

# ROAM ITALY & THE ADRIATIC



## Tue 29 Aug Rome

*Benvenuti a Roma!* We will be met and transferred from the airport to hotel. Excitement will be mounting as we drive into the city past centuries old buildings. Check in to hotel and relax after your long flight. Later we take a stroll around our neighbourhood before whetting our appetites with an aperitivo and enjoy our first Italian meal.

## Wed 30 Aug Rome

We will be spending the morning at the **Vatican Museums** and will be guided through the Pio Clementino Museum, the Gallery of the Candelabras, the Gallery of the Geographical Maps, and the Gallery of the Tapestries (Renaissance art), the Raphael Rooms and the Sistine Chapel. Our guide will bring the history and art to life with stories of a bygone era. This afternoon, we go deep underground to one of the most ancient burial grounds hidden beneath St Peter's Basilica. With a guide we explore the network of mausoleums and tombs from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. Archaeologists believe this is the site of the original tomb of St Peter himself. The **Vatican Necropolis** is absolutely fascinating and often missed by tourists.

## Thu 31 Aug Rome

This morning we'll stretch our legs on a walking tour of the **Colosseum**, Roman Forum and Palatine Hill. Breathe the bloody past of the amphitheatre, admire the arch of Constantine, climb the Palatine hill and stroll along the legendary Via Sacra. In the afternoon, we'll take the metro to Spagna and visit the well-known **Spanish Steps** and **Trevi Fountain**. From here you have the choice of shopping on your own in the Via del Corso or continuing with our guide to visit the **Pantheon** and **Piazza Navona**.

## Fri 01 Sep Rome - Vicopisano

This morning we make our way to the station and take the train to Firenze where we're met by our local guide and driven to the Tuscan village where we are based for the next 8 days. **Vicopisano** is nicely located just 50 km from Florence and 15 km from Pisa. In medieval times this town was a flourishing fortified town with a castle built by Brunelleschi in 1434, several watch towers and a lively town square. Our accommodation is totally unique – we'll be staying in an authentic medieval fort which has been restored and modernised into apartments whilst still retaining its Tuscan character. A private swimming pool is a welcome treat after a day of sightseeing and the village square is just a few minutes' walk away – a place we will frequent often to soak up the local atmosphere, sit outside drinking aperol spritz, and eat in tasty little restaurants. After checking in to our apartments, we'll have an orientation walk of the village, followed by an aperitivo and welcome dinner.

## Sat 02 Sep Truffle Hunting & Medieval Festival

This morning we go hunting for the mysterious truffle. Together with a master truffle dog and guide, we'll venture into the woods of **Savaia** following the dog on an exciting ramble. After this exertion, we'll no doubt be ready for a delicious lunch allowing us to taste many of the products and fresh truffle of the season combined with a selection of wines from the area. Take an afternoon nap or laze by the pool and conserve some energy for an exciting evening ahead. Tonight, we are special guests at the **Medieval Festival of Vicopisano**. Along the village streets and on characteristic corners that lead to the castle there are taverns set up for the evening. On the square in front of the 14<sup>th</sup> century Palazzo Pretoria are long tables set for

special guests. A parade of Lords, Ladies and Flag throwers is followed by a sumptuous feast served under the stars. We will be entertained by a variety of artists as we're served by the village waifs and maids. A truly unforgettable experience.

### Sun 03 Sep Lucca

Free morning to recover from the festival! In the afternoon we will explore the cobbled streets of **Lucca** known for the well-preserved Renaissance walls encircling its historic centre. Broad, tree-lined pathways along the tops of these massive 16th- and 17th-century ramparts are popular for walking and cycling. Enjoy a refreshment as you people-watch from one of the many outdoor bars lining the squares.

### Mon 04 Sep Pisa & Cooking Lesson

Just a short drive away, is the popular town of **Pisa** where we will have a walking tour and view the **Leaning Tower** and impressive neighbouring Cathedral. If you're feeling energetic, you can climb up the steep steps inside the tower and take in the sweeping city views from the top. In the afternoon, pull on an apron and roll up your sleeves for an entertaining **cooking class** in Vicopisano. Then sit down and enjoy what you have cooked for dinner.

### Tue 05 Sep Cinque Terre

We set off early this morning and drive to the coastal town of **La Spezia**. From here we board a boat and cruise out of the Gulf. Our first stop will be **Porto Venere** where there is time to roam along the cobbled lanes and admire the tall narrow houses painted in typical Ligurian colours and rich with architectural details. Back on the boat we cruise along the coast to get the best views of the famous for 5 colourful villages perched on the cliffside known as **Cinque Terre**. There will be free time in **Monterosso** for lunch. Afterwards you might like to do some shopping, have a swim, or take a walk - choose any path and stroll along admiring the views - it is impossible not to fall in love with this area.

