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# NORTHERN ITALY MYSTERY TOUR

## VENETO, LOMBARDIA E PIEMONTE

14 days/13 nights



### 1<sup>st</sup> DAY

Arrival at Venice Airport and meeting with your Tour Escort and private bus.

Transfer towards Venice. Guided visit of city centre.

*La Serenissima, "The Most Serene," a cityscape of stone palaces that seem to float on water, windowsills set in colorful plaster walls. In Venice every form of transportation floats, from water taxis and vaporetti (the public "bus" ferries) to ambulance speedboats and garbage scows. Venice is a place where locals stop at the bacaro (wine bar) and munch on cicchetti (tapaslike snacks) or linger over exquisite restaurant seafood dinners.*

*It is also a city of great art and grand old masters. By the early 1500s, Venice had taken the Renaissance style from Florence, lending the movement the new color and lighting schemes of such giants as Giorgione, Tiziano (Titian), Paolo Veronese and Tintoretto.*

*Mysteriously, what we now consider central Venice was the last area settled. After Attila the Hun rampaged through, citizens of the Roman town of Altino moved out onto Torcello and founded a tidy commercial empire under the control of the Byzantine emperor.*

*Venice for centuries was Europe's principal gateway between the Orient and the West, so it should come as no surprise that the architectural style for the sumptuously Byzantine Basilica di San Marco was borrowed from Constantinople, exotic and mysterious, it is unlike any other Roman Catholic church. The Basilica di San Marco earned its name as the Chiesa d'Oro (Golden Church), with a cavernous interior exquisitely gilded with Byzantine mosaics added over some 7 centuries and covering every inch of both ceiling and pavement. A visit to the outdoor Loggia dei Cavalli, the 500-year-old Torre dell'Orologio (Clock Tower), Chiesa di San Giorgio and many other wonderful treasures.*

Lunch at your leisure

Check in, nice 4 stars Hotel in Venice.

Dinner in a typical restaurant

Overnight stay

### 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY

Breakfast and departure with your tour escort to explore the magnificent and fascinating mysteries in Venice islands.

09:00 am Guided northern islands tour.

*Venice shares its lagoon with three principal islands of the northern side: Murano, Burano, and Torcello.*

Light lunch tasting of wine and "cicchetti", the typical and street food in Venice, famous all over the world.

During the tour you will visit to an art laboratory of glass, one of the oldest workshop in Venice, located in a nice Laguna context, professional and friendly at the same time.

Dinner at leisure, the Tour Escort will address you in the various and attractive restaurants in Venice centre depending on your tastes.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY

Breakfast and ready for the third day discovering the mysteries of the southern Islands.

09:00 am Meeting with the Guide to tour the Islands San Giorgio Maggiore, La Giudecca, San Lazzaro degli Armeni.

Lunch tasting of the most famous Venice dishes

Afternoon, Giacomo Casanova guided tour.

A tour dedicated to this mysterious and fascinating historical character, not only a womanizer but particularly known as cultured alchemist.

Starting from the Doge's Palace, whose prisons are famous for Casanova's mythical daring escape; the Ridotto, the gambling world so much beloved by the decadent and



luxurious Venetian aristocracy, and then over to the Opera House Gran Teatro La Fenice; Campo San Maurizio, with the house of the erotic poet Giorgio Baffo, who introduced Casanova to the worldly pleasures; Campo San Samuele, where Casanova spent his childhood; Ca' Rezzonico, the once elegant residence of a noble family - today's Museum of XVIII century Venice.

Dinner at leisure and overnight stay.

## 4<sup>th</sup> DAY

Breakfast and departure. Walking and shopping with the Tour Escort in the historical centre of Venice.

*A mix charming stores and boutiques called Mercerie around Piazza San Marco and the Rialto Bridge. More expensive clothing and gift boutiques for a great window-shopping on Calle Larga XXII Marzo. The narrow Calle Frezzeria, also offers a nice assortment of bars, souvenir shops, and clothing stores.*

*Near Rialto Market you'll find cheap Tshirts, glow-in-the-dark plastic gondolas (a "kitsch must" to proudly expose in your home, or as a fantastic present for friends) and "glamour tawdry" glass trinkets (some way this fascinating attraction for the tasteless is a mystery indeed...).*

Lunch at your leisure

Dinner in a Venice typical restaurant. The dinner will be served around 07:30 pm to arrive in time to the following tour "mysterious Venice by night"

Mystery of Venice tour by night.

