

# Rail holidays of Italy

*Expressions*



## Rail holiday to Venice, Florence and Rome



## Rail holiday to Venice, Florence and Rome

11 NIGHTS / 12 DAYS

Venice

Burano

Murano

Florence

Ponte Vecchio

Rome

Colosseum



The three great cities of Venice, Florence and Rome are easily and effortlessly visited by train. Allowing Expressions Holidays to organise your rail holiday really does remove the strains and stresses of travelling. In fact, nothing could be more straightforward or enjoyable than visiting these Italian cities by train. We suggest that you start your rail holiday by travelling to the floating city of Venice on an overnight sleeper service from Paris, or you can choose to take day trains and break your journey in the French capital. You can then continue onwards to Florence, widely acknowledged as one of the world's greatest artistic capitals and birthplace of the Renaissance, and then further south to Rome. Spend three nights in each of these fascinating cities, before returning via Milan where you board the sleeper train back to Paris. For a more scenic route, instead travel home via Switzerland, staying one night in Lausanne. A third option is to fly one way or both ways, and to travel between the cities by train.

### PRICES

**From £4,165 per person**

Price based on two sharing a double or twin room.

1st class rail travel can be added for a supplement. We can offer other hotels in most locations if requested.

If you wish to fly between the UK and Italy (and travel by train within Italy) then the price will be reduced.

### DATES

This rail holiday can be arranged throughout the year. Timings can vary depending on the month and day of the week. For more information regarding rail services to and within Italy, view our train guide.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

Accommodation on bed and breakfast as below

- 3 nights in a Classic room at the Ca' Sagredo Hotel in Venice
- 3 nights in a Double room at the Hotel Helvetia and Bristol in Florence
- 3 nights in a Superior room at the Hotel d'Inghilterra in Rome
- Second class travel on all trains including Eurostar
- Double sleeper compartment on Thello sleeper train

Transfers

- Private return water taxi transfer from Venice Santa Lucia station to the hotel
- Private return car transfer from Florence Santa Maria Novella station to the hotel
- Private return car transfer from Rome Termini station to the hotel

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Optional extra nights
- Transfers in Paris
- Meals other than breakfast at the hotels
- Early check in or late check out at hotels - though we can arrange this on request
- Supplements for alternative route options
- Any services not mentioned



**OUTBOUND OPTION 1: DIRECT SLEEPER**

**DAY ONE: Travel to Paris for the sleeper train to Venice**

Your rail holiday begins around lunchtime, catching a Eurostar service from London to Paris. You arrive here about 5pm and change to Gare de Lyon to meet the Thello sleeper train. This takes you on an overnight journey in a comfortable private cabin to the floating city of Venice.

**DAY TWO: Venice**

Arrive in Venice at about 9.30am, where a private boat will take you to the Hotel Ca'Sagredo where you spend three nights.

**OUTBOUND OPTION 2: DAYTIME TRAINS**

**DAY ONE: Travel to Paris and stay one night**

Start your rail holiday leaving London around 9am on the Eurostar to Paris where you arrive around midday. You have the afternoon and evening at leisure to explore this beautiful city. Highlights include Notre Dame Cathedral, the River Seine, the Musee d'Orsay and the Louvre as well as the iconic Eiffel Tower. Stay overnight at the Hotel Esprit Saint Germain.

**DAY TWO: Paris to Venice**

Depart Paris late morning on the TGV train which takes you to Turin. A simple change here, and you arrive into Venice Santa Lucia a little after 9.30pm from where a private taxi will take you to the Hotel Ca'Sagredo, your base for the next three nights.

**DAYS THREE AND FOUR: Venice**

Enjoy a few days at leisure in the Venetian capital. More than a city, Venice "La Serenissima" is an enchantress. Take the time to discover her winding streets, lavish ballrooms and lively wine bars, and perhaps catch one of local water taxis to explore the islands of the lagoon. Burano, island of lace-making and fishermen, is impressively picturesque whilst on Murano master craftsmen offer demonstrations of glass-making before you enter their shops. A visit to both these islands is thoroughly recommended to provide an alternative view of Venice.

**DAY FIVE: Venice to Florence**

A private boat will return you to Venice Santa Lucia station mid-morning, where you catch a train heading south to Tuscany. This is a relatively quick journey which takes you first



Grand Canal from Ca'Sagredo Hotel

back to the mainland and then takes you through the historic cities of Padova and Bologna. On arrival in Florence at midday, a private car will be waiting to drive you to Hotel Helvetia and Bristol where you will stay for three nights.

