



Tour Information



Cities of the Renaissance Mantua and Ferrara





Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. **Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 3 months or more left on it) and has at least 3 months validity remaining from the date of travel.**

For more information, please visit: [Italy Travel Advice](#)

Visas

British and EU passport holders are not required to have a visa.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

Italian Consulate-General: "Harp House", 83/86 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4BL.

Tel: (0)20 7936 5900. Fax: (0)20 7583 9425.

Email: consolato.londra@esteri.it Website: http://www.conslondra.esteri.it/Consolato_Londra

Open Mon-Fri 0900-1200



Tickets

Included with your detailed itinerary is an e-ticket, which shows your flight reference number. You will need to quote/show this reference number at the check-in desk and you will be issued with your boarding pass. **Online check-in is not available for this booking.**

Your Group Scheduled or Club Class ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



Baggage allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With British Airways your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45 x 5 cm and a personal bag (handbag or computer case) no bigger than 45 x 36 x 20 cm.

Please contact the airline for further information. <http://www.britishairways.com>

Transfers

On arrival in Bologna, transfer by coach to Sabbioneta for a visit, then transfer to Mantua and Casa Poli Hotel.

Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. Please note that some airlines may charge for use of wheelchairs.



Accommodation

Casa Poli, Mantua

Perfectly located a 10-minute walk from the centre of Mantua, the four-star Casa Poli is a sophisticated, modern design hotel set in a 19th century building. Facilities at the hotel include lounge bar and internal garden. Bedrooms are elegant, stylishly decorated and comfortable with en-suite bathroom with shower, hairdryer, air-conditioning, TV, telephone, wi-fi, safe, and minibar.

Unfortunately, rooms at the Casa Poli do not include coffee/tea making facilities, so we recommend you bring a travel kettle if required.

For more information please visit the hotel's website:
<http://www.hotelcasapoli.it/en/>



Food

Italian food rivals French in the hearts and taste buds of many gastronomes and the regional cuisine, of which the locals are very proud, wonderfully reflects the climate and local produce. Delicious pizza, pasta and risotto dishes are present everywhere throughout Italy with provincial specialities and sauces.

In the region around Mantua and Ferrara, natural tastes, simple ingredients and country traditions are combined with the heritage of the more elaborate cooking of the ducal courts, producing delicious, mouth-watering dishes.

Local specialities include *lasagne*, *cappelletti* (similar to tortellini – often filled with pumpkin or squash and parmesan cheese), *pasticcio di maccheroni* (pie made with macaroni, béchamel sauce, mushrooms, and *ragù bolognese*), *stracotto d'asino* (donkey stew), *salama da sugo* (dry salami, made from pork meat, spices and red wine), and *salame con l'aglio* (garlic sausage).

Seafood is also popular, try the local grilled or stewed eel in Ferrara and *luccio in salsa* (pike in green sauce) in Mantua.

Traditional desserts include plenty of rich tortes, such as the *Torta sbrisolona* (crumbly cake), *torta mantovana* (butter, lemon, almond and pine nut cake) and *Torta delle rose* (sweet, buttery yeast dough cake). Ice cream and sorbets are equally popular, especially in the warmer months.

Strong Italian espresso coffee is served after the meal and will be black, in small cups, unless a *cappuccino* is requested.

Table service is common in most restaurants and bars. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, and no further tipping is required.



Drink

The world's largest wine producer, Italy is home to some of the oldest viticulture regions. The wines are named according to their grape variety or after their village or area of origin. Excellent wines are produced throughout Italy and Sicily, with local wines offering great value and quality.

Popular local wines include Manuta's delightful, purple-red, sparkling *Lambrusco DOC* and Ferrara's pleasant *Bosco Eliceo*, whose grapes are grown on the sandy coast line. The neighbouring Emilia-Romagna area is one of the country's most prolific wine regions, producing excellent red and white wines, including the red *Sangiovese* and the white *Malvasia*, *Albana* and *Pignoletto*.

Apéritifs such as *Campari* and *Punt e Mes* are excellent appetisers, while Italian liqueurs include *Grappa*, *Stregga*, *Galliano*, *Amaretto*, *Sambuca* and *Limoncello*.