*A walking tour created to discover the shadow side of Venice. The guide will tell unknown anecdotes and stories about palaces, stones, masks and murders. The public executions in St. Mark's Square, the terrible asylum in San Servolo and the unsettling narrow Murderers Alley. The chance to see a hidden part of Venice, with picturesque views made of grand palaces, a startling spiral staircase and strange squares.*



*This is the typical physician during the plague times in Venice. It seems as inspired from an horror movie, but it is real and due to real practical functions. The protective dress consisted of a heavy fabric overcoat that was waxed, a mask with glass eye openings and a cone nose shaped like a beak to hold scented substances and straw. This was thought to protect the doctor from the terrible smell. The straw provided a filter for the "bad air".*

## 5<sup>th</sup> DAY

Breakfast and departure to Belluno to discover one of the most astounding story of our contemporary times. **The mystery of Genesis and the origin of Human Beings will be finally disclosed.**

We will meet the scholars that keep the memories of a very special priest, Fr. Guido Bortoluzzi died 1991, a humble Priest of the Catholic Church. He received from the Almighty and All Present Creator the revelation concerning the beginning of the earth and humankind, all the truth about Genesis.

The facts that will be explained in this seminar will change all our ideas about the initial human creation described in the Genesis and many point of view in our lives. Science and Faith: no longer a conflict.

**This visit is a real exclusivity proposed in this tour.**

Lunch in an authentic Locanda Bellunese

Locanda San Martino (San Martino d'Alpago)

Walking tour around Fr Guido Bortoluzzi birthplaces.





## 6<sup>th</sup> DAY

Breakfast and departure with your private bus and your Tour Escort towards Desenzano and Sirmione, two enchanting old villages on the Garda Lake shores full of medieval mysterious places and legends, between Crusaders and Inquisition.

Meeting with the Guide. Tour in Desenzano and Sirmione

*It was 16 March 1244 after the Monteseur siege in France. A high price paid with a tragedy to restore Catholic orthodoxy. But the night before the last capitulation, the four "perfect" (selected Cathar church members) were in charge of a mission of great importance: to rescue an object, a secret, an undefined "something", to absolutely preserve from Crusaders. So, they dropped down from the rock wall and fled. What kind of secret preserved the four survivors? A sacred object, a relic, perhaps the mysterious "Grail"? Maybe a secret able to shake the foundations of the Church of Rome, if it known? Moreover, where they were directed the guardians fled from Monteseur? Thousands of pages have been written on the subject, hypotheses and conjectures, dozens of locations in France have been nominated for "hiding" of the Secret and the "Treasury" of the Cathars, which not yet do find. However, perhaps we need to look beyond the Alps... in Desenzano and Sirmione*

Lunch at your leisure

Walking tour in Sirmione

Departure to Brescia

Check in a 4 star hotel and dinner in a local "Km Zero" restaurant in Brescia. "Km Zero" is a particular certified brand created by Coldiretti as biggest farmers' organization in Italy with the aim to guarantee the food safety, quality and local origin.

Dinner in a local Italian Osteria

## 7<sup>th</sup> DAY

Breakfast and departure with your private bus and your Tour Escort towards the magnificent Brescia Castle.

*A visit in this well preserved medieval castle. It will possible explore this ancient place by several tours with different level of difficulty (available an adventurous underground tour with professional speleologists).*

Lunch in a "Km Zero" Italian agriturismo

Tour Brescia underground



*There are numerous watercourses under the city, ancient canals and historical "rogge" systems: a secret labyrinth waiting to be discovered together. Visit into the bowels of the city to discover the secret side of Brescia, a unique journey full of exciting surprises.*

Dinner at your leisure and overnight stay.



## 8<sup>th</sup> DAY

Breakfast and departure with your private bus and your Tour Escort towards Clusone.

A tour dedicated to the singular Oratorio dei Disciplini and the church of Santa Maria Assunta.

