

A choice of two fabulous in-depth

Italy Tours

2018

*with caring and informative leadership
by Italy expert Heather Burden*

TOUR 1:

***Exploration of Umbria,
Tuscany, Portofino Coast
& the Italian Lakes***

August 30 – September 15, 2018

TOUR 2:

***Exploration of
the Amalfi Coast,
Puglia & Sicily***

September 19 – October 6, 2018



TRAVELRITE
INTERNATIONAL

THE AUSTRALIAN 



Informative leadership by Italy expert Heather Burden

Heather Burden was born and educated in Sydney. In 1979, through her love of skiing, she travelled to the Italian Alps to do a ski season, promptly fell in love with a ski instructor and has been in Italy for the past 33 years. Since selling her business a few years ago, she now divides her time between the north and the south of Italy. She enjoys living surrounded by olive trees and beautiful turquoise seas. Heather has an intimate knowledge and love of the history, culture and day-to-day life of Italy and is happy to share the magic of this beautiful country. "I am looking forward to showing you hill towns, villages and other places that get to the heart of the real Italy, beyond the normal tourist route. I want you to live like an Italian, tasting the wines, meeting the people, visiting craft workshops and experiencing other local activities so you can see what Italian life is really like." *Heather Burden*

Exploration of Umbria, Tuscany, Portofino Coast & the Italian Lakes

Thursday August 30 – Saturday September 15, 2018

Tour 1

DAY 1 Thursday August 30, 2018

Upon arrival into Rome Airport we will meet Heather Burden and travel inland to Spoleto, where we will spend the next four nights. The famous Umbrian town of Spoleto was once described by the poet Shelley as the "most romantic city".

Spoleto, Umbria

DAY 2 Friday August 31, 2018

This morning we will visit the Clitunno truffle workshop, just outside of Spoleto, and see how the area's elusive black summer truffles are grown. We will then visit the small, unspoilt hill town of Bevagna. Here we will visit a papermaker, housed in the remains of the Roman amphitheatre, who still uses traditional methods to make paper. We then travel to the picturesque medieval hill town of Todi. We will be the guest of an Italian count and visit his villa, which was home to Jacopone da Todi, the medieval poet. The Count will guide us through his home and give us an insight into the life of an Italian aristocrat in the modern world. We have an included group dinner this evening to welcome everyone on the tour.

Todi, Umbria

DAY 3 Saturday September 1, 2018

This morning, we visit Assisi, birthplace of St Francis. We will visit the cathedral of St Francis, its basilica and the chapel of St Clare. There will be free time in Assisi to explore this fascinating town. We return to Spoleto late afternoon.

Assisi, Umbria

DAY 4 Sunday September 2, 2018

This morning we have a guided tour, which will take us to Spoleto's Roman amphitheatre, the arch dating from 23AD, the recently restored cathedral and the fortress that soars above the ancient aqueduct. The afternoon is free to relax and enjoy the town of Spoleto.

Spoleto, Umbria

DAY 5 Monday September 3, 2018

Today we travel west by coach to the Tuscan village of Bagno Vignoni. We will stop for lunch in Orvieto, a town surrounded by vineyards whose white wine is world famous. It also has an impressive gothic cathedral, which houses some of Luca Signorelli's most beautiful frescoes. We continue on to Bagno Vignoni, a small Orcia River valley village which has long been a favourite among painters and travellers seeking solitude in a beautiful location. We will stay at a small family-owned, 15th-century hotel built by Bernardo Rossellino as a summerhouse for Pope Pius II, who enjoyed the advantage of the nearby hot mineral springs. Tour members will enjoy delicious Tuscan dinners each night during our stay at Bagno Vignoni.

Bagno Vignoni, Tuscany

DAY 6 Tuesday September 4, 2018

We travel through the Tuscan countryside to the town of San Gimignano, known as the City of Beautiful Towers, a classic walled hill town in Tuscany, famous for its medieval architecture and its fourteen surviving towers, creating a beautiful skyline, visible from the surrounding countryside.

San Gimignano, Tuscany

DAY 7 Wednesday September 5, 2018

Today we visit the great medieval city of Siena. Best known for the famous Palio horse race held in the magnificent Piazza del Campo, Siena is also home to the oldest bank in the world, a spectacular town hall and majestic cathedral. This morning a local guide will introduce us to the sights of the city, including the Piazza del Campo, with its splendid civic tower and the enormous, partially completed Duomo. The afternoon will be free for tour members to explore Siena independently. We return to Bagno Vignoni for our included dinner.

