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2026 BELLA ITALIA TOUR

September 1 to 13, 2026

PROPOSED TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 / September 1 / Tuesday

Meet at the airport and check in for the flight.

Depart for Amsterdam

We have seats held from Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver.

Other gateways are available on request. Cost difference may apply.

Day 2 / September 2 / Wednesday

Arrive in Amsterdam

Depart Amsterdam for Venice

Arrive in Venice and meet your guide and bus.

Depart for Verona and check in to the hotel

Dinner included at the hotel, evening free

Meals: D Overnight: Verona, Italy



Day 3 / September 3 / Thursday

Breakfast at the hotel

This morning depart for Lake Garda to enjoy a boat tour around the Sirmione peninsula.

The 25 minute boat tour provides panoramic views of the Sirmione peninsula on Lake Garda, highlighting landmarks like the Scaliger Castle, Grotte di Catullo (Roman ruins), and luxury villas while offering perspectives on the town, thermal springs, and Jamaica Beach. Sirmione, a breathtaking medieval hamlet, is famous for the clear waters of Lake Garda, the beautiful castle and for the charming palaces full of flowers.

Free time to explore the town.

Depart for a winery near Lake Garda for a wine tasting and lunch.

Return to Verona.



Meet our guide for late afternoon walking tour of Verona.

Verona, Italy, is a romantic, historic city in the Veneto region, famous for being the setting of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and for its well-preserved Roman and Renaissance architecture, including the vast Arena amphitheater. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, featuring picturesque squares like Piazza delle Erbe, a vibrant local market, and a culture blending ancient Roman roots with Renaissance charm. Visitors can explore historical sites, enjoy Northern Italian cuisine, and discover the city's beauty along the Adige River.

Free time to sightsee, shop and have dinner on your own.

Meet the bus at the bus parking area and return to the hotel.

Meals: B, L Overnight: Verona, Italy



Day 4 / September 4 / Friday

Breakfast at the hotel.

Depart for a day trip to Venice.

Venice, Italy, is a historic "floating city" built on 118 islands in a lagoon, famous for its unique canals, bridges, and gondolas. Founded in the 5th century by refugees, it grew into a powerful maritime republic and commercial hub, controlling vital trade routes to Asia. Today, it's a major tourist destination and a UNESCO World Heritage site, renowned for its stunning architecture, art, and timeless, magical atmosphere.

Arrive at the Tronchetto bus parking. Catch our boat to St. Mark's Square.

Meet our guide in the square for 2 hours guided walking tour of Venice.

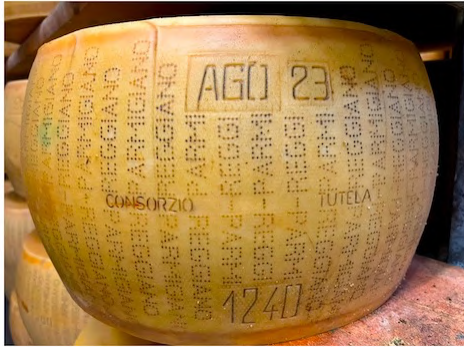
Free time for sightseeing, shopping and to have lunch on your own.

Meet the group and walk back to our boat dock

Boat departure to the bus parking and return to the hotel in Verona

Enjoy dinner at the hotel. Evening free in Verona.

Meals: B, D Overnight: Verona, Italy



Day 5 / September 5 / Saturday

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out of the hotel

Depart for Modena

Tour of the 4 Madonne Parmigiano Cheese factory and tasting of the famous cheese.

4 Madonne Caseificio dell'Emilia is a dairy cooperative near Modena, Italy, famous for its Parmigiano Reggiano cheese, offering tours where visitors can observe the cheese-making process from milk delivery to the aging warehouse, learn about the production of various Parmigiano Reggiano types, and enjoy a tasting session followed by a visit to the factory shop. The dairy was founded in 1967 and specializes in different kinds of Parmigiano Reggiano, including organic, red cow, and mountain product varieties, and is a must-visit for cheese enthusiasts.

Balsamic vinegar farm visit, tasting and lunch.

