

Tour  
Information



# Brescia, Bergamo & Monza





## Passports

Please ensure your 10 year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full three months beyond the duration of your visit. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel to Italy.

## 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](mailto:consolato.londra@esteri.it) Website:

[http://www.conslondra.esteri.it/Consolato\\_Londra](http://www.conslondra.esteri.it/Consolato_Londra)

Open Mon-Fri 0900-1200



## Tickets

You will be issued with an e-ticket rather than a printed ticket. There will be some additional printed documentation which you should take to the airport when you travel and this will be sent to you 10 days before departure date. After you have presented your e-ticket you will be given your Boarding Pass.

Please take care not to lose your tickets and please check that the details on your tickets are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport. 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 Alitalia your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 55 x 35 x 25 cm. Briefcases and laptop computers are considered hand baggage and may be brought on board in addition to the limits indicated.

Please contact the airline for further information.

[http://www.alitalia.com/gb\\_en](http://www.alitalia.com/gb_en)

## Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

## Transfers

On arrival in Milan Linate, transfer to Trescore Balenario with time for lunch and a visit. Continue to Brescia for check-in to the hotel for three-night stay.

## Departure Tax

The departure tax is included in the price of your flight tickets.

## 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

### Hotel Vittoria, Brescia

Traditional and atmospheric, the five-star Vittoria dates back to the 18th century but was totally renovated in 2010 to leave a hotel for the modern traveller to savour. A stylish restaurant, lounge and bar add to its appeal as does its superb location right in the heart of the city in a quiet pedestrianized zone. Room facilities include private bathroom, TV, minibar, safe and hairdryer.

For more information please visit the hotel's website:

<http://www.hotelvittoria.com/index.html>



## 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.

Brescian cuisine is well-known for its authenticity and some might say, its richness. Thanks to the cities history and its geographical variety of the province – rivers, lakes, plains, and mountains – the range of local produce is huge: meat, fish, cheese, olive oil and of course wines from the famous Franciacorta region. Many of the popular dishes on offer have been eaten since the 15th century, such as grilled meats, rich meat stews, risotto, and polenta. The area just north of the historic centre has a number of very cheap trattorie popular with students and workers.

The short-grain rice used for risotto is grown in the paddy fields of the Ticino and Po valleys; other staples include green pasta and polenta. The latter – made from maize meal which is boiled and patiently stirred for around forty minutes, all the time watched with an eagle eye so it doesn't go lumpy – is found all over northern Italy. It can be eaten straightaway, or else left to cool and then

sliced and grilled and served as an accompaniment to meat.

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.

Although Lombardy is not renowned internationally for its wines, supermarket shelves bulge with decent reds from the Oltrepò Pavese, and "Inferno" from the northern areas of Valtellina; while around Brescia, the Franciacorta area has earned plaudits for its excellent sparkling whites.

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 at the Hotel restaurant



## Destination

The three northern Italian cities of Brescia, Bergamo and Monza are usually overlooked in favour of their neighbours of Milan, Turin and Verona, but offer a rich artistic and architectural legacy, explored in detail on this wonderful new tour, in the company of renowned art historian Clare Ford-Wille. From a host of magnificent churches to acclaimed galleries, this tour will open up a treasure trove of artistic wonders little known to the usual tourist. Add to that, a distinctive northern cuisine and a charming, traditional hotel in the heart of Brescia and this adds up to a tour to relish.

### Places of interest included in the tour:

#### Brescia

Brescia, called “the lioness of Italy”, is a dynamic, hardworking city whose inhabitants are famous for their tenacity and dedication to work. The city is also able to display a rich heritage of history and art, which spans from prehistoric times to the present. Tourists will be fascinated by the atmosphere created by its airy piazzas and picturesque lanes, its fountains and aristocratic residences, the intimacy of its cloisters and the art treasures waiting to be discovered in its churches and museums.

#### Suardi Oratorio

The frescoes in the Oratorio Suardi were commissioned by Count Battista Suardi, his wife Orsolina and his sister Paolina Suardi. Battista Suardi was a member of a leading Bergamasque family, he was Lotto's patron in Trescore where he had built the oratory in 1501-02, and soon afterward had had the east wall, with its semicircular apse accommodating the altar, decorated by an anonymous and modestly gifted local painter. Lotto's task was to paint the other three walls, and the areas of ceiling between the exposed wooden beams that supported the roof. On the left wall the stories of St Barbara, on the right wall the stories of St Brigid, while on the entrance wall the stories of St Catherine of Alexandria and St Magdalene are depicted.

