

Rail holidays of Italy

Expressions



Rail holiday to Venice
and the Veneto
through the Austrian
and Swiss Alps



Rail holiday to Venice and the Veneto through the Austrian and Swiss Alps

9 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS

Munich

Brenner Pass

Burano

Murano

Verona



Lying south of the Dolomites and north of the Gulf of Venice on the Adriatic, the Veneto is a region of almost unsurpassed scenic variety as well as being outstandingly rich in cultural, particularly architectural, treasures. From the vine and orchard covered foothills in the north, with its wine-producing villages of alpine-style architecture and Romanesque churches the land gives rise to small towns on canals and rivers, often with ancient cathedrals, arcaded squares and covered bridges. Tall, elegant campanile are a feature of the towns near the coast and nearby are a wealth of Palladian villas waiting to be discovered. On the coast there is not only the great, unique city of Venice but smaller gems such as the ancient Roman town of Aquileia. The smaller cities of Padua, Vicenza and Verona are also nearby and worth exploring. A rail holiday to the Veneto gives you the opportunity to see the incredible diversity of the region.

PRICES

From £2,850 per person

Price based on two sharing a double or twin room.

First class rail travel can be added for a supplement.

DATES

This rail holiday can be arranged throughout the year. Timings can vary depending on the month and day of the week. For more information regarding rail services to and within Italy, view our train guide.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Accommodation on bed and breakfast as below

- 2 nights in a Standard room at the Eden Hotel Wolf in Munich
- 3 nights in a Classic room at the Ca' Sagredo in Venice
- 3 nights in a Standard room at the Villa del Quar in Piedmonte
- 1 night in a Classic room at the Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera in Zurich
- Train travel on all trains including the Eurostar (first class can be booked at a supplement)
- 1 cooking class per person and 1 wine tasting session per person at Villa del Quar
- Private return transfers in Venice and Verona

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Optional extra nights
- Transfers in other cities
- Meals other than breakfast at the hotels
- Early check in or late check out at hotels - though we can arrange this on request
- Supplements for alternative route options
- Any services not mentioned

DAY ONE: Travel to Munich by rail

Your rail holiday starts departing London St Pancras around 10:30am on the Eurostar to Paris Gare du Nord. From Gare du Nord, a short walk takes you to Gare l'Est from where you will be whisked away on the high speed TGV train through France. You cross the border into Germany at Strasbourg and arrive into Munich around 9.30pm. Stay two nights at the four star Eden Wolff, located close to the main train station.

DAY TWO: Munich

You have time at leisure to explore the streets of Munich. Germany's unofficial southern capital has something for everyone's taste with castles and palaces, museums and churches, parks and gardens; not forgetting the Oktoberfest beer festival held annually. The Munich Residenz is well worth a visit as one of the best palace museums in Europe.

DAY THREE: Munich to Venice by rail

Leaving Munich around 11am, the Eurocity train heads southwards into Austria, passing through Innsbruck and the Alps including a particularly scenic stretch around the Brenner Pass. This is a direct service and you arrive into Venice a little after 6pm where you will be met and taken by private water taxi to your hotel. Your hotel in Venice is the five-star Ca'Sagredo which is located in the heart of Venice near the Rialto Bridge. We have a number of other hotels we can recommend in Venice too, from 3 to 5 star.

DAYS FOUR AND FIVE: Venice

You spend the next couple of days in the Venetian capital. More than a city, Venice "La Serenissima" is an enchantress. Take the time to discover her winding streets, lavish ballrooms and lively wine bars, and perhaps catch one of local water taxis to explore the islands of the lagoon. Burano, island of lace-making and fishermen, is impressively picturesque whilst on Murano master craftsmen offer demonstrations of glass-making before you enter their shops. A visit to both these islands is thoroughly recommended to provide an alternative view of Venice.

DAY SIX: Venice to Verona by rail

A private water taxi will take you back to Venice Santa Lucia station for your train to Verona. We suggest travelling around midday however there are several departures a day, and the journey only takes around an hour. On arrival in Verona you will be met at the train station by a private car and taken to Villa del Quar, your hotel for three nights, which is



Villa del Quar

about 8 miles outside of Verona in Pedemonte. A hire car can be arranged instead of transfers if you prefer.