Aceto Balsamico Paltrinieri refers to the balsamic vinegars produced by the Paltrinieri family, an Italian estate that has been making traditional balsamic vinegar since 1845 in the region of Modena and Reggio Emilia. Their products are known for their quality, using traditional methods and aging in wooden barrels to create a rich, syrupy flavor. The family also offers guided tours of their estate, allowing visitors to learn about the production process and taste various vinegars.

Free time in the Enzo Ferrari Museum in Modena

The Enzo Ferrari Museum (Museo Enzo Ferrari) in Modena, Italy, is a museum complex dedicated to the life and legacy of Enzo Ferrari, the founder of the Ferrari automotive brand. It includes the restored house where Enzo Ferrari was born and a futuristic, yellow-clad building featuring an automotive design gallery, exhibitions on Ferrari's history, and displays of iconic Ferrari cars and engines. The museum celebrates Enzo Ferrari's vision and journey from his humble beginnings to establishing the iconic brand.

Continue to Bologna

Arrive in Bologna and check in to the hotel

Your evening is free to enjoy the great restaurants and wine bars in Bologna.

Meals: B, L Overnight: Bologna, Italy



Day 6 / September 6 / Sunday

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning guided walking tour of Bologna.

Bologna is the capital of Italy's Emilia-Romagna region, famous for its historic university, rich culinary traditions, vibrant student life, and extensive porticoes. Known by the nicknames "La Dotta" (The Learned), "La Grassa" (The Fat), and "La Rossa" (The Red), the city boasts the world's oldest university, exceptional cuisine, and unique terracotta-colored architecture. As a major transportation hub in Northern Italy, it offers a less crowded but equally enchanting experience, rich in medieval history and modern culture.

Free time to have lunch and explore Bologna.

Afternoon trip to the Rimini Coast for free time at the beach or to explore the town.

Rimini is a major seaside resort city in Italy's Emilia-Romagna region, famous for its long sandy beaches, lively nightlife, and numerous hotels, but also rich in history and culture. Rimini boasts a 15-kilometer (9.3 mi) stretch of sandy beach on the Adriatic Sea, with many sections managed by private beach clubs. Rimini features significant Roman ruins like the Arch of Augustus and Tiberius Bridge, and Renaissance monuments such as the Tempio Malatestiano. As the hometown of director Federico Fellini, the city also has a museum dedicated to him and offers a blend of historical sites, modern resorts, and a vibrant atmosphere.

Return to the hotel.

Your evening is free to enjoy the great restaurants and wine bars in Bologna.

Meals: B Overnight: Bologna, Italy



Day 7 / September 7 / Monday

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out of the hotel.

Depart for Florence and drop off our bags at the hotel storage area.

Meet our local guide for a walking tour of Florence.

Florence, Italy is the capital of the Tuscany region, a city renowned as the birthplace of the Renaissance and the global capital of art in the 15th century. Situated on the Arno River, the city boasts a rich history as a Roman colony and a center of finance and culture, leaving behind a legacy of unmatched art, architecture, and cuisine. Visitors can explore world-class museums and galleries, including those housing masterpieces by artists like Michelangelo, and marvel at stunning landmarks such as the Duomo.

Lunch is on your own in Florence. Maybe go to the second floor of the Mercato Centrale.

This afternoon maybe shop at the San Lorenzo market, see Michelangelo's masterpiece, the statue of David, at the Galleria dell'Accademia, or visit the Uffizi Galleries with its outstanding collections of ancient sculptures and paintings from the Middle Ages to the Modern period.

You can return to the hotel at your leisure to check in to your room.

Meals: B Overnight: Florence, Italy



Day 8 / September 8 / Tuesday

Breakfast at the hotel.

Depart for Pisa and take the train from the parking area

Pisa, Italy, is a historic Tuscan city renowned for its Leaning Tower and its Piazza dei Miracoli (Square of Miracles), a UNESCO World Heritage site. Once a powerful maritime republic, Pisa is situated on the Arno River and is known for its Romanesque architecture, universities, and cultural sites, offering a rich experience of Tuscan life. The Leaning Tower of Pisa is an 13th-century freestanding bell tower famous for its iconic lean caused by its shallow, unstable foundation on soft soil. Construction began in 1173 but was interrupted for decades, allowing the soil to settle and partially preventing collapse. After centuries of continued construction and worsening tilt, a major stabilization project in the late 20th and early 21st centuries reduced the lean to about 4 degrees, making it safe for visitors

Free time to enjoy Pisa and have lunch on your own.

