

Tour
Information



Padova and the Birth of the Renaissance





Travel

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Please ensure your 10 year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full three months beyond the duration of your visit.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

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 45x 25cm including handles, pockets and wheels, and a personal bag (handbag or computer case) no bigger than 45 x 36 x 20cm including handles, pockets and wheels.

For more information please visit

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 Verona, transfer by coach (approx. 1½ hours) to Padova, to NH Hotel, Padova.

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

NH Hotel, Padova

Located close to the historic centre of Padova and within walking distance of the Scrovegni Chapel, this 4-star hotel offers a restaurant situated on the 12th floor with stunning views across the city, bar and fitness room.

The bedrooms have private bathroom with bath/shower, hairdryer, air-conditioning, TV, telephone, minibar, safe and wi-fi.

For more information please visit the hotel's website:

<https://www.nh-hotels.com/hotel/nh-padova>



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.

Risotto reigns supreme in this area and the making of it is an art form. The cooking of it must be just right and rumour has it that just a little rice needs to stick to the bottom of the pan in order for it to be perfect. The actual ingredients added to the rice vary depending where you are, fish near the coast and then further inland you will find pumpkin, asparagus and a variety of other vegetables and meats. The most common dish is polenta, which is cooked in various ways within the local cuisines of Veneto. Polenta once was the universal staple food of the poorer classes, who could afford little else. In Veneto, the corns are ground in much smaller fragments in comparison with the rest of Italy: so, when cooked, it tastes like a pudding. Beans are widely used in the Veneto too and their pasta e fagioli (pasta and beans) is now a popular dish everywhere in Italy. Another dish they are famous for is Fegato alla Veneziana (Venetian Style Liver) which is thinly sliced liver sauteed with onions.

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.

Veneto, a wine region in north-eastern Italy, one of a group of three highly productive Italian regions known collectively as the Tre Venezie (after the Venetian Republic), which is a large area comprised today of the Italian regions of Friuli Venezia-Giulia, Alto Adige and Trentino, and Veneto. The Veneto is the biggest Denominazione di Origine Controllata (DOC) producer of the three. Although the Tre Venezie collectively produce more red wine than white, the Veneto region produces more whites under DOC and is home to the Soave and Prosecco wines..

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 dinners with wine



Destination

Often called the 'father of the Renaissance' Giotto broke away from the two-dimensional figures of Byzantine and Gothic art to use more natural line and form in his paintings. Although a Florentine by birth, it was in the culturally and intellectually influential city of Padova that he produced his masterpiece – the frescoes of the Scrovegni Chapel. The pivotal work of Renaissance painting as a whole, many consider these frescoes to be the most important masterpiece of Western art. Join Clare Ford-Wille to explore Giotto's influence and to enjoy the fascinating and wonderful city of Padova, Pomposa and San Zeno in Verona.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Padova (Padua)

Padova (Padua) is a city in Northern Italy's Veneto region. It's known for the frescoes by Giotto in its Scrovegni Chapel from 1303–05 and the vast 13th-century Basilica of St. Anthony. The basilica, with its Byzantine-style domes and notable artworks, contains the namesake saint's tomb. In Padua's old town are arcaded streets and stylish cafes frequented by students of the University of Padua, established in 1222.

For more information about Padova please visit:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padua>

Padova University

The university is conventionally said to have been founded in 1222 (which corresponds to the first time when the University is cited in a historical document as pre-existing, therefore it is quite certainly older) when a large group of students and professors left the University of Bologna in search of more academic freedom ('*Libertas scholastica*'). The first subjects to be taught were law and theology. The curriculum expanded rapidly, and by 1399 the institution had divided in two: a *Universitas Iuristarum* for civil law and Canon law, and a *Universitas Artistarum* which taught astronomy, dialectic, philosophy, grammar, medicine, and rhetoric. There was also a *Universitas Theologorum*, established in 1373 by Urban V.

The University began teaching medicine in 1222. It played a leading role in the identification and treatment of diseases and ailments, specializing in autopsies and the inner workings of the body.