*The second half of the fifteenth century was a period of political and administrative development of Clusone. This sudden wealth developed churches and oratories as locations of lay confraternities. Among them emerged the brotherhood of Disciplini, lovers of "discipline" or self-flagellation as atonement for their sins. They were always masked by a hood to be unrecognizable. Their main interest was the penance through beatings by the scourge, trying all the sufferings endured by Christ.*

*They promoted and followed a relation with death much more physical than the one proposed by the Church, of course, almost exclusively spiritual. That's why the image of the fresco The Triumph of Death is so cruel, to allow a direct communication sensorial and emotional, the eyes are surprised in front of this spectacle of death that causes a real and ancestral fear.*

*The Oratory presents a unique wide room with beautiful frescoes on a pentagonal building structure, it is considered one of the most macabre performances worthy of interest in Europe. The work is divided into three stages. The Triumph of Death (Il Trionfo della Morte), the Encounter of the dead and the three living (l'Incontro dei tre morti e i tre vivi) and the Macabre Dance of Death (Danza Macabra).*

*Life party ruined? No absolutely, on their real meaning, this awareness lead to appreciate even more the existence, the good fortune of being survived and still love life much more.*

Lunch in a local agricultural farm with "Km Zero" local food and wine.

Walking tour and shopping in Brescia.

Brescia and its fascinating landscapes and corners of great beauty, remarkable museums and valuable collections, an heritage of thousands years of history, relaxing city centre and leisure.

Dinner at your leisure and overnight stay.

## 9<sup>th</sup> DAY

Breakfast and departure with your private bus and your Tour Escort towards Perledo Castle, on the shores of Como Lake (*on winter this visit is not available, it will be changed with an alternative in Milano*).

*In Spring the castle walls near the entrance take wonderful colors thanks to thousands beautiful flowers. An amazing view upon the lake of Como from the top of the hill. Then the garden of olives, the "Falconer of the castle" wearing the ancient dresses and showing you the birds of prey living in the castle: barn owls, owls, buzzards, hawks and others. The remains of this military fortress, which was used as sighting tower from the days of Queen Teodolinda around 600 A.D.*

Lunch in a nice local Osteria.

Departure towards Milano.

*It is absolutely true, Milano as Italy's financial hub fashion world capital, noisy, foggy in winter, not as immediately appealing a stop-over as Venice, Florence, or Rome. Milan, though, reveals its history in a pride of monuments, museums, and churches. It features art by such towering geniuses as Michelangelo (his final sculpture) and Leonardo da Vinci (Last Supper). With its dazzling shop windows and sophisticated ways, Milan is a pleasure to discover on its mystery dimension too...*

Guided visit, mysterious places and stories in Milano.

Dinner at your leisure

Check in a nice 4 star hotel in Milano

## 10<sup>th</sup> DAY

Breakfast and departure with your Tour Escort to visit the Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece Last Supper, Duomo di Milano, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, Castello Sforzesco.

*The legend came back into the limelight after Dan Brown mentioned da Vinci's work in his novel "The Da Vinci Code" as proof of the fact that Leonardo wanted to send us a secret message. The Last Supper is a key moment in the Gospel story, because it describes the establishment of the sacrament on which Christianity itself is based: the Eucharist. Apart from the literary and movie fiction, the Last Supper opens up a series of interesting questions, Hypotheses and interpretations...*





Brief tour of the singular church San Bernadino alle Ossa

*San Bernardino alle Ossa is a creepy church in Milan filled and decorated with human skulls and bones. This church has an interesting history to be told.*

Lunch at your leisure

Free time at your leisure, walking and shopping in Milano city centre

Dinner in a typical local restaurant

## 11<sup>th</sup> DAY

Breakfast and departure with your Tour Escort to Torino.

*The grid street-plan of Turin's Baroque centre makes it easy to find your way around. Via Roma is the central spine of the city, a grand affair lined with designer shops and fancy cafés and prestigious museums.*

Guided walking tour around Torino city centre

Lunch at your leisure

Mystery tour in Torino

*Built at the confluence of two rivers, the Po and the Dora, and placed at the top of two virtual triangles, one referred to white magic and the second one to black magic, Turin has a centuries-old esoteric tradition. A path between mysteries, curious and disturbing faces, Masonic enigmas, esoteric symbols that comes to life through the mystery of the Gates of Hell, the spectral dragons, the legend of the alchemic caves, the Holy Grail, famous ghosts.*

Check in a nice 4 star hotel in Torino and dinner in a typical local restaurant.

