

# Travelabout

## The Best of Italy - Plus optional 'Splendours of Paris'

*Features 3 Days in Cinque Terre!*

*An excellent group tour captures the ancient history, culture, charm, culinary delights, unique landmarks and the natural beauty of Italy!*

*Our 23 Day tour package includes a leisurely paced coach tour which highlights many beautiful cities such as Rome, Florence, Milan, Venice and Perugia. Mostly with 2-Night stays!!*

*Scenic highlights include... the glorious Italian Lakes District, the mystical islands of Venice, Amalfi Coast and the alluring Isle of Capri. Plus leisurely exploring the 5 spectacular towns of Cinque Terre located on the Italian Riviera!*



**Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne & Perth departures**

**11 June 2011 departure - \$5980pp (twin share)**

**29 August 2011 departure - \$5838pp (twin share)**

**June and September would be the perfect time to visit Italy  
...without the extreme heat and the maddening crowds!**

**Requested single supplement - \$1196**

**Unmatched single supplement - \$502**

**Optional 'Splendours of Paris' add-on details  
are printed on a separate and attached page**

### Detailed tour itinerary:

#### **Day 1 Homeport - Bangkok**

Depart Sydney on Thai Airways TG456 at 10.00am. Arrive in Bangkok at 4.30pm where we have a private transfer to our hotel. Evening is at leisure. O/n Asia Hotel  
Brisbane passengers depart at 2.20pm on Thai Airways flight TG474 and arrive in Bangkok at 8.40pm.  
Melbourne passengers depart at 4.05pm on Thai Airways flight TG466 and arrive in Bangkok at 10.35pm  
Perth passengers depart at 4.45pm on Thai Airways flight TG482 and arrive in Bangkok at 10.45pm  
*Airport transfers for all passengers within 20km radius*

#### **Day 2 Bangkok at leisure - Inflight**

Day at leisure in Bangkok. Maybe join an optional tour or relax and enjoy our hotel's facilities, check out the excellent shopping opportunities or join an optional tour. Around 8.00pm private airport transfers are provided for our Thai Airways flight TG944 to Rome, actually departing 0020am (20 minutes past midnight). O/n Inflight (B)

#### **Day 3 Arrive in Rome (3 Nights) – Hop-on Hop-off Sightseeing**

Arrive in Rome at 6.50am and following usual arrival formalities we are transferred to our hotel. The rest of the day is free to independently explore this ancient capital, using your included 48 hour ticket on the Rome Hop-on Hop-off sightseeing bus with 17 stops enroute at major attractions. O/n Pineta Palace Hotel (B)

#### **Day 4 Rome – Hop-on Hop-off Sightseeing**

Another wonderful day exploring Rome on the Hop-on Hop-off bus. Tonight we meet with our tour director and fellow travellers. O/n Pineta Palace Hotel (B)

#### **Day 5 Rome sightseeing**

The "Eternal City" - a city steeped in history, vibrantly alive and exciting and absolutely unique! Included is sightseeing with a Local Guide starts in St. Peter's Square, followed by a visit to the Roman Forum and the mighty Colosseum. O/n Pineta Palace Hotel (B)

#### **Day 6 Rome – Pisa - Florence (2 nights)**

This morning, vistas of undulating hills, austere rows of cypress trees, terraced vineyards, olive groves, and rural villages form the backdrop of our journey through beautiful Tuscany. Stop in Pisa for a visit and see the Square of Miracles and the amazing Leaning Tower. Arrive in Florence for overnight. O/n Holiday Inn (B)

#### **Day 7 Florence sightseeing**

Today, enjoy the included walking tour with a local guide, featuring most of the city highlights. You will see the Piazza Santa Croce; the beautiful Piazza Signoria; the Palazzo Vecchio and its courtyard; the Loggia dei Lanzi; and, to top it all, the Piazza del Duomo and its cathedral with the Giotto Campanile, and the magnificent East Door of the Baptistry known as the 'Gate of Paradise. O/n Holiday Inn (B,D)

**Travelabout... professional travel advice based on first hand personal experience of Italy!**

**Day 8 Florence – Milan – Lake Maggiore**  
This morning leave hilly Tuscany to travel north into the plains of Lombardy crossing the great River Po with new and quite different scenery as we approach Milan for a stop to see its great Duomo. Overnight in Baveno in the Lake Maggiore area. O/n Simplon Hotel (B)

**Day 9 Lake Maggiore – Lugano Excursion**  
Time to relax and get to know the area. Lake Maggiore is one of Italy's largest lakes and is located on the very edge of Alpine Switzerland. In fact on clear days you can see the peaks of the Swiss Alps. Take advantage of the included excursion to visit Lugano and its lake in Switzerland. O/n Simplon Hotel (B)

**Day 10 Lake Maggiore – Verona – Venice Area**  
This morning journey eastwards for a first stop in Sirmione on the shores of Lake Garda. Next, Verona for another stop to see Romeo and Juliet's balcony before the relatively short drive to the Venice area. O/n Poppi Hotel (B)

