



HIGHLIGHTS OF ITALY 10N/11D

TOUR SUMMARY

Embark on an unforgettable journey through the heart of Italy, where every day blends iconic landmarks with rich cultural experiences. From the Eternal City of Rome, marvel at ancient wonders like the Colosseum and Vatican City, then wander through Renaissance splendour in Florence, where world-class art meets timeless Tuscan charm. Whether you're admiring Michelangelo's *David*, learning traditional crafts from local artisans, or dining under the stars to the sound of Italian folk music, each moment immerses you deeper into Italy's living heritage.

Continue to the floating city of Venice, where gondolas glide past Gothic palaces and vibrant islands like Murano and Burano showcase age-old crafts. Then head south to Naples, the gateway to the ruins of Pompeii and the sun-drenched Amalfi Coast. From Roman ruins and scenic coastlines to Neapolitan puppet shows and fresh sfogliatella, this curated itinerary is a perfect balance of history, artistry, and soul-stirring beauty—designed for travelers who seek meaning behind every masterpiece and memory.

Best time: April – June or September - October

Note: While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, this itinerary is intended as a guide and may include unintentional errors or be subject to adjustments due to unforeseen circumstances.



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+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



Detailed Itinerary

DAY 1: Arrival in Rome – Begin Your Italian Adventure

- Arrive in Rome and settle into your centrally located hotel, perfectly positioned for exploring the city's iconic landmarks.
- Savour a traditional Italian dinner at a local restaurant offering stunning views.
- Dinner and overnight stay at your hotel in Rome

DAY 2: Arrival in Rome – Eternal City's Evening Charm

- **Arrive in Rome** and transfer to your hotel located near the **Historic Centre of Rome**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site rich in ancient landmarks and vibrant piazzas.
- After check-in and some rest, set out for an **evening walking tour** of Rome's most iconic sights:
 - Toss a coin for luck at the **Trevi Fountain**
 - Climb the elegant **Spanish Steps**
 - Soak in the lively atmosphere of **Piazza Navona**, with its stunning fountains and street performers
 - Cap off your first night with a **welcome dinner featuring live opera or a classical music performance**, offering a taste of Italy's rich cultural heritage.

Overnight stay: Rome

UNESCO Site: Historic Centre of Rome



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DAY 3: Rome – Ancient Marvels & Vatican Treasures

- After breakfast, set off on a **guided morning tour** exploring the heart of Ancient Rome:
 - Walk through the mighty **Colosseum**, the legendary amphitheatre of gladiators
 - Stroll the historic **Roman Forum**, once the centre of Roman public life
 - Climb **Palatine Hill** for panoramic views and insights into imperial palaces
- In the afternoon, cross the Tiber to Vatican City for a deep dive into Renaissance and religious grandeur:
 - Marvel at the masterpieces in the **Vatican Museums**, including the **Gallery of Maps** and **Raphael Rooms**
 - Gaze upward at Michelangelo's iconic frescoes in the **Sistine Chapel**
 - Visit **St. Peter's Basilica**, the spiritual heart of Catholicism
- In the evening, enjoy an **optional cultural experience**: attend a **traditional puppet theatre** or a **Commedia dell'arte performance**, showcasing Italy's rich theatrical heritage.

Overnight stay: Rome

Cultural Highlight: Puppetry or drama in local Roman theatres



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DAY 4: Rome to Florence – Renaissance Splendour & Tuscan Traditions

- After breakfast, board a **high-speed train from Rome to Florence** (approx. 1.5–2 hours), gliding through the scenic heart of Italy.
- Arrive in **Florence**, the cradle of the Renaissance, and begin exploring its architectural and artistic wonders:
 - Admire the breathtaking **Duomo di Firenze** (Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore), crowned by Brunelleschi's iconic dome
 - Step inside the ornate **Baptistry**, known for its golden mosaics and the "Gates of Paradise"
 - Climb or photograph **Giotto's Campanile** for a striking view of the Florence skyline
- Continue your walking tour through the **Piazza della Signoria**, an open-air museum of Renaissance sculpture, and enjoy a stroll along the **Ponte Vecchio**, Florence's famed medieval bridge lined with goldsmith shops.
- In the evening, immerse yourself in Tuscan culture with a **folk music and dance performance over a traditional Florentine dinner**.

Overnight stay: Florence

UNESCO Site: Historic Centre of Florence **Cultural Highlight:** Live Tuscan folk music and dance



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DAY 5: Florence – Masterpieces & Artisan Traditions

- Begin your day immersed in Florence's unparalleled artistic heritage:
 - Visit the world-renowned **Uffizi Gallery**, home to Renaissance treasures by **Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo**, and **Caravaggio**
 - Continue to the **Accademia Gallery** to stand before the awe-inspiring **Michelangelo's David**, a masterpiece of sculptural perfection
- In the afternoon, delve into Florence's living traditions with a **hands-on artisan workshop**:
 - Choose between **leather crafting**—a centuries-old Florentine specialty—or the art of **marbled paper-making**, a cherished local technique
- Enjoy a relaxed evening exploring Florence at your own pace—perhaps with a sunset walk to **Piazzale Michelangelo** or a quiet dinner in the **Oltrarno** district.

