

There is no better way to embrace "la dolce vita" than by trekking through the dreamiest landscapes of northern Italy on this hiking adventure tailored for the active traveller. From the Venetian Lagoon, we venture north through lush farmlands before reaching the rolling foothills of the Alps. Along the way, take in incredible vistas, dine on delicious cuisine, try your hand at cooking the Italian way, and of course, savour the fruits of the hills with a glass of wine or two.

Then, we head onwards to the towering Dolomites, where we will hike between peaks and drive along splendid mountain roads. To cap it all off, we will unwind over two nights in the serene, sparkling floating city of Venice with visits to the colourful islands of Murano and Burano.

With our journey leader and local guides, we will hike through exquisite scenery, soak up the region's history and culture, and connect with nature. This trip promises to be nothing short of magical!

## **Inclusive Features**

- Return economy group airfare between Canada and Italy with Air Canada
- 9 nights in comfortable hotels, as indicated or similar
- Baggage handling for one piece of luggage per guest at hotels
- Sightseeing and excursions as outlined in the program
- A glass of wine and mineral water provided with included lunches and dinners
- 19 meals included as noted in the itinerary (B 9 breakfasts, L 3 lunches, D 7 dinners)
- Services of your Canadian journey leader and local guides.
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare



Colourful Burano island at sunset



# **Tour Highlights**

- Five days of guided hikes through the beautiful Italian countryside and the picturesque Dolomites, including Seceda Ridgeline, Fanes Waterfalls, Lake Braies, the Cinque Torri, and Tre Cime di Lavaredo
- Two nights in Venice, five nights in the Dolomites, and two nights in the Prosecco Hills
- · Guided walking tour of Venice
- Day trip to visit the colourful villages of Murano and Burano
- Cooking class in the rural pre-Alps region

# **Journey Leader**

Born in Northern Ontario to a Parisian/German father and a Franco-Ontarian mother with Greek heritage, it is no surprise that **Romy Hahn's** passion for life and travel began at an early age. It began while growing up spending summer holidays in Paris and taking trips all over



Europe. She is a senior professional in the print industry and attended Ryerson University, Toronto, in a Business Program. Romy is an avid photographer and adventurer having taken many journeys to destinations across Europe, North and Central America. One of her favourite trips was backpacking across Italy and staying in Monasteries. She looks forward to sharing new travel experiences with all that join her!

#### SEP 21, Sunday **DEPART CANADA**

Group members gather in Toronto for the transatlantic overnight flight to Venice, Italy.

SEP 22, Monday ARRIVE VENICE / FARRA DI SOLIGO Upon arrival in Venice, our guide will greet us and accompany us throughout our journey until we return home. We head north to the rolling hills between historic Venice and the Italian Alps. This evening, enjoy our welcome reception and dinner at our hotel.

Hotel Villa Soligo (2 nights)

SEP 23, Tuesday **CONEGLIANO** 

Departing from Piazza Cima, we take a short walk to Conegliano Castle, where we can enjoy a beautiful view of the hills and the Piave River. After a short break at a café, we return along the old walls. Nearby, we visit a young couple who will introduce us to "la dolce vita" in their rustic Italian home tucked away in the countryside. Here, surrounded by woodlands, is the perfect place to experience a unique cooking class from a professional chef. A perfect way to begin our discovery of the regional culture and cuisine.

#### **DOLOMITES / CINQUE TORRI** SEP 24, Wednesday

This morning we venture deeper into the Dolomiti Region. We will ascend via cable car to Rifugio Scoiattoli, a charming mountain cabin refuge, for a lunch surrounded by breathtaking mountain vistas. Following lunch, we will embark on a scenic two-hour ring trail walk around the Averau and Nuvolau refuges. Time permitting we may visit open-air museum showcasing WWI artillerv emplacements. [up to 5km / 300m elevation change] **BLD** 

Hotel des Alpes (5 nights)

#### SEP 25, Thursday TRE CIME DI LAVAREDO

Enjoy the incredible scenery as we travel along meandering mountain roads up to Rifugio Auronzo. From here we begin our trek on the mountain trails, basking in the views of the surrounding valleys and peaks. At Rifugio Locatelli, we will pause for lunch before returning to our coach. Time permitting we shall stop to explore some areas near the quaint village of Cortina d'Ampezzo. [up to 9 km / 260m elevation change] **BLD** 