**DAYS SIX AND SEVEN: Florence**

You have two full days to explore Florence, the ancient capital of the Medicis. Florence is the centre of the Renaissance movement and as such is on the list of the 'must see' places of all art lovers. The Uffizi Gallery houses a phenomenal collection of painting from this era, as does the Accademia, home to Michelangelo's statue of David. However, it is the atmosphere of the city which is overwhelmingly Renaissance as everywhere you turn there is yet another reminder of the period either artistic or architectural and this creates a superb museum like ambience to the historic centre. All the sites are easily reached on foot from the Ponte Vecchio to the Church of Santa Maria Novella, to the Accademia, to the Duomo and it is by visiting on foot that you can soak up the amazing atmosphere of the city.

**DAY EIGHT: Florence to Rome**

A private car will take you back to Florence station to catch a mid-morning train to Rome. You arrive in Rome at midday, and are met and driven to the Hotel d'Inghilterra where you will stay for three nights.

**DAYS NINE AND TEN: Rome**

Rome is the capital city of Italy and as the capital city of the Roman Empire was widely regarded as the birth place of western civilization. The city has a unique atmosphere of any in Italy, due to its huge wealth of sites to see, dating back not just from the Roman era, but from mediaeval and Renaissance periods as well and you could spend a lifetime visiting all the historical and architectural sites the city has to offer. Most visitors come to Rome to see the foundations of the Roman Empire in the form of the Colosseum, The Forum and the Circus Maximus, to name but a few. However, visitors nearly always allow time for a visit to the Vatican Museum and the Basilica of St Peter, even if they choose not to visit any other non-Roman historical sites! The variety of places to visit in Rome can be overwhelming and it is best to plan in advance what you wish to see within the time you have and stick to it, rather than planning whilst you are there. The historic centre is perfectly manageable on foot as it is in fact quite compact. However, there is a comprehensive metro system that runs round the historic centre, rather than through it (for obvious reasons), with its intersection at the main Rome Termini station. The two lines of the metro are easy to navigate and can be a swift and inexpensive way of reaching monuments or museums which are further away from each other.

**RETURN OPTION 1: DIRECT SLEEPER**

**DAY ELEVEN: Travel to Milan to meet the sleeper train**

You have the majority of your last day at leisure in Rome and we can request a late check-out from the hotel. A car will collect you and take you to the train station for a train at 6pm travelling northwards by rail to Milan. On arrival you have time for dinner near the station before boarding the sleeper train around 11pm.

**DAY TWELVE: Continue your journey home**

Arrive into Paris Gare de Lyon a little before 10.00am, and after a change of stations you board the Eurostar to take you back to London where you arrive in the early afternoon.

**RETURN OPTION 2: RETURN VIA LAUSANNE**

**DAY ELEVEN: Rome to Lausanne**

Leave Rome at about 9am to travel via Milan to Lausanne in Switzerland, arriving mid-afternoon. Lausanne Cathedral is believed to be one of Europe's most beautiful Gothic monuments, crowned by spires of unusual purple and orange hues. A brand new Olympic Museum has recently opened in the heart of Lausanne's Old Town; three levels depict Olympic history in all its colourful grandeur. The placement of this new museum comes as a result of the Olympic Committee Headquarters being in Lausanne. The Olympic Park is adjoined to the museum, and is dotted with artworks, sports sculptures, and well-maintained flowers and trees. Beside the Olympic Park is the promenade at Ouchy Harbour, which, when lit up in the evening, will be one of the highlights of your trip. The promenade takes you from the gardens along to the Haldimand Tower, the Bellevue Swimming Pool, the Chateau d'Ouchy, and the port. Spend the afternoon and evening exploring the lakeside city before checking in to Hotel Angletierre et Residence for one night.

**DAY TWELVE: Lausanne to London**

End your rail holiday by travelling on a midday train from Lausanne to Paris. Change stations here and board the Eurostar to London where you arrive just before 8pm.



*Roof garden at Hotel d'Inghilterra*

*Hotel Angletierre et Residence*





# HOTELS

Details of the hotels in Italy can be found below.