## 12<sup>th</sup> DAY

Breakfast and departure with your Tour Escort to visit the Egyptian Museum.

*The Museo delle Antichità Egizie is the only museum other than the Cairo Museum that is dedicated exclusively to ancient Egyptian art and culture. Many international researchers, since the decipherer of Egyptian hieroglyphs Jean-François Champollion, who came to Turin in 1824, spend much time working over the collections. The collections that make up today's Museum were enlarged by the*

*excavations conducted in Egypt by the Museum's archaeological mission between 1900 and 1935 (a period when finds were divided between the excavators and Egypt).*

Lunch at your leisure

Sacra Sindone museum (The Holy Shroud Museum).



*It was created in Turin in 1936 and hosted in the crypt of the Church of the Holy Shroud. This museum represents the place which offers the opportunity to move closer to the Shroud. The Shroud Museum is unique in the world and that is of crucial importance to the cultural heritage of Italy.*

*The shroud is a linen sheet herringbone fabric size about 4.41 x 1.13 meters, containing the double image approximates to the head of the corpse of a man who died as a result of a series of torture which culminated with the crucifixion. According to the tradition, it could be the Shroud mentioned in the Gospels that was used to envelop the body of Jesus Christ in the Holy Sepulcher. This tradition, despite having found many hits in the scientific studies carried out on the sheet, cannot be formally proved. What is sure, is that the Shroud, due to the characteristics of its mark, represents a direct and immediate link which helps to understand and meditate the dramatic reality of the passion of Jesus Christ.*

Dinner in a typical local restaurant and overnight stay.

## 13<sup>th</sup> DAY

Breakfast and departure with your Tour Escort to visit the enchanting village Rosazza.

*In the middle of a valley of Piedmont, between rustic mountain villages, is located Rosazza, so rich in esoteric elements seem to be itself an architectural fantasy. It bears the name to Federico*



*Rosazza, Senator of the Kingdom, a member of Biella's masonry and of the "Giovine Italia" of Mazzini. To travel along the heavenly city you have to undertake an initiation journey consists of a series of stages for which it is important to meditate on every detail.*

Lunch in a local farm

Walking at leisure and shopping in Torino

Dinner at your leisure

## 14<sup>th</sup> DAY

Breakfast.

End of the services and transfer to Milano Malpensa international airport.

## Information

- The tour can be done maximum 25 paying persons
- Priced based on 4 stars hotels, inside or around historical centre
- The half board treatment has to be intended as one meal every day, not necessarily in hotel.
- The original Holy Shroud can be visited only if exposed by Catholic Church authorities, otherwise the interesting museum is always open to visitors.
- On request we can book flight tickets

## Price

- Price per person based on groups of **4 pax**: € 3342.00
- Price per person based on groups of **8 pax**: € 2480.00
- Price per person based on groups of **20 pax**: € 2020.00
- Price per person based on groups of **25 pax**: € 1932.00

## The quote includes

- 14 days / 13 nights in a 4 stars Hotel; half board treatment as specified below (beverages included)
- Tour Escort during the whole tour
- Local guide for 10 half days (Venezia, Belluno, Desenzano, Clusone, Milano, Torino, Rosazza)
- Local guide for 3 full days (Venezia, Brescia, Torino)
- Bus with private driver
- 1 light lunch and wine tasting
- 6 dinner in Hotel/Restaurant
- 6 lunch in Hotel/Restaurant
- City tax

## The quote does not include

- Supplement for DUS room: € 30,00 per person per day in Torino and Brescia
- Supplement for DUS room: € 50,00 per person per day in Venezia and Milano
- The tour Brescia Underground
- Entrance Brescia Castle and underground tour
- Visit to Perledo Castle
- Museums in Milano
- Entrance Holy Shroud Museum in Torino
- Entrance Egyptian Museum in Torino
- Everything not mentioned in "the price includes"
- Medical, baggage insurance