



**Thursday, August 29th.** Afternoon departure from Barrington to Logan Airport, where you board your transatlantic flight for Europe. **Overnight: Plane**

**Friday, August 30th.** Your arrival at Venice Airport will be met for the transfer to our city-center hotel in Udine, a journey of around one and a half hours. After checking in there will be time to unpack and rest from the overnight flight, and a chance to begin exploring the neighborhood. This evening we will gather for dinner at the hotel. **(D)** **Overnight: Udine**

**Saturday, August 31st.** A morning walking tour of the center of the city with a local guide will begin in the main square, the Piazza della Libertà. Here, in this beautiful renaissance square, we'll visit the former town hall, known as the Loggia del Lionello, dating from 1457. From here we continue to the Cathedral, begun in 1236 and famous for its frescoes by Tiepolo. We end our tour at the Palazzo Patriarcale, the Archbishop's Palace, also boasting frescoes by Tiepolo. The afternoon is free for individual exploration, or perhaps a visit to the imposing early 16th-century castle that dominates the center of the town. The evening is free to sample a local restaurant. **(B)** **Overnight: Udine**

**Sunday, September 1st.** This morning we take an excursion west from the city to the Villa Manin. This fabulous palace was commissioned by the Manin family in the 16th century, but expanded through the 18th century in an imitation of Versailles. A striking achievement, thanks also to the surrounding park with ponds, fountains and statues. Inside there are Napoleon's Room and numerous other rooms with period furniture; an armory collection and a group of antique carriages. We'll return to Udine for a free afternoon and then dinner. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Udine**

**Monday, September 2nd.** We spend a day today in the Friulian countryside, exploring hill towns, taking scenic back roads, enjoying excellent food and tasting prestigious wines. From Udine we head towards San Daniele along the "road of Castles and Ham" (Strada dei Castelli e del Prosciutto). Our route will take us to the majestic Castle of Villalta, and the Castle of Arcano, before reaching San Daniele, where we'll pause for lunch at a nearby agriturismo, to taste some of the local wines – and some ham. In the afternoon, following scenic roads through enchanting countryside, we continue to the Castle of Colloredo di Montalbano, before returning to Udine for a free evening. **(B, L)** **Overnight: Udine**

**Tuesday, September 3rd.** Leaving Udine to the east, we head out towards the Slovenian Alps. Before we get to the border we stop at the town of Cividale del Friuli. This ancient town, called by the Romans Forum Julii, was settled by the Lombards in the 6th century and is home to the Tempietto Longobardo, one of the most outstanding examples of 8th-century religious architecture in the world. This afternoon we make our way back down to the coast road and follow it around the Gulf of Trieste to the city of the same name. Dinner awaits us at our hotel in the center of Trieste this evening. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Trieste**

**Wednesday, September 4th.** This morning a local guide will join us for a panoramic tour of Trieste. We'll begin by exploring the lower town, including the waterfront and the Piazza dell'Unità d'Italia, lined with 20th-century palaces, and then move on to the Colle di San Giusto, the hill on which the ancient Roman town was built. We'll alight at the Piazza della Cattedrale, lined with the ruins of a Roman basilica, a 15-16th century castle, a venetian column from 1560, the alter of the Third Army (1929) and the basilica of St Justus, a fine gothic building from the 14th century. Our tour will end with a visit to the Museo di Storia e d'Arte. The afternoon and evening are free. **(B)** **Overnight: Trieste**

**Thursday, September 5th.** Our first stop today is Castello di Miramare, built in 1860 for the Archduke Maximilian of Austria. It was here, in 1863, that Maximilian was offered the crown and title of Emperor of Mexico, where he was executed just 4 years later. From here we continue to Aquileia, a small town today, but one of the most important Roman cities in the country. It was from here that the emperor Augustus made his headquarters during his conquest of the Germanic tribes. A short drive south takes us out on to the peninsula of Grado, a popular seaside resort frequented by such as Sigmund Freud and Luigi Pirandello. From here we return to Trieste for a free evening. **(B)** **Overnight: Trieste**

**Friday, September 6th.** A final tour today takes us around the Istrian Peninsula. We'll stop at Rovinj to wander the seafront, at Pula to visit the wonderfully preserved Roman Amphitheatre and finally at the resort town of Opatija, where the rich and famous of the Hapsburg empire built their summer homes. Along the way we'll stop for lunch at a small village and perhaps sample the local truffles for which the region is famous. A farewell dinner is included on this, our final evening in Trieste. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Trieste**

**Saturday, September 7th.** Morning transfer to Venice Airport for returning flights to Boston, where your private coach will be waiting to take you back to Barrington. Alternatively why not stay on and spend a few days in Venice? **(B)** **Overnight: Home**

### **Optional Venice Extension:**

**Saturday, September 7th.** After bidding your recent travelling companions farewell, you continue on into the center of Venice, where a water taxi will take you from the Piazzale Roma to your hotel. After checking in there will be free time to explore the new neighborhood before we meet up for dinner. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Venice**

**Sunday, September 8th.** Venice stands apart from the rest of Italy, a fairy-tale city floating on the sea (and sometimes well beneath it!), fiercely independent and a constant thorn in the side of successive empires. The "Most Serene Republic" can be dazzling, seductive, irritating, dirty, expensive, but never, never disappointing or boring. A morning walking tour with a local guide places Venice in its historical context as we visit St Mark's Basilica to observe the Byzantine influence and then the Doge's Palace. The remainder of the day is free; you may wish to visit Venice's cathedral to art, the Accademia, or take an excursion to visit the glassblowers on Murano. Whatever your plans, Venice is a treasure trove of wonders to explore. **(B)** **Overnight: Venice**

**Monday, September 9th.** Today we explore the other islands of the lagoon by vaporetto—Murano (glass), Burano (lace), San Michele (the cemetery island) and the island of Torcello and the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, built in the Ravenna style with the finest mosaics in Venice. The evening is free. **(B)** **Overnight: Venice**

**Tuesday, September 10th.** A final free day in Venice to catch up on some shopping, visit some of the other magnificent churches and galleries, or just sit and watch the world go by along the Grand Canal while sipping your cappuccino. This evening we'll gather at a local restaurant for a farewell dinner. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Venice**

**Wednesday, September 11th.** Morning transfers to Venice Airport for returning flights to Boston, where you will be met for the transfer back to Barrington. **(B)** **Overnight: Home**

*Key to included meals:*  
**B** - breakfast, **L** - lunch, **D** - dinner