



24 September - 17 October, 2026

Hidden Italy & Iconic Highlights

ROME - SALERNO - FLORENCE - FERRARA - VENICE



*A fully-hosted Italian Journey
with Andrew & Kerrin from
Adelaide*

To book call +61 422 193 590

Visit: southaustraliadmc.com.au

INCLUSIONS

- Fully hosted from Adelaide by Andrew and Kerrin
- Return flights from Adelaide to Rome, Venice to Adelaide in Economy class
- Airport transfers in Italy
- All rail transport in Italy
- 21 nights accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- 5 x 2-course dinners
- English speaking guides
- City taxes



DETAILED ITINERARY

DAYS 1 & 2 - Fly overnight to Rome

Depart Adelaide for Rome via Dubai with Emirates. On arrival in the Eternal City, you will be met and transferred by private coach to the Palladium Palace Hotel, ideally located for exploring Rome's historic heart.

The remainder of the afternoon is yours to relax or begin discovering the charm of Rome at your own pace, with Andrew and Kerrin on hand to offer suggestions for a first stroll, a favourite café or a hidden piazza worth seeking out.

This evening, join Andrew and Kerrin along with your fellow travellers for a welcoming two-course dinner at a local Roman restaurant. It's the perfect introduction to Italy's rich culinary traditions — shared stories, regional flavours and the warm hospitality that defines la dolce vita.



Meals - Dinner & Breakfast

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DAYS 3 - Ancient Rome Uncovered

After breakfast, join Andrew and Kerrin as you set out to explore the extraordinary legacy of Ancient Rome. Together with your expert English-speaking guide, you'll enjoy a full day of immersive sightseeing through the heart of the Eternal City.

With your Roma 72-hour public transport pass and personal audio headsets, you'll move seamlessly through the city as history unfolds before you. Step inside the iconic Colosseum, where gladiators once battled, wander the evocative ruins of the Roman Forum – once the political and social centre of the empire. From Palatine Hill, take in sweeping views over the city while learning about the emperors who shaped its destiny.

Throughout the day, Andrew and Kerrin will share their own insights and favourite perspectives, adding depth and context beyond the guidebooks. This evening, return to the Palladium Palace Hotel with time to relax or enjoy dinner at leisure, perhaps with one of their trusted local recommendations.

Meals - Breakfast

Day 4 – Rome at Leisure

After a hot buffet breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a day discovering Rome at your own pace using your included public transport pass.

With guidance from Andrew and Kerrin, explore the city's iconic highlights including the Pantheon, Piazza Navona and the Trevi Fountain. Wander through Trastevere, climb the Spanish Steps, admire the Monumento a Vittorio Emanuele II, or visit Castel Sant'Angelo and Villa Borghese. You may also wish to step inside the magnificent Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore.

Andrew and Kerrin will be on hand with local tips and recommendations, allowing you to explore independently while still enjoying the ease of a fully hosted experience. Return to the Palladium Palace Hotel (or similar) for the evening.

Meals - Breakfast

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Day 5 – The Vatican & Rome

After breakfast at the hotel, set out with Andrew and Kerrin for a memorable day exploring the treasures of the Vatican. Accompanied by an expert English-speaking guide, enjoy priority admission to the Vatican Museums, where centuries of art and history unfold before you.

With personal audio headsets, wander through the remarkable galleries before arriving at the awe-inspiring Sistine Chapel, home to Michelangelo's extraordinary ceiling frescoes. Following the guided tour, continue with a self-guided visit to St Peter's Basilica, one of the world's most significant and breathtaking churches.

The afternoon is at leisure to further explore Rome or revisit a favourite corner of the city. Andrew and Kerrin will be on hand with suggestions before you return to the Palladium Palace Hotel (or similar) for your final evening in the Eternal City.

Meals - Breakfast



Day 6 – Rome to Salerno

This morning, join Andrew and Kerrin for a walk to Roma Termini Station as you farewell the Eternal City and begin your journey south.

Travel by second-class train to Salerno, a scenic journey of approximately two and a half hours. On arrival, stroll together to your hotel and check in to the Grand Hotel Salerno, ideally positioned along the waterfront.

The afternoon is at leisure to relax or take a gentle walk through town. Later, walk with Andrew and Kerrin to the impressive Salerno Cathedral (Duomo) for a self-guided visit, soaking up the history and atmosphere of this coastal city.

This evening, enjoy a two-course dinner at a local restaurant before an easy walk back to the hotel, settling in for your stay on the Amalfi Coast.

Meals - Breakfast, dinner



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Day 7 – Amalfi Coast Discovery

After breakfast, walk with Andrew and Kerrin to Salerno port to board a hydrofoil bound for Amalfi (subject to schedule). As you cruise along the coastline, take in the dramatic cliffs and pastel-hued villages that define this spectacular stretch of Italy.

On arrival in Amalfi, enjoy a self-guided exploration of this historic maritime republic. With suggestions from Andrew and Kerrin, wander through the charming town centre, visit the striking Duomo di Sant'Andrea, and explore the Chiostro del Paradiso. Discover the town's paper-making heritage at the Museo della Carta, pause for coffee and cake at the iconic Pasticceria Pansa, and soak up sweeping coastal views from nearby gardens and lookouts.

