

GRANDTOURIST



CINQUE TERRE, ITALIAN LAKES & VENICE – SEPTEMBER 2026

Visiting Sestri Levante, Cinque Terre, Iseo, Garda & Venice



Dipping your toes in the water, every step of the way
Avec les pieds dans l'eau....

Think crystal clear water, private boats, fabulous food and wine, great views.

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Tour Dates: 07-18 September, 2026

Staying in: Sestri Levante (4 nts) / Garda (3 nts) / Venice (4 nts)



07-11 September (4 nts): Sestri Levante

On arrival at Pisa Airport a private Mercedes minivan will transfer you from Pisa Airport up to the famous and beautiful Cinque Terre coastline. It's time to relax and enjoy the sea views. Check in to the Villa Balbi Hotel, a traditional and historic hotel located steps from the beach and just a short walk to the old town.

We are staying at the Villa Balbi, an institution on Italy's Cinque Terre coastline. The hotel's wonderful gardens and water front location makes for a great few days here in Liguria.

Enjoy 4 nights in this delightful and typical Italian seaside town. www.villabalbi.it

11-14 September (3 nts): Lake Garda

We'll drive in our private minivan from the Cinque Terre northwards to Lake Iseo. Here we'll visit the Bellini Collection, a museum containing a superb collection of Riva speedboats. We'll learn about their history and enjoy a boat ride on Lake Iseo. We will then continue on to Lake Garda where we stay for the next three nights. On Lake Garda we'll also enjoy a boat cruise on the lake and discover scenic local towns including Sirmione, Bardolino and Verona. We will stay in a waterfront (truly) spa hotel. www.continentalsirmione.com

14-18 September (4 nts): Venice

Today we head east across the plains of the Veneto towards Venice. This is the land of Palladio and gorgeous country houses are sprinkled across the land. We'll stop at the exquisite small town of Asolo – which you will never want to leave. Then head east to the most beautiful of the 'Palladian villas' Villa Barbaro at Maser.

Then we'll continue to the Venetian Lagoon. Here we'll board a private water taxi to take us to our hotel. In Venice we will be staying at the Pensione La Calcina, a charming waterfront hotel with views across to Giudecca. www.lacalcina.com

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Cinque Terre, Lake Iseo, Lake Garda and Venice

Day-by-Day



07 September, Monday: Arrive at Pisa Airport and travel to Cinque Terre

- A minivan and driver will be waiting to whisk you northwards from Pisa Airport to Sestri Levante. The journey is about one hour.
- Arrive in the evening at Hotel Villa Balbi, Sestri Levante
- A light supper will be available. Finally you have arrived!
- Meals included: Light Supper

08 September, Tuesday: Cinque Terre - A day at leisure

- Enjoy the sea air and the small town of Sestri Levante.
- Today is at leisure – the rest of the group will arrive today.
- This evening meet in the hotel lobby for welcome drinks and dinner.
- Meals included: Breakfast, Welcome Dinner

09 September, Wednesday: Cinque Terre

- A train ride along the coast today to discover the villages of Cinque Terre.
- The train station is ten minutes from our hotel. We'll take a 30 minute train ride to Monterosso Al Mare Train and then explore the village. All the villages can be reached by train. There will be an optional hike for those who want to walk.
- Late afternoon return to Sestri Levante.
- Meals included today: Breakfast, Dinner

10 September, Thursday: Cinque Terre

- Today's the day we explore the coast line from the water.
- We have our own boat taking us along the coast to enjoy the scenery
- We will discover the villages of Cinque Terre and make several stops.
- Lunch is included today. There will be plenty of time for shopping and relaxing
- Late afternoon return to Sestri Levante.
- Meals included today: Breakfast, Lunch

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11 September, Friday: Cinque Terre – Lake Iseo – Lake Garda

