

CONTEMPORARY ART IN ITALY



ITINERARY





DAY 1

VENICE

Guests arrive at Venice airport and are greeted with a dedicated vehicle at the plane, including fast track and porter service. A private Mercedes vehicle transfers them to the dock, where a private motorboat awaits to take them to their accommodation in the city.

Gorgeous palaces, quaint squares, mosaics, glittering masks gazing from shop windows, gondolas and fiery-red sunsets over the lagoon. Unique, mysterious and intriguing, Venice is one of the most amazing cities in the world. Explore the heart of Venice and breathe in the one-of-a-kind atmosphere! Visit the city's major landmarks and admire the main sights on shore and from the canal with the privilege of private specialized guide assistance and private motorboat transportation.

Walk along the canals lined by gorgeous palaces to iconic St Mark's Square, crowned by the grandiose St Mark's Basilica. Founded in the 9th century to house the remnants of St Mark it burned down in 976 and was then rebuilt as we see it today: polychrome domes, walls clad in marbles and over 8000 square meters of luminous mosaics. Highlights include the glittering ceiling mosaics, many made with 24-carat gold leaf, the basilica's oldest mosaics and the three golden domes.

Board your private motorboat and set off on a memorable 1-hour cruise along Venice's fabled shimmering canals lined by gorgeous ancient palaces. Sail across the Grand Canal enjoying your guide's anecdotes about the haughty noble families who once populated the vast palaces' halls, discover the minor side-canals enhanced by quaint charming bridges. Memorable palaces, bewitching atmospheres and glimpses of eternity... experience Venice's enchanted aura!



TIPS FROM OUR TRAVEL DESIGNER

Silvia's to do list

- ✓ Discover unique street art in hidden corners of each city.
- ✓ Explore local galleries for a fresh take on Italian creativity.
- ✓ Dive into cutting-edge exhibits at Italy's top modern art museums





DAY 2

VENICE

In Venice, immerse yourself in the city's world-renowned modern and contemporary art scene. Begin with a visit to the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, a must-see for art enthusiasts, showcasing an exceptional selection of modern works by iconic artists such as Jackson Pollock, Pablo Picasso, and Salvador Dalí. Located in Peggy Guggenheim's former home along the Grand Canal, the museum offers a deeper understanding of 20th-century art movements, paired with stunning views of Venice's waterways.



Next, continue your artistic journey with a visit to Palazzo Grassi and Punta della Dogana. Both venues are part of the prestigious François Pinault Collection and feature contemporary international art. The exhibitions rotate regularly, allowing visitors to explore cutting-edge works in two remarkable architectural settings. Palazzo Grassi's 18th-century façade contrasts elegantly with the avant-garde installations inside, while Punta della Dogana, housed in a former customs building, provides an extraordinary backdrop for contemporary artworks.

Throughout the day, you will also have the opportunity to take in some of Venice's most iconic sights. As you travel between museums, you may catch glimpses of the Rialto Bridge, the bustling Piazza San Marco, and the majestic St. Mark's Basilica. Venice's winding canals and narrow streets offer a visual feast, with every corner revealing centuries-old architecture and scenic views.

End your Venetian experience with a peaceful gondola ride through Venice's iconic canals, offering a unique perspective on the city's beauty and its historic relationship with water. This serene ride is the perfect way to unwind after a day filled with artistic inspiration and cultural discovery.



DAY 3

MILAN

Transfer from Venice to Milan.

Vibrant, avant-garde and glamorous. Among the innumerable attractions sophisticated Milan offers one just cannot miss visiting the city's most famous and iconic landmark, the Duomo, and most sensational masterpiece, Leonardo's Last Supper. Step off the beaten tourist path, see the sights led by a specialized private guide and enjoy an added twist: privileged access to the Duomo terraces, for a marble-framed rooftop stroll! Start your day viewing Leonardo Da Vinci's stupefying Last Supper, one of the most famous artworks in the world. Depicting the scene in which Jesus declares that one of the Apostles will betray him the painting boasts an innovative approach: the portrayal of the disciples shows the person's reactions, making the painting a profound study of a variety of diverse human emotions. Enjoy a memorable guided visit to Milan's most glorious sight, the flamboyant Duomo, a mammoth building elaborately decorated with countless spires, pinnacles, buttresses and statues. Enter easily with skip-the-line access, follow your guide down the naves framed by dark stone pillars learning all about its history. Admire the black, pink, and white marble floor and splendid stained-glass windows and crown your day with an unforgettable skywalk and close up meeting with spires and pinnacles, statues and gargoyles. Enjoy hassle-free priority access to the elevators up the steepest portion of the church and walk up the last 50 steps to the rooftop terrace. Admire sweeping views of the bustling city as you walk surrounded by a forest of delicately forged marble pinnacles. Learn about the secrets which lie behind the beautiful statues and marvel at how mesmerizing the carvings and flying buttresses appear from so close up.