DAYS SEVEN AND EIGHT: Food and wine in the Veneto

The next two days are spent at the Villa del Quar, a charming and elegant property within easy reach of Verona. The hotel is well located to visit the Palladian villas that are emblematic of this area. During your stay, we include one two-hour cookery class and one wine tasting session which can be adjusted according to your wishes.

DAY NINE: Verona to Zurich by rail

You will be taken back to Verona station after breakfast for your train to Milan which departs around 09:45am. From Milan, following a change of train, you continue your journey heading north through the Swiss Alps and Gotthard Pass to Zurich. Arrive in Zurich a little by 5pm and spend a night at the Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera in Zurich.

DAY TEN: Zurich to London by rail

Depart Zurich late morning and travel back to Paris on the high speed TGV train. Change between stations here using a local taxi and end your rail holiday by catching the Eurostar from Paris Nord station to London where you arrive a little before 8pm.

OPTIONAL

It is possible to add extra nights in any of these destinations if you would like to spend more time there.

HOTELS

Details of the hotels in Germany, Switzerland and Italy can be found below.

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MUNICH

Eden Hotel Wolff 4 star

The Eden Hotel Wolff has been one of the leading names in Munich since its foundation in 1890. The Art Nouveau building is ideally located opposite Munich Central rail station, making it the perfect stopover point from which to explore the city. The hotel has 210 rooms and suites on offer to guests in a variety of designs from classical through to elegant modern or Alpine stylings, whilst the hotel's restaurant the Peter & Wolff prides itself on the use of seasonal products from the regions suppliers in its menus.

VENICE

Ca'Sagredo Hotel 5 star

This is a luxurious palazzo hotel which overlooks the Grand Canal, opposite the historical Rialto market. The 15th century palace has been declared as a National Monument, and is perfect for those seeking an elegant ambience in a historic setting. The hotel has 42 rooms and suites, each decorated in classic Venetian styling with antique furniture, gilt mirrors and Murano glass. Enjoy traditional Venetian cuisine on the splendid panoramic terrace of l'Alcova restaurant from where you can watch the gondolas and boats glide along the water.

PEDEMONTE

Villa del Quar 5 star

The Villa del Quar is a delightful property of charm and elegance within easy reach of Verona. It has been under the careful management of the Montresor family for many generations, and is situated within its own spacious seven-acre estate with an outdoor swimming pool. This luxury hotel has 25 rooms and suites each individually furnished in rich shades of yellow and pink, many of which support beamed ceilings and antique furniture. The hotel has a restaurant, breakfast room, team room and wine cellar for its guest's enjoyment. A spectacular property, early booking is advisable.



Austrian Alps

ZURICH

Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera 4 star

The Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera is a historic boutique hotel located opposite Zurich's Opera House, set just back from the lakeside. This is a highly luxurious and unique option for a one or two night stay in central Zurich. The hotel has just 45 rooms and is renowned for their gourmet restaurant which is just as popular with locals as hotel guests.



Ca'Sagredo Hotel



Swimming pool at Villa del Quar



Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera

MAP OF TOUR VENICE AND THE VENETO BY RAIL THROUGH THE AUSTRIAN AND SWISS ALPS



The map below illustrates the route outlined in this touring itinerary, with overnight stops and places of interest highlighted.



GENERAL INFORMATION

This tailor-made touring holiday is one of several suggested touring holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay in one mountain or lake resort too, perhaps at the end of the itinerary. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.

OUR TOURS

Our rail tours are for individuals travelling on their own or in their own family group. You do not join a group and you are not escorted.

FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

Our arrangements are very flexible in that you choose to travel on any day you want, subject to availability of trains and hotels. As mentioned above, additional nights can be added at any point.

EUROSTAR

A rail holiday to Italy starts with a journey by Eurostar from London St Pancras, Ebbsfleet or Ashford stations in the UK to either Paris Gare du Nord or Lille Europe. In summer months there are direct trains on Saturdays from London St Pancras to Avignon with no change required.

