

ROAM TUSCANY & ADRIATIC CRUISE 2024

A guided adventure for active women



Sat 31 Aug

Arrive Pisa

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Arrive in Pisa today. Our local guide will meet you at the airport or train station and transfer you to the Tuscan village where we are based for the next 8 nights. **Vicopisano** is nicely located just 15 km from Pisa and 50 km from Florence. In medieval times it was a flourishing fortified town with a castle built by Brunelleschi in 1434 – today it is a lovely little village with a great choice of restaurants and bars, and best of all is very untouristy! 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 at Cavallinis, and dine out on tasty local options. After checking into our apartments, we'll have an orientation walk of the village, followed by an aperitivo and welcome dinner.

Accommodation: Il Maniero del Brunelleschi, Vicopisano 8 nights

Sun 01 Sep

Truffle Hunting & Medieval Festival

B,L,D

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, you will no doubt be ready for a delicious lunch topped with our freshly dug truffle and washed down 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 at the **Medieval Festival of Vicopisano**. Along the village streets that lead to the castle there are taverns and entertainment set up for the weekend. Musicians and dancers are everywhere. As special guests we follow a parade of Lords, Ladies and Flag throwers up to the 14th century castle where we are seated at long tables under the stars. Between each course of a sumptuous medieval feast served by the village waifs and maids, we are entertained by a variety of artists. A truly unforgettable experience.

Mon 02 Sep

Lucca

B

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. A broad tree-lined pathway runs along the top of

the massive 16th- and 17th-century ramparts and are popular for walking and cycling (it's easy to walk right around or hire a bike). Or perhaps enjoy a refreshment as you people-watch from one of the many outdoor bars lining the squares, or do some retail therapy.

Tue 03 Sep **Pisa & Cooking Lesson** **B,D**

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 **Tuscan cooking class** in a local home on the outskirts of Vicopisano. Then sit down and enjoy what you have cooked for dinner.

Wed 04 Sep **Cinque Terre** **B**

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 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.

Thu 05 Sep **Calci** **B**

In the morning we travel 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.

Afternoon at leisure.

Fri 06 Sep **Florence** **B,L**

Today we have a guided tour of Tuscany's capital. 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.

Sat 07 Sep **Volterra Hilltop village** **B,L**

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. Enjoy a leisurely lunch accompanied by wine from the surrounding vines at a **Tuscan vineyard**. Later, visit the walled town of **Volterra** and admire the Roman, Etruscan and medieval structures, along with the fabulous **Palazzo dei Priori** with its medieval frescoes and impressive bell tower. Explore the extraordinary **Palazzo of the Viti family** where you'll come face-to-face with unique sculptures



and art. Free time to wander the cobbled lanes, shop for alabaster or just sit and enjoy a coffee or aperitif.

Sun 08 Sep **Venice for Adriatic cruise** B,D

We say *Addio* to our hosts and transfer to the station and train across **Venice** where we'll be met and transferred to our ship moored in nearby Fusina. Once onboard the **Azamara Pursuit** you can unpack and relax. Explore the ship to get your bearings then head to the pool deck for a drink before enjoying the first of many scrumptious meals onboard this beautiful mid-sized ship.

Accommodation: Azamara Pursuit in an oceanview stateroom for 9 nights

Mon 09 Sep **Opatija – tender from 8am – 6pm** B,L,D

Wake up in Croatia in the city of **Opatija** once the home of aristocrats and a seaside retreat for the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Take a stroll along the **Lungomare promenade** which snakes along the Adriatic coastline. Perhaps visit the 1800s Villa Angiolina, set in a garden of exotic plants and houses the Croatian Museum of Tourism. Or you might choose to join an excursion to the beautiful Rovinj (own cost).

Tue 10 Sep **Sibenik - docked from 8am – 10pm** B,L,D

Today we will have a private tour with a local guide who will pick us up from the ship and drive us to **Krka National Park**. We'll depart early to beat the crowds and enjoy a stroll through this beautiful park with its many lakes, waterfalls and lushly clad hills. We then take a leisurely cruise along the river to the small town of **Skradin** for coffee on the pretty little harbour. Continue to **Visovac** and take a boat out to this peaceful island to visit the **Franciscan Monastery** and their interesting small museum. After lunch at a popular restaurant, we'll be dropped in to **Sibenik** where you can spend some time roaming around the old part of this city. 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. It's an easy walk back to the ship when you are ready.