Since 1595, Padua's famous anatomical theatre drew artists and scientists studying the human body during public dissections. It is the oldest surviving permanent anatomical theatre in Europe. Anatomist Andreas Vesalius held the chair of Surgery and Anatomy (*explicator chirurgiae*) and in 1543 published his anatomical discoveries in *De Humani Corporis Fabrica*. The book triggered great public interest in dissections and caused many other European cities to establish anatomical theatres.

The Baptistry

The Baptistry located at the northeast corner of Padua Cathedral, was built during the twelfth century alongside the Romanesque predecessor of the present cathedral. The decoration of the interior was initiated by Fina di Pataro Buzzacarini, the wife of Francesco I da Carrara, known as Francesco il Vecchio, the lord of Padua from 1350 to 1388. She died in 1378 and was buried in the baptistery. Giusto de' Menabuoi, a native of Florence but active in northern Italy, was entrusted with the decoration which probably began after the death of the donor. The pictorial program of the frescoes, which cover the entire interior, is subdivided into several sections: Paradise in the upper segment of the vault, scenes from the Genesis in the window zone below that, the evangelists in the spandrels, the story of John the Baptist and the life of Christ on the four walls of the main space, and finally the Miracle of Pentecost and a number of motifs from the Apocalypse on the east side of the adjacent chancel.

Benedictine Abbey of Pomposa

A Romanesque bell tower dominates the horizon of a gently rolling Italian countryside like a beacon, beckoning travellers to explore the 1,000-year-old Pomposa abbey, which was founded in the 6th century A.D. and from the middle of the 9th century the first community of Benedictine monks began to form, reaching its peak after the year 1000, when the Abbot's spiritual and political jurisdiction extended over all the surrounding villages. A true lighthouse of culture, Pomposa had one of the most extensive libraries of the time. It's a historic spot, one that's too often overlooked by tourists. The abbey walls, which are garnished with beautiful artwork, witnessed the birth of modern musical

notation, thanks to a monk named Guido d'Arezzo, inventor of the modern musical notation.

Scrovegni Chapel

The Scrovegni Chapel, a masterpiece in the history of painting in Italy and Europe in the 14th century, is thought to be the most complete series of frescoes executed by Giotto. The genius of the Chapel lies in the narrative's layout: Giotto arranged the different scenes chronologically, in horizontal bands. Mary's life appears first, followed by the life and ministry of Jesus, and finally culminating in scenes depicting the Passion. Among the Scrovegni Chapels frescoes are some of the most famous of Giotto's work. The Lamentation, for example, a moving depiction of Christ's mourners surrounding him on the cross, is extremely well-known, especially for the raw emotion evident on the subjects' faces.

For more information visit:

https://www.artble.com/artists/giotto_di_bondone/paintings/scrovegni_chapel_frescoes

Eremitani Church

The Eremitani Church was erected between 1260 and 1306 for the Hermits friars. In the 14th Century it became one of the most important churches of Padua and was decorated by the greatest masters then active in town. During World War II bombs destroyed most of the church and its beautiful frescoes. Its main features are the splendid vaulted wooden ceiling and the Ovetari Chapel, which contains the remains of the frescoes illustrating the Lives of St. James and St. Christopher, carried out by the great Renaissance master Andrea Mantegna, between 1448 and 1457. The aisleless interior keeps also the tombs of Ubertino and Jacopo da Carrara, Lords of Padua in the 14th c. The tombs are works by the venetian master Andriolo de' Sanctis. The side chapels are decorated with 14th Century frescoes by Guariento and Giusto de' Menabuoi. Of great interest is also the 15th C. side portal, a work by Nicolò Barocelli with bas-reliefs depicting the months of the year.

Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua

The Basilica of St. Anthony, often called Basilica del Santo, is a complex stately religious building which was started in 1232, a year after St. Anthony's death.

The outside of the Basilica is a mixture of Lombard, Tuscan and Byzantine styles; the 8 domes and the 2 bell-towers are built in the oriental style. The

golden angel on the highest dome is said to turn following the winds, thus giving exact weather forecast.

The 3 bronze portals of the façade were planned by Camillo Boito (1895).

The plan of the interior is cruciform, with the nave and 2 aisles that unite behind the apses and create a semicircle where 9 radial chapels are to be seen.

Big columns separate the aisles.