Depart for Lucca and enjoy free time to explore the town.

Lucca is a historically rich city in Tuscany, Italy, renowned for its intact Renaissance walls, which now serve as a popular promenade and bike path. The city features well-preserved medieval architecture, elegant palaces, and numerous Pisan-Romanesque churches, creating a picturesque and culturally vibrant atmosphere. It is also the birthplace of opera composer Giacomo Puccini and hosts significant cultural events, making it a charming and sophisticated destination for travelers seeking a genuine Tuscan experience.

Stop at the Fattori Il Poggio near Montecarlo, Tuscany.

Fattoria Il Poggio is a family-run organic farm, vineyard, and restaurant that offers immersive food and wine experiences. Visitors can tour their vineyards and olive oil production facilities, then enjoy wine and olive oil tasting combined with meals made with local, organic ingredients.

Return to Florence.

Meals: B, D Overnight: Florence, Italy



Day 9 / September 9 / Wednesday

Breakfast at the hotel.

Depart for Siena and meet our local guide for a walking tour on arrival.

Siena is a historic city in Tuscany, Italy, famous for its well-preserved medieval architecture and cultural significance, with a UNESCO World Heritage-listed historic center. Siena is considered a prime example of a medieval city, having experienced its peak of political and economic power before being surpassed by Florence in the 13th and 14th centuries. It is known for the shell-shaped Piazza del Campo, the Gothic Siena Cathedral (Duomo), and the Palio horse race held twice a year in the main square since medieval times. The city's narrow, winding streets, unique layout on three hills, and rich history make it a major tourist destination that represents the heart of medieval Italy.

Free time to enjoy Siena and have lunch on your own.

Depart for San Gimignano for free time to sightsee and shop.

San Gimignano is a medieval hill town in Tuscany, Italy, famous for its well-preserved architecture and 14 surviving medieval towers that earned it the nickname "Manhattan of the Middle Ages". Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, the town offers a look into a rich history that includes its time as an important stop on the Via Francigena pilgrimage route, its prosperity from the saffron trade, and its well-preserved historic center. Key attractions include its towers, medieval town layout, and significant frescoes in churches like the Collegiate Church. You can climb the tallest tower in town, the Torre Grossa, and it offers excellent views after a climb of over 200 steps.

Depart for Borgo Macchiavelli for a tour and dinner.

Borgo Machiavelli is a historical estate in Tuscany, Italy, once home to the political philosopher Niccolò Machiavelli during his 1512 exile, where he wrote *The Prince*. Borgo Machiavelli is situated in the hills of Tuscany, located near Sant'Andrea in Percussina, about 15 kilometers from Florence. Visitors can tour the house and the inn where Machiavelli spent his time. It is also home to a restaurant and winery, where guests can enjoy traditional Tuscan cuisine and local wines, often inspired by recipes passed down through generations.

Return to Florence.

Meals: B, D Overnight: Florence, Italy



Day 10 / September 10 / Thursday

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out of the hotel.

Depart for Rome and stop along the way in Montepulciano.

Montepulciano is a medieval and Renaissance hill town in southern Tuscany, Italy, famous for its "Vino Nobile" wine, historic architecture, and scenic views of the surrounding countryside. The town, located in the province of Siena, is situated on a limestone ridge, surrounded by the Val d'Orcia and Val di Chiana valleys. Montepulciano has Etruscan origins and was a strategic town in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, ultimately coming under Florentine rule. The town is a popular destination known for its Renaissance palaces, churches, and charming squares including the Piazza Grande, the main square, and the 16th-century Temple of San Biagio. It is a major significant producer of wine and local specialties including Vino Nobile di Montepulciano, pici pasta, pork, cheese, lentils, and honey. While Montepulciano is the town, it is important to distinguish it from the red wine grape variety, also named Montepulciano, which is grown primarily in regions like Abruzzo.

Visit Rinomata Rameria Mazzetti, a family-owned coppersmith business founded on a tradition of copper craftsmanship dating back to the late 1800s. Cesare Mazzetti and his family create handcrafted copper items, including cookware and artistic pieces, using time-honored techniques such as hammering and forging. Visitors can witness the creation process in their traditional workshop and shop (Bottega del Rame) and purchase unique, handmade copper goods.

