

Small-Group, Hiking & Cultural Tours

# ICONIC ITALY



**WHERE:**

Rome,  
Tuscany/Umbria,  
Lake Como

**WHEN:**

5 - 18 May 2024  
14-days

**WHAT:**

Pack free village to  
village hiking, relaxing at  
Lake Como



## Summary

Explore the absolute best of Italy starting in Rome and finishing on the shores of Lake Como.

Join us as we wander through the Italian countryside, hiking from village to village while our luggage goes ahead of us, giving us plenty of time to explore at leisure. We'll finish our time in Perugia before heading onto Florence and then finishing on the shores of Lake Como - perfetta!

Perugia, the artistic capital of the region, welcomes us with its Renaissance architecture. Here, we'll trade the hurried pace for unhurried exploration, indulging in lengthy lunches in rustic villages, sipping Aperol Spritz under the Italian sun, and unveiling the mysteries of hidden medieval streets and winding alleys.

Our journey meanders through lush forests, offering glimpses of cascading waterfalls and culminating in the hilltop town of Assisi. Here, the birthplace of St. Francis awaits, featuring awe-inspiring frescoes painted by early Renaissance masters. Before we bid farewell to Umbria, our path leads to Montefalco, where a wealth of ancient Roman ruins, man-made caves, and amphitheaters lay in wait. Choose to do 4, 5 or 6 days hiking from 50km - 72km

From the Tuscan capital of Florence, our voyage continues to Lake Como, Italy's stylish gem at the base of the magnificent Alps. Follow panoramic mountain trails, lakeside paths through pastel-hued villages, and discover world-renowned neoclassical villas and immaculate gardens. Join us for an unforgettable Italian adventure, a journey of history, culture, and natural beauty.



### **Day 1 (D) Arrive Rome**

Arrive today in Rome, if you're arriving with the group airport transfers are included. Meet the rest of your group at 6pm in the hotel reception and after introductions, we'll head off for a welcome dinner.

Stay - Bettoja Atlantico Hotel (or similar)

### **Day 2 (B) Rome to Perugia**

The morning is free to discover more about Rome's highlights, but be back at the hotel by early afternoon as we'll take the short walk to the Roma Termini to take the train to Perugia.

Perugia's centro storico (historic centre), is very chic and cosmopolitan although seemingly little has changed in more than 400 years. The small city rises in a helter-skelter of cobbled alleys, arched stairways, and piazzas framed by solemn churches and magnificent Gothic palazzi (mansions). Reminders of its lively and often bloody past are everywhere, from ancient arches and medieval basilicas to Renaissance frescoes. For dinner tonight it is suggested that you try out one of the many truffle restaurants which are famous in the area.

### **Day 3 (B) Perugia**

After breakfast, a local guide leads a captivating half-day walking tour through the ancient city of Perugia. Cobblestone streets echo with history, and ancient ruins unveil the tales of yesteryear. Listen to the echoes of centuries past and immerse yourself in the vibrant local culture.

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon, in preparation for our day of exploration on foot in the morning.

### **Day 4 (B) Perugia - Assisi (12km - 4hrs)**

Our adventure begins with a transfer to Valfabbrica, where we set off on along the rugged hills, retracing the path of St. Francis. As we leave the slightly challenging terrain behind, the landscape transforms into rolling hills, followed by a scenic woodland trail that leads us to the awe-inspiring hilltop city of Assisi.

Our base for the next two nights is Assisi, where we'll stay in charming character accommodation, fully immersing ourselves in the local ambiance.

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## **Day 5 (B) A day in Assisi**

### **Or, optional hike Eremo delle Carceri Loop (10km, 3hrs\_)**

Today you have the choice to either take a relaxing stroll exploring the laneways of Assisi, or visit the UNESCO World Heritage site, the basilica of St Francis. View the frescoes within painted by the early Renaissance masters Giotto and Cimab.

Alternatively, you have the option to climb the Eremo delle Carceri trail on Mount Subaesio. The trail is challenging in places however, you are awarded with breathtaking views over Assisi, along with a pleasant picnic spot nearby.

Tonight enjoy a quiet evening resting your weary legs and get a good night's sleep ahead of the next leg in the Umbrian countryside.

## **Day 6 (B) Assisi - Spello (12km, 4hrs)**

After breakfast, we farewell to the bustling tourist town of Assisi and walk along trails meandering amidst picturesque olive groves and views of the Umbrian countryside. As you work up an appetite, you might want to savour some local delicacies like pan caciato or pan nociato, traditional breads of the region, paired with some delicious pecorino cheese. After a brief rest, we venture into the charming yet less crowded town of Spello, also known for being one of the most beautiful villages in Italy.

