

Tour  
Information



# Leonardo Da Vinci's Milan- 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour





## 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Please ensure your 10-year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full three months beyond the duration of your visit.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

At the bottom of your detailed itinerary there will be a 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>

## 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, transfer to the Genius Hotel Downtown for your 3-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

### Genius Hotel Downtown

Modern three-star hotel with few frills but very comfortable, well-equipped bedrooms with all modern amenities, including a hairdryer, TV and air conditioning. Wi-Fi is available at a flat rate of €9.00 for the duration of your stay. Its location is ideal for the tour, located close to the Sforzesco Castle and within 10-15 minutes' walk of all the sights included on the itinerary.

For more information please visit the hotel's website:  
[http://www.geniushoteldowntown.com/home\\_en.asp](http://www.geniushoteldowntown.com/home_en.asp)



### 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 Milan the cuisine is similar to that of Lombardy and rice is more frequently used than pasta and features almost no tomato.

Local specialities include *cotoletta alla Milanese* (crispy breaded veal cutlet), *risotto*, *ossobuco* (meaning the marrow bone, it is a veal steak often accompanied with risotto) and *cassoeula* (a cabbage and pork stew).

*Panettone* is a historic Milanese dessert, mainly eaten at Christmas, but can be enjoyed throughout the year. For more sweet treats try *cannoli* (tube-shaped shells of fried pastry filled with sweet creamy ricotta filling), *granita* (a semi-frozen dessert), *tiramisu* (biscuits soaked in coffee, covered in a creamy mascarpone cheese mixture and dusted with cocoa), *pizzella* (waffle biscuits) and *panna cotta* (a jelly-like dessert made with cream). Obviously *gelato* is also a very popular treat and comes in a huge variety of flavours.

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.

This region is particularly known for its sparkling wines made in the Franciacorta and Oltrepò Pavese areas. Lombardy also produces still red, white and rosé wines made from a variety of local and international grapes including *Nebbiolo* wines in the Valtellina region, *Trebbiano di Lugana* white wines produced with the *Chiaretto* style rosé along the shores of Lake Garda.

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** – two nights with wine at a local restaurant



## Destination

Milan, a metropolis in Italy's northern Lombardy region, is a global capital of fashion and design. Home to the national stock exchange, it's a financial hub also known for its high-end restaurants and shops. The Gothic Duomo di Milano cathedral and the Santa Maria delle Grazie convent, housing Leonardo da Vinci's mural "The Last Supper," testify to centuries of art and culture.

**Places of interest included in the tour:**

### Duomo di Milano

Dedicated to St Mary of the Nativity, Duomo di Milano is the cathedra of Milan. It is the seat of the Archbishop of Milan, currently Archbishop Mario Delpini and took nearly six centuries to complete. This is the largest church in Italy and the third largest in the world.

For more information about Milan Cathedral please visit: <https://www.duomomilano.it/en/>

### Church of San Gottardo in Corte

This church was built as an annex chapel to the Palazzo Ducale the Duke of Milan Azzone Visconti's residence. Originally the church was to be dedicated to the Blessed Virgin but then the Duke of Milan Azzone Visconti, who suffered with gout, opted for S. Gothard of Hildesheim, patron of gout and gallstones sufferers.

For more information about Mantua please visit: <https://www.duomomilano.it/en/infopage/church-of-san-gottardo-in-corte/c5fb49b1-771c-4acf-942f-062b8ef8ac58/>

### Basilica of Santa Maria

Many famous architects and painters participated in creating the wonders of renaissance Italy, but it takes a special kind of talent to fit a big church on a tiny plot. Donato Bramante was such a man. In 1472 Duke Galeazzo Maria Sforza of Milan commissioned a new church for his city. His ambitions were great but the location available to him was limited by the presence of a busy street. The choir, the space behind the altar, had to be truncated, making the church awkwardly short. Undeterred by such an obstacle, Bramante devised an ingenious solution. He painted an optical illusion. Trompe-l'œil, or architectural optical illusion was popular in late renaissance and baroque, but Bramante took the

visual deception to an entirely new level. Standing at the entrance of the edifice one has an impression of a much deeper space, extending further behind the altar than is physically possible. The optical illusion is helped by the somewhat predictable light conditions inside the building.

For more information about the Basilica of Santa Maria, visit:

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/santa-maria-presso-san-satiro>

### Ambrosian Library

The *Biblioteca Amrosiana* is a historic library also housing the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana, the Ambrosian art gallery. Named after Ambrose, the patron saint of Milan, it was founded in 1609 by Cardinal Federico Borromeo, whose agents scoured Western Europe and even Greece and Syria for books and manuscripts.

