



Women's Tours by EMBARK

31 DAY HOSTED TOUR / 27 APRIL 2027 - 27 MAY 2027
(POSSIBLE SECOND DEPARTURE COMMENCES 7 SEPTEMBER 2027)

ITALY WITH STAR CLIPPERS





Let's explore Italy together!

Join us for an unforgettable month-long journey through Italy, designed exclusively for a small group of just 12 women seeking connection, culture, and extraordinary experiences.

Our adventure includes the ultimate Tuscan dream — seven luxurious nights in a private villa nestled in the rolling hills of Chianti. With panoramic vineyard views, a private pool, and our own chef, this is slow travel at its finest. Unpack once and settle into la dolce vita as we explore Florence, Siena, San Gimignano and beyond, returning each evening to our own peaceful sanctuary.

Then, trade the countryside for the sea as we embark on seven magical nights sailing aboard Star Clippers. This elegant tall ship experience is unlike traditional cruising — think billowing sails, intimate ports, and swimming stops in crystal-clear waters. We'll explore spectacular Mediterranean destinations including Sicily, the Aeolian Islands, the Amalfi Coast, Ponza and more - charming harbours and hidden coves that larger ships simply cannot reach.

A true highlight of the journey is Puglia, Italy's sun-drenched southern gem. Here we wander through Alberobello's fairytale trulli homes (over 1,500 cone-roofed dwellings!), explore Lecce's ornate Baroque architecture, visit ancient olive groves - some trees over 1,000 years old - and savour rustic, authentic cuisine that reflects the region's deep agricultural roots. From the cave dwellings of Matera to the grandeur of Rome and the romance of Venice, this itinerary blends iconic sights with immersive local experiences - cooking classes, wine tastings, artisan workshops and unforgettable meals shared together.

This is more than a tour, it's a beautifully curated Italian immersion, designed for women who want to travel deeply, laugh often, and create lifelong memories in an intimate and supportive group setting. Spots are limited and this is Italy at its absolute best.

Itinerary Overview

- Overnight Flight from Sydney to Venice
- 3 nights' accommodation Venice
- 7 nights' accommodation Tuscan Villa
- 7 nights' onboard the Star Clipper
- 1 nights' accommodation Naples
- 2 nights' accommodation Lecce
- 3 nights' accommodation Alberobello
- 2 nights' accommodation Matera
- 3 nights' accommodation Rome





27th April 2027 : Day One (meals in flight)

Today you will be transferred from your front door (Newcastle/Hunter/Lake Macquarie) to Sydney airport with your fellow travellers. We'll be taking an overnight flight to Venice.

28th April 2027 : Day Two (meals in flight, D)

Ciao and benvenuti to Venice – the magical city of canals! Our Italian adventure begins here, in one of the most unique cities in the world. Built on more than 100 small islands and connected by over 400 bridges, Venice has no roads – only canals. Instead of cars and buses, you'll see elegant gondolas, speedy water taxis, and the iconic vaporetto (water bus) gliding through the Grand Canal, Venice's main "street."



We'll spend three wonderful nights here, giving us plenty of time not only to recover from our long journey, but to truly soak up the atmosphere. Over the next few days, get ready to wander through narrow calli (streets), discover hidden squares called campi, sip an espresso in a lively piazza, and watch as the sun sets over the lagoon.

29th April 2027 : Day Three (B, L)

Our day begins with a guided walking tour of Venice Island, where we'll wander through narrow calli (streets), cross charming bridges, and discover hidden campi (squares) that reveal the true character of the city. A highlight of the morning is a visit to the magnificent St. Mark's Basilica in Piazza San Marco. Known as the "Church of Gold," this masterpiece of Italo-Byzantine architecture dazzles with its golden mosaics, intricate marble floors, and centuries of history. Your guide will share the stories behind the basilica's treasures and its importance to the Venetian Republic.



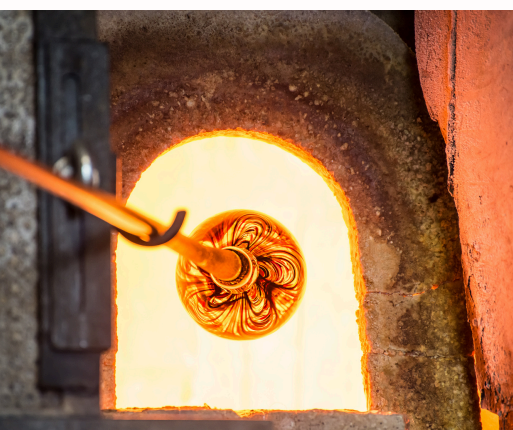
We'll head to one of the few remaining artisan mask studios still active in Venice for this mask-making workshop, a wonderful way to unleash your creativity and craft a unique souvenir. Learn the history of Venetian masks and the artisans who make them, then paint and decorate your own mask using traditional techniques such as painting and gilding. After working up an appetite, we'll enjoy a relaxed lunch in a local Venetian restaurant.



