

GREAT TRAINS OF EUROPE  
*Tours*

# ITALY

## CITY, COAST & COUNTRY

*September / October 2017*

From Venice to Rome, enjoy the rich cultural heritage of Italy

- First Class rail travel • 3 night stops • 4 star hotels
- Full luggage handling • Australian historian Tour Director



[www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au](http://www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au)



# ITALY - CITY COAST & C

With its rich cultural heritage, fabulous food and wines, great cities and picturesque villages, Italy is an eternally popular destination. Enjoy its variety with all 3 night stops in 4 star city hotels and historic village inns, full luggage handling, an excellent sightseeing programme and many meals. This family friendly tour is timed to coincide with school holidays.

**Day 1: VENICE** Our tour commences today in the City of Canals, Venice. Our 4 star hotel overlooks the Grand Canal. Settle in and watch the lights come on as the waterbuses chug past. Get to know your fellow travellers at Welcome Drinks and Dinner. **[D]**

**Day 2: VENICE** Every day on the Great Trains of Europe Tours starts with a full Buffet Breakfast. This morning we begin to explore the art and history of Venice. Byzantine St Mark's is considered by many to be the most beautiful church in the world. The historic Doge's Palace and its Bridge of Sighs are "must sees". Venice is best taken slowly, wandering along her canals and bridges. **[B]**

**Day 3: VENICE** There is time for a visit to an outer island – Burano for exquisite lace, Murano for world-famous Venetian glass. Art lovers will want to see the Tintoretto paintings in the Scuola di San Rocco, the Titian in the Friary Church, and the collection of Venetian Renaissance art in the Accademia Gallery. **[B]**

**Day 4: To LAKE COMO** Our luggage is taken on ahead, as always between stops, while we take a local train via Milan to our lakeside village on Lake Como, in the Northern Italian Lakes. **[B,D]**

**Day 5: LAKE COMO** Enjoy the view from the terrace of our lakefront hotel, or ride a steamer on the lake. **[B]**

**Day 6: LAKE COMO** Another quiet day on the lakefront or join a visit to Milan, the world capital of the fashion industry and of opera, and home to one of the great art treasures of the world – Leonardo's Last Supper. **[B]**

**Day 7: To FLORENCE** Italy's flagship high-speed train the Frecciargento delivers us at 300kph to Florence, the cradle of our civilisation and birthplace of the Renaissance. **[B,D]**

**Day 8: FLORENCE** After a brief orientation tour, the city is yours – museums, churches, leather shops to die for, and the markets. **[B]**

**Day 9: FLORENCE** There are visits today to the beautiful town of Lucca (Puccini's birthplace) and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. **[B]**

**Day 10: To AMALFI COAST** Our luggage is transported on ahead as we continue our love affair with the Great Trains of Europe, taking our reserved First Class seats on Italy's flagship train, the High Speed Eurostar Italia to Naples. Here we change to the local Circumvesuvio train around the Bay of Naples to Sorrento, and on to our hotel on the heights of Positano with sweeping views of the Amalfi Coast. **[B,D]**

**Day 11: AMALFI COAST** A quiet day celebrity spotting on the Positano beach, or explore the villages along, and above, the Amalfi Coast. Back to our hotel this evening. **[B]**

**Day 12: AMALFI COAST** A morning to explore ruined Pompeii, still presided over by the looming presence of Mt Vesuvius, and in the afternoon we cross to visit Capri and the Blue Grotto. **[B]**

**Day 13: To ROME** We retrace our steps on the high speed Frecciarosso to the Eternal City, Rome, for our 3 night stay. **[B,D]**

**Day 14: ROME** Today's sightseeing focuses on Classical Rome and includes entrances to the Pantheon, the Forum and the Colosseum. "Roma - non basta una vita!" (Rome - one life is not enough!) Join your Tour Leader for a stroll to the Trevi Fountain after dinner. If you throw three coins in the fountain, your return to Rome is guaranteed, so the legend goes. **[B]**

**Day 15: ROME** Catholic Rome today, including entrances and a guided tour of St Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, Michelangelo's masterpiece. The fashion shops on the Via Condotti are open this afternoon. Dinner in the Piazza Navona as we watch the water play in Bernini's fountains. **[B]**

**Day 16: To SAN GIMIGNANO** Our luggage is transported on ahead as we take our reserved First Class seats on the High Speed train to Florence, then a slower pace through archetypal Tuscan countryside - vineyards, olive-grove - down the Vale of Chianti and up the hill to San Gimignano. This walled hilltop village with its 13 towers, standing almost unchanged since the 12th century, is our home for 4 nights. **[B,D]**

**Day 17: SAN GIMIGNANO** A drive off the beaten track today through Southern Tuscan vineyards and olive groves to visit two beautiful hilltop villages and wine centres - Montalcino and Montepulciano. **[B]**