In the afternoon, rejoin your hosts for the return hydrofoil journey to Salerno. The evening is yours to relax or enjoy dinner at leisure along the waterfront.

Meals - Breakfast



Day 8 – Pompeii & the Ancient World

After breakfast at the hotel, join Andrew and Kerrin for a fascinating half-day excursion to Pompeii. Travel by private coach from Salerno to this extraordinary archaeological site, where daily life was frozen in time by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD.

With an expert English-speaking guide, enjoy a two-hour exploration of the Pompeii excavations. Walk along ancient streets, step inside remarkably preserved homes and public buildings, and gain insight into Roman life through the stories revealed in stone, fresco and mosaic.

Following your guided visit, return by private coach to Salerno. The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax or continue enjoying the coastal charm.

Meals - Breakfast



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Day 9 – Paestum's Ancient Temples

After breakfast, walk with Andrew and Kerrin to Salerno station for a short train journey south to Paestum. On arrival, enjoy a gentle stroll to the archaeological site, where some of the best-preserved Greek temples in the world await.

With personal audio headsets and an expert English-speaking guide, spend two hours exploring the remarkable ruins of this ancient city. Marvel at the grandeur of the Doric temples, wander through the remains of the forum and amphitheatre, and gain insight into the layers of Greek and Roman history that shaped the region.

Following your guided visit, return by train to Salerno. The remainder of the day is at leisure or enjoy a final evening soaking up the atmosphere of southern Italy.

Meals - Breakfast



Day 10 – Salerno to Florence

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and walk with Andrew and Kerrin to the station for your journey north to Florence. Sit back and enjoy the changing landscapes as you travel by train through the heart of Italy.

On arrival at Firenze Santa Maria Novella, stroll to your hotel and check in to Hotel Mercure Firenze Centro, ideally located for exploring the historic centre.

Today you will also receive your Brunelleschi Pass, granting access to the remarkable complex of Piazza del Duomo, including entry to the Dome of Santa Maria del Fiore – an architectural masterpiece that defines the Florence skyline.

This evening, join Andrew and Kerrin for a two-course dinner at a local Florentine restaurant, a wonderful introduction to the rich flavours and Renaissance elegance of Tuscany.

Meals - Breakfast, dinner



Days 11 & 12 – Florence at Leisure

Enjoy two full days to immerse yourself in the timeless beauty of Florence, with breakfast each morning at your hotel and the freedom to explore at your own pace.

With Andrew and Kerrin nearby to offer guidance and insider recommendations, you may wish to visit the Uffizi Galleries, admire Michelangelo's David at the Accademia, or climb Brunelleschi's Dome for sweeping views across the terracotta rooftops. Wander across the Ponte Vecchio, explore the artisan workshops of the Oltrarno district, or spend a leisurely afternoon in the Boboli Gardens.

These days invite you to slow down and savour – long lunches in sunlit piazzas, a glass of Chianti at dusk, boutique shopping, hidden chapels and quiet moments of discovery.

Meals - Breakfast



Day 13 – San Gimignano & the Tuscan Countryside

After breakfast, join Andrew and Kerrin for a full-day private coach excursion into the heart of Tuscany. Travel through rolling vineyards and olive groves to the enchanting hilltop town of San Gimignano, often referred to as the “Town of Fine Towers”.

On arrival, enjoy time to explore at your own pace. Wander the beautifully preserved historic centre, climb the medieval bell tower for sweeping countryside views, or step back in time at San Gimignano 1300. You may choose to visit a local vineyard such as Podere La Marronaia or Guardastelle to sample regional wines and experience the flavours of Tuscany.

Soak up the atmosphere of this UNESCO-listed gem – cobbled lanes, artisan shops and panoramic vistas at every turn – before returning by private coach to Florence. Arrive back at your hotel for a relaxed evening.

Meals - Breakfast



Day 14 – Florence or Optional Pisa Excursion

Today offers the opportunity for an optional self-guided excursion to Pisa. Travel by train (approximately one hour each way) to visit the iconic Piazza dei Miracoli, home to the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa. You may choose to pre-book admission for a complete visit of the complex, including the Tower, Cathedral and Baptistry.

Alternatively, remain in Florence to enjoy more of the city's art, shopping and café culture at a relaxed pace.

Meals - Breakfast



Day 15 – Florence to Ferrara

After breakfast, farewell Florence and walk with Andrew and Kerrin to the station for your onward train journey to Ferrara – an elegant Renaissance city often overlooked and wonderfully authentic.

On arrival, make your way to Hotel Il Duca d'Este and settle in before beginning your discovery with the included MyFE 2-day card, offering access to many of the city's key attractions. Visit the impressive Castello Estense, a moated medieval castle that sits at the heart of Ferrara, and uncover the fascinating history of the Este family who once ruled here.

Enjoy a self-guided stroll along historic Via Mazzini and the atmospheric Via delle Volte, where cobbled laneways and hidden arches reveal the city's medieval character.

