

ITALIAN SOJOURN ITINERARY and INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

Day 1 - Venice, Italy

Step on board in Venice, the magical city renowned for its art, architecture and culture. Watch the sunlight dapple on the water as we ease our way through the archipelago. We remain docked here today, providing you with ample time to explore the city.

Day 2 - Venice, Italy

Awake and further explore central Venice on your own this morning, as you investigate the out-of-the-way passages that reveal beautiful, hidden piazzas, or cross the lagoon to Murano and Burano to view the world-renowned glassblowing craftsmen. If you did not take yesterday's included guided tour, you may do so today. Or opt for one of the many optional tours. As your ship sets sail, enjoy a spectacular view of the lagoon as we head out to the Adriatic Sea.

At Glance: St. Mark's Square-A Scenic Transfer to Venice's Renowned Piazza - View this fabled city from the Venice Lagoon's languid, stunning waters and explore legendary St. Mark's Square. You will explore La Serenissima (the Most Serene) starting with a leisurely cruise, passing magnificent waterside palazzos and piazzas and peering down the lapping, narrow canals that weave their way into the city's medieval corridors. Disembark at the landing pontoon next to Palazzo Cornoldi, meet your guide and take a short walk to beautiful St. Mark's Square, crossing the four elegant bridges that link the waterfront. After a short orientation tour, enjoy free time to visit the splendid Gothic-Byzantine St. Mark's Basilica and its grand Campanile bell tower and admire the Doge's Palace and other nearby attractions. Enjoy a gelato here, sip an espresso or just soak in the medieval ambience. Return to your ship at leisure via a complimentary shuttle boat from the landing pontoon next to Palazzo Cornoldi.

Day 3 - Šibenik, Croatia

Cruise the scenic St. Anthony Channel into the oldest Croatian city on the Dalmatian Coast, Šibenik. Resting at the mouth of the Krka River, this UNESCO World Heritage Site has a remarkably preserved Old Town. Roam its narrow streets past medieval houses and churches, all surrounded by four historic fortresses. The city's St. James Cathedral is the most important Renaissance structure in Croatia. Perhaps you will join an excursion to view the impressive waterfalls of the Krka River.

Šibenik Promenade-A Historic City Stroll

Explore the sights of Šibenik and visit St. James Cathedral—the jewel of the Dalmatian coast. You will meet your knowledgeable local guide and make your way to the center of the Old Town on foot. Here, the baroque Church of St. Francis stands on the site of the monastery and church founded in 1229, and incorporates some of its original structure. Continue on to the square of John Paul II, where you will admire the grand exterior of Šibenik's theater, and the Gothic-Renaissance Church of St. Ivan. Then, you will have the chance to visit St. James Cathedral—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Started in 1430, the basilica's construction spanned over a century and reflects the move from Venetian-Gothic to Tuscan-Renaissance. Modest attire is required for the cathedral, and shorts are not permitted. You may choose to remain in town after your tour to explore further, and return to the ship at your leisure.

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Day 4 Bari, Italy

Explore sunny, palm-lined Bari, where streets are lined with romantic, honey-toned balconied houses, welcoming courtyards and Romanesque and baroque churches. Visit the Norman-Swabian castle, the splendid Romanesque Basilica of St. Nicholas and the Petruzzelli Theater, one of Italy's most important opera houses, and stroll the picturesque waterfront. Or perhaps visit Alberobello and its fascinating *trulli* houses, a UNESCO World Heritage Site of whitewashed buildings with conical roofs.

BARI WALKING TOUR - EXPLORE A NEWLY FASHIONABLE OLD WORLD GEM-Discover Bari on foot, an often overlooked jewel that burnishes its old-world patina with a dash of urban hip, thanks to its thriving university, excellent cuisine and sparkling renovations. You will travel here by motor coach, then walk to the Norman-Swabian Castle, which dates to 1131. Next is Romanesque Bari Cathedral, with its unusual rose window depicting fantastical figures. The most beloved of Bari's churches is the Basilica of St. Nicholas. Also known as Santa Claus, St. Nicholas is the city's patron. When his remains were brought to Bari in 1087 they inspired an influx of pilgrims that infused the city with wealth. See the saint's relics, then head to the Old Town's two main squares, Piazza del Ferrarese and Piazza Mercantile. Enjoy some free time here, then pass through modern Bari with its elegant seaside promenade as you return to ship.