**Day 18: SAN GIMIGNANO** This morning we explore the artistic gem of Siena, which stands today much as it did in the twelfth century. You know it from "My House in Umbria" and "Under the Tuscan Sun". Where better to take lunch than at one of the open air trattoria on the Campo? This is the historic city square, the setting for the Palio horse race in the summer. Home to San Gimignano this afternoon. **[B]**

**Day 19: SAN GIMIGNANO** A lazy Sunday in our beautiful mediaeval village. **[B]**



Family Friendly Tour

**KIDS  
STAY  
FREE!**

SCHOOL HOLIDAY  
DATES  
Ask for details

# OUNTRY

**Day 20: To CINQUE TERRE** A local train along the North West Coast of Italy brings us to the Cinque Terre. We arrive in our seafront hotel in Santa Margerita Ligure. [B]

**Day 21: CINQUE TERRE** Today we ramble in the beautiful Cinque Terre, with an opportunity for the sprightly to walk the 5 villages, while others may choose a dip in the Mediterranean or a ridiculously long lunch in a seafront restaurant. [B]

**Day 22: CINQUE TERRE** Nearby Genoa was Christopher Columbus' birthplace and you have the opportunity to visit it today or, alternatively, a leisurely day in your seafront hotel, or nearby uber-touristy Portofino. [B,D]

**Day 23: ARRIVEDERCI** Arrivederci Italia! By train today to Rome (or Rome Airport) where your tour ends. [B]



## FACT BOX:

DURATION: 22 DAYS

## DEPARTURE:

SEPTEMBER 13th, 2017

\$AU 11,950 per person twin share  
No single room supplement

Children under 12 sharing adults  
room stay free.

Children ages 12-17 stay at 50%  
Enquire about competitive airfares

## HIGHLIGHTS

### DISCOVER ITALY'S 3 CULTURAL CAPITALS:

- Rome
- Florence
- Venice

### ENJOY ITALY'S BEACH TOWNS:

- Amalfi Coast
- Cinque Terre

### EXPLORE ITALY'S HILL VILLAGES AND MARKET TOWNS:

- San Gimignano
- Montepulciano
- Lucca
- Como

### INCLUDED FEATURES:

- First Class rail travel in reserved seats
- 4 star city centre boutique hotels
- 3 & 4 star historic village inns
- 7 dinners
- Full luggage handling
- Full time Australian Historian Tour Director who is the Company Principal

For detailed Booking Conditions please visit  
[www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au](http://www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au)

# BOOKING CONDITIONS

**Tour Operator:** Great Trains of Europe Tours (ABN 75 325 010 987) is a Licensed Travel Agent (Licence # 3217475) providing the consumer protection of the Travel Compensation Fund (Member # 9497). We are members of IATA (Licence # 96836610) and the Concorde Independent Agents' Network.

**Costs:** All costs in this brochure are expressed in Australian dollars and are based on airfares, and land transport and accommodation costs, and Australian dollar exchange rates effective as at October 20th, 2016. Exchange rate fluctuations in the price of any service provided, beyond the control of Great Trains of Europe Tours, may be passed on to travellers, right up to the date of departure. Please note that some city taxes or bed taxes cannot be pre-paid by agents, and must be paid by the tour member at check-out.

A deposit of \$2,500 per person will guarantee a place on your chosen tour (unless already filled, in which case you will be advised of your place on the waiting list. With a maximum tour size of 25 travellers, tours often fill early).

Full final payment is due 90 days before commencement of the tour. Please make payment by cheque to "Great Trains of Europe Tours" or by bank transfer as follows: Heritage Bank, Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia. BSB 638-060 Account Number 111 097 34. Great Trains of Europe Tours currently does not accept payment by credit card.

**Cancellation Policy:** Cancellation at any time after the deposit is paid will result in the forfeiture of the deposit. Any booking cancelled between 90 days and 45 days before departure will incur a 50% cancellation charge on land content and up to 100% on airfares, depending on the airfare used. Bookings cancelled within 45 days of departure will incur a 100% cancellation charge. Travel insurance will cover cancellation because of illness, death in the family etc. Travel insurance is therefore considered mandatory.

**Travel Insurance:** A condition of joining a Great Trains of Europe tour is either the purchase of travel insurance through Great Trains of Europe Tours, or documentary evidence of a sufficient level of travel insurance purchased elsewhere.

**European Rail Travel:** The standard of rail travel in Europe ranges from small and basic local trains to luxury High Speed International trains. On rare occasions European rail companies may change timetables, classes of travel available or rolling stock within the period of validity of a travel brochure. Descriptions of trains & routes provided in this brochure are accurate at the time of printing and provided in good faith. It is not possible to request rail seating either facing or with back to the direction of travel. Many European trains change direction during a journey.

