

Be part of Travelrite's sensational 2025



ITALY

"Off the Beaten Track"

Exploration of The Italian Lakes, Tivoli, Tuscany & Venice

September 24 to October 7, 2025

With caring and informative leadership by long-time Italian resident and Australian, Heather Burden

Limited to 20 participants



TRAVELRITE
INTERNATIONAL



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Heather Burden was born and educated in Sydney. In 1979, through her love of skiing, she travelled to the Italian Alps to do a ski season, promptly fell in love with a ski instructor and has been in Italy for the past 33 years. Since selling her business a few years ago, she now lives in Turin. Heather has an intimate knowledge and love of the history, culture and day-to-day life of Italy and is happy to share the magic of this beautiful country. "I am looking forward to showing you hill towns, villages and other places that get to the heart of the real Italy, beyond the normal tourist route. I want you to live like an Italian, tasting the wines, meeting the people, visiting craft workshops and experiencing other local activities so you can see what Italian life is really like." – Heather Burden



Small Group – Maximum of 20 passengers

Experience intimate and personalized travel with our Small Group tours, limited to just 20 passengers. Enjoy the benefits of a close-knit group, allowing for unique access to destinations, deeper connections with fellow travellers, and a more immersive journey. Travelrite International ensures a premium, exclusive travel experience.



Discover Hidden Italy

Unveil the secrets of Hidden Italy with Travelrite International. Whether you're drawn to the ancient villas of Tivoli or the therapeutic hot springs of Bagno Vignoni, this adventure offers a unique glimpse into Italy's hidden wonders. Experience authentic Italian culture and hidden gems with our expertly guided tour.



The advantages of a relaxed group tour

On this tour we are able to make the most efficient use of time in the most relaxed way possible. Forget about navigating your way through an unfamiliar road system or dealing with parking. No stress and no hassles. Everything is taken care of. Everything is planned. We have found the most interesting places to see, so come and let us look after you.

Itinerary

DAY 1 Wednesday September 24, 2025

Tivoli, Italy

Arrive on your flight from Australia into Rome airport. Upon arrival meet Heather Burden and transfer to Tivoli where we stay for two nights. We will have an included group dinner this evening to welcome everyone on the tour.

DAY 2 Thursday September 25, 2025

Tivoli

Today we visit the two major sites of Tivoli. In the morning, we will visit the beautiful Villa d'Este. Villa d'Este is a luxurious 16th-century villa, famous for its Renaissance gardens, elaborate fountains, and exquisite frescoes. The estate is a UNESCO World Heritage site, celebrated for its stunning landscape design and artistic grandeur. Following a break for lunch we will then visit Hadrian's Villa. Hadrian's Villa was the grand retreat of Roman Emperor Hadrian, today comprising the ruins and archaeological remains of his grand villa complex showcasing palaces, baths and gardens.



DAY 3 Friday September 26, 2025

Bagno Vignoni, Tuscany

Today we travel north by coach to the Tuscan village of Bagno Vignoni. Bagno Vignoni, is a small Orcia River valley village, which has long been a favourite among painters and travellers seeking solitude in a beautiful location. We will stay at a small family-owned, 15th-century hotel built by Bernardo Rossellino as a summerhouse for Pope Pius II, who enjoyed the advantage of the nearby hot mineral springs. Tour members will enjoy delicious Tuscan dinners each night during our stay at Bagno Vignoni.

DAY 4 Saturday September 27, 2025

Bagno Vignoni, Tuscany

Today we visit the great medieval city of Siena. Best known for the famous Palio horse race held in the magnificent Piazza del Campo, Siena is also home to the oldest bank in the world, a spectacular town hall and majestic cathedral. This morning a local guide will introduce us to the sights of the city, including the Piazza del Campo, with its splendid civic tower and the enormous, partially completed Duomo. The afternoon will be free for tour members to explore Siena independently. We return to Bagno Vignoni for our included dinner.