In the afternoon, it's time to experience Venice from the water with an iconic gondola ride. Pass under historic bridges, and admire elegant palazzi from a perspective that has changed little in hundreds of years. It's a quintessential Venetian experience and a wonderful way to soak in the romance of the city.

30th April 2027 : Day Four (B, L)

Today you will visit the islands of Murano and Burano. The enchanting islands of Murano and Burano are the perfect change of pace from Venice's crowded streets and waterways. Our first port of call is a specially chosen glassblowing workshop on Murano. In the Middle Ages,



only Murano's artisans possessed the secrets of this craft, and sharing them was punishable by execution. You'll get to witness modern glassblowers wield those once secret techniques, shaping delicate and dazzling works of art from molten glass.

The locals of nearby Burano still maintain the island's tradition of handmade lace, some of the finest anywhere in the world. You'll get to observe lace being hand-stitched the way it has been for generations. Then visit the lace museum to see the island's greatest work, or simply enjoy the photo opportunity provided by the colorful houses, brightly painted so sailors could see home as they returned from the sea. Enjoy lunch on the islands before returning to Venice for an evening at leisure.

1st May 2027 : Day Five (B, L, D)

After breakfast, we'll transfer to Santa Lucia Station and board the high-speed train to Florence. In just over two hours, we'll leave the canals of Venice behind and glide into the rolling hills of Tuscany - sit back, relax, and enjoy the changing scenery as cypress trees and vineyards begin to appear. We'll enjoy a light lunch at a local restaurant, before continuing on to what will be one of the true highlights of our journey. For the next seven nights, we won't just be staying in Tuscany - we'll be living it. Our home is a picture-perfect luxury Tuscan villa, reserved exclusively for our group. This is a rare and special experience: no packing and unpacking, no sharing with outside guests - just our own private sanctuary in the heart of the Chianti countryside.

Fully air-conditioned and beautifully appointed, the villa blends traditional Tuscan charm with modern comfort. There's a large private swimming pool overlooking the rolling hills, expansive terraces perfect for sunset aperitivos, and sweeping panoramic views that feel like they've been lifted straight from a postcard.

Adding to the experience, we'll have our own private chef on hand, creating delicious regional dishes using fresh local ingredients. Step out onto the terrace, breathe in the country air, and take in the spectacular vineyard-covered landscapes. For the next week, this extraordinary villa is entirely ours.

2nd May 2027 : Day Six (B, L)

Enjoy a spectacular day exploring two of Tuscany's most enchanting medieval towns, perfectly paired with authentic food and wine experiences. We begin with an excursion to San Gimignano, the famed "Medieval Manhattan," known for its dramatic skyline of ancient stone towers rising above the Tuscan hills. With its beautifully preserved walls, cobbled streets, and sweeping countryside views, this UNESCO World Heritage-listed town feels like stepping back in time.

While here, we visit the renowned Tenuta Torciano Winery for a guided oil and wine tasting experience. Learn about traditional Tuscan winemaking methods as you sample a selection of locally produced wines, paired with estate-produced olive oils and regional specialties. It's a wonderful introduction to the rich flavours and traditions of the region.





We then continue to Siena, for lunch in a local restaurant. After lunch, we embark on an orientation walking tour through Siena's atmospheric Centro Storico. Wander through narrow medieval streets and picturesque squares as your guide introduces you to the city's remarkable history and traditions, including the famous Palio horse race. Highlights include the striking Duomo di Siena, a masterpiece of Italian Romanesque-Gothic architecture with its dramatic striped marble façade; the shell-shaped Piazza del Campo, considered one of Europe's most beautiful squares; the imposing Palazzo Pubblico and Museo Civico, symbols of Siena's proud republican past; and the towering Torre del Mangia, which offers panoramic views over the city and surrounding countryside.



3rd May 2027 : Day Seven (B, D)

Today we will experience the timeless beauty of Florence on a guided walking tour through the cradle of the Renaissance - a city where every street, piazza, and palace tells a story.



Our day begins in the historic centre, where we'll stroll through elegant squares and along cobblestone streets surrounded by remarkable architecture. We'll stand before the magnificent Duomo - Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore, whose iconic terracotta dome engineered by Brunelleschi dominates the skyline. Admire the intricate marble façade, Giotto's Bell Tower, and the Baptistry's famous bronze doors - together forming one of Italy's most breathtaking cathedral complexes.