Siena, Tuscany

DAY 8 Thursday September 6, 2018

Today we will visit the town of Pienza, the birthplace of Pope Pius II and the setting for the film, The English Patient. It was the pope's dream to turn his old town of Corsignano into a utopian model town. He commissioned architect Rossellino to make it into a jewel of renaissance architecture. The aroma of pecorino cheese and other local specialties will tempt us into the many cheese shops. Near Pienza, we will visit the studio of a local art family, which continues the ancient traditions of Tuscan painting. We enjoy an afternoon's drive through the beautiful Orcia Valley, with its rolling hills, to the Brunello wine area of Montalcino to savour a wine tasting in a well-preserved 14th-century fortress.

Pienza, Tuscany

DAY 9 Friday September 7, 2018

Today we travel by coach north-west to the Portofino Peninsula on the Italian Riviera. We will stop in Pisa for a walking tour, where we will see the famous leaning tower as well as the Piazza dei Miracoli and more. We will also have time for lunch. In the afternoon, we will continue on to Santa Margherita Ligure, a fashionable and elegant seaside resort offering some of the most attractive landscapes on the Italian Riviera. We will stay at Santa Margherita Ligure for four nights.

Portofino Coast

DAY 10 Saturday September 8, 2018

This morning, we will take a ferry trip to the gorgeous village of Portofino, located at the end of the peninsula. It is a wonderful village, with a protected port area surrounded by towering hills. A local expert will talk about the history of the area as well as its present-day VIP inhabitants. We will walk to the lighthouse, about an hour's round trip. We will enjoy wonderful views of the Gulf of Rapallo on our walk. We return to Santa Margherita late afternoon.

Portofino Coast

DAY 11 Sunday September 9, 2018

Today, we have a full day in the unique Cinque Terre region. We travel by boat to Monterosso, where we will be met by a local guide, who will explain the history, sights and food delicacies of the region, including pesto and anchovies. We will have time in Monterosso for exploration of the town. We move on by boat, to the town of Manarola for lunch and some free time. We continue by boat to the town of Vernazza, where we will see the tall, colourful houses and church, clustered together at the head of a well-sheltered cove. Late afternoon we return to Santa Margherita.

Cinque Terre

DAY 12 Monday September 10, 2018

Today we will travel by boat to visit the beautiful hamlet of San Fruttuoso. This small village stands at the head of a narrow cove in the shadow of Monte di Portofino. We continue on to the small town of Camogli, where tall houses crowd around a small harbour. We will return to Santa Margherita, where the rest of the day will be free for individual exploration.

Portofino Coast

DAY 13 Tuesday September 11, 2018

Today we will travel by coach to Como, where we spend the next four nights. Como was prosperous under the Ancient Romans and reached its zenith in the 11th century. Now, it is a modern town situated in a beautiful setting on the shores of Lake Como.

Italian Lakes

DAY 14 Wednesday September 12, 2018

Today we visit Villa Carlotta, known for its beautiful setting and spectacular gardens. Built in 1745 and later given as a wedding present to Carlotta, Duchess of Saxe-Meiningen. We will take the ferry across the lake to the lovely town of Bellagio. Occupying a magnificent site on the promontory dividing Lake Lecco from Lake Como, it is known for its pretty streets, villas and gardens. The group will have the option of visiting the semi-classical Villa Melzi, known for its splendid gardens, on the shore of the lake. We return to Como by ferry in the afternoon.

Italian Lakes

DAY 15 Thursday September 13, 2018

A free day to explore the town of Como, relax on the lake, or visit surrounding villages.

Italian Lakes

DAY 16 Friday September 14, 2018

We travel through the beautiful Italian Lakes countryside to Lake Maggiore. We will take a boat to Isola Bella, the most spectacular of the Borromean Islands. We will see the Palace, built in the Lombard baroque style, including its staterooms, Napoleon's Room, the Hall of Mirrors, Music Room and more. The gardens are undoubtedly one of the most dramatic examples of 17th-century gardens in Italy, filled with statues and ornamented fountains.

Italian Lakes

DAY 17 Saturday September 15, 2018

Our final day in the Italian Lakes. Today we depart our hotel and travel to Milan Airport for our flights to Australia.