Did you know the
Duomo di Milano has
over 3400 statues?





DAY 4

MILAN

Immerse yourself in the city's rich blend of art and innovation. Visit the Museo del Novecento, a dynamic museum that celebrates 20th-century Italian art. As you explore its extensive collection, you will discover key movements like Futurism, which sought to capture the energy and dynamism of modern life, as well as the post-war avant-garde, reflecting the cultural and political transformations of the time. The museum is located right in Piazza del Duomo, offering not only remarkable artworks but also panoramic views of Milan's iconic cathedral, the Duomo di Milano. This architectural masterpiece, with its intricate Gothic spires, is one of the most recognized landmarks in Italy. In the afternoon, continue your artistic journey at the renowned Fondazione Prada, a cutting-edge institution dedicated to contemporary art and culture. The Fondazione Prada is known for its innovative exhibitions, which blend art with philosophy, literature, and film. Its architectural design, combining an old distillery with new, futuristic buildings, is as striking as the art it houses. Here, you will experience thought-provoking installations, immersive multimedia displays, and exhibitions by some of the most influential contemporary artists. While visiting, you may also glimpse some of Milan's modern skyscrapers, such as the UniCredit Tower, reflecting the city's blend of historic and modern architecture.

Afterward, make your way to Hangar Bicocca, a vast industrial space transformed into an art center for large-scale installations. This unique venue allows artists to experiment with monumental works that challenge conventional art spaces. The permanent installation, *The Seven Heavenly Palaces* by Anselm Kiefer, is a particular highlight, offering an awe-inspiring experience with its towering concrete structures.

As the evening approaches, head to the lively Brera district. Known for its artistic heritage, galleries, and vibrant nightlife, it's the perfect place to explore Milan's creative spirit. Wandering its narrow streets filled with cafés and boutiques, you will also see highlights like the Pinacoteca di Brera and beautiful Renaissance architecture.





DAY 5

A DAY TO TURIN

Enjoy a day tour from Milan to Turin, and dive into the city's vibrant mix of art and street culture.

Begin your morning at the Castello di Rivoli, a renowned museum of contemporary art housed in a historic castle on the outskirts of the city. This unique venue blends centuries-old architecture with cutting-edge exhibitions, offering a fascinating contrast between the old and the new. As you explore its collection, you will gain insight into the world of contemporary art while enjoying sweeping views of the surrounding landscape. Visit the GAM (Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea), one of Italy's most important modern art galleries. Here, you will find an extensive collection of 19th and 20th-century works, ranging from classical pieces to avant-garde movements. This museum showcases the evolution of Italian art, featuring notable works from Impressionism, Futurism, and Abstract Expressionism, among others. Experience a different facet of Turin's artistic spirit with a visit to MAU (Museo d'Arte Urbana), an open-air museum dedicated to street art. Located in the Borgo Vecchio neighbourhood, MAU offers a dynamic and colourful exploration of urban art, with murals, graffiti, and installations by both local and international artists. As you wander through the area, you will see how street art has transformed public spaces into creative canvases that reflect the city's cultural diversity and contemporary pulse.



DAY 6

BOLOGNA ON THE WAY TO FLORENCE

Transfer from Milan to Florence with stopover in Bologna.