Eurostar offers almost hourly departures every day, allowing you to travel from the centre of London to the centre of Paris on the same train in three hours. Not all trains stop at the Ebbsfleet and Ashford stations in Kent, but parking is plentiful at both stations and it allows you to avoid London.

Check-in is 30 minutes prior to departure, customs formalities are completed before boarding and there is no limit to the amount of baggage that can be taken on board. The Eurostar trains themselves have 8 coaches which are split into Standard Class, Standard Premier and Business Premier as well as 2 cafeterias. Standard Premier customers are served a light cold meal and enjoy a more spacious environment than Standard Class, while Business Premier customers receive a hot meal and unlimited beverages as well as lounge access.

TRAIN TIMES

We have planned our itineraries based on train times that work day by day at the time of planning which can be up to a year before you travel. Usually train times stay more or less the same every day, season by season. The times we have planned will be discussed with you at the time you enquire about the holiday and they are detailed to you in your written holiday quotation. It may be that the timetable changes between the planning of the itinerary and when you come to book but we can always adjust the itinerary to suit the actual train times and any requirements you have for particular times of travel.

FIRST OR SECOND CLASS

We will automatically include travel in second class but lots of our clients do upgrade to first class service. On Eurostar this is called Premier Standard for leisure travellers as it gives you an upgraded on-board service and more spacious seating but without paying for the fully-flexible business tickets. On the Inter-city trains, upgrading to first class gives you more spacious seating with increased legroom. The price of upgrading varies from route to route but is something that is not always proportionately a lot more on the price of the overall holiday, so well-worth considering.

TRANSFERS

Transfers in Paris between stations and from the station to each hotel are not automatically included in the price of the holiday. In Paris most clients choose to take a taxi between the stations rather than go on the Metro but we can arrange a private car with driver to take you in between. This is quite useful if you are a family group that can't fit into one Paris taxi.

PRICE INFORMATION

This tailor-made touring holiday is one of several suggested touring holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay in one mountain or lake resort too, perhaps at the end of the itinerary. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.

OUR PRICES

The sample prices mentioned in this leaflet are generally a 'from' price based on the cheapest season of travel. However, train fares and hotel rates can change (up and down depending on offers), so we give you an accurate price for your holiday when we provide you with a quotation. Our sample prices should be used as an indication of how much a particular combination will cost and to show the differences on average between the hotel categories on offer.

PRICE INFORMATION IN MORE DETAIL

From £3,160 per person for first class rail travel.

From £2,850 per person for second class rail travel.

Prices based on two sharing a double or twin room.

What's included in this touring holiday?

Accommodation on bed and breakfast as below:

2 nights in a Standard room at the Eden Hotel Wolff in Munich

3 nights in a Classic room at the Ca'Sagredo in Venice

3 nights in a Standard room at the Villa del Quar in Pedemonte

1 night in a Classic room at the Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera in Zurich

Second or first class travel on all trains (as above) including Eurostar

1 x cooking class per person and 1 x wine tasting session per person at Villa del Quar

Transfers in Venice and Verona

What's not included?

Optional extra nights

Meals other than breakfast at the hotels

Transfers in other cities

Early check in or late check out – though we can arrange this on request

Any services not mentioned above

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BOOKING CONDITIONS

Our booking conditions apply to all holidays. A copy can be found on our website and a copy is also sent to you with a written quotation and when you make a booking.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Expressions Holidays offers full financial protection for all holidays you book with us. If your holiday includes a flight, the ATOL (3076) covers the costs of the holiday. If the holiday does not include a flight, it is the ABTOT bond that protects the cost of the holiday. We are also members of AITO (the Association of Independent Tour Operators) and ABTA.



Expressions Holidays
Lynx House, Pynes Hill, Exeter EX2 5JL

HOW TO BOOK

To make a booking, just phone us on

01392 441275

and we can take you through the details we need and start the booking process. A deposit is required to confirm the arrangements and this can be paid by debit or credit card over the phone. The level of the deposit will be confirmed at the point of booking and will depend on the ticketing deadlines of the rail tickets involved in your booking.