples, Amalfi, etc. are not all fabulous, but this tour is about seeing the Italy that is authentic, ancient, and hospitable. Ellen and I learned how to embrace the "dolce vita". We invite you to join us.

Your journey will be built around the regions of Aosta, Tuscany and Le Marche

Day 1

Depart Phoenix Sky Harbor for overnight flight to Milan Malpensa.

Day 2

Load into vans and head to Aosta where we will arrive at our first hotel and relax in the Alps. That evening we will have dinner together.

Day 3

After breakfast we head north to visit the famous Matterhorn and the town of Cervinia. We will visit the lovely Blue Lake and wander the quaint village of Cervinia. Then we will climb aboard The Alpine Crossing where we will journey through the Alps past the Matterhorn on a sky tram to Zermat, Switzerland. After lunch, we'll take the return trip back to Italy. Back at our hotel we will have dinner together.

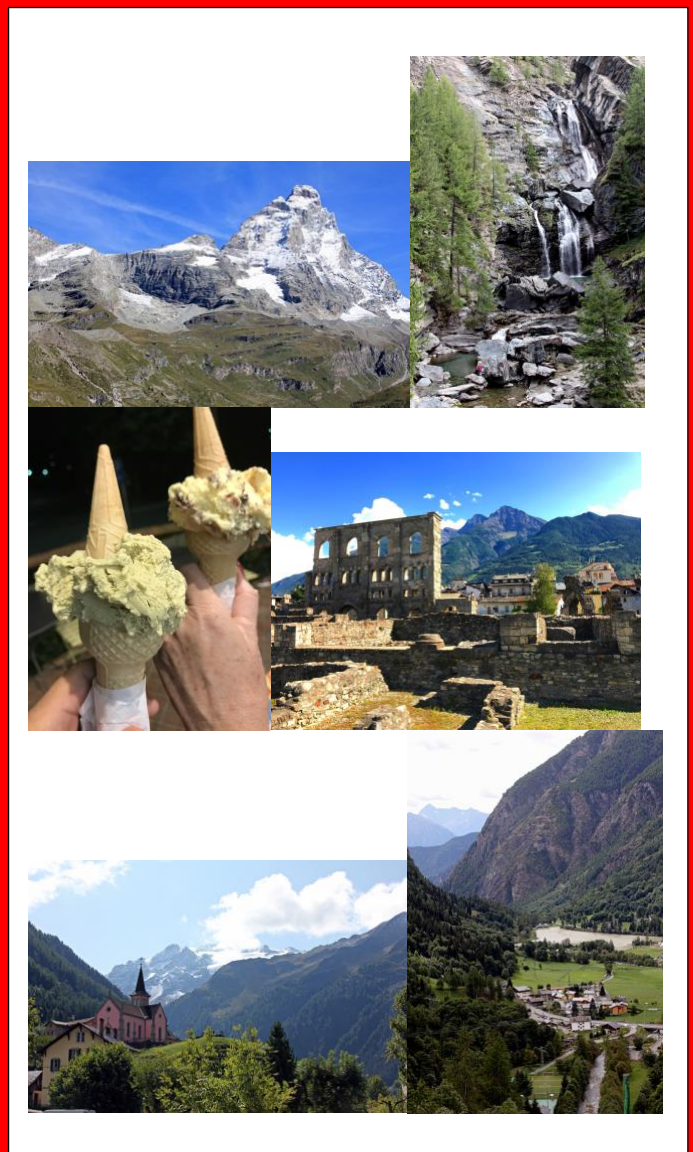
Day 4

After breakfast we will depart for Paradise National Park (Parco Nazionale Paradiso). This is one of many protected parks throughout Italy. We will take the leisurely walk through the park village to a beautiful waterfall and allow time for those who would like to go up to the footbridge that crosses over the falls. After lunch in the village, we will drive to the medieval center of Aosta and visit the ancient Roman ruins and theater. We will join together in the evening for dinner.