**Baggage allowance:** Portage of one suitcase per person is included in tour cost.

**Coaches:** When itineraries take us away from rail routes and coaches must be used, a seating rotation system applies.

**Hotels:** European hotel rooms – even in 4 or 5 star hotels – are often smaller than in Australian hotels. Single rooms, particularly, can be very small. Should a traveller who has requested a single room wish to have a quote for the cost of single occupancy of a double room, please ask. Tea and coffee making facilities are rare in European hotels, as are in-room security safes. In some European countries, government environmental agencies restrict the use of air-conditioning in hotels to the summer months.

Travellers sharing a room on a twin share basis will be asked their preferences re a double bed or twin beds, but no guarantee can be given that your request will be met. Hotel star ratings, where provided, are those of the country in which the hotel is situated, and vary from country to country.

**Other Important Advice:** All tours will proceed if a minimum of 12 travellers have paid deposits by 90 days before scheduled departure. In the highly unlikely (unprecedented) event that there are insufficient travellers for a tour, you will be offered either (i) a full refund of all monies paid, (ii) a modified cost structure for a smaller group, or (iii) a place on an alternative Great Trains of Europe

Tour. Each tour is sold as a package and there can be no refund for any element of the tour (eg. a meal or an excursion) not utilised by the traveller by her / his own choice. Tour costs have built into them the costs associated with researching tours, communicating with overseas suppliers, brochure preparation and marketing. Great Trains of Europe Tours does not claim or imply that some of the inclusions in our tours may or may not be available at a lower price direct from the overseas supplier. Travellers are reminded, however, that purchases made direct with overseas suppliers are generally not covered by Australian Travel Agents licensing protections or the Australian Travel Compensation Fund. Most photographs used in this brochure were taken by the Tour Leader on past tours, but some have been provided by hotels, rail companies or Tourism Boards. Photographs are indicative only and we cannot guarantee that a traveller on a Great Trains of Europe tour will personally see all of the places depicted in them.

Great Trains of Europe Tours reserves the right to decline any reservation or booking request, and may at the Tour Directors discretion terminate any person's involvement in the tour due to disruptive or anti-social behaviour.

Great Trains of Europe Tours does not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or other events which are beyond our direct control such as, but not limited to war, terrorism, civil disturbance, industrial action, acts of government or of God, or mechanical failure such as aircraft, trains or coaches.

Great Trains of Europe Tours cannot be held responsible for changes to provision of services by local European suppliers, but we will do all in our power to provide an alternative service of equal standard to that advertised, or make a cash refund of the difference on the spot.

**Contract:** The contract between the traveller and Great Trains of Europe Tours, entered into by your signing the Booking form, shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Queensland.

*"Life is a collection of experiences. Let Stan be your guide"*

Noel and Alwynne Towler, Brisbane

(8 time tour members on the Great Trains of Europe Tours)



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# Great Trains of Europe Tours BOOKING FORM

One form per person, please.

Tour Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## PASSPORT DETAILS

Full name (as in passport): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport No: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Issue: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph. Home: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. Work: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEDICAL / DIET

Do you have any medical conditions or dietary requirements that we should be alerted to?

YES  NO If you answered YES, please outline briefly: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you able to walk 500 metres and climb 25 stairs without assistance?  YES  NO

## NEXT OF KIN {to be contacted in event of an emergency}

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph. Home: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. Work: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

Please provide me with travel insurance.  I have a pre-existing medical condition.  
(NOTE: Passengers over 75 years of age at end of a tour will need a medical clearance)

I decline your offer of travel insurance and attach documentary evidence that I have sufficient travel insurance cover.

Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_

## ACCOMMODATION

Double  Twin, sharing with \_\_\_\_\_

Twin, please find someone to share with me. If no suitable room-mate can be found, the single supplement is payable.

Single Room  Single occupancy of double sized room {surcharge}  Non-smoking  Smoking

## EXTRA ACCOMMODATION

Pre-Tour in \_\_\_\_\_ {city} Date IN \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date OUT \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Post-Tour in \_\_\_\_\_ {city} Date IN \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date OUT \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## FLIGHTS

I seek your assistance with an airfare. Please contact me. or  I will make my own flight arrangements.

## PAYMENT METHOD

I enclose a cheque, payable to "Great Trains of Europe Tours" for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or

I have deposited \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in the "Great Trains of Europe Tours" account at Heritage Bank, 400 Ruthven St, Toowoomba, Qld., 4350, Australia as follows.  
BSB 638 – 060 Account Number 11109734 Swiftcode HBSLAU4T, and I attach a pay-in slip as evidence.

By signing this form I declare that I have read the Tour Terms and Conditions, understand them, and agree to abide by them.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



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