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily

Dinner – is included on 2 evenings, the first night will be at the hotel and the final night is at La Bottega Restaurant.



Destination

Mantua and Ferrara – both intellectual and artistic centres that attracted many leading lights of the Renaissance, both ruled over by great families that were rivals to the Medicis, and both gloriously overlooked destinations. Join Clare Ford-Wille to explore the art and architecture of two of Italy's Renaissance gems: Mantua, encircled by water, with its romantic skyline of domes and towers; and Ferrara, home to colossal palazzi and a wealth of wonderful art.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Modena

Famous for being the birthplace of Enzo Ferrari and Luciano Pavarotti, Modena is a rich and vibrant town, located on the main trading routes between Northern Europe and the Mediterranean Sea. Home to one of Europe's oldest universities, Modena is a treasure trove of masterpieces of Romanesque art and architecture. Highlights here include the magnificent 12th century *Romanesque cathedral*, the *Piazza Grande*, the *town hall*, the *Ducal Palace* and the 86 meter high iconic *Ghirlandina tower*.

For more information about Modena please visit:
<http://turismo.comune.modena.it/>

Mantua

According to Aldous Huxley, Mantua is “the most romantic city in the world” - with the combination of a magnificent skyline of towers and domes and the city's three encircling lakes, it's easy to see why. Often described as “piccolo Venezia” (little Venice), Mantua has an immaculately preserved medieval centre that includes four connected piazzas watched over by magnificent churches and palazzos.

For more information about Mantua please visit:
<http://www.mantovaturism.it/en/>

Church of San Sebastiano

The Early Renaissance **church of San Sebastiano**, built in the 15th century according to designs by Leon Battista Alberti, is an important example of a Renaissance centrally-planned church.

Ducal Palace

The magnificent **Palazzo Ducale** was built between the 14th and 17th centuries by the Gonzaga family as the royal residency of their Duchy. A labyrinth of over 500 rooms is complemented by peaceful courtyards and gardens. Unfortunately, we will not be able to view the *Camera degli Sposi* and Mantegna's famous frescoes, due to a result of damage from the earthquake in 2012.

For more information about the Ducal Palace please visit:
<http://www.mantovaducale.beniculturali.it/HomePage>

Te Palace

The masterpiece of Giulio Romano, the Mannerism **Palazzo Te** was built between 1524 and 1534 as a suburban residence for Federico II Gonzaga. Reminiscent of a roman villa, the palace is built on a square plan, around a central courtyard. The most striking features here are the exquisite frescoes created by local painters.

For more information about Te Palace please visit:
<http://www.palazzote.it/pte>

San Sebastiano Palace

The **Palazzo San Sebastiano** was built in 1506 for Francesco Gonzaga and beautifully decorated by Lorenzo Costa and Lorenzo Leombruno. Most of the original interiors were either damaged throughout the centuries or transferred to the Ducal Palace at the end of the 16th century. Restored in the late 1990s, the building now houses the *City Museum*.

Ferrara

Half medieval, half Renaissance, and wholly Italian, Ferrara is the perfect place to enjoy authentic northern Italian atmosphere, wander the maze of narrow cobbled streets or admire the splendid art and architecture of the historical centre. One of the first examples of modern city planning, the Renaissance town was seamlessly joined to the medieval centre thanks to the ingenuity of architect Biagio Rossetti and the vision of oligarch Ercole d'Este.

For more information about Ferrara please visit:

<http://www.ferrarainfo.com/>

Cathedral & Cathedral Museum

The stunning *Duomo*, dating back to the 12th century, combines Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque elements: a wonderful vision of the historical periods of the city.

The **Cathedral museum** displays objects from the cathedral such as 13th century wall panels, a collection of illuminated hymnbooks and paintings.