Departure

Exploration of the Amalfi Coast, Puglia & Sicily

Wednesday September 19 – Saturday October 6, 2018

Tour 2

DAY 1 Wednesday September 19, 2018

Upon arrival at Rome Airport we meet Heather Burden and travel by coach south to Sorrento where we will spend the next four nights. Sorrento and the Amalfi Coast are renowned as one of the most beautiful and spectacular regions in the world, with villages built into the steep cliffs along the coast. Made up of a labyrinth of narrow lanes and alleyways that climb the surrounding hills, the coast features small villages with typical Mediterranean-style architecture and houses piled one on top of the other.

Sorrento

DAY 2 Thursday September 20, 2018

This morning we will visit Positano, which enjoys an unsurpassed position along the Amalfi Coast, where delightful white and pastel-coloured houses litter the hillside. Along with the beautiful beaches, its ancient fishing port, the splendid majolica dome of the church of Santa Maria Assunta and artisan shops, you'll enjoy a taste of the dolce vita as you enjoy the perfect start to your day tour of the Amalfi Coast. Later we will visit the town of Ravello, known as the City of Music which sits high up above the Amalfi Coast. Here we can visit the famous Villa Cimbrone. From its terrace, nicknamed Terrace of Infinity, you can enjoy incredible views of the Amalfi Coast. We will also visit the Villa Rufolo with its beautiful garden overlooking the sea. Built by the powerful Rufoli family, it was the residence of several popes and Charles of Anjou. We have an included group dinner this evening to welcome everyone on the tour.

Positano

DAY 3 Friday September 21, 2018

Today we cruise to the island of Capri. We will have a guided tour of Capri's significant sites, lunch, and then free time to wander the picturesque paths, shop, or enjoy a cappuccino and some people-watching in the famous Piazzetta. We return to Sorrento late afternoon and Heather will recommend an interesting restaurant for dinner.

Sorrento and Isle of Capri

DAY 4 Saturday September 22, 2018

A highlight of the tour, today we will visit the ancient ruins of Pompeii, the Roman city destroyed by an eruption of the volcano, Vesuvius in 79AD. The impressive ruins help us to understand what life was like at the height of the Roman Empire, 2000 years ago. We will have a guided tour of this ancient city with a local expert. The Casa dei Vettii is the most lavishly decorated dwelling in the town. Faithfully restored, it is the finest example of a Pompeian house and garden.

Pompeii

DAY 5 Sunday September 23, 2018

Today we travel to Matera for a two-night stop on the way to Puglia. On route we travel through Potenza, a beautiful town in the mountains in the Basilicata region of southern Italy.

Matera, Basilicata

DAY 6 Monday September 24, 2018

This morning we have a walking tour to visit some of the most interesting caves and buildings of Matera. There will be some great photo opportunities. The afternoon is free to explore the town and its many dwellings and churches carved out of the rock.

Matera

DAY 7 Tuesday September 25, 2018

This morning we travel to Polignano a Mare, a seaside town on the Adriatic coast. We then continue on to Otranto, situated on the east coast of the Salento Peninsula in the Gulf of Taranto, better known as the heel of Italy's boot. Upon arrival we will have a tour of Otranto's Old Town and stroll through its maze of alleys.

Otranto, Puglia

DAY 8 Wednesday September 26, 2018

Today we will travel to Lecce, the capital of Puglia, sometimes called the Florence of the South, referring to its prominent art. Lecce is over 2000 years old and has a long affinity with Greek culture. We will have a tour of the town and visit Piazza Sant'Oronzo, the big civic heart of the town. We will visit the Roman theatre and its little museum in the centre of Lecce, as well as the principal archaeological museum, the Museo Provinciale. There will be free time to wander through little lanes to find the more far-flung baroque churches. On our return to Otranto, Heather will recommend an interesting venue for dinner.

Otranto

DAY 9 Thursday September 27, 2018

Today we will travel through the Itria valley and visit Alberobello, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site, listed for its unusual districts of trulli. A trullo (singular of trulli) is a small dwelling built from the local limestone, with dry-stone walls and a characteristic conical roof. We will have time for lunch and to wander around one of Alberobello's districts, where the small streets and trulli will make you feel as if you were back in Italy of old. We will return to Otranto, where the remainder of the afternoon will be free for sightseeing or shopping.

Otranto

DAY 10 Friday September 28, 2018

We depart our hotel this morning and fly to Palermo, Sicily, via Rome. Founded by the Phoenicians in the 7th century BC, the city has been home to numerous settlers including the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Germans and Spanish, before finally becoming part of a unified Italy in 1860. Upon arrival we have a sightseeing tour of the city of Palermo with a local guide. We will visit the medieval Cassaro Quarter which contains the cathedral, 14th-century palazzos and gardens. We will also visit the La Kalsa Quarter which is in the old Islamic area, the centre of the city when it was ruled by the Arab emirs.