- We travel north-west today to Lake Iseo. This is the home to Riva Speedboats (often featured in James Bond movies).
- Visit the Bellini Museum dedicated to these fabulous boats and maybe enjoy a boat ride in a real Riva mahogany speedboat. This is truly La Dolce Vita - Italian style.
- We'll head to Lake Garda late this afternoon for a restful evening and time for a swim in the hotel pool. We've got three nights here on beautiful Lake Garda.
- Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



12 September, Saturday: Lake Garda

- Today we find ourselves on the scenic waterfront surrounded by the crystal clear waters of Lake Garda. Enjoy the quaint town of Sirmione with drawbridge entrance and castle. Close to our hotel is the villa where Maria Callas lived.
- This afternoon a boat trip on Lake Garda allows us to enjoy this exquisite lake from the best possible view point – the water.
- The hotel has a spa and wellness centre – so perhaps a treatment is called for!
- Meals included: Breakfast

13 September, Sunday: Lake Garda

- Another wonderful day on Lake Garda today.
- Enjoy the pool, the lake and the spa.
- This afternoon we will head in to Verona, city of Romeo and Juliet for a walking tour and pizza dinner.
- Meals included: Breakfast, Pizza Supper

14 September, Monday: Lake Garda – Soave – Asolo - Venice

- Today's the day we travel east to Soave, the famous wine town and magnificent castle. We'll enjoy exploring the castle and have coffee and cake.
- Then it's on to Asolo, the cutest small city in Northern Italy.
- Asolo - Here we'll have lunch in the square.
- Then a Palladian villa visit – Villa Barbaro at Maser.
- Then down from the hills and across the plains to Venice.
- La Serenissima will be waiting to welcome us.
- Late afternoon arrival in Venice.
- Meals included today: Breakfast, Dinner

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15 September, Tuesday: Venice – St Mark’s - Rialto - Giudecca

- This morning a short boat ride to St Mark’s Square. Visit the beautiful basilica.
- You’ll walk along narrow streets to the famed Rialto Bridge. This is the market and commercial heart of Venice. ‘What news from Rialto’ I hear you cry.
- Discover the market, historic church of San Giacomo and the fruit, vegetable and fish vendors that have been plying their trade since the 11th century.
- This afternoon we’ll head to Giudecca to visit the Redentore Gardens. We’ll also see Redentore Church and enjoy views back across the water to St Mark’s Basilica.
- Meals included today: Breakfast, Lunch at Rialto



16 September, Wednesday: Venice – A Day on the Lagoon

- Discover the Venetian Lagoon today. We’ll see and understand the vastness of the lagoon and how this huge natural harbour gave shelter to the Venetians.
- We will visit the island of Torcello, one of the first islands in the lagoon to be permanently inhabited. This is the island that the Roman citizens of Altinum fled to, for safety, as the Hun, Goths and Visigoths arrived from the east. We’ll also see and admire the Basilica of Torcello which houses the finest Byzantine mosaic in Venice.
- Then we head to Burano for lunch at my favourite restaurant ‘Da Romano’.
- Meals included today: Breakfast, Lunch.

17 September, Thursday: Venice – The Guggenheim and Murano

- We’ll visit Peggy Guggenheim’s palace on the Grand Canal this morning.
- Peggy lived surrounded by works by Picasso, Dali, Max Ernst, Chagall, Tanguy, Alexander Calder and Matisse. The museum is an exquisite treat.
- Later we’ll head out to Murano for lunch and shopping. I already have a place or two in mind. Late afternoon – return to Venice for dinner & an Aperol Spritz.
- Meals included today: Breakfast, Dinner

18 September, Friday: Departures

- Breakfast this morning at La Calcina. It’s time for fond farewells.
- Private water taxi service to the airport – direct from the hotel.
- Meals included today: Breakfast.