The frescoes mark one of the high points of Lotto's career. The meanings and possible interpretations are extremely complicated and also include references to the Protestant Reformation and

alchemy. However, the two longer walls are dedicated to the narration of the legends relating to the two saints. While the stories of St Brigid interrupted by the door and windows, the complex account of the martyrdom of St Barbara is continuous, with the important points being underlined by the presence of architecture.

#### San Francesco d'Assisi

An exquisite example of a Franciscan monastery, constructed in the 13th century in a late Romanesque style. Its simple façade encloses a splendid rose window. Even the interior is characterized by a simple style, but it preserves important works, frescoes and paintings including a masterpiece by Romanino. The splendid cloister built in 1394, with its red marble columns, is also worth a visit.

#### Santa Maria dei Miracoli

This church is considered a jewel of Lombard Renaissance sculpture. It was constructed to celebrate a miraculous image of the Madonna that was painted on the wall of a nearby house. The sacred image is now kept in the church's apse. The façade was decorated by master sculptors who worked on the construction of the Loggia during the same period.

#### SS Nazaro e Celso

This church is worth a visit just for one masterpiece it contains: the Averoldi polyptych by Titian.

#### Piazza della Vittoria

Victory Square, or more simply, Victoria Square, is one of the main squares of Brescia, built between 1927 and 1932 by architect Marcello Piacentini through the demolition of part of the medieval old town. Subject to the dismantling of the representative elements of fascist ideology after World War II is an emblem of architecture and urban organization of the two decades.

#### Duomo Vecchio

A Romanesque building on a circular plan surmounted by a tambour with conical roof. Its interior consists of a central space formed by eight pilasters that support a majestic dome. From the lower level, one descends to the crypt of San



Filastro, constructed using Roman and Byzantine materials from the preceding basilica. The Rotonda contains interesting paintings by Romanino and Moretto and the sarcophagus of Bishop Berardo Maggi (1308).

## Duomo Nuovo

Construction began in 1604 but was not finished until 1825, when the dome was completed. Due to the slow pace of construction, its style is anything but homogeneous: one notices this immediately in the majestic façade, which has a Baroque lower part and is Neoclassic over the portal. The interior has a Greek cross plan with columns and pilasters supporting an 80-meter high dome. The church preserves many sculptures and paintings from the Renaissance on.

## Santa Giulia

This incredible museum is one of the most important complexes of the early middle ages in Northern Italy. Founded in 753 by the Lombard King Desiderio, the monastery was expanded several times until the Renaissance. The complex contains the Basilica of San Salvatore, of Lombard origin, the Church of Santa Giulia, the Church of Santa Maria in Solario, which houses the Treasure of Santa Giulia, and three Renaissance cloisters. Three Roman villas were discovered under the larger cloister, the Domus dell'Ortaglia. The monastery area was acquired by the Municipality, which has turned the Church of Santa Giulia into the "Museo della Città" where one can follow the history of Brescia from the Bronze Age through to the Renaissance.

For more information please visit:

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

## Bergamo

In the Alpine foothills, just 50 km from Milan, Bergamo is the most striking city in Lombardy. Structured in two levels, the lower city is more modern and dynamic, whilst the famous 'upper city' boasts a stunning historic centre full of monuments and works of art. In the area around the city the Iseo Lake is well worth a visit, as is the sanctuary at Caravaggio and Crespi d'Adda – the most important company town in Italy, listed as a world heritage site by UNESCO.

## Church of San Bartolomeo

Santi Bartolomeo e Stefano is a Baroque church found in Bergamo. The church was built in 1613-1642, adjacent to a monastery of San Bartolomeo, which had belonged to the religious order of the Humiliati. After this order was suppressed, this convent was granted to the Dominican order, with whom it remains associated today. The church houses a large canvas, a masterpiece by the well-known painter Lorenzo Lotto called Pala Martinengo, or Martinengo Altarpiece.

## Church of San Michele al Pozzo Bianco

The church, devoted to Saint Michael, dates back to the eighth century, but was rebuilt in the 12th and 13th centuries.

The stone façade was completed during restoration work carried out early in the 20th century, but the interior still has many medieval features, such as brick archways and an open truss roof.

The chapel devoted to the Virgin Mary, to the left of the altar, is entirely decorated with the frescoes of Lorenzo Lotto. San Michele contains many other beautiful 15th and 16th century frescoes and is a popular choice for weddings.