Free time for lunch on your own in Montepulciano.

Visit the Contucci Winery for a visit and wine tasting.

Visit some rooms of Palazzo Contucci, still the residence of the Contucci family, built by Antonio da San Gallo the Elder in 1517, including the famous "Sala delle Feste", decorated in 1702 by Andrea Pozzo. Extended visit of the Contucci Cellars, part of the oldest city walls of Montepulciano (11th – 13th century); the only one of the historic cellars in the monumental center of our city, still fully operational. Visit to the panoramic garden with spectacular views of the entire Valdichiana and Lake Trasimeno (not possible in case of adverse weather conditions). Guided tasting, inside the Enoteca a Palazzo Contucci, of Rosso di Montepulciano DOC and 3 different labels of Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG, accompanied by a plate of local cured meats, two types of local pecorino cheese and bread with our Extra Virgin Olive Oil.

Arrive in Rome and check into the hotel.

Meals: B Overnight: Rome, Italy



Day 11 / September 11 / Friday

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning guided tour of Ancient Rome including the Colosseum and the Roman Forum.

The Colosseum, also known as the Flavian Amphitheatre, is Rome's largest ancient amphitheater, built between 70 and 80 AD. It was a monumental structure for entertainment, capable of holding up to 80,000 spectators for events like gladiator combats, animal hunts, public executions, and mock naval battles. Today, this iconic symbol of Imperial Rome is a ruin famous for its impressive architecture and its history of brutal spectacles.

The Roman Forum was the central hub of ancient Rome, a sprawling public space between the Palatine and Capitoline hills, where daily life unfolded. It served as the site for political, religious, commercial, and judicial activities, including public speeches, criminal trials, elections, and triumphal processions. Today, it is a significant archaeological site featuring the ruins of temples, basilicas, and other monuments that represent the heart of the former empire.



Lunch included at a restaurant.

After lunch we will drop you off at the Piazza del Popolo for you to start the rest of your free day in Rome. We suggest this self-guided Rome walking route covers historic landmarks like Piazza del Popolo, Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Galleria Sciarra, Pantheon, Piazza Navona, Campo de' Fiori, and Castel Sant'Angelo. It's a popular path that blends Ancient Roman sites with Baroque architecture. You can do some of the walk this afternoon and some on your free day Tomorrow. Azorcan has details on this walk with information on each stop on the tour webpage.

Walk summary:

Piazza del Popolo: Start at this grand piazza, considered the main entrance to the city in ancient times.

Spanish Steps: A famous set of 135 steps leading to the Trinita dei Monti church.

Trevi Fountain: Rome's largest Baroque fountain famous for its depiction of Neptune taming the waters.

Galleria Sciarra is a hidden Art Nouveau courtyard in Rome, built between 1885 and 1888.

Pantheon: An incredibly well-preserved ancient Roman building with a massive dome and an oculus.

Piazza Navona: Built on the site of an ancient Roman stadium. It's known for its Baroque architecture.

Campo de' Fiori: This is a historic market square that becomes lively in the evenings.

Castel Sant'Angelo: A fortress with a long history as a mausoleum, fortress, and papal residence.

In the evening we suggest going for dinner in the Trastevere neighborhood.

Trastevere is a historic and lively neighborhood in Rome located across the Tiber River, known for its picturesque cobblestone streets, ivy-covered buildings, and vibrant atmosphere. It is a popular spot for both locals and tourists to explore, featuring numerous trattorias, bars, boutiques, and significant churches like the Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere. The area is characterized by its bohemian and authentic Roman feel, with a history dating back to ancient times as a working-class district for fishermen and artisans.

Meals: B, L Overnight: Rome, Italy



Day 12 / September 12 / Saturday

Breakfast at the hotel.

Free day in Rome to enjoy “la dolce vita”

Azorcan will have information on the website about some options for today including:

The Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, Basilica of St John Lateran, Basilica of San Clemente, Caracalla Baths, Via Appia and Catacombs, Galleria & Villa Borghese, Nero's Domus Aurea, Palazzo Colonna, Palazzo Doria Pamphilj, Capuchin Crypt.