Day 5

After breakfast we will depart for the town of Courmayeur at the foot of the highest mountain in the Alps, Monte Bianco. We will then climb on board the fabulous engineering feat known as the

Skyway Monte Bianco cable car. At the summit, we will look down on the tops of the Alps into France, Switzerland, and Italy. After we descend, we will drive through a tunnel into the French Alps and cross the border into the Swiss Alps. We will then return through Monte San Bernardo, where the dogs became famous.



Day 6

After breakfast we depart to Chianciano Terme and our hotel in Tuscany. Once we have settled into our hotel, everyone is free to sleep or wander. We will come together for dinner.

Day 7

After breakfast and a laid-back morning, we will head over to the hilltop village of Montepulciano, wander the cobblestone allies, visit artisan shops, maybe do some Montepulciano winetasting, and take about a million photos of and from this breathtaking village. We will then gather for a wonderful dinner at one of our favorite restaurants in Italy, Acquachetta, the home of the famous Bistecca Fiorentina.

Day 8

After breakfast and a laid-back morning, we will head into the Val d'Orcia and visit the fairytale Medieval villages of Pienza, San Quirco d'Orcia and Bagno Vignoni. We will simply wander the streets, visit shops, find the gelatarias, visit the beautiful piazzas and return to Chianciano to have dinner together.

Day 9

After breakfast and a laid-back morning, we head north to the Chianti region where we will visit a vineyard and have an official Tuscany winetasting experience. Be prepared for an amazing Charcuterie Board loaded with assorted Tuscan cheeses, meats, olives, and breads. After lunch we will wander the Tuscan village of Greve in Chianti and head to Montefiorale. That evening we will sit on a terrace overlooking Olive Orchards and Vineyards to enjoy a meal at another of our favorite restaurants, La Castellana.



Day 10

After breakfast we depart for Ascoli Piceno in Le Marche. On the way we will visit the Medieval hilltop village of Orvieto where we will wander and have lunch on our own. From there we will finish our journey to Ascoli and arrive at our hotel in the Centro Storico (Historic Center). We will come together for dinner.

Day 11

Today is a day to take at your own pace. Ascoli Piceno has one of the most beautiful Piazas in all of Italy, Piazza Del Popolo. It is surrounded by two beautiful rivers, the Tronto and Castellano. There are lovely churches, shops, cafes, bars (Not what you think) and restaurants. Feel free to wander, take a riposa (nap) or sit in one of the two piazzas to have a gelato and people watch. We will gather together for dinner in the Ristorante Locanda Del Medioevo.

Day 12

After breakfast and a laid-back morning, we will drive about 45 minutes to the Adriatic Sea and the town of San Benedetto Del Tronto. At this time of year, the sea will be warm and beautiful. The beaches are amazing, and you will be able to swim if you wish. You can bring a book, grab a fun drink, find a simple lunch, and chill. Don't eat too much, though. For dinner we will be having a seafood feast at the Nautilus.

Day 13

After breakfast we head south to Abruzzo where we will visit the wonderful UNESCO villages of Santa Steffano di Sassano, Sulmona, and Pacentro. In Pacentro we will have dinner at Taverna del Caldora.

Day 14

We head back to Milan. During the afternoon we can visit the Duomo or perhaps the Church and

Dominican Convent Santa Maria Delle Grazie where the Last Super Painting is kept on display.

Day 15 Return Flight Home



Cost is \$3,500 per person.

For single room supplement, please add \$700.

Rate Includes:

- Airfare from Phoenix Sky Harbor to Milan Malpensa
- All 13 nights in four-star hotels
- All tours, attractions and activities mentioned including Alpine crossing and Skyway Monte Bianco
- All transportation costs and fees including vehicle rentals, fuel, tolls, and parking while in Italy
- Daily breakfast buffet and dinner while in Italy
- All, gratuities, and taxes
- Trip cancellation if we purchase your airfare (If you want to use points or arrange your own flights, my trip cancellation insurance will not cover you)

Rate does not include:

- Extras not mentioned
- Lunches
- Snacks (Yes, this includes gelato)
- Traveler's medical insurance (This is highly recommended)
- Any PCR tests that may be required (As of today, there are none)