## VENICE

### **Ca'Sagredo Hotel 5 star**

Ca'Sagredo Venice sits majestically on the banks of the Grand Canal in Venice. With only 42 rooms and suites, the grand public areas of Ca'Sagredo make up a large proportion of the hotel and include marble staircases and beautiful frescoed halls. The elegant guest rooms at Ca'Sagredo are each unique and combine traditional Venetian decoration with some contemporary touches. Enjoy Venetian cuisine and local wines while whilst overlooking the Grand Canal from the panoramic terrace at the L'Alcova Restaurant or a drink in L'Incontro, the atmospheric bar. The Ca'Sagredo hotel is just a short walk away from St Mark's Square, the main museums and the best fashion boutiques.

### **Hotel Bisanzio 4 star (OPTION)**

The Hotel Bisanzio is centrally located just 300 metres from St Mark's Square and within easy reach of the main sights of Venice. The hotel itself is a 16th century palazzo with interiors that create a distinctive Venetian style, with antique furnishings, Murano glass lamps and parquet floors. This characterful decoration continues through the 40 rooms and suites which are all elegantly appointed with a combination of traditional features and modern amenities. The hotel combines comfort and excellent service in an ideal location for exploring Venice.

## FLORENCE

### **Hotel Helvetia and Bristol 5 star**

Situated just off the most important street for 'haute couture' in Florence and a couple of minutes' walk from the Piazza della Repubblica in the heart of the city, the luxury 5 star Helvetia and Bristol is an enchanting hotel, with the charm, character and personal service of a small hotel but with the first-class services and standards of luxury you would expect from a hotel of this category. A special feature of the Hotel Helvetia and Bristol is the Winter Garden; under a stained glass roof, there are wicker-backed chairs, wrought-iron railings, wooden tables with marble tops and huge palms. The bedrooms number 65 plus two spacious and panoramic suites; they are all air-conditioned and decorated extremely comfortably in an individual and traditional



Florence



Hotel Bisanzio

style.

### **Hotel Bernini Palace 5 star (OPTION)**

The Hotel Bernini Palace is a high quality, elegant hotel, perfectly located in central Florence close to the main sights. Built in a classic Florentine style, the hotel, once a 15th-century palazzo, now contains 74 rooms, all of which are individually decorated in a luxurious yet refined manner. Breakfast can be enjoyed in the striking Sala Corsini, the highlight of which is the frescoed ceiling. Guests may also choose to enjoy a cocktail or pre-dinner drink at the hotel's bar before venturing into the city and exploring the many nearby cafes and restaurants.

## ROME

### **Hotel Inghilterra 5 star**

The Hotel d'Inghilterra enjoys a superlative position in the pedestrianised heart of the old town of Rome a couple of hundred yards from the famous Spanish Steps. The Hotel d'Inghilterra occupies an historic palace and today is a 5-star hotel with 88 rooms. The rooms are on a total of six floors reached by lift, and are all air-conditioned. The public



Deluxe room at Hotel d'Inghilterra

areas of lounges, comfortable panelled bar and luncheon/tea room ooze charm and cosiness with their decoration, art (there is for example an original collection of 16th Century Neapolitan gouaches in one of the lounges) and exquisite displays of fresh flowers. There is also a restaurant boasting a beautiful al fresco dining area.

### **Hotel Mascagni 4 star (OPTION)**

A colourful and unique hotel, the Hotel Mascagni is an elegant haven in a central location in Rome, near the Trevi fountain, Via Veneto and Spanish Steps. With just 40 rooms this boutique hotel has an intimate and personal ambience. The rooms combine comfortable furnishings with often bold, statement wallpapers which give the hotel a unique appeal. A small bar and restaurant, where breakfast is served, are also available at the hotel and share the same combination of traditional yet cosmopolitan furnishings. The Hotel Mascagni is a comfortable and cosy base for exploring the city.



Hotel Helvetia and Bristol

# MAP OF TOUR TRAVEL BY TRAIN TO VENICE, FLORENCE AND ROME



The map below illustrates the route outlined in this touring itinerary, with overnight stops and places of interest highlighted.





## GENERAL INFORMATION

This tailor-made touring holiday is one of several suggested touring holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay in one mountain or lake resort too, perhaps at the end of the itinerary. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.

### OUR TOURS

**Our rail tours are for individuals travelling on their own or in their own family group. You do not join a group and you are not escorted.**

### FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

Our arrangements are very flexible in that you choose to travel on any day you want, subject to availability of trains and hotels. As mentioned above, additional nights can be added at any point.