This evening, gather with Andrew and Kerrin for a two-course dinner at a local restaurant, celebrating the rich culinary traditions of Emilia-Romagna.

Meals - Breakfast, dinner



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Day 16 – Ferrara at Leisure

Enjoy a continental buffet breakfast at the hotel before embracing a relaxed day exploring Ferrara at your own pace.

With Andrew and Kerrin nearby for suggestions, you may wish to delve deeper into the city's Renaissance treasures using your MyFE Card – perhaps visiting the Palazzo dei Diamanti, the Cathedral of Saint George, or cycling along the ancient city walls that encircle the historic centre.

Ferrara's charm lies in its quiet elegance – wide boulevards, red-brick palaces and a slower rhythm of life.

Meals - Breakfast



Day 17 – Bologna Culinary Experience

After breakfast, join Andrew and Kerrin for a short train journey to Bologna – Italy's gastronomic capital and the heart of Emilia-Romagna.

Today's highlight is a hands-on cooking class, where you'll learn to prepare three traditional pasta dishes under the guidance of a local expert. Discover regional techniques, time-honoured recipes and the passion that defines Italian home cooking. Lunch is a true celebration – enjoying the dishes you've created, accompanied by local wine and lively conversation.

In the afternoon, return by train to Ferrara with Andrew and Kerrin, bringing with you new skills and flavours to savour. The evening is at leisure.

Meals - Breakfast



Day 18 – Padua & the Basilica of St Anthony

After breakfast, travel with Andrew and Kerrin by train to the elegant university city of Padua. Rich in history and artistic heritage, Padua offers a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Enjoy time at leisure to explore the historic centre – wander through lively piazzas, browse local boutiques or soak up the café culture that defines this charming northern Italian city.

A highlight of the day is a guided visit to the magnificent Basilica of St Anthony, one of Italy's most important pilgrimage sites. With an English-speaking guide, uncover the history, art and spiritual significance of this remarkable church. Later, return by train to Ferrara.

Meals - Breakfast



Day 19 – Ferrara to Venice

After breakfast, travel by train with Andrew and Kerrin to Venice – the floating city of canals and timeless romance.

Arriving at Venezia Santa Lucia Station, you'll be met by an English-speaking assistant before making the short walk to Hotel NH Venezia Santa Lucia (or similar), ideally located on the island. Your 72-hour Vaporetto pass will be issued, allowing you to navigate Venice's waterways with ease over the coming days.

This evening, gather with Andrew and Kerrin for a two-course dinner at a local restaurant on Venice Island – a memorable introduction to the magic, atmosphere and flavours of this extraordinary city.

Meals - Breakfast, dinner



Day 20 – Murano & Burano

After a hot buffet breakfast, set out with Andrew and Kerrin to explore the Venetian Lagoon using your included Vaporetto pass.

Cruise to Murano, famed for its centuries-old glassmaking tradition. Here you may choose to visit a glass factory for a demonstration and showroom experience (optional), witnessing the artistry that has defined the island for generations.

Continue on to colourful Burano, known for its vibrant fishermen's houses and delicate lace craftsmanship. Stroll the canals, browse artisan shops, or visit the Lace Museum (optional) to learn more about this intricate local tradition.

Return to Venice Island in the afternoon, with the evening at leisure to soak up the romance of the canals.

Meals - Breakfast



Day 21 – The Heart of Venice

After breakfast, join Andrew and Kerrin for a guided exploration of Venice's most iconic landmarks. With personal audio headsets ensuring you don't miss a word, your English-speaking guide will lead you on a captivating two-hour walking tour through the heart of the city.

Discover the grandeur of St Mark's Square before stepping inside the magnificent St Mark's Basilica, renowned for its golden mosaics and Byzantine splendour. Continue to the impressive Doge's Palace, once the seat of Venetian power, where ornate chambers and historic corridors reveal the story of the Republic of Venice.

With your Vaporetto pass included, the remainder of the day is yours to continue exploring at leisure — perhaps a final gondola ride or a quiet aperitivo by the canal.

Meals - Breakfast



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Day 22 – Venice at Leisure

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel before embracing a full day at leisure in enchanting Venice.

With your Vaporetto pass included and Andrew and Kerrin nearby for recommendations, you may choose to revisit favourite landmarks, explore hidden neighbourhoods such as Dorsoduro or Cannaregio, browse artisan boutiques, or simply lose yourself in the maze of canals and quiet squares.

Perhaps linger over a long lunch by the water, visit a lesser-known gallery, or take one last sunset stroll along the Grand Canal.

Meals - Breakfast



Day 23 – Departure from Venice

After a final breakfast together, it's time to farewell Venice and the unforgettable journey you've shared with Andrew and Kerrin.

Check out of your hotel before transferring by private boat and coach to Venice Airport, with an assistant on hand to ensure a smooth departure (including one piece of luggage per person).

As your Italian adventure comes to a close, take with you the memories of remarkable cities, regional flavours, rich history and the special camaraderie formed along the way.

Meals - Breakfast