Maybe we can catch a Serie A soccer game today.

Meals: B Overnight: Rome, Italy

Day 13 / September 13 / Sunday

Breakfast at the hotel. Early departure may be breakfast packages if available. Check out of the hotel.

Depart for the airport.

We have seats held from Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver.

Other gateways are available on request. Cost difference may apply.

Arrive in Canada.

Meals: B



2026 BELLA ITALIA TOUR

Tour information, cost, and insurance

Bella Italia Tour Includes

Flight from Edmonton or Calgary to Venice

Flight from Rome to Edmonton or Calgary

Ask about flights from other gateways.

11 nights hotel accommodation in single or twin or double occupancy

Verona – 3 nights

Bologna – 2 nights

Florence – 3 nights

Rome – 3 nights

All transfers included in the itinerary

Breakfast daily plus lunches or dinners as listed in the itinerary

English speaking guide

Bella Italia Tour Included Sightseeing

Sept 3 - Lake Garda boat tour

Sept 3 – Verona guided city tour

Sept 4 – Venice boat transfer and guided city tour

Sept 5 - 4 Madone

Sept 5 - Acetaia Paltrinieri with lunch included

Sept 5 - Enzo Ferrari entrance tickets

Sept 6 – Bologna guided city tour

Sept 7 – Florence guided city tour

Sept 9 – Siena guided city tour

Sept 10 – guide tour of Montepulciano

Sept 11 – Guided tour of the Colosseum and the Roman Forum.

Bella Italia Tour Tastings and Special Meals

Sept 2 – welcome dinner at the Verona Hotel

Sept 3 - Lake Garda Wine tour and lunch

Sept 4 – dinner at the Verona Hotel

Sept 5 – lunch at Acetaia Paltrinieri in Emilia Romagna

Sept 8 – dinner at the Fattoria Il Poggio in Tuscany

Sept 9 – dinner at Il Borgo Machiavelli in Tuscany

Sept 10– Brunello winery tour and tasting

Sept 11 – lunch at a traditional Roman restaurant

Bella Italia Tour Does Not Include

Travel Insurance (Medical and Trip Cancellation)

We recommend that all passengers purchase insurance at the time of registration.

Drinks at meals are not included unless noted.

Optional free time activities

Tips for guides or bus drivers

Bella Italia Tour Cost Per Person

Double or Twin room cost - **\$7895.00**

Single room cost - **\$8995.00**

Tour Payment Schedule

Initial deposit to guarantee your spot on the tour - **\$ 500.00**

Please complete the tour registration form and email with an image of your passports.

Second payment by **April 15, 2025 - \$ 1500.00**

Final Payment and final name list by **June 15, 2026**

Payments can be made by check, bank draft or etransfer. Contact us for etransfer details.

Azorcan does not accept credit card payments for our tours.

Azorcan is not liable for any payments made to third parties. Payments are non-refundable

Tour No Flight Discount and Extended Stays

Receive a **\$ 1800.00** discount to arrange your own flights and meet the group in Europe. Economy seats are reserved for the group.

If you want to extend your stay Azorcan can change your return flight and the gateway. There may be an additional cost to do this and on a group file we are limited by the number of passengers we can do changes on either the outbound or return flight.

Optional Travel and Trip Cancellation Insurance

Azorcan Global offers an all-inclusive insurance policy or just a trip cancellation policy with Allianz Insurance. A copy of the insurance booklet and coverage is available on the tour webpage. It is up to each passenger to review the coverage and understand exclusions. We are not insurance agents so please call Allianz for any clarification on coverage. It is each passenger's responsibility to ensure they have proper coverage.

Azorcan will get a quote for **all-inclusive insurance** and for just **trip cancellation insurance** based on your age, tour cost and length of your trip once the tour is close to being full. Passengers over 65 will need to fill out a medical questionnaire to get quotes. After we get the quotes, Azorcan will have an insurance form where passengers can select their coverage option or they can decline our insurance.



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Our Tour Operator

Azorcan Tours, the leader in European custom tours since 1994, designs once-in-a-lifetime European tours that can include flights, hotels, meals, transportation, sightseeing, special events and English speaking guides. Visit our website at www.azorcan.net for information our various sport, school and sightseeing tours.