Palermo, Sicily

DAY 11 Saturday September 29, 2018

This morning will travel by coach to visit the famous Palatine Chapel, originally constructed by King Roger II between 1130AD and 1140AD. This afternoon we travel to the beautiful medieval town of Monreale in the hills behind Palermo. If the weather is clear, we will have a panoramic view of the city and, beyond, to the sea. Monreale is also known for its Norman abbey, which is famous for its spectacular mosaics. In Monreale there will be time for lunch and a leisurely walk through the town. We will return to Palermo via Mondello, a picturesque beachfront town. Originally a fishing village you can still see rainbow-coloured fishing boats bobbing in the harbour.

Palermo

DAY 12 Sunday September 30, 2018

Today we continue on to the ancient city of Syracuse. Along the way we travel to the charming city of Piazza Armerina, where we will stop at Villa Romana del Casale. It is the richest, largest and most complex collection of late Roman mosaics in the world. The Villa Romana del Casale is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (some areas are closed for renovations). Heather will recommend an interesting venue for dinner.

Syracuse, Sicily

DAY 13 Monday October 1, 2018

This morning we have a tour of the Old Town of Syracuse with a local guide. Founded in 883 BC by the Corinthians, this splendid city eventually established supremacy over the rest of Sicily. The old part of the town is on the island of Ortygia and contains churches, the cathedral, old palazzos and houses. We will have a walking tour of this historic centre. The cathedral has been converted from an ancient Greek temple and is more than 2,000 years old.

Syracuse

DAY 14 Tuesday October 2, 2018

Today we travel through the Ilii Mountains to the town of Noto on the south-eastern corner of Sicily, a tiny baroque jewel, composed almost entirely of crumbling baroque palaces, churches and houses. We will wander around the narrow streets, admiring the golden-coloured stone buildings, the fantastical facades and balconies. We then travel to Avola where we have a tasting of local wines before returning to Syracuse.

Syracuse

DAY 15 Wednesday October 3, 2018

This morning we travel to the famous resort town of Taormina, where we will spend the next three nights. On the way we drive up the side of the spectacular volcano, Mt Etna, powdered with the grey ash left by many eruptions. We will see the fertile citrus plantations, vineyards and recent lava flows, with views of the snow-topped Mt Etna. Taormina is spectacularly located high on a 200-metre rocky outcrop, surveying the mountain. The town, founded by the Ancient Greeks, has an ancient theatre that also overlooks Mt Etna. Since the 18th century, Taormina has been a popular travel destination. In the evening, Heather will recommend an interesting venue for dinner.

Taormina, Sicily

DAY 16 Thursday October 4, 2018

This morning we will have a tour of Taormina with a local guide, walk around the medieval centre and see the terrace, Piazza IX April, with its views of Mt Etna and the sea. We will visit Torre dell'Orologio, a restored 12th-century clock tower and the famous ancient Greek theatre founded in the 3rd century BC, rebuilt by the Romans at the end of the 1st century. This afternoon we visit Messina, known as the gateway to Sicily. Just five kilometres separate Messina from mainland Italy. It's hard to imagine that a devastating earthquake levelled Messina in 1908. During World War II the town was subjected to several intensive bombing raids.

Taormina

DAY 17 Friday October 5, 2018

A free day to enjoy some independent sightseeing, relax or do some shopping. Tonight we have an included farewell dinner to celebrate the wonderful times we have had exploring the Amalfi Coast and Sicily.

Taormina

DAY 18 Saturday October 6, 2018

We will be transferred to Catania Airport, where we will board our flight to Rome and on to Australia.

Departure



2018 in-depth Italy Tours

TOUR 1 – Exploration of Umbria, Tuscany, Portofino Coast & the Italian Lakes

Thursday August 30 – Saturday September 15, 2018

Tour price per person twin-share \$ 5600 (Land Only)

Single supplement \$ 1300

Speak to our consultant about great airfare deals to join the group.

TOUR 2 – Exploration of the Amalfi Coast, Puglia & Sicily

Wednesday September 19 – Saturday October 6, 2018

Tour price per person twin-share \$ 5800 (Land Only)

Single supplement \$ 1300

Speak to our consultant about great airfare deals to join the group.