#### SEP 26, Friday SECEDA RIDGELINE

The Seceda Ridgeline is one of the most iconic landscapes of the Dolomites. We reach the ridgeline by cable car from the mountain town of Ortisei. Our walk takes us through the beautiful meadows that cascade down to the valley below, with breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains. [up to 6km / 400m elevation change] BD

#### SEP 27, Saturday **FANES WATERFALL**

Just north of our hotel, we find today's trail. The many pools, rapids and waterfalls of the Rio Fanes dot the trail as it meanders through the valley. En route, we shall stop for panoramic views of the lower Fanes waterfalls, one of the tallest and highest flow rate falls in the region.

[up to 8km / 250m elevation change] BD

#### SEP 28, Sunday LAKES BRAIES

This morning we visit the north side of the Fanes-Sennes-Braies Nature Park and the picturesque Lake Braies. Our leisurely walk will loop around what is arguably one of the Dolomites' most beautiful lakes, with mountain peaks



Venice's Grand Canal aglow with evening charm



The iconic Cinque Torri



Conegliano, the heart of Italy's Prosecco region



The serene beauty of Lake Braies

towering above on all sides and various trails branching out into the surrounding valleys.

[approximately 4 to 6km / 140m elevation change] B

SEP 29, Monday VENICE

After we descend from the majestic Italian Alps, Venice welcomes us back. During our guided walking tour, you will encounter some of Venice's iconic landmarks, such as the Rialto Bridge, St. Mark's Square with the Doge's Palace and St. Mark's Basilica, and the Bridge of Sighs. Of course, those interested may take an optional gondola ride (additional cost). **Hotel Santa Marina** (2 nights)

### SEP 30, Tuesday MURANO AND BURANO

Enjoy a relaxing boat trip to Murano and Burano, the two most colourful islands in the Venetian lagoon. These islands are home to generations of Venetian artisans, world -renowned for their incredible craftsmanship. Witness live demonstrations of their time-honoured traditions of glassblowing and lacemaking, then browse their exquisite collections. The rest of the day is yours to explore at your leisure. Tonight is our farewell dinner.

# OCT 1, Wednesday RETURN TO CANADA

All too soon, we say 'ciao' to Italy as we gather for our return flight to Canada.



Book by May 20, 2025 and save \$200 per person





The historic St. Mark's Square

CT Rating 4.5/5 - Extremely Challenging: This journey involves a number of hikes ranging from easy to difficult on hilly/uneven surfaces, lasting up to 2 - 5 hours per day. Listed hiking distances, elevation changes, and times are estimates and refer to the total hiking time for each full day. Travellers must be in excellent physical condition and be able to maintain the group pace. Alternate activities may be available for those unable to complete some of the hikes. Depending on weather and location conditions, daily activities may have to be altered or adjusted. Accommodations will be in comfortable traditional European hotels with atmosphere and character. Trail conditions may vary and are subject to change.



Intricate Venetian masks

## **Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person**

Land-Only* (Join first hotel / Leave last hotel)	\$5,695
Toronto	\$6,945
Ottawa / Montreal	\$7,085
Halifax	\$7,185
St. John's / Fredericton / Winnipeg	\$7,285
Saskatoon / Regina / Victoria	\$7,345
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver	\$7,285
Single Supplement	\$1,495

\*Land-only price is based on joining at the Hotel Villa Soligo and leaving at the Hotel Santa Marina. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carriers are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for details. Please note twin bed (two beds) accommodation is limited.

Tour price is based on sharing a twin-bedded room at hotels. Prices are based on a minimum of 20 members and on rates, taxes and fees effective July 2024. Prices are subject to change due to factors beyond our control.

# Small group size for a more intimate experience. Maximum 25 travellers.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

## First deposit of \$500 per person is due at time of booking Second deposit of \$1,000 per person is due on May 20, 2025 Final payment is due on June 18, 2025

To reserve your spot on this tour, you can either book online through our website or submit an enrollment form along with your deposit to:



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