DAY 5 Sunday September 28, 2025

Bagno Vignoni, Tuscany

Today we will visit the town of Pienza, the birthplace of Pope Pius II and the setting for the film, *The English Patient*. It was the pope's dream to turn his old town of Corsignano into a utopian model town. He commissioned architect Rossellino to make it into a jewel of renaissance architecture. The aroma of pecorino cheese and other local specialities will tempt us into the many cheese shops. We enjoy an afternoon's drive through the beautiful Orcia Valley, with its rolling hills, to the Brunello wine area of Montalcino to savour a wine tasting in a well-preserved 14th-century fortress.



DAY 6 Monday September 29, 2025

Bagno Vignoni

Today we visit Montepulciano, an impressive hill town famous for its vino nobile wines and food specialities. The town offers stunning views of the surrounding vineyards and valleys, along with charming cobblestone streets and historic sites. We will explore the town, with time for lunch before we return to the hotel. The rest of the afternoon will free to relax.

DAY 7 Tuesday September 30, 2025

Como, Italian Lakes

Today we travel to beautiful Como in the Italian lakes. This will include a stopover in Bologna for lunch on the way.

DAY 8 Wednesday October 1, 2025

Como

This morning, we will enjoy a sightseeing tour of Como. We will visit the magnificent Cathedral di Como. Begun in 1396 it was the last Gothic cathedral built in Italy. It is the focal point of the town and creates a bustling Italian atmosphere. This afternoon, we visit Villa Balbianello, one of the jewels of the lake. The sophisticated garden is located on a small promontory and accessed by boat. Steep steps lead from the landing to an avenue of candelabra-pruned plane trees and the loggia, garlanded with creeping fig. The villa perches high above Lake Como and is filled with an astounding personal collection of furniture and artefacts.



DAY 9 Thursday October 2, 2025

Como

Today we take a ferry across the lake to Villa Carlotta, known for its beautiful setting and spectacular gardens. Built in 1745 and later given as a wedding present to Carlotta, Duchess of Saxe Meiningen. We will then take the ferry across the lake to the lovely town of Bellagio. Occupying a magnificent site on the promontory dividing Lake Lecco from Lake Como, it is known for its pretty streets, villas and gardens. The group will visit the semi-classical Villa Melzi, known for its splendid gardens, on the shore of the lake. We return to Como by ferry in the afternoon.

DAY 10 Friday October 3, 2025

Como

A free day to explore the town of Como, relax on the lake, or visit surrounding villages.



DAY 11 Saturday October 4, 2025

Chioggia, Veneto

Today, we travel to delightful Chioggia, on the southern edge of the Venice lagoon. Chioggia is its own island in the Venice lagoon with its own canal system, making it a mini-Venice. Avoiding Venice's commercialization and tourist pressure Chioggia has its own distinct charm. Our class hotel is a grand establishment with great views across the Venice lagoon. Heather will recommend an interesting venue for dinner.

DAY 12 Sunday October 5, 2025

Chioggia

This morning, we have a sightseeing tour of Venice, which is built on 117 islands. Once the head of a Mediterranean empire, Venice is unique, with its canals and renaissance palazzos, and is one of the most romantic cities in the world. Venice inspires artists and has been written about and painted for centuries. From world-renowned St Mark's Square, there is a magnificent view of the Grand Canal. Covered galleries shelter the famous cafés and luxury shops that edge the square. We visit St Mark's Square, see the Grand Canal, St Mark's Basilica and the Doge's Palace. We will wind our way through the narrow alleyways to the market square of the Rialto. The afternoon will be free for individual exploration.

DAY 13 Monday October 6, 2025

Chioggia

This morning we have a sightseeing tour of Padua and visit two outstanding sights; the famous frescoes by Giotto in the Scrovegni Chapel and the Basilica of St Antonio, one of Italy's popular pilgrim shrines. The afternoon will be free to explore Padua independently or just to relax. Tonight, we will have farewell dinner to celebrate a great trip.

DAY 14 Tuesday October 7, 2025

Departure

Today we are transferred to Venice Airport for return flights to Australia.