This evening, you may wish to dine at a nearby restaurant to celebrate the half-way mark of the hike. Tomorrow, you have the choice to take it easy following the longest stretch of the hike or, if you're feeling adventurous, opt for an additional hike to keep the momentum going.

## **Day 7 (B) A day in Spello or optional hike Spello Loop (12km, 4hrs)**

Today is yours to savour some well-deserved rest and relaxation, or explore the picturesque town. Stroll through its ancient churches, meander along the cobbled streets adorned with craft shops and galleries at your own pace. If you're feeling energetic, there's also the option to join fellow travellers for a loop walk starting from Spello. This scenic walk weaves through the countryside to the tiny hamlet of Collepinno, perched on the side of Mount Subasio, overlooking breathtaking views of the olive groves below.

However you choose to spend your day, make sure to get a good night's sleep before we set off in the morning.



Photo: Suzanne Holden

## **Day 8 (B) Spello - Bevagna (16km 5hrs)**

After breakfast we are transferred by vehicle from Spello to Collemaccio where our spectacular walk begins. We are treated to a visit to a rustic cellar of the Dionigi family where we will enjoy sampling local wines before arriving in the walled town of Bevagna. What sets Bevagna apart from its hilltop neighbours is its relatively level terrain. Enjoy your stay earning another restful this evening.

## **Day 9 (B) Bevagna - Montefalco (10km, 3hrs)**

Our final day of hiking takes us through the heart of this renowned winery region, amidst fertile fields of crops, picturesque vineyards, and thriving olive groves. Just like Spello, Montefalco holds the title of being one of Italy's most beautiful villages, it's an absolute hidden gem. It's no surprise, considering its prime location right in the heart of an expansive wine-producing region.

And speaking of wine, be sure to indulge in the delightful Sagrantino – it's a must-try!

## **Day 10 (B) Montefalco - Florence**

Today we catch the train direct to Florence's Santa Maria Novella station, speeding through photogenic Tuscan landscapes. Upon arrival in Florence, known as 'The Athens of the Middle Ages', we'll make our way to our hotel, then enjoy time at leisure to explore this incredible historic city.

The day is yours to enjoy in Florence, tick off the shopping list of leather goods, take in the classical artworks, sculptures, and architecture, or just sit back with an Aperol Spritz and watch Florence pass you by under the shade of the Duomo.



## **Day 11 (B) Florence - Lake Como**

You may like to get up very early and go for a wander before breakfast and enjoy seeing Florence come to life. Watch as the Tuscan sun filters the light for one last time on this trip. Return to the hotel for breakfast then join the group on the train from Florence to Varenna, on the shores of Lake Como. From here we'll take a leisurely ferry ride to Menaggio where we will check into our wonderful accommodation and chill.

Feel the serenity!

## **Day 12 & 13 (B) Lake Como**

Lake Como, is the third largest of the Italian lakes, located at the foot of the Alps and arguably the most stylish of them all. It offers the picture-perfect escape.

Picture yourself following panoramic mountain trails gazing down onto the shimmering lake and wandering along lakeside paths between pastel-hued villages. Be dazzled by the world-famous neoclassical villas and immaculate gardens, not forgetting über-chic Bellagio with its flower-filled lakeside promenade and cafés, where you can pause for a chilled spritzer cocktail and watch the world go by.

This is the time to be as active and adventurous as you like or stay put in one of the most beautiful locations in the world. There are no planned activities on these days, however, if you'd like help planning we're here to help. People in the group will be going wherever they like, and if you want to tag along, please, just ask.

## **Day 14 (B) Departure**

All good things must come to an end, sadly. Depart any time after breakfast. Arrivederci!

We can help you with the transfer to the airport/onward journey from the accommodation.

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## The Details

### PRICE INCLUDES:

- Small-Group - max 14. Fully escorted
- 13 nights comfortable accommodation 1 x Rome, 8 x Umbria, 1 x Florence, 3 x Lake Como
- 13 breakfasts
- 4 dinners (incl 1 x Michelin Star Restaurant)
- All group transfers from Airport in Rome to Lake Como, incl. private vehicles, trains, taxis and ferries
- Luggage transfers whilst hiking
- Wine tasting
- Assistance with flights/private transfers/insurance

### PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Flights to/from Italy
- Transport from Lake Como to onward journey
- All meals not mentioned in inclusions
- All expenses of a personal nature
- Travel Insurance - Compulsory

### COST PER PERSON

Twin/double share - \$5,950/pp

Single Supplement - \$1,490/pp own room

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