

# Rail holidays of Italy

*Expressions*



## Rail holiday to Verona and Lakes Garda and Geneva



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7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

Lausanne

Alps

Verona

Lake Garda



Relax and enjoy the stunning scenery of France, Switzerland and northern Italy as you travel from London to Verona by train. We suggest that you travel by daytime trains from London to Verona, breaking the journey with an overnight stop of Lausanne on Lake Geneva. From here your train takes you on a beautiful journey through the Alps to Verona, where we suggest a visit to see the opera at Verona Arena (during the opera season). Following your stay in Verona you have time to visit Lake Garda, perhaps visiting the pretty villages that hug its shores and admiring the vineyards and orchards that surround the lake. An easy and time-effective way of returning home is to then take the sleeper train back to Paris. A range of other overnight and daytime travel options are also available – please contact one of our travel specialists for more information and advice.

### PRICES

**From £2,210 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

- 1 night in a Superior room at the Hotel Angleterre et Residence in Lausanne
- 2 nights in a Double room at the Hotel Gabbia d'Oro in Verona
- 3 nights in a Double room with lake view at the Villa del Sogno on Lake Garda
- Second class travel on all trains including Eurostar
- Double sleeper compartment on Thello sleeper train
- Private transfers in Verona and on Lake Garda
- Opera tickets for 1st sector stalls at the Verona Arena

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Optional extra nights
- Transfers in Paris
- 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: London to Lausanne by rail

Start your rail holiday by catching a mid-morning Eurostar service from London St Pancras to Paris Nord. Following a change of station to Gare de Lyon you continue on the high-speed TGV Lyria train to Lausanne on Lake Geneva where you arrive at about 8pm. Check into your hotel, the Angleterre et Residence, where you spend one night. If you wish, the stay at Lausanne can be extended to give you time to explore Lake Geneva.

## DAY TWO: Lausanne to Verona by train

Depart Lausanne at about 8am on a direct train to Verona. This scenic journey through the Alps takes a little over five hours, and takes you through some spectacular landscape as you follow the Rhone, travel through the famous Simplon Pass and along the shores of Lake Maggiore before heading east through Italy. Arrive into Verona around 1.30pm, where you will be met at the train station and transferred to your hotel. Stay two nights in Verona at either the Gabbia d'Oro.

## DAY THREE: Verona and the Opera House

At leisure in Verona, the famous home of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Verona is one of Italy's loveliest towns, and the first-century grand Arena is still used for hosting concerts and the annual opera festival. During your stay in Verona we include opera tickets at the Verona Arena.

## DAY FOUR: Verona to Lake Garda

A very short train journey takes you from Verona to Desenzano del Garda on the shores of Lake Garda. On arrival at the station you will be met for a private transfer to your hotel, the beautiful Villa del Sogno. Spend three nights by Lake Garda.

## DAYS FIVE AND SIX: Lake Garda

At leisure to enjoy Lake Garda and its surroundings. On the lower slopes of the hills around Lake Garda are a profusion of lemons and olives, chestnuts and palms, magnolias and camellias. Pretty villages hug the sheltered bays and fishing boats still moor next to sailing boats. Monte Baldo, above the lake, can be reached by cable car and affords spectacular views. At Gargnano on Lake Garda you can see the stone pavilions where lemons were traditionally cultivated.



Lake Geneva

## DAY SEVEN: Take the sleeper train from Milan

Depart Lake Garda and travel back to London by overnight sleeper train. Your train leaves from Desenzano train station to take you to Milan, where you board the Thello sleeper service around 11pm.

## DAY EIGHT: Continue by rail to London

You arrive back in Paris at around 10.30am and continue by Eurostar back to London where you arrive around lunchtime.

## 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 Switzerland and Italy can be found below.

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## LAUSANNE

### **Hotel Angeleterre et Residence 4 star**

On the shores of Lake Geneva with stunning view of the Alps, this hotel comprises of five different buildings surrounding the main Reception. The hotel offers contemporary style in a historic setting with parts of the buildings dating back to the 18th century. The 75 bedrooms and Junior Suites are scattered between four buildings, each with their own distinct styles, but all guests will benefit from the same high standards of care from the friendly, professional staff.

## VERONA

### **Hotel Gabbia d'Oro 5 star**

The Gabbia d'Oro is in the centre of Verona near the historic church of San Giovanni in Foro and a mere stone's throw from Juliet's famous balcony. The hotel has the feeling of a luxurious private home in a carefully restored 14-th century palazzo. There are just 27 rooms at this elegant property, each of which is superbly furnished in traditional décor which is outdone only by the extremely friendly and professional service which guests receive during their stay.

## LAKE GARDA

### **Villa del Sogno 5 star**

This is a captivating hotel perched above the lake, offering comfortable and luxurious accommodation in attractive surroundings. The hotel is surrounded by a beautiful park, whilst guests can admire the views across the deep blue waters from the large terrace. The rooms are divided between the original villa and the newer extension beneath the villa, where the style is much more modern and many rooms are equipped with balconies. The hotel's restaurant, the Maximilian, offers guests the choice to eat in the plush dining room or outside on the terrace whilst the garden bar offers lunch and light snacks by the pool.



*Villa del Sogno*

## VERONA FESTIVAL 2019 DATES

### **La Traviata**

June 21, 28  
July 11, 19, 25  
August 1, 8, 17, 22, 30  
September 5

### **Aida**

June 22, 27  
July 5, 9, 12, 21, 24, 28  
August 3, 9, 18, 25, 28, 31  
September 3, 7

### **Il Trovatore**

June 29  
July 4, 7, 20, 26

### **Carmen**

July 6, 10, 13, 18, 23, 27  
August 2, 24, 27  
September 4

### **Roberto Bolle and Friends**

July 16

### **Placido Domingo 50**

**Arena Anniversary night**  
August 4

### **Tosca**

August 10, 16, 23, 29  
September 6

### **Carmina Burana**

August 11



*Hotel Gabbia d'Oro*



*Villa del Sogno*



*Angeleterre et Residence*

# MAP OF TOUR RAIL HOLIDAY TO VERONA AND LAKES GARDA AND GENEVA



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 £2,430 per person** for first class rail travel.

**From £2,210 per person** for second class rail travel.

All Prices based on two sharing a double or twin room.

#### What's included in this touring itinerary?

Accommodation on bed and breakfast as below

1 night in a Superior room at the Hotel

Angleterre et Residence in Lausanne

2 nights in a Double room at the Hotel Gabbia d'Oro in Verona

3 nights in a Double room with lake view at the Villa del Sogno in Gardone Riviera

First or second class travel on all trains (as above) including Eurostar

Double sleeper compartment on Thello sleeper train

Tickets for 1st sector stalls at Verona Opera.

Private transfer from Verona station to your hotel

Private transfer from Verona hotel to Lake Garda hotel

Private transfer from hotel to Desenzano station.

#### What's not included?

Optional extra nights

Transfers in Paris

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

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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  
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## 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.