For more information about the Ambrosian Library: <https://www.milanmuseumguide.com/ambrosiana/>

### Basilica di Sant' Ambrogio

One of the most ancient churches in Milan, it was built by St. Ambrose in 379–386, in an area where numerous martyrs of the Roman persecutions had been buried. The first name of the church was in fact Basilica Martyrum. In the centuries after its construction, the edifice underwent several restorations and partial reconstructions, assuming the current appearance in the 12th Century, when it was rebuilt in the Romanesque style.

For more information about the Basilica di Sant' Ambrogio, please visit:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basilica\\_of\\_Sant%27Ambrorio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basilica_of_Sant%27Ambrorio)

### Santa Maria delle Grazie

This is a Dominican convent included in the UNESCO World Heritage sites. The church contains the mural of The Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci, which is in the refectory of the convent. The Duke of Milan Francesco I Sforza ordered construction of a Dominican convent and a church at the site of a prior chapel dedicated to the Marian devotion of St Mary of the Graces. The main architect, Guiniforte Solari, designed the convent, which was completed by 1469. Construction of the church took decades.

For more information about the Santa Maria delle Grazie please visit:

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/93>

## Museo Poldo Pezzoli

The Museo Poldo Pezzoli is an art museum originating as a private collection of Gian Giacomo Poldi Pezzoli in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Pezzoli in his testament left the house and contents to the Brera Academy. Giuseppe Bertini, director of the Academy, opened the museum on 25 April 1881. During World War II, the palace suffered grave damage, but the artworks had been placed in safe storage. The museum was reopened in 1951 after reconstruction.

For more information about Museo Poldo Pezzoli please visit:

<https://www.milanmuseumguide.com/poldi-pezzoli/>

## Pinacoteca di Brera

The Pinacoteca di Brera ("Brera Art Gallery") is the main public gallery for paintings in Milan. It contains one of the foremost collections of Italian paintings, an outgrowth of the cultural program of the Brera Academy, which shares the site in the Palazzo Brera. From 1891 the exhibitions were reduced to triennial events, and architectural projects developed their autonomous course. During the period of the avant-garde when Modernism was becoming established, the director of the Academy Camillo Boito had as pupil Luca Beltrami, and Cesare Tallone taught Carlo Carrà and Achille Funi.

For more information about the Pinacoteca di Brera:

<https://www.milan-museum.com/brera-pictures-gallery.php>

## Castello Sforzesco

Castello Sforzesco was built in the 15th century by Francesco Sforza, Duke of Milan, on the remnants of a 14th-century fortification. Later renovated and enlarged, in the 16th and 17th centuries it was one of the largest citadels in Europe. Extensively rebuilt by Luca Beltrami in 1891–1905, it now houses several of the city's museums and art collections.

For more information about the Castello Sforzesco, visit:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sforza\\_Castle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sforza_Castle)

## Your lecturer / Guide

**Andrew Spira** has worked at the Temple Gallery, London (as a specialist in Byzantine and Russian icons), as a curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum (British Art and Design) and as a programme director at Christies Education. For the past 20 years he has been taking tours to cultural sites in Europe, including Italy, Poland and Russia

**Andrew will deliver two lectures during your trip:**

*'As good a painter as any other man'*

*'Unknown Milan: Treasures of Knowledge and Passion'*

## 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

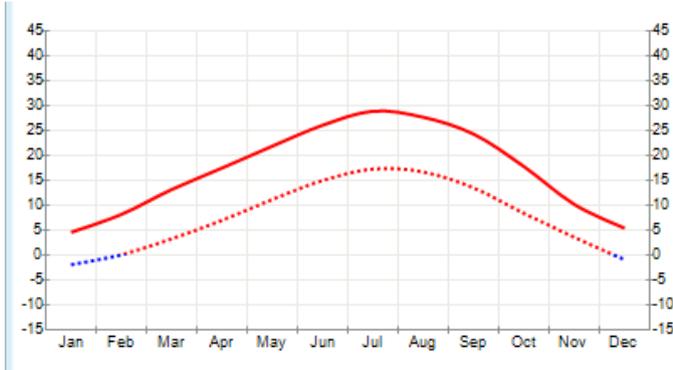
**Henry James, *Italian Hours*, 1909.**

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 Milan at this time of year is likely to be similar to the UK with 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](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

### Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

### 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 7899 796542 or

00 44 7831 133079

**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](mailto: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

3 Youngs Buildings, London, EC1V 9DB

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: [tours@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:tours@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

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