



ITALY 2022

4 - 9 October 2022



TOURING PROGRAMME

The touring programme includes transport by coach, accommodation with breakfast Monday to Saturday nights, lunch on Tuesday and Friday, dinner on Wednesday and Saturday, guided tours in English with headphones, entrance to attractions and Youth Branch Weekend Away Ball on Saturday evening. Drinks are included where indicated.

For those that want to venture further afield and visit Venice, Florence or Verona, the easiest and fastest way is by train and we have left **Thursday as a free day** so you can explore one of these cities.

Timings to be confirmed.

Monday, 3 October

14.30 coaches depart for "The Living Room of Italy", Ascoli Piceno

The itinerary will develop within the fascinating and vast historic center of Ascoli Piceno, through squares, churches and historic buildings. Starting from Palazzo dell'Arengo in Piazza Arringo we will visit the Cathedral (inside the famous Polyptych by Carlo Crivelli and the suggestive crypt with the relics of Saint Emidio, patron saint of the city), the Episcopio and the Panichi Palace. After reaching the "living room" of the city, that is the nearby Piazza del Popolo (classified among the most beautiful squares in the world), you can admire the majestic Palazzo dei Capitani del Popolo, breathe the fascinating atmosphere of one of the historic cafes of Italy, the Caffè Meletti, visit the spectacular and imposing Romanesque-Gothic church of San Francesco with

the main cloister and the minor cloister, and finally the nineteenth-century Ventidio Basso theater.

In the final part of the tour you will immerse yourself in the evocative medieval atmosphere of the ancient district of San Giacomo, discovering its characteristic "rue", noble towers and churches, until you reach and cross the Roman Augusteo Bridge, the only Roman bridge that can be visited internally.

18.30 dinner at Locanda del Medioevo (drinks included)
23.00 return to Hotel Cosmopolitan

Tuesday 4 October

Travel by bus to Bologna via Ravenna (mosaics/World Heritage sites)

Along the road arriving in Ravenna Visit the Basilica Sant'Apollinare in Classe, out of town, that is an important testimony of the ancient Christian architecture. Ravenna is the city of Mosaics classified World Heritage. During the tour you will see the most important monuments of the Gothic and Byzantine time: the Mausoleum, Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, Galla Placidia (the oldest architectonic monument in Ravenna), the Mosaics and the Basilica of San Vitale, the best in Ravenna.

Lunch: Osteria Passatelli in Ravenna (drinks included)

Hotel: Starhotels Excelsior 4 stars, Bologna

Dinner: free choice in Bologna (suggestions will be provided)

Wednesday 5 October

half day (morning) walking tour of Bologna

The tour begins in Piazza Maggiore with its famous buildings. The first approach to the city starts right from the Main Square, which has witnessed Bologna's most significant events over the centuries. The surrounding public buildings, such as Palazzo del Podestà and Palazzo d'Accursio, retain all their medieval charm. The next step is dedicated to the Basilica of San Petronio, that shows masterpieces of late Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque. The best loved church of the Bolognese people, with its unfinished façade, preserves interesting artworks and a famous 17th century meridian line. The tour ends in the shadow of two symbols of the medieval city: Asinelli Tower which is known as one of the tallest tower in Italy and Garisenda Tower which was also cited by Dante's "Inferno". These two leaning towers (called Le due torri) have been part of the city's skyline for over 900 years and are its

outstanding symbol.

Free choice for lunch and afternoon for visits and shopping.

Dinner: La Verace restaurant (walking distance from Hotel)

Thursday 6 October

Spend the day further exploring Bologna or take a train to Venice, Florence or Verona.

Evening: join RSCDS North Italy Branch dance class (optional) - details to follow

Friday 7 October

Tour by coach to Parma and Busseto (cheese tasting, wine, prosciutto)

Parma, a Roman city rich of extraordinary roman monuments and birthplace of Arturo Toscanini. Today Parma is famous for the Royal Theatre, for its cuisine and the excellent quality of food: ham, parmesan cheese, meat, pasta and much more. After the visit transfer to a ham factory in Langhirano area for lunch to taste the most famous products such as Parma ham, Parmesan cheese and Lambrusco wine. At the gates of Parma, in the evocative lands of the Bassa where Maestro Giuseppe Verdi was born and draws inspiration for his talent, Busseto and Roncole constitute the stages of an extraordinary journey dedicated to lovers of art, culture, music, history and landscapes.

Lunch: tasting lunch in Langhirano (drinks included)

Evening: free

Saturday 8 October

Tour by coach to Modena (balsamic vinegar cellar)

The city is a beautiful preserved old town with wonderful places like Piazza Grande with Palazzo Comunale, the magnificent Cathedral and Torre Ghirlandina which is the symbol of Modena. Discovering Traditional Balsamic vinegar in a vinegar cellar where you can taste the famous balsamic vinegar with local products. It takes at least 12 years for the precious cooked grape must to become Traditional Balsamic Vinegar. During the visit it will be possible to discover the secrets and production techniques of this gastronomic excellence and to taste Balsamic Vinegar in different types of aging, from 5 to 25 years, balsamic fruit dressings, vinegar balsamic with black and white truffles, compotes of balsamic vinegar suitable for meat, and

more!

18.00 dinner at hotel (drinks included)

20.00 Youth Branch Ball with Keith Smith & Anne-Laure Latour - location TBC

Sunday 9 October

Breakfast and check-out and fare thee well until the next IB event

PRICES per person:

Double/twin room: €1150

Single supplement: €165

This touring programme has been organised by:



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**AGENZIA VIAGGI
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