



Northern Italy Fashion & Textile Tour

Fashion - History - Culture

Join the ASG on one of their fashion and textile tours

~~TOUR 1 - 7th - 24th April 2012 - SOLD OUT~~

~~TOUR 2 - 29th April - 16th May 2012 - SOLD OUT~~

NEW

TOUR 3 - 13th - 30th October 2012

\$5920* per person twin share

This 18 day tour to Northern Italy has been designed for those with a passion for History, Culture, Food, Fun and a love of

FASHION & TEXTILES

ASG Italy Tour highlights include:

- * 17 nights accommodation
- * 17 Breakfasts - 6 Lunches - 11 Dinners
- * Venitian **Cooking School**
- * **Ca' Mocenigo** Textile & Costume Museum
- * Walking Tours - Venice, Cinque Terre, Florence, Rome
- * Coach Tours - Como, Biella, Milan, Chianti & Rome
- * Sightseeing with local **specialist Guides**
- * Rail, Bus, Walking and Boat passes - Cinque Terre
- * Tour of **Milanese Fashion** Training Institute
- * Costume, Lace & Textile **Museums - Florence**
- * Lake Como **cruise** - Bellagio
- * Chianti & Tuscany **Wine & Food** Tours
- * **Silk & Woollen** Mills, Museums & Outlets
- * Superb **Textile shopping**
- * ASG Tour Coordinator



Australian Sewing Guild Inc.
Sharing and Furthering the Art of Sewing

To secure a place or for more information please contact the tour coordinator:

Sue Neall T: 02 9477 3393

E: travel@aussew.org.au

W: www.aussew.org.au

* Conditions apply: Tour available to ASG members only. Subject to availability. International airfares NOT included



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Day 1 - (3 nights Venice Island)

Arrive in Venice to be met by your Tour Organiser, at the airport. Transfer to your hotel by private water taxi. Take in the sights and sounds of one of the worlds most famous waterways and be 'blown away' by your first sight of historic Venice. Settle in before the welcome dinner. D

Day 2 -

A leisurely morning to recover from the flight before an afternoon orientation walking tour led by Venetian food and history specialist, Sara Cossiga. The tour ends at one of Sara's favourite restaurants for a traditional Venetian dinner and then we have the challenge of finding our own way home! B, D

Day 3 -

Get involved with your lunch today at a Cooking School specialising in traditional Venetian cuisine. The goal is to offer a comprehensive experience of local gastronomical traditions and lifestyle by interacting with an expert cook who will help you understand why, centuries after their creation, some dishes are still so popular. Sara will analyse the intriguing fragrances, exotic origins of ingredients, cooking processes and will answer all questions. The class will be held in a Liberty Villa at the Lido beach, a fascinating bathing resort with tall trees and gardens traversed by several canals. The afternoon and evening are free to explore. B, L

Day 4 - (4 nights Como)

This morning we visit the Atelier Bevilacqua and the Costume Museum Ca' Mocenigo before leaving by ferry for the mainland and coaching to the beautiful Lago di Como. B, D

Day 5 -

A day filled with choice! With a full-day ferry pass and one of the world's most beautiful lakes you might choose to simply sail the day away, looking at the majestic mountains and mansions of the 'rich and famous' or hop on and off at ports that interest. Tip: The scenic town of Bellagio is a great stop for lunch and exploring. B, D

Day 6 -

Today we coach the Como area traditionally famous for SILK production. Visit the Silk Museum, located in the same building as the Textile School, the Setificio and then four textile and clothing manufacturers - Canepa, Lario Seta, Diffusione Seta and Emporio Pinto. B, D

Day 7 -

All day coach tour of the Biella Region famous for WOOL production since 1245. With our local specialist guide we will be visiting the factories of Filatura di Tollegno and Lanificio Reda, other specialist outlets and enjoying a great lunch featuring local foods of the Piedmont Region. B, L

Day 8 - (3 nights The Cinque Terre)

On the way to our next great destination we visit one of the fashion capitals of the world....Milan. The morning will be spent on a guided tour of their most prestigious school of design - The Institute Maragoni, whose chief Patron is Giorgio Armani and the afternoon at the iconic symbol of Milan, the Duomo, the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele and then the Quadrilatero d'Oro for high-fashion shopping (and snooping!).