**Day 11 Venice sightseeing**  
Venice is more like a marvellous film set than a real live city, with its criss-crossing canals, gondolas and water buses, arched bridges, palaces and little quiet piazzas. The included tour starts with a boat ride and is followed by a visit to St. Mark's Basilica and a chance to watch Venetian glassblowers fashion their delicate objects as they did centuries ago. Don't miss out on the optional gondola trip, gliding along the picturesque canals with a local troubadour to serenade you. O/n Poppi Hotel (B,D)

**Day 12 Venice - Ravenna – Assisi - Perugia**  
An interesting drive southwards right across the Po Delta to Ravenna. In the afternoon, journey to Assisi enclosed by ramparts and little changed since the Middle Ages. This is the town of the deeply mystical and poetic St. Francis-see the Church of St. Clara, founder of the Order of Poor Clares, the medieval castle, and cathedral. Overnight in beautiful nearby Perugia, capital of Umbria. O/n Holiday Inn (B,D)

**Day 13 Perugia – Pompeii - Sorrento**  
Drive south on the autostrada to Pompeii. Time stopped for the rich, aristocratic town of Pompeii with the terrible eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD. On the included visit we can see the remains of luxurious villas, temples, theatre, and forum. Next, Sorrento, set on a plateau above the waters of the Bay of Naples. Wander the winding streets lined with shops and stalls, and sit with a glass of wine absorbing the easygoing life of this charming resort. O/n Rivage Hotel Sorrento (B)

**Day 14 Sorrento – Boat Trip to Capri**  
This legendary island is surrounded by rocky coastline where the crashing sea has formed awe-inspiring caves. The town with its pretty piazza, maze of streets, fashionable boutiques, and smart restaurants is a mecca for the jet set. An optional island tour is available. O/n Rivage Hotel Sorrento (B,D)

**Day 15 Sorrento – Rome**  
A comfortable drive northwards this morning for arrival in Rome well in time to enjoy the afternoon and evening. O/n Pineta Palace Hotel (B)

**Day 16 Rome – La Spezia (Cinque Terre) 4 nights**  
Following breakfast is the end of our Cosmos tour. We are transferred to the central train station for our journey to La Spezia via Milan. Upon arrival it is a short walk to our hotel, where we are booked for 4 nights. Rest of day is free. O/n La Spezia (Hotel Florence or Jolly Hotel)

**Day 17 Cinque Terre – Independent Sightseeing**  
This morning you begin to independently explore the 5 picturesque villages. With the use of your 3 Day Cinque Terre Train Card, you have unlimited use of trains that operate between La Spezia and the 5 towns. Leisurely discover the 5 towns at your own pace along the walking tracks, paths through olive groves, terraced vineyards and orchards. O/n La Spezia

**Day 18 Cinque Terre – Independent Sightseeing**  
Another day to independently explore the villages with your 3 Day Cinque Terre Train Card. O/n La Spezia

**Day 19 Cinque Terre – Independent Sightseeing**  
Another day to independently explore the area. Maybe visit the 5 towns by ferry. Or maybe take a day train trip to Nice (approx 2.5 hours each way). O/n La Spezia

**Day 20 La Spezia – Milan - Inflight**  
This morning take the train to Milan Central and connect with a shuttle bus to Milan airport for Thai Airways flight TG945 to Bangkok, departing at 2.30pm. O/n Inflight (B)

**Day 21 Arrive in Bangkok**  
Arriving in Bangkok at 5.50am and later transferred to our hotel, where we have immediate access to our room. Rest of day is free. Tonight maybe visit the popular Lumpini Night Bazaar or enjoy a cabaret show held in our hotel. O/n Asia Hotel

**Day 22 Bangkok - Inflight**  
The day is at leisure with ample time for last minute shopping and relaxing before our airport transfers. Mid afternoon Sydney passengers depart Bangkok at 7.15pm on Thai Airways flight TG455. O/n Inflight  
Brisbane passengers depart at 11.59pm on Thai Airways flight TG473.  
Melbourne passengers depart Bangkok at 00.15am (next day) Thai Airways flight TG465.  
Perth passengers depart Bangkok on Thai Airways flight TG481 at 7.45am and arrive in Perth at 3.40pm.

**Day 23 Arrive in Australia**  
Sydney passengers arrive at 7.15am and sadly our wonderful tour comes to an end, but our memories and friendships will continue.  
Brisbane passengers arrive at 12.05pm  
Melbourne passengers arrive at 1.25pm  
Return home transfers included within 20km radius of airport.

**24 Meals included: 20 (B) Breakfast and 4 (D) Dinners**

**Requested single supplement - \$1196**

**Unmatched single supplement - \$502**

**Single travellers are most welcome!!... and we will endeavour to match you if you wish to share**

**Contact Sam Dimarco, Marlene and the team...**

**Travelabout @ Ryde-Eastwood**

**117 Ryedale Road, West Ryde NSW 2114**

**9807 5188 (Sydney callers) FreeCall 1800 067 649**

**Office hours: 10am to 5.30pm weekdays**

**email: [travelabout@travel-tours.com.au](mailto:travelabout@travel-tours.com.au) website: [www.travel-tours.com.au](http://www.travel-tours.com.au)**

**Licence No 2TA001724 ABN 43 002 845 909 Full Member of TCF (Travel Compensation Fund)**