Day 5 Crotone, Italy

Uncover the deep past of Crotone, founded as a Greek colony in 710 BC. Boasting a vast array of archaeological relics, the city was once heralded as the home of some of the Hellenic Empire's most celebrated figures, including many victors of the Olympic Games and Pythagoras, whose mathematical theories altered Western thought. During your visit, marvel at the impressive cathedral, a neoclassical wonder, browse the Pythagoras Museum and Gardens, and explore the waterfront and Crotone castle.

Crotone On Your Own; The City of Pythagoras - Explore the ancient culture of Crotone at your leisure. Travel by motor coach to Piazza Pythagoras, an homage to the Greek mathematician and Crotone resident. Set off on a self-guided exploration on foot. See Piazza Duomo and admire the 9th-century cathedral. Journey into alleys and see the archeological wall and Immaculate Conception church, where a storyteller will share the secret of eternal youth. Meet Pythia, the High Priestess of the Temple of Apollo at Delphi, who welcomes you at the National Archaeological Museum. Make your way to Charles V Castle, where you are greeted by Pythagoras and one of his daughters. Local staff will be on hand to assist you at various points around the city and to help you make the most of your visit. Explore the main square and market before returning to your ship. Note: On Sundays, the market is closed; alternatively, you will be offered a tasting of locally prepared foods.

Day 6 Sicily (Messina), Italy

Today you will call on the Sicilian city of Messina, celebrated as one of Europe's ten greatest cities when it fell under Spain's purview in the 17th century. Admire the surrounding mountains, picturesque orange and olive groves, and rolling vineyards. You will see the best of the city during a tour, including the expansive Piazza Municipio and the hillside Votive Temple of Christ the King. Or, choose to climb Mt. Etna's towering volcano, and marvel at the ancient temples and arenas of Taormina.

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Messina & Its Treasures -RESPLENDENT GEMS OF A MONUMENTAL CITY-Marvel at the architectural and artistic treasures held dear by the Sicilians of Messina. Meet your local guide for a short drive to the heart of Messina's historic center. See the expansive Piazza Municipio, the Via Garibaldi and the Piazza Cairoli, the heart of Old Town. Drive along the Via Cannizzaro to view the university, court of law, and picturesque Corso Cavour. Enjoy a photo stop by the hillside Votive Temple of Christ the King, a Sicilian baroque wonder, and admire the views over the port and the Messina Strait. Next you will reboard your coach and continue your panoramic tour along the north coast of Messina, which offers stunning vistas over the Ganzirri Lakes and the Capo Peloro. The saltwater lakes are used by fishermen to breed clams and mussels which feature heavily in the local cuisine.

Day 7 Naples, Italy

In Naples, your choice of excursions abounds. Take in magnificent examples of Greek and Roman architecture and the Piazza del Plebiscito, the grandest public square in the city, facing the former Royal Palace of the King of Naples. Optionally, also explore Herculaneum, Italy's "other" Pompeii, drive along the stunning Amalfi Coast, or take a trip to the summit of Vesuvius. In your spare time, sample a hot espresso, a slice of pizza (the world's first pizzeria opened here in 1830) or a locally made *limoncello*.

Scenic Naples-Enjoy This Sojourn Through Naples-Discover the highlights of Naples, a major center of Italian culture, during a scenic drive and walking tour. Naples was the location of a powerful independent kingdom for 500 years, luring the region's finest architects and artists, yet its history stretches back thousands of years. See evidence of its rich past, from Greek and Roman monuments to Renaissance splendors. Drive by Piazza del Plebiscito, perhaps the grandest public square in the city, with the former Royal Palace of Naples overlooking the bustling square. Explore the Old Town of Naples on foot with a short 20-minute stroll to the Piazza del Gesù Nuovo. Enjoy a guided visit to the exquisite cloisters of Santa Chiara Monastery, founded in the 14th century by the king of Naples. Afterward, enjoy free time in the piazza to sample the local Neapolitan coffee at one of the famous coffeehouses nearby, or walk around the inviting shops, perhaps sampling a gelato.

Day 8 - Rome, Italy

Disembark the ship today. Our proximity to Rome leaves you with countless options if you are touring more of Italy on your own. You can also extend your journey in Rome with Viking, exploring the ancient capital in more depth.

Note: Included excursions are subject to change. Optional excursions will also be available on this itinerary for an additional fee - updated 4/15/21