Included in the price:

- Accommodation in carefully selected, centrally located, three and four-star hotels with private facilities
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Travel in a first-class chartered coach
- Continental breakfast daily
- Dinners on tour, as listed in the itinerary
- Sightseeing and general entry fees as detailed in the tour itinerary
- Tour leadership by Australian-born Italy expert Heather Burden
- A Travelrite International travel bag

Not included in the price:

- International airfares to join the group.
Tour 2 flights from Bari to Palermo and Catania to Rome are included
- Passport and visa fees
- International airport and travel taxes
- Travel insurance
- Meals and drinks not specified in the itinerary
- Sightseeing and general expenses not specified in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature
- Additional travel arrangements not in the tour itinerary will be quoted for separately

Extending

You can stay longer in Italy for minimal extra cost.



TRAVELRITE
INTERNATIONAL



The advantages of a relaxed group tour

On these tours we are able to make the most efficient use of time in the most relaxed way possible. Forget about navigating your way through an unfamiliar road system or dealing with parking. No stress and no hassles. Everything is taken care of. Everything is planned. We have found the most interesting places to see, so come and let us look after you.

- Travel at an enjoyable and leisurely pace
- Stay at carefully selected, comfortable hotels with character
- Rather than just visiting the sights, meet the locals at work and at play
- Enjoy free time for independent sightseeing, shopping and relaxation
- Savour regional wines and cuisine
- Experience informative and caring tour leadership by Italy expert Heather Burden

General Information

Touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this tour without the need of assistance from others.

Tour Operator: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) (ATAS A10538) is the tour operator.

Tour Prices: The tour prices are based on airfare, general transport, accommodation and other costs at foreign exchange rates at 1 June 2018. Travelrite International reserves the right to alter the tour price or modify the tour if any of these factors change, giving any passenger that has booked the right to withdraw with a full refund of monies paid if the price increase is greater than 10% of the original price. No alteration to the tour price will be made within 60 days of departure from Australia.

Deposits and Payments: A deposit of \$600 per person is required at the time of booking. Full payment will be required 60 days before departure. An administrative fee of 1.5% will be added to each payment made by Visa and Mastercard and a 3% fee for payment by American Express or Diners Club cards.

Cancellations: Cancellation more than 60 days from the date of departure from Australia will incur a cancellation fee of \$600 per person. Cancellations 60 days or less from the date of departure will result in the loss of all monies paid. Travel insurance is strongly recommended to cover the cost of cancellation fees that could result from a death in the family, illness, etc.

Minimum Tour Numbers: The tour has been priced on the basis of a minimum number of passengers having booked 60 days prior to the date of departure. Travelrite International reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of all monies paid or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified price.

Refunds: The tour is based on arrangements that do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals, airfare or other services not utilised after the tour has commenced.

Travel Documents: All passengers will need to be in possession of a valid passport. No visa is required for Australian passport holders.

Baggage: All economy-class passengers qualify for a 20kg free baggage allowance. Baggage is at own risk throughout the tour.

Changes to the Tour Itinerary: Travelrite International reserves the right to make changes to the tour itinerary to fit in with operational requirements. Any change to the itinerary will be replaced with similar arrangements with an equal or greater value.

Responsibilities: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ATAS No. A10538) is the tour organiser. Neither Nationwide News Pty Limited nor any of its subsidiaries, nor any of its newspapers have any involvement in the tour, and have no liability of any kind to any person in relation to the tour. Travelrite International acts only as an agent in making arrangements with carriers, hoteliers and others for the tour. As a result we cannot accept liability for any act or omission whatsoever, whether negligent or otherwise of those carriers, hoteliers or other persons providing services in connection with the tour over whom we have no direct or exclusive control. We do not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or any other events which are beyond our direct control, such as, but not limited to, war, terrorism, flood, fire, civil disturbance, acts of God, acts of government, or any other authorities, accidents to or failure of machinery or equipment, or industrial action. The passage contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies or

firms and the purchasers of these tours. The contract shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria and any legal action must be undertaken in the State of Victoria.

How to Book: Bookings can be made by sending full names and addresses of intending tour members with a deposit of \$600 per person to:

About Travelrite International: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) is a well-established travel company which has been marketing throughout Australia for over 25 years and operating in Victoria for more than 30 years. It is a member of ATAS (No. A10538) and has two fully accredited IATA offices Heathmont and Balwyn. As such they directly represent the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international hotel, tour and transport operators. Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a full member of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents – AFTA.