Overnight stay: Florence

Cultural Activity: Artisan workshop (leather or marbled paper)



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DAY 6: Florence – Day Excursion to Pisa

- Today offers a choice of unforgettable day trip, highlighting a different facet of Tuscany's UNESCO-listed heritage:

Pisa – Iconic Architecture & the Leaning Tower

- Travel to **Pisa** (approx. 1 hour by train) to explore the stunning **Piazza dei Miracoli**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
 - Climb the world-famous **Leaning Tower of Pisa** for panoramic views
 - Visit the **Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta** and the **Baptistry**, remarkable examples of Romanesque architecture

Return to Florence. Dinner & overnight at hotel in Florence

DAY 7: Florence to Venice – Grand Canals & Cultural Elegance

- Board a **high-speed train from Florence to Venice** (approx. 2 hours), arriving in the enchanting city built on water. Transfer by **vaporetto (water bus)** or private boat to your hotel in the historic centre.
- Spend your afternoon discovering the heart of **Venice's UNESCO World Heritage-listed treasures**:
 - Admire the golden mosaics and Byzantine grandeur of **St. Mark's Basilica**
 - Tour the opulent **Doge's Palace**, once the seat of Venetian power
 - Walk across the legendary **Bridge of Sighs**, connecting history with romance
- In the evening, immerse yourself in Venice's rich cultural traditions with a **Venetian masquerade ball experience**—complete with masks, period costumes, and classical music—or enjoy a **baroque concert in a historic palazzo** for a refined musical escape.

Overnight stay: Venice

UNESCO Site: Venice and its Lagoon **Cultural Activity:** Venetian mask event or classical concert



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DAY 8: Venice – Island Hopping & Hands-On Craft

- After breakfast, embark on a **morning boat trip across the Venetian Lagoon** to explore two of its most enchanting islands:
 - **Murano** – Discover the age-old art of **glassblowing** with a live demonstration at a traditional glass factory
 - **Burano** – Wander among the island's **vibrantly painted houses** and observe the delicate tradition of **lace-making**, a time-honored Venetian craft
- Return to Venice in the afternoon for a unique **Venetian carnival mask-making workshop**. Learn from local artisans how to create your own decorative mask using techniques passed down through generations.
- Optional: End your day with a **romantic gondola ride**, drifting through the canals and under ancient bridges as the sun sets over the city.

Overnight stay: Venice

Cultural Activity: Island crafts & mask-making experience

DAY 9: Venice to Naples (by train or flight)

- Travel to **Naples** (5 hrs by train or 1 hr flight).
- Visit:
 - **Naples Historic Centre**
 - **San Gregorio Armeno** (famous for nativity crafts)
- Evening: **Pizza-making class** with local chef.

Overnight: Naples

UNESCO Site: Historic Centre of Naples

Cultural Activity: Culinary experience



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DAY 10: Day Trip – Pompeii Ruins or Amalfi Coast Beauty

Today, choose between two iconic UNESCO World Heritage Sites that showcase southern Italy's rich cultural and natural heritage:

Pompeii & Herculaneum – Echoes of Ancient Rome

- Step back in time with a **guided tour of Pompeii**, the remarkably preserved Roman city frozen by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius
 - Continue to **Herculaneum**, a smaller but more intimate archaeological site known for its vivid frescoes and detailed houses
 - Learn about daily life in ancient Rome while walking through streets, forums, and villas
- Return to **Naples by evening** and immerse yourself in local culture with a performance of **Neapolitan music** or a **traditional puppet theatre show**, featuring the iconic **Pulcinella**, a symbol of Neapolitan folk tradition.

Overnight

stay:

Naples

UNESCO Site: Pompeii & Herculaneum or Amalfi Coast

Cultural Highlight: Puppet theatre or Neapolitan folk music

Day 11: Departure from Naples – Farewell with a Local Flavour

Depending on your flight schedule, enjoy a leisurely morning in **Naples**:

- Treat yourself to a freshly baked **Sfogliatella**, Naples' iconic layered pastry, with a strong Italian espresso
 - If time permits, visit the **Capodimonte Museum**, home to masterpieces by Caravaggio, Titian, and Raphael, set in a royal palace surrounded by lush gardens
- Transfer to **Naples International Airport** for your onward journey, carrying unforgettable memories of Italy's art, history, and culture.

TOUR ENDS



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