## Capella Colleoni

One of the main sights that visitors to Bergamo must see is the Colleoni Chapel in Piazza Duomo in the Città Alta (upper town).

The elegant chapel (pictured) is the jewel in Bergamo's crown and has been acclaimed as one of the finest examples of Renaissance architecture in the whole of Lombardia.

It was built by order of Bartolomeo Colleoni, a captain under the Venetian republic, who wanted a fitting home for his own tomb.

He and his favourite daughter are buried there and the story is that the wealthy former soldier asked for his tomb to be positioned so that the sun illuminated it when it shone through the window.

The chapel was designed by Giovanni Antonio Amadeo and has been likened to a jewel box because of its ornately decorated marble facade. It was built between 1472 and 1476 and designed to harmonise with the architecture of the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore.

The Colleoni Chapel is one of the most picturesque sights in Bergamo and not to be missed by photographers.

## Galleria dell'Accademia Carrara

One of Bergamo's most important tourist attractions, located outside the town wall on Via della Nuca, is the town's 200-year-old art gallery, the Accademia Carrara. The Accademia contains works by Botticelli, Bellini, Mantegna, Fra Angelico and many other masters. There are also special temporary exhibitions.

## Monza

The city of Monza is located on the River Lambro in the northern part of Italy about 15 Km from Milan. Monza is an important economic and industrial centre in the county's Lombardy region. Home to the iconic Autodromo Nazionale Monza race track which hosts the Formula One Italian Grand Prix, the city is also known for its rich cultural heritage and historical buildings.

## Monza Cathedral

A plot of events spanning more than 1400 years, a complex and monumental architecture, rich decorations and furnishings, a treasure of inestimable value and a dense network of international relations marked on the arc of its history, make the Monza Cathedral one of the most important ecclesiastical institutions in Italy and Europe. Importance which the basilica seems to have been intended from the beginning, which lie in the difficult years of the first organization of the Lombard kingdom in Italy and bind to the figure of the Queen Theodolinda (approximately 570 - 627), princess bavara Catholic, went married, in succession, to the two kings of the Lombards: Autari (in 589-90) and Agilulfo (590-616).

For more information please visit:

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

## Your lecturer / Guide

**Clare Ford-Wille** has lectured in most areas of art history for over 35 years. She still teaches at the University of London, where she obtained her degree at Birkbeck, but also lectures regularly for Morely 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 had led art study tours to places of artistic importance throughout Europe and the USA, including Amsterdam, Padova, Vincenza, Bologna and Ravenna.

She will deliver two lectures at the hotel before dinner on the first and second nights:

*"The Art and Architecture of Brescia"*

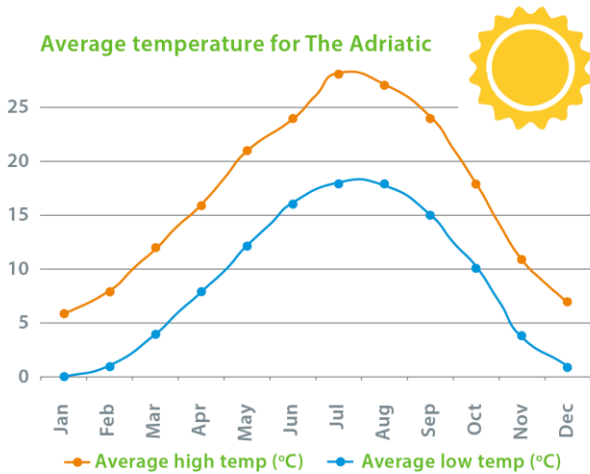
*"The Art and Architecture of Bergamo"*

## 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.

# The Basics

**Climate** – The weather in North Italy 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 Italy, 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](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

### Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



## Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also 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.

### European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The EHIC replaced the old E111 in 2006. Valid in all EEA countries, the card lets you get state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover you for treatment that is needed to allow you to continue your stay until your planned return. It also covers the treatment of pre-existing medical conditions.

Please note that the EHIC **is not** an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover any private medical healthcare or costs such as being flown back to the UK, or lost or stolen property. Therefore, it is important to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy. It is also important to note that each country's healthcare system is slightly different, so the EHIC might not cover everything that would be generally free on the NHS.

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

For more information about the EHIC please visit:

<https://www.ehic.org.uk>





## Emergencies

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 20 7431 8201 or

00 44 7899 796542 or

00 44 7831 133079 or

00 44 1235 850720

**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 2431.

Travel Editions

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