In the Chapel of the Saint you will find the tomb (sarcophagus) of St. Anthony, by Andrea Briosco and Gianmaria Falconetto. Inside the Basilica there are important ancient and contemporary works of art, among which the Chapel of the Blessed Luca Belludi, entirely frescoed by Giusto de' Menabuoi (1382), the Chapel of San Giacomo or San Felice with a beautiful cycle of paintings by Altichieri da Zevio (1374-78), the high altar with Donatello's sculptures, among which stands out the Crucifix (the Gattamelata equestrian statue in front of the Basilica is also by Donatello). Other works are by Sansovino, Briosco, Tiepolo, Titian, Achille Casanova, Ubaldo Oppi, Pietro Annigoni, and many others. The convent cloisters are also very fine, especially the magnolia cloister, where you can see numerous works in marble and a century-old magnolia tree.

Facing the Basilica if you look to your right you can see the **Oratory of Saint George**, chapel of the Lupi di Soragna family, built in 1377 and entirely frescoed by Altichieri da Zevio (1379-1384), the **Scuola del Santo**, which contains paintings related to St. Anthony from different time periods including those by Titian, and the Antoniano Museum, opened in 1995 to commemorate the 8th centenary of St. Anthony's birth, in which you can find paintings, jewellery, paraments and sculptures.

For more information visit:

<http://www.turismopadova.it/en/punti-di-interesse/basilica-stanthony>

Verona

Verona is one of Italy's loveliest towns, famous for its summer opera season. This has been a thriving and successful town for most of its history, and today smart shops and cafes fill the attractive medieval lanes of the historic centre. Verona was an important Roman town and is rich in archaeological sites, the grandest of which is the Roman Arena, where operas are now performed in the summer. It's easy to spend a long time simply exploring the narrow streets lined with handsome palazzi that make up the historic centre. The town's museums

and churches contain fine works of art, while the ruined Roman theatre over the river has excellent views from the terraces where the ancient romans watched plays.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.italyheaven.co.uk/veneto/verona-tourist.html>

Church of San Zeno

A Romanesque basilica rebuilt after the earthquake in 1117 round a nucleus dating from the 4th or 5th century. Note on the outside, the façade with the large rose window called the "Wheel of Fortune", the marble bas-reliefs on either side of the porch, the famous bronze doors, the bell-tower and the Abbey Tower (12th C.). Inside the church you can see 13th and 14th century frescoes, the baptismal font, the ribbed vault ceiling, the crypt where the remains of San Zeno are kept, the polychromatic statue of San Zeno called "San Zeno laughing" and Andrea Mantegna's famous Triptych (1457-59)

Castel Vecchio

The castle stands on the probable location of a Roman fortress outside the Roman city. Lord Cangrande II della Scala had it built along with its bridge across the Adige River, between 1354 and 1376, in order to defend Verona's people and also to have a possible escape-route northward. Castelvecchio is now home to the Castelvecchio Museum, 29 rooms of paintings, sculptures, weapons and more, from 1300 to 1700.

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.

Clare will deliver two lectures during your trip:

'Giotto and the Art of Fresco in the Arena Chapel in Padua'

'Painting in Padua after Giotto: Giusto da Menabuoi to Mantegna'

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

Joachim Poeschke, *Italian Frescoes: The Age of Giotto 1280-1400*

No publisher until now has attempted to gather together and document all the important fresco cycles of Italian art from the late thirteenth to the seventeenth centuries. While this volume is the predecessor to the previous books, "Italian Frescoes: The Age of Giotto", 1280 - 1400 easily stands alone as a masterpiece of art and scholarship which will be welcomed by art historians and art lovers alike.

Anna Maia Spiazzi, *The Scrovegni Chapel in Padua*

This is a perfect guide to the Scrovegni Chapel, Padua, with a good historical introduction, photos of the interior of the chapel followed by 39 images of the Cycle of Paintings and then a further 14 of the Virtues and Vices and each one is described. Finally, the Vault, the Figured Frames and Crucifix are illustrated and described before the description of Apse and Sacristy and the restoration of the chapel. This is an excellent guide to the Chapel, with a perfect English translation.



The Basics

Climate – The weather in Padova 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

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 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.

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