Palazzo dei Diamanti & Pinacoteca Nazionale

The breath-taking Diamond Palace, built at the turn of the 16th century, is one of the most influential examples of Renaissance architecture. The building's striking exterior is made up of some 8,500 white marble blocks, carved to resemble the shape of a diamond and the palace now houses the collections of the **Pinacoteca Nazionale** di Ferrara, which give an overview of Ferrarese art from the 13th to 18th centuries.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.pinacotecaferrara.beniculturali.it/index.jsp>

Castello Estense

This fairy-tale castle, complete with towers, moat and drawbridge is one of the city's most iconic and impressive sights. Located right in the centre of the town, this imposing brick building was the medieval residence to the ruling Este family.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.castelloestense.it/en>

Palazzo Schifanoia

Built in 1385 for Alberto V d'Este as a pleasure palace, it is home to Ferrara's most famous frescoes, created by (or after) Francesco del Cossa and Cosmè Tura in 1469-70.

Your lecturer / Guide

Clare Ford-Wille Clare has lectured in most areas of art history for over thirty-five years. She still teaches at the University of London, where she obtained her degree at Birkbeck, but also lectures regularly for Morley College, the City Literary Institute, the Victoria and Albert Museum and NADFAS societies throughout Britain, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Every year since 1978 Clare has led art study tours to places of artistic importance throughout Europe and the USA, including Amsterdam, Padova, Vicenza, Ravenna and Bologna.

These are the second set of tours that Clare has led for Travel Editions (the first to great acclaim) and we are lucky to include her as a valued member of our team.

Clare will deliver two lectures during your trip:

'The patronage of the Gonzaga in Mantua'

'The patronage of the Este in Ferrara and Mantua'

Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Reading Suggestions

Barbara Furlotti & Guido Rebecchini, *The Art and Architecture of Mantua: Eight Centuries of Patronage and Collecting*.

An overview of the Gonzaga family's collecting in Mantua, in chronological order, filled with wonderful photographs

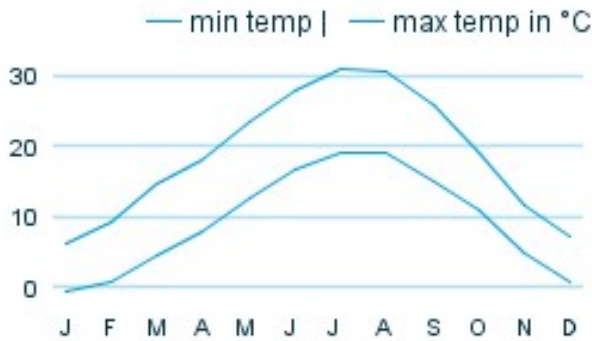
Henry James, *Italian Hours*, 1909.

Published at the end of his life, Henry James portrays his love of Italy through this series of essays, written over nearly four decades.



The Basics

Climate – The weather in Mantua and Ferrara at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but evenings can be quite cool and there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.



Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – Italian

Religion – Roman Catholic

National holidays – New Year's day (01 Jan); Epiphany (06 Jan); Easter Monday; Liberation day (25 Apr); Labour Day (01 May); Republic day (02 Jun); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' day (01 Nov); Immaculate conception (08 Dec); Christmas day (25 Dec); St Stephens day (26 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

Shops & Museums – Department stores are open 0830-1930 Monday to Saturday. Most shops are closed between 1230-1530. Please note that some museums close on Mondays.

Although very common in tourist towns in Italy, please note that street vendors selling all kinds of designer knockoffs are illegal and could land you with a hefty fine. Care should also be taken when buying antiques since Italy is renowned for skilled imitators.

Clothes & Shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good flat/grip walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – You should be able to use your mobile phone in France, depending on your operator and contract.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed, or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit for Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your Tour Manager/hotel reception will assist if you need to visit a hospital during your stay.

Keep any receipts for insurance claims.

Inoculations

No compulsory vaccinations are required for travel in Italy.



Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you've got a valid UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you're travelling to an EU country.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For further information about the GHIC please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 0900-1700)

Outside the above hours please telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807 or 00 44 7441 343850

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate general Milan

Via S. Paolo, 7

20121 Milan

Italy

Tel: +39 (0)6 4220 2431

Fax: +39 (0)2 8646 5081

Italy.consulate@fco.gov.uk

Open Mon-Fri 0930-1230 and 1400-1600. Phone lines open 0900-1700. Outside these hours a consular Emergency Service is in operation and can be contacted on +39 (0)6 4220 2413.

Travel Editions Group Ltd

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Email: tours@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk

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