Delve into the city's vibrant contemporary art scene, starting with a visit to MAMbo (Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna). This museum, located in a former bakery, showcases an impressive collection of post-World War II and contemporary art, featuring works by renowned artists such as Lucio Fontana and Alberto Burri. As you explore the museum's dynamic exhibitions, you will gain insight into Italy's modern art movements and their impact on the global stage. Take the opportunity to explore Bologna's local art scene further by wandering through its numerous galleries and vibrant streets. The city is home to an eclectic mix of contemporary art spaces, each reflecting Bologna's unique artistic identity. You might discover small, independent galleries showcasing emerging artists or larger spaces hosting cutting-edge exhibitions. As you stroll through the streets, keep an eye out for colourful street art, which adds to the city's creative atmosphere. Neighbourhoods like the historic university area, with its narrow streets and lively vibe, are filled with murals and installations that showcase local talent and cultural commentary. Make your way to Piazza Maggiore, the heart of Bologna's historical center. This bustling square is surrounded by remarkable architectural landmarks, including the Basilica di San Petronio and the Palazzo Comunale. Here, you can unwind with an aperitivo, enjoying a refreshing drink while soaking in the lively ambiance of the square. The blend of history and contemporary culture in Bologna creates a rich tapestry of experiences, making it a true contemporary art hub.



Did you know MAMbo in Bologna showcases works by artists like Morandi and Fontana?





DAY 7

FLORENCE AND CENTRO PECCI IN PRATO

On your day exploring Florence and Prato, begin with a visit to Museo Novecento, a premier destination for those interested in 20th-century Italian art. Nestled in the historic center of Florence, this museum showcases an impressive collection that spans a diverse array of artistic movements, including Futurism, Surrealism, and Arte Povera. As you navigate the gallery spaces, you will encounter works by significant artists such as Giorgio Morandi, Alberto Burri, and Lucio Fontana, each reflecting the profound changes in Italian society and culture throughout the century. The museum's modern design and innovative exhibitions create a striking contrast to the surrounding Renaissance architecture, inviting contemplation of how contemporary themes resonate with the city's rich artistic heritage.

In the afternoon, take a short trip to Prato, a charming city known for its vibrant contemporary art scene. Here, you will find the Centro Pecci, one of Italy's first contemporary art centers. Housed in a former textile factory, this venue is celebrated for its commitment to avant-garde works and experimental art. As you explore its dynamic exhibitions, you will discover installations and performances by both established and emerging artists. The architecture of Centro Pecci, characterized by its minimalist aesthetic and open spaces, complements the innovative art it showcases, creating an immersive experience for visitors. The center frequently hosts workshops, lectures, and events that encourage engagement with contemporary issues through the lens of art.

After a day of artistic discovery, return to Florence for a leisurely evening in one of its picturesque piazzas. Consider settling in at Piazza della Signoria, where you can admire the imposing Palazzo Vecchio and the iconic statue of David by Michelangelo. Alternatively, you might prefer the vibrant atmosphere of Piazza Santo Spirito, where local life thrives amid artisan shops and bustling cafés. Enjoying a drink in these lively spaces allows you to reflect on the day's cultural journey. The interplay of modern art and Renaissance beauty throughout Florence and Prato offers a rich tapestry of experiences that exemplify the artistic legacy of Tuscany.





DAY 8

ROME

Private transfer from Florence to Rome

Discover the heart and soul of Rome, one of the world's most ancient cities! Unveil the secrets of the Eternal City's history and bewitching legends led by the expert knowledge of our best English-speaking guide, roam among columns, through archways, down the city center's quaint cobblestone alleys and across airy statue-studded piazzas. Start the tour visiting the Colosseum and Roman Forum, ancient Rome's two most remarkable sights. The awe-inspiring Colosseum, commissioned by Vespasian in 72 B.C. was finished in 80 A.C by Titus. Just imagine: the inauguration lasted a hundred days! With room for over 70,000 spectators, and free seating for all, this amazing venue hosted thrilling popular events. Take an authentic insider's view of its majestic architecture following your guide along the tiers, learn about the animals and gladiators. Get to know the details of its enthralling brutal history: what mainly excited the crowds were the fights between gladiators, frequently slaves, criminals or prisoners of war fighting for rich prizes or their freedom. After breathing the vestiges of the Roman Empire discover Rome's enchanting city center, a lively maze of cobblestone streets, shop-lined alleys and stupendous piazzas. Your visit will include main landmarks such as Piazza Navona, the most romantic square in Rome, the grandiose Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon and naturally Piazza di Spagna and the Spanish Steps. Feel Rome's throbbing heartbeat, follow your guide's lead and discover stupendous fountains, palaces and heart-stopping views!