### EUROSTAR

A rail holiday to Italy starts with a journey by Eurostar from London St Pancras, Ebbsfleet or Ashford stations in the UK to either Paris Gare du Nord or Lille Europe. In summer months there are direct trains on Saturdays from London St Pancras to Avignon with no change required.

Eurostar offers almost hourly departures every day, allowing you to travel from the centre of London to the centre of Paris on the same train in three hours. Not all trains stop at the Ebbsfleet and Ashford stations in Kent, but parking is plentiful at both stations and it allows you to avoid London.

Check-in is 30 minutes prior to departure, customs formalities are completed before boarding and there is no limit to the amount of baggage that can be taken on board. The Eurostar trains themselves have 8 coaches which are split into Standard Class, Standard Premier and Business Premier as well as 2 cafeterias. Standard Premier customers are served a light cold meal and enjoy a more spacious environment than Standard Class, while Business Premier customers receive a hot meal and unlimited beverages as well as lounge access.

### TRAIN TIMES

We have planned our itineraries based on train times that work day by day at the time of planning which can be up to a year before you travel. Usually train times stay more or less the same every day, season by season. The times we have planned will be discussed with you at the time you enquire about the holiday and they are detailed to you in your written holiday quotation. It may be that the timetable changes between the planning of the itinerary and when you come to book but we can always adjust the itinerary to suit the actual train times and any requirements you have for particular times of travel.

### FIRST OR SECOND CLASS

We will automatically include travel in second class but lots of our clients do upgrade to first class service. On Eurostar this is called Premier Standard for leisure travellers as it gives you an upgraded on-board service and more spacious seating but without paying for the fully-flexible business tickets. On the Inter-city trains, upgrading to first class gives you more spacious seating with increased legroom. The price of upgrading varies from route to route but is something that is not always proportionately a lot more on the price of the overall holiday, so well-worth considering.

### TRANSFERS

Transfers in Paris between stations and from the station to each hotel are not automatically included in the price of the holiday. In Paris most clients choose to take a taxi between the stations rather than go on the Metro but we can arrange a private car with driver to take you in between. This is quite useful if you are a family group that can't fit into one Paris taxi.

## PRICE INFORMATION

This tailor-made touring holiday is one of several suggested touring holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay in one mountain or lake resort too, perhaps at the end of the itinerary. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.

### OUR PRICES

The sample prices mentioned in this leaflet are generally a 'from' price based on the cheapest season of travel. However, train fares and hotel rates can change (up and down depending on offers), so we give you an accurate price for your holiday when we provide you with a quotation. Our sample prices should be used as an indication of how much a particular combination will cost and to show the differences on average between the hotel categories on offer.

### PRICE INFORMATION IN MORE DETAIL

**From £4,165 per person** for second class rail travel

**From £4,415 per person** for first class rail travel

Prices based on two sharing a double or twin room.

#### What's included in this touring holiday?

Accommodation on bed and breakfast as below:

3 nights in a Classic room at the Ca'Sagredo in Venice

3 nights in a Double room at the Hotel Helvetia and Bristol in Florence

3 nights in a Superior room at the Hotel Inghilterra in Rome

First or second class travel on all trains as above (including Standard or Standard Premier on Eurostar)

Private twin cabin on Thello sleeper trains

Transfers:

Private return water taxi transfers from Venice Santa Lucia station to the hotel.

Private return car transfers from Florence Santa Maria Novella station to the hotel.

Private return car transfers from Rome Termini station to the hotel.

#### What's not included?

Meals other than breakfast at the hotels  
Early check in or late check outs at hotels – though we can arrange this on request.  
Supplements for alternative route options  
Any services not mentioned above

*Expressions*

### BOOKING CONDITIONS

Our booking conditions apply to all holidays. A copy can be found on our website and a copy is also sent to you with a written quotation and when you make a booking.

### FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Expressions Holidays offers full financial protection for all holidays you book with us. If your holiday includes a flight, the ATOL (3076) covers the costs of the holiday. If the holiday does not include a flight, it is the ABTOT bond that protects the cost of the holiday. We are also members of AITO (the Association of Independent Tour Operators) and ABTA.



Expressions Holidays  
Lynx House, Pynes Hill, Exeter EX2 5JL

## HOW TO BOOK

To make a booking, just phone us on

**01392 441275**

and we can take you through the details we need and start the booking process. A deposit is required to confirm the arrangements and this can be paid by debit or credit card over the phone. The level of the deposit will be confirmed at the point of booking and will depend on the ticketing deadlines of the rail tickets involved in your booking.