Day 9 - Manerola

Utilizing a two-day train / electric bus / walking pass we will start to explore the Cinque Terre. Cinque Terre's five towns date from the early medieval period, with the oldest, Monterosso, dating from 643. History aside, the beauty of the Cinque Terre is breath-taking and we'll be discovering it from every vantage point, including our final sunset walk from Riomaggiore to Manerola - 'The Lover's Walk'.

Day 10 -

Hugging the sheer cliffs, the 12km Sentiero Azzurro (Blue Trail) links all five oceanside villages by foot. The hardy amongst us will spend the day walking the trail and exploring. The rest of us will utilise our sea pass, to watch them, as we cruise past. But at the end of the day we will all be enjoying local specialties of the area. Notable specialties that have originated in Cinque Terre include focaccia, pesto sauce and Sciacchetrà.

Day 11 - (4 nights Florence)

This morning we catch the fast train to Florence. Walking shoes on this afternoon for an orientation walk to discover and explore the traditional heart of this city. We explore Piazza San Trinta and Via Torabuoni to 'snoop shop' top designer fashion and visit the Ferragamo Museum to satisfy all the shoe lovers. This city is like no other. It was the cradle of the Renaissance and home to Machiavelli and Michelangelo and today leads in Italian cutting edge design. Florence is magnetic, romantic and VERY busy! B, D

Day 12 -

Today coach to the nearby Chianti area for a private tour, wine tasting and lunch at the Castello Di Querceto. Then a visit to Greve to pick up a little local produce from a myriad of outstanding specialists - like the macelleria (butcher shop) that has been operating since 1729.

We return to Florence to catch the sunset at Piazzale Michelangelo. This beautiful spot offers the most dramatic view over Florence. * A 'Kodak Moment'. B, L

Day 13 -

Today is one of the great highlights of this tour. A seminar on vintage textiles at Casa dei Tessuti will allow you to see and feel textiles that are centuries old and learn how they were originally created, as well as luxuriating over the current display of superb Italian silks, linens and woolsens. Then a visit to Zuffanelli, a haberdasher since 1842, Valmar "La Passamaneria" for beautiful buttons and trims and Museo della Fondazione Roberto Capucci to view his incredible Italian 'wearable art', a combination of haute couture and sculpture. B, L

Day 14 -

Start the day at the 'Mercato di San Lorenzo' haggling over leather coats and bags, silk scarves or marbled paper. You could possibly spend a day at this great street market but I will drag you away to visit Palazzo Pitti and the Galleria del Costume. The costume collection contains over 6000 items including costumes from the 16th - 20th centuries, theatre costumes and accessories. It is the only history of costume museum in Italy. B, D

Day 15 - (3 nights Rome)

Coach towards Rome, this morning, stopping for a lunch and winery tour in the heart of Tuscany. After settling into our centrally located hotel we will enjoy a late afternoon orientation walk. B, L

Day 16 -

Utilising Rome's great 'Hop On - Hop Off' bus system everyone can run today at their own pace. The buses continuously drive by the city's important monuments with a very informative audioguide - Colosseum, Circo Massimo, Tiberina Island, Piazza Venezia, Piazza Navona, Vatican City, St Angelo Bridge, Ara Pacis, Piazza del Popolo, Via Veneto, Barberini Square, Piazza Republic or Piazza dei Cinquecento. B, D

Day 17 -

Coach tour visiting the textile and fashion areas and in the afternoon exploring Rome's Imperial past; visiting Colosseum, Palatine Hill, Roman Forum, Basilica Emila, Arch of Titus, Capital Hill and Piazza Venezia with 'The Vittoriano'. Complete a beautiful day and a great trip with a Farewell Dinner together. B, D

Day 18 - Tour Ends B

All participants must be members of the Australian Sewing Guild Inc. Membership forms can be downloaded on the ASG website - www.ussew.org.au