DAY 9

ROME

Your journey begins at MAXXI, an architectural marvel designed by the renowned Zaha Hadid. The museum is a bold statement of modern design, characterized by its flowing lines, interlocking spaces, and innovative use of materials. Upon entering, you will be greeted by a world that invites exploration, featuring a wide array of exhibitions dedicated to contemporary art, architecture, and design. MAXXI aims to showcase cutting-edge works that challenge traditional concepts and engage with pressing societal issues. The museum's collection includes works by notable contemporary artists, and the rotating exhibitions provide a fresh perspective on the dynamic nature of modern art. One of the highlights of MAXXI is its dedication to promoting dialogue between different artistic disciplines. You might find installations that incorporate elements of architecture, film, and performance, emphasizing the interconnectedness of various art forms. Each visit presents an opportunity to encounter groundbreaking projects that resonate with current global narratives. The museum's educational programs, workshops, and artist talks further enhance the visitor experience, making it a hub for cultural exchange and artistic dialogue.

After a stimulating morning at MAXXI, you can transition to the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea. This gallery, located in the heart of Rome, houses an impressive collection that spans from the 19th century to the present day. The elegant architecture of the gallery complements its extensive selection of artworks, featuring masterpieces by renowned Italian artists such as Amedeo Modigliani, Giorgio de Chirico, and Alberto Burri. As you wander through the galleries, you will appreciate how these artists have captured the essence of their times, reflecting the societal transformations and cultural shifts that have shaped modern Italy. The Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea is particularly noteworthy for its collection of post-impressionist and avant-garde works. You will encounter paintings and sculptures that reveal the evolution of artistic movements, from Futurism to Arte Povera. The gallery's curated exhibitions often highlight thematic connections, allowing you to explore the interplay between different styles and ideas. This context enriches your understanding of how contemporary Italian art has emerged from its historical roots.



MAXXI in Rome is Italy's first museum dedicated to contemporary art and architecture.





DAY 10

ROME

Immerse yourself in Rome's modern art scene. Visit Pigneto and Testaccio neighbourhoods, particularly known for their vibrant artistic communities. Pigneto, often compared to Berlin's creative districts, is filled with independent galleries, street art, and artist studios. Here, you can experience the raw energy of contemporary creativity, where local artists express their visions through murals and installations that adorn the streets. As you explore these neighbourhoods, take the time to appreciate the unique atmosphere that each area offers. Pigneto is renowned for its eclectic vibe, with cafés and bars that invite you to pause and soak in the surroundings. You may encounter pop-up exhibitions, performances, and art events, creating an interactive experience that goes beyond the confines of traditional galleries.

Moving on to Testaccio, known for its rich culinary heritage, you can explore its vibrant street art scene while indulging in local delicacies. The murals that adorn the buildings tell stories of the community, providing insight into the cultural landscape of modern Rome.

In the evening, return to the Tiber River for a leisurely stroll. The riverbanks come alive at dusk, offering stunning views of iconic landmarks like the Castel Sant'Angelo and the historic bridges that span the water. The reflections of the city's architecture on the river create a magical ambiance that enhances the experience of the evening.

To wrap up your two-day art exploration, head to the Trastevere neighbourhood, famous for its narrow, cobblestone streets and lively atmosphere. Here, you can enjoy an authentic Roman dining experience, choosing from a plethora of trattorias and pizzerias. The vibrant nightlife, filled with locals and travelers alike, offers an ideal setting to unwind and reflect on the artistic journey you have embarked upon over the past two days.



CONTEMPORARY ART IN ITALY



Explore Italy's rich contemporary art tradition on an inspiring journey through its major cities. Dive into acclaimed museums, cutting-edge galleries, and vibrant street art, experiencing a fresh blend of classic and modern influences. With Arno Travel, immerse yourself in Italy's dynamic art scene, where every stop unveils a new chapter of artistic innovation and cultural expression.