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Tour Price

Per person twin-share	\$ 5,995
Single supplement	\$ 1,800



Included in the tour price:

- Accommodation in carefully selected, centrally located, three and four-star hotels with private facilities
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Travel in a first-class chartered coach
- Continental breakfast daily
- Dinners on tour, as listed in the itinerary
- Sightseeing and general entry fees as detailed in the tour itinerary
- Tour leadership by Australian-born Italy expert Heather Burden

Not included in the price:

- International airfares to join the group
- Passport and visa fees
- International airport and travel taxes
- Travel insurance
- Meals and drinks not specified in the itinerary
- Sightseeing and general expenses not specified in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature
- Additional travel arrangements not in the tour itinerary will be quoted for separately



Extending: You can stay longer in Italy for minimal extra cost. Please contact Travelrite on 1800 630 343 for more information.

General information and booking conditions

International touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this activity without the need of assistance from others.

TOUR OPERATOR: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) (ATAS A10538) is the tour operator.

TOUR PRICES: The tour prices are based on general transport, accommodation and other costs at foreign exchange rates at 1 August 2024. Travelrite International reserves the right to alter the tour price or modify the tour if any of these factors change, giving any passenger that has booked the right to withdraw with a full refund of monies paid if the price increase is greater than 10% of the original price. No alteration to the tour price will be made within 60 days of departure from Australia.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$700 per person is required at the time of booking. Full payment will be required 60 days before departure. An administrative fee of 1.5% will be added to each payment made by credit card.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellation more than 60 days from the date of departure from Australia will incur a cancellation fee of \$700 per person. Cancellations 60 days or less from the date of departure will result in the loss of all monies paid. Travel insurance is strongly recommended to cover the cost of cancellation fees that could result from a death in the family, illness, etc.

MINIMUM TOUR NUMBERS: The tour has been priced on the basis of a minimum number of passengers having booked 60 days prior to the date of departure. Travelrite International reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of all monies paid or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified price.

REFUNDS: The tour is based on arrangements that do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals, or other services not utilised after the tour has commenced.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: All passengers will need to be in possession of a valid passport. No visa is required for Australian passport holders.

BAGGAGE: Baggage is at own risk throughout the tour.

CHANGES TO THE TOUR ITINERARY: Travelrite International reserves the right to make changes to the tour itinerary to fit in with operational requirements. Any change to the itinerary will be replaced with similar arrangements with an equal or greater value.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ATAS No. A10538) is the tour organiser. Travelrite International acts only as an agent in making arrangements with carriers, hoteliers and others for the tour. As a result, we cannot accept liability for any act or omission whatsoever, whether negligent or otherwise of those carriers, hoteliers or other persons providing services in connection with the tour over whom we have no direct or exclusive control. We do not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or any other events which are beyond our direct control, such as, but not limited to, war, terrorism, flood, fire, civil disturbance, acts of God, acts of government, or any other authorities, accidents to or failure of machinery or equipment, or industrial action. The passage contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies or firms and the purchasers of these tours. The contract shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria and any legal action must be taken in the State of Victoria.

DELAYS AND UNFORESEEN EVENTS: You engage Travelrite to book this tour on your behalf and you acknowledge that Travelrite acts as your agent for the purpose of making contracts between you and the various providers of accommodation, transportation and other services that comprise the tour. Travelrite may without reference to you provide or make available to you, or may as your agent engage any third party to provide or make available to you, any good or service which Travelrite reasonably believes is necessary for your benefit to maintain the tour itinerary, repatriate you or otherwise accommodate, transport or sustain you in circumstances in

which the tour itinerary fails wholly or partly for any reason. You appoint Travelrite your attorney for this purpose. You agree to pay Travelrite any cost thereof and you indemnify Travelrite in respect of any cost it incurs in this regard. Travelrite advises you to obtain travel insurance generally including in respect of the risk that any such good or service may become required.

HOW TO BOOK: Bookings can be made by sending full names and addresses of intending tour members with a deposit of \$700 per person to:

Travelrite International Pty Ltd
423 Whitehorse Road,
Balwyn, Victoria 3103

Further information can be obtained by telephoning

Toll Free: 1800 630 343

Phone: (03) 8803 6868

Email: sales@travelrite.com.au

www.travelrite.com.au

ABOUT TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) is a well-established family-owned business that's been operating in Melbourne's eastern suburbs for more than 40 years. Travelrite International is a full member of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA), is fully Accredited with ATAS (A10538) and IATA. As such they directly represent the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international hotel, tour and transport operators.