### Wed 06 Sep Livorno & Calci

The bustling port city of Livorno is also home to the largest **Tuscan covered market** and one of the most impressive in Europe. Inside this historic building is a gastronomic paradise with mouth-watering aromas and colourful displays. An early lunch will be in order! In the afternoon we travel across to **Calci** for a special tour of the **monastery**. The complex was built in 1366 at the base of Mt Pisano and is known as one of the greatest architectural accomplishments of Tuscany. A guardian will guide us through the complex where we'll learn about the most important aspects of the monks' lives.

### Thu 07 Sep San Gimignano - Volterra

This morning we set off for a day out in the countryside. We visit the **Teatro del Silenzio** near Lajatico, the hometown of Andrea Bocelli. This open-air amphitheatre is surrounded by typical Tuscan scenery and a wonderful setting for outdoor concerts. Wander the cobbled lanes of the walled town of **Volterra** and admire the Roman, Etruscan and medieval structures, take a coffee in the fabulous Palazzo dei Priori with its medieval frescoes and impressive bell tower. The Cathedral has a marble entrance and a gilded coffered ceiling. Shop for exquisite pieces of art. **San Gimignano** is famous for its central piazza and medieval houses & towers just perfect for a gentle stroll around after a long **Tuscan lunch** at a vineyard.

### Fri 08 Sep Florence

Today we have a guided tour of Tuscany's capital city. This city is blessed with many masterpieces of Renaissance art and architecture. We'll also visit one of its most iconic sights - the **Duomo**, a cathedral with a terracotta-tiled dome engineered by Brunelleschi and a bell tower by Giotto. The **Galleria dell'Accademia** displays Michelangelo's "David" sculpture. The Uffizi Gallery exhibits Botticelli's "The Birth of Venus" and da Vinci's "Annunciation". If you're in the market for some genuine Italian leather or gold, you'll be in heaven here. Or you may prefer to visit one of the many Museums - let us know so we can pre-book for you. We end the day with an aperitivo at a rooftop bar and a special dinner to celebrate our wonderful stay in Tuscany.

### Sat 09 Sep Venice

We say *Addio* to our hosts and transfer to the station and train across **Venice**. You will be buzzing with anticipation as the scenes of this romantic city unfold in front of us as we cruise along the canals to our hotel. Over the next 2 days we will discover the true charm of Venice with our local guide. Visit **St Mark's Square** and learn the history of its main monuments. In San Marco Basilica view the fabulous **Golden Altarpiece**. By **gondola**, we slip through the canals viewing this unique city from a different angle. We'll also have the use of a private boat to visit Venetian islands. **Murano** is known throughout the world for its glass manufacturing industry, and we visit a factory to see glass blowing. We then continue to the picturesque island of **Burano**, famous for its lace and brightly coloured fishermen houses. Time permitting, we'll see **Torcello**, the earliest centre of civilisation in the estuary to see the Cathedral and the Church of Santa Fosca.

**Sun 10 Sep**                      **Venice – Azamara Cruise**

After our Venetian sightseeing, we'll make our way to the cruise terminal now located in Ravenna and board the new **Azamara Onward**. Enjoy the first of many scrumptious meals onboard this beautiful mid-sized ship.

**Mon 11 Sep**                      **Zadar - docked from 8am – 8pm**

Wake up in Croatia and walk quaint cobblestone streets from a bygone era that give way to modern marvels of architecture and technology. Perhaps sample Maraschino, a traditional liqueur made from marasca cherries and produced in Zadar distilleries since the 16th century.

**Tue 12 Sep**                      **Sibenik - docked from 8am – 8pm**

A must see in the old part of Sibenik is the Cathedral Sveti Jakov. One of the best ways to see Sibenik is to lose yourself in the side streets and alleys that lead to charming shops and squares. Be sure to take a break at one of the city's many restaurants and enjoy a local red babiĆ paired with some fresh Adriatic seafood. If you love the outdoors, then be sure to book on the optional visit Krka National Park.

**Wed 13 Sep**                      **Split - docked from 8am – 10pm**

Venture to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Diocletian's Palace, which dates back to the 4th century. Let intuition be your guide as you spend the day meandering through the cobblestone streets. Wander down to the water's edge and stroll along the Riva, the spectacular white marble-esque promenade.