As we continue, we'll see the renowned Galleria dell'Accademia, home to Michelangelo's extraordinary David, and pass by the famous Gallerie degli Uffizi, one of the world's most celebrated art galleries. We'll also visit the beautiful Basilica of Santa Croce, known as the resting place of Italian greats such as Michelangelo and Galileo. Its striking façade and peaceful cloisters reflect the deep cultural and intellectual legacy of the city.



A highlight of the tour is a stop at Piazzale Michelangelo, where sweeping panoramic views stretch across Florence's red rooftops, the Arno River, and the rolling Tuscan hills beyond - the perfect vantage point to truly appreciate the city's grandeur.

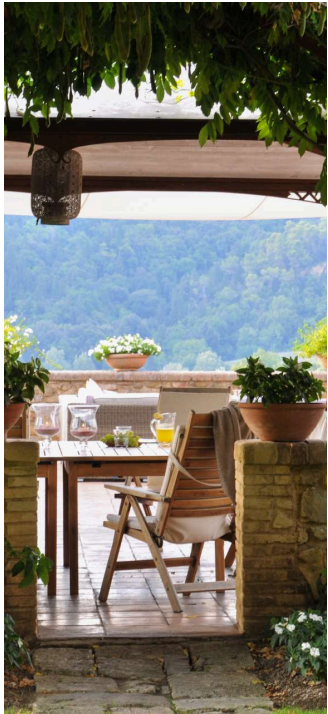
You'll have time to explore the lively San Lorenzo market and pick up some souvenirs before we return to the villa for dinner.

4th May 2027 : Day Eight (B, L)



Our day begins in Pisa, home to one of Italy's most iconic sights - the world-famous Leaning Tower of Pisa. Set within the stunning Piazza dei Miracoli, we'll also admire the magnificent Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta and the impressive Baptistry of San Giovanni, both outstanding examples of Pisan Romanesque architecture.

We then continue to the elegant walled city of Lucca, where lunch is included at a local restaurant, offering the chance to savour traditional



Tuscan cuisine in a charming setting.

After lunch, enjoy an orientation tour through Lucca's beautifully preserved historic centre. Stroll along Le Mura di Lucca, the impressive Renaissance-era city walls that encircle the town and now serve as a scenic promenade. Discover the unique Torre Guinigi, famous for the oak trees growing from its summit, and admire the graceful façade of Lucca's Duomo (Cattedrale di San Martino), home to treasured works of art. We'll also visit the lively piazza of San Michele in Foro, built on the site of the ancient Roman forum, where its striking church façade rises dramatically above the square. Along the way, experience local flavours and traditions, including a visit to Fattoria al Dotto, offering insight into the region's artisanal heritage.

5th May 2027 : Day Nine (B, D)

Today is yours to simply relax and enjoy the beauty of our villa. Take a refreshing swim in the pool, unwind on the terrace, or spend the day soaking up the peaceful Tuscan surroundings at your own pace. We will have a transfer into the local nearby town of Barberino Val d'Elsa (8 minute drive or one hour walk) for you to explore.

The pretty fortified village of Barberino sits on an outcrop overlooking the Elsa and Pesa valleys. Its architecture and layout are typical of the Tuscan Middle Ages, with stone gates at the north and south guarding entrances to a compact centre. Maybe have lunch at one of the local rustic restaurants or try the local wine – Cepparello – which is produced using 100% Sangiovese red grapes.

6th May 2027 : Day Ten (B, L)

A scenic journey through the rolling Tuscan countryside, will take us to Arezzo - where vineyards and olive groves stretch across the landscape. On arrival, enjoy a guided tour of the historic Castello di Ricasoli, one of Italy's oldest wineries and the ancestral home of the Ricasoli family. Discover the fascinating history of the castle and its role in the development of Chianti wine, as you explore the ancient cellars and learn about traditional and modern winemaking techniques. The visit concludes with a curated wine tasting session, showcasing a selection of the estate's acclaimed wines.

Following the tour, indulge in a refined four-course tasting lunch at Osteria Ricasoli, with each dish thoughtfully paired with estate wines. The seasonal menu highlights local Tuscan ingredients and culinary traditions, offering a true farm-to-table experience in an elegant yet authentic setting. Return to the villa for a relaxing afternoon/evening.

7th May 2027 : Day Eleven (B, D)

This morning we return to Florence, giving you more time to soak up the beauty and energy of this remarkable Renaissance city. Wander through its atmospheric streets and lively piazzas as we discover hidden corners and local favourites.





A highlight of the day is a guided food tour, where you'll sample some of the region's most beloved specialties. From artisan cheeses and cured meats to freshly baked focaccia, traditional sweets, and perhaps a taste of local wine or gelato, this delicious experience offers a true flavour of Florence and its culinary heritage.