Wed 11 Sep **Split - docked from 9.30am – 8pm** B,L,D

We'll spend the morning on a private walking tour of the **Diocletian's Palace**, former retirement home of the Roman emperor Diocletian. We will also visit the Substructure of the Palace (aka the Basement Halls) - one of the best preserved and most impressive Roman monuments in the world. The tour then continues into the **Peristyle** where we visit the Cathedral and the Temple of Jupiter. Along the way we'll stop for a coffee before moving into the maze of medieval alleys of the **Old Town** - a hodgepodge of every possible historic and architectural style with different cultural influences. It is packed with Gothic and Renaissance mansions, small boutiques, coffee shops, bars and restaurant and is home to around 2000 local residents. Remainder of the day is yours to roam about at leisure before walking back to the ship which is moored right in the city marina.

Thu 12 Sep **Kotor - docked 9.30am – 8pm** B,L,D

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 Krstač). The entire city is surrounded by stone, both in the form of imposing Mount Saint John and by towering ancient walls. For the energetic, you might like to walk the steep track up to the old **Kotor Fort**. Your efforts will be rewarded with stunning views of the town and impressive fjord.



Fri 13 Sep **Dubrovnik - tender 8am – 10pm** B,L,D

This morning, enjoy a private tour with a local guide. We will start with the panoramic drive to the top of **Mt. Srd** where you will get the chance to see the Old Town from unique angles and lovely views to the Elafiti Islands. Continue to the bridge of Dr Franjo Tudman to admire the view of the New Town and Bay of Gruz. We're then dropped to the **Old Town** and do a walking tour within this UNESCO World Heritage Site, adorned with charming squares and centuries-old, red-roofed buildings. The tour ends around 1pm and you can either make your way back to the ship (the tender is right outside the city walls) for lunch or spend some more time in Dubrovnik, have some lunch, perhaps walk the city walls.

Sat 14 Sep **Hvar - tender 8am – 6pm** B,L,D

Known as the **Sunniest Place in Europe**, Hvar receives an average of 7.7 hours of sunshine per. Blessed with lush olive groves, fruit orchards, fields of lavender, and lots of vineyards - Hvar is one of the top winemaking regions in Croatia. Pack your swimsuit and head to one of the beaches day for a swim, perhaps walk up to the old Fort for some great views, or park up in the piazza for some people & yacht-watching - the island is popular with the rich & famous so you never know who you might spot.

Sun 15 Sep **Zadar - docked from 8am – 10pm** B, L, D

Our ship is docked right beside the famous **sea organs and sun art installation**. At your leisure, you can disembark and walk the promenade, before venturing through the quaint cobblestone streets from a bygone era. Perhaps find a bar and sample Maraschino, a traditional liqueur made from marasca cherries and produced in Zadar distilleries since the 16th century.

Mon 16 Sep **Pula - docked from 8am – 5pm** B, L, D

Pula is the largest city on Croatia's **Istrian Peninsula** and is known for its many ancient Roman buildings including the **Pula Arena** and well-preserved **Roman amphitheatre**. Long renowned for its tradition of wine making, fishing, shipbuilding, and tourism – this is a city with a big heartbeat waiting to be explored.

Tue 17 Sep **Venice** B

This morning we disembark the ship in Chioggia and take a private transfer into 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 24 hours 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. 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 the picturesque Venetian Island of **Burano**, famous for its lace and brightly coloured fishermen houses.

Accommodation: Ca Dei Conti 1 night (or similar)

Wed 18 Sep **Venice** B

Our adventure comes to an end today. A transfer is included to the train station or airport.

Price

NZ\$14,990 per person twin share

(If you are travelling solo, you will room with another woman – subject to availability. Option to upgrade to single also subject to availability – ask for price)

Includes

- Escorted on arrival in Pisa by Marie Coles from Roam Travel Adventures
- Transportation by minivan, boat, train, ship
- Accommodation for 18 nights
- Comfortable hotels, apartments, cruise ship - 8 nights Vicopisano apartment, 9 nights onboard Azamara Pursuit in an oceanview stateroom, 1 night Venice in a 3.5* hotel
- Meals as specified (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- 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 & visit to Burano Island
- Cruise includes all meals whilst onboard
- Cruise includes drinks – standard spirits, beer, wine, bottled water, soft drinks, speciality coffee
- Cruise includes entertainment
- Apartment & cruise include self-service washing & drying facilities free of charge
- Cruise includes gratuities
- Cruise includes private shore excursions in Sibenik, Split & Dubrovnik

Excludes

- Airfares
- Travel Insurance
- Personal spending
- Refreshments & any meals not included
- Optional tours on cruise
- Speciality restaurants on cruise

Group Size

Minimum 6, maximum 10



Your ship - AZAMARA PURSUIT

777 passengers + 380 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 whilst we await final pricing for 2024. \$1000 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. Roam Travel Adventures can assist with insurance and flights if you require. Refer to Roam Travel Adventures & Azamara Terms & Conditions.