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Cinque Terre, Italian Lakes and Venice Trip

Practical information – what's included:

- Warmth, hospitality, fun and learning, in a small group environment
- Group size: 6-8 guests
- 11 nights at good quality first class hotels
- Hotel stays as follows: 4 x Cinque Terre, 3 x Lake Garda, 4 x Venice
- Accommodation in comfortable double rooms.
- Breakfast included daily

Transportation & Meals:

- 3 x lunches included – relaxed and informal events.
- 6 x dinners included – 3-course with a glass or two of wine.
- Transport from Pisa to Cinque Terre in Mercedes Minivan
- Sightseeing in Cinque Terre including train ride to the villages.
- Boat trip along the coast of Cinque Terre
- Transportation by mini-van to Lake Iseo and Lake Garda
- Transportation from Garda to Venice with sightseeing en route.
- Private water taxis in Venice.
- Transportation from Venice 'centro storico' to Venice Airport at the end of the tour

Special activities:

- Cinque Terre – train journey along the coast to visit small towns
- Cinque Terre – private boat trip along the coast
- Optional hike in Cinque Terre.
- Iseo – Bellini Riva Museum visit.
- Iseo – trip on the lake (hopefully in a Riva – not guaranteed).
- Time to enjoy the spa and thermal pool at our Lake Garda hotel.
- Boat trip on Lake Garda with bubbles!
- Wine Tasting of Valpolicella wines
- Verona Walking tour and evening supper in Verona
- Visit the Castle and small town of Soave
- Visit Asolo – the cutest small city in Italy
- Visit the Palladian villa of Maser – Villa Barbaro
- Enjoy a private boat ride to our Venice hotel
- Short panoramic boat ride in Venice – possibly the evening of arrival
- Artisans Walking Tour of Venice – visiting studios and workshops.
- A day on the Venetian Lagoon with visit to Torcello
- Special risotto lunch on Burano
- Visit to Murano to visit glass factory and have time for shopping
- Visit Giudecca Island (Venice)
- Dinner on the terrace in Venice
- This event is co-ordinated and hosted by Janet Simmonds & Bilge Akkol

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Our hotels are:

- Villa Balbi, Sestri Levante (Cinque Terre)
- Caesius Hotel or Continental Hotel, Lake Garda
- La Calcina, Dorsoduro, Venezia
- Please note – hotels are subject to availability at time of booking.

Package Cost:

- Euros € 9900 pp / in your own double room for single use.
- Euros € 8300 pp / in a shared twin-double room

For more information:

- Contact janet@grand-tourist.com or Bilge@grand-tourist.com
- Prices may vary – we will quote you best possible prices at time of booking.

Next Steps - To book your place:

- Please drop us an e-mail and register your interest
- We will then send you a booking form and a deposit request.
- Please complete the booking form and return it via e-mail.
- A deposit of 50% of the total cost of the trip is required to confirm your place.
- Balance payment due 15 June, 2026 (12 weeks prior).
- Additional nights in Venice / post 'trip' available (see below).
- Travel/medical/cancellation strongly recommended – see our 'Terms & Conditions'
- We reserve the right to substitute services/accommodations if necessary.

Note: Air fare is not included. Guests should plan to fly into Pisa and out of Venice.

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Optional add-on: Venice:

- Why not extend your stay after the tour in Venice.
 - La Calcina Hotel, Venice – 1 x superior double room
 - Complimentary 'Ghetto Walking Tour' with Janet or Bilge
 - Including transport to Venice Airport by private water taxi.
 - Mini-package (1 nt) – Euros € 750 per person.
 - Mini-package (2 nts) - Euros € 995 per person
 - Prices may vary depending on room category / availability.
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Grand Tourist offers truly tailor-made travel:

- To see the range of experiences we offer visit our web site: www.grand-tourist.com
- Visit our blog – [Educated Traveller](#) over the years Janet has written hundreds of articles about travel, Italy, journeys in Europe.
- It's time to book and get ready for your next trip!

We look forward to seeing you in Italy in just a few months time.

Happy Travels!

Janet and Bilge xxx

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April, 2026

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