**Thu 14 Sep**                      **Hvar - tender 8am – 6pm**

Known as the "Sunnier Place in Europe", Hvar receives an average of 7.7 hours of sunshine per day and offers great beaches to sunbath on. There are plenty more jaw-dropping sights to see here: lush olive groves, fruit orchards, fields of lavender, and lots of vineyards, since Hvar is one of the top winemaking regions in Croatia. The island is also popular with the rich & famous so perhaps a bit of people-watching will while away some hours.

**Fri 15 Sep**                      **Dubrovnik - tender 8am – 10pm**

From the moment you step beyond the stonewalls that protects Dubrovnik, you'll understand what makes it so special. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is adorned with charming squares and centuries-old, red-roofed buildings. Walk the walls for a spectacular view of the city.

**Sat 16 Sep**                      **Kotor - docked 8am – 2pm**

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Kotor in Montenegro is filled with churches, shops, bars, restaurants, and hidden piazzas. (The latter are perfect for enjoying Montenegrin wines like the red Vranac or dry white Krstać). The entire city is surrounded by stone, both in the form of imposing Mount Saint John and by towering ancient walls, creating a feeling of protection when you walk the cobblestone streets.

**Sun 17 Sep**                      **At Sea**

Spend the day sailing in style aboard your boutique hotel at sea. Perhaps indulge in a treatment at Sanctum Spa, join a class in the fitness centre, or lounge the day away on the pool deck. There's a good choice of restaurants to dine in and plenty of evening entertainment, from thrilling shows at Cabaret Lounge to intimate performances in the Living Room.

**Mon 18 Sep**                      **Pireaus - Athens**

Wake up in Greece where we disembark early this morning and transfer to Athens. We leave our bags at the hotel, and head out on a foody walking tour of the city. Explore the markets, taste delicious morsels of traditionally made specialities, visit small shops brimming with deli produce or aromatic pastries. Enjoy tasting local wine, olive oil, honey, aged vinegar and the world-famous Greek yogurt. Wander down the herb-scented Evripidou Street. Tonight, we celebrate the end of a memorable adventure with a meal out in traditional Greek restaurant.

**Tue 19 Sep**                      **Athens**

Athens is a fascinating city complete with grand ruins of the classical world. This morning we explore some of the ancient sites roaming through the hilltop monuments of the **Acropolis**, learning fascinating history and admiring the city skyline. Wander along the pedestrian promenade that links many of the ancient wonders, from the striking Parthenon to the Agora where Socrates once mused. See many countless treasures in the **National Archaeological Museum** including Agamemnon's Mask. Freshen up, zip your suitcase and head to the airport later this afternoon for an evening flight homeward bound.

## Price

NZ\$13,700 per person twin share

*Note price is approx. as we await some 2023 pricing to come in*

## Includes

- Escorted by Marie Coles from Roam Travel Adventures
- Transportation by minivan, boat, train
- Accommodation for a total of 21 nights
- Comfortable hotels, apartments, cruise ship - 3 nights Rome, 8 nights Vicopisano, 1 night Venice, 8 nights onboard Azamara Onward in an oceanview stateroom, 1 night Athens
- Daily breakfast, 4 lunches, 15 dinners
- Sightseeing entry and local guides as specified
- Gratuities
- Truffle Hunt and speciality lunch
- Medieval Festival and speciality dinner
- Tuscan vineyard lunch
- Tuscan cooking lesson
- Cinque Terre boat transfers
- Gondola ride
- Private boat tour to Venice Islands
- Cruise includes all meals whilst onboard, select standard spirits, beers & wines, bottled water, soft drinks, speciality coffees and teas, entertainment, gratuities

## Excludes

- Airfares
- Travel Insurance
- Personal spending
- Refreshments & any meals not included
- Optional tours on cruise. These are offered at each port and prices range from NZ\$120 - \$450. Alternatively, you are free to disembark and wander around the port of call in your own time which costs nothing.
- Speciality restaurants

## Group Size

Minimum 7, maximum 10

## Your ship - AZAMARA ONWARD

702 passengers + 408 crew



## Important Notes

Roam Travel Adventure reserves the right to amend the route of the itinerary and accommodation due to unforeseen circumstances. Price is subject to change until confirmed and paid in full. \$2000 non-refundable deposit is required to secure your place. Travel Insurance is compulsory and should be taken out at the time of booking to cover you for cancellation leading up to the tour, and to cover you whilst you are travelling in Europe.

## Flights & Travel Insurance

Roam Travel Adventures can assist with this if you require.