Later, prepare for a truly unique and immersive cultural experience. Under the guidance of a skilled artisan, you'll learn the ancient art of fresco painting — a technique perfected during the Renaissance and created on freshly laid lime plaster. Discover the precision and patience required for this centuries-old method as you create your own small fresco to take home. After trying it yourself, you'll never look at the magnificent frescoes of Italy in quite the same way again.

We then return to our private Tuscan villa for a special farewell dinner — a memorable evening of wonderful food, fine wine, and shared stories as we celebrate an unforgettable journey through Italy together.

8th May 2027 : Day Twelve (B, D)

We'll have a light breakfast at the villa this morning (it's the chefs' day off!), before we transfer to the port of Civitavecchia. Here we will board our 7-night cruise onboard Star Clippers.



Cruising with Star Clippers is a truly unique way to experience life at sea - one that blends the romance of classic tall-ship sailing with comfortable, modern cruising. Rather than sailing aboard a large conventional cruise liner, you'll be aboard the Star Clipper – a full-rigged sailing vessel with towering masts and billowing sails that evoke the golden age of seafaring. At 115m long, the ship only has a maximum of 166.



During your 7-night sailing aboard Star Clipper, all meals are included and served in the ship's dining room. Enjoy beautifully prepared cuisine inspired by the regions you visit, along with attentive, friendly service. At each port of call, a selection of optional shore excursions will be available for those wishing to explore further. These guided experiences typically range from approximately €65–€100 per person, per port, depending on the activity and destination.

Of course, participation is entirely optional. One of the joys of sailing on Star Clipper is the freedom to explore at your own pace — you may choose to wander charming harbours independently, relax at a local beach, enjoy a seaside café, or simply soak up the atmosphere of the destination before returning to the ship.

9th May 2027 : Day Thirteen (B, L, D)

Today we will have a day at sea onboard the Clipper.

10th May 2027 : Day Fourteen (B, L, D)

Port of Call: Lipari – Aeolian Islands Italy: 10am-6.30pm



At 37 square kilometres, Lipari is the largest of the Aeolian Islands, a World Heritage Site for anyone who has passed through here and, since 2000, for UNESCO as well. A lively harbour lined with pastel buildings, cafés, and boutiques, where above the town rises the impressive Acropolis. Within its walls you'll find the Cathedral of San Bartolomeo, dedicated to the island's patron saint, along with an excellent Archaeological Museum showcasing artefacts from Greek and Roman times.

Perhaps take a scenic tour of the island, stopping at 'Marisa's Place' where you have the opportunity to taste local Malvasia wine and biscuits. Or take a boat tour to Vulcano, a small volcanic island where you can stop for a swim in the thermal waters.

This evening between 10pm-11pm you will be sailing via Stromboli. This offers a dramatic, up-close view of one of the world's most active volcanoes, often called the "Lighthouse of the Mediterranean".

11th May 2027 : Day Fifteen (B, L, D)

Port of Call: Taormina – Sicily/Italy: 8am-5pm

On the East Coast of Sicily, Taormina is known for its dramatic views of Mount Etna and scenic beaches of Isola Bella. You'll find a vibrant, pedestrian only main street – filled with boutiques, cafes and more cafes. Here you could spend your day discovering Europe's highest active volcano and lava caves at Mount Etna; or perhaps take a Silician Street Food Tour to try the local delicacies! You can even take a tour to compare the unforgettable storyline of the 'Godfather' saga with real-life Mafia history. There is plenty of choices here in Taormina, or you can simply explore the city centre at your leisure.

12th May 2027 : Day Sixteen (B, L, D)

Port of Call: Agropoli – Italy: 3pm-10pm

With its stone-built old town crawling up a bluff suspended over the sapphire bay, a bustling atmosphere, and loads of sunshine, Agropoli is a small seaside city with a lot going for it. Sitting along the Bay of Salerno, it is the gateway to the less-known Cilento Coast, a swath that sweeps down the Mediterranean to the Cape of Palinuro. Here, there is a sense of an unhurried lifestyle and a "don't stress yourself" attitude. A stop in the piazza for a chat and maybe a drink, a stroll among the shops and boutiques, a walk along the port to admire the boats, and a spot on the sand to watch the colorful sunsets are simple joys the Agropolesi enjoy daily.

13th May 2027 : Day Seventeen (B, L, D)

Port of Call: Sorrento – Italy: 8am-11.30pm

Perched high above the sparkling Bay of Naples, Sorrento is a picture-perfect coastal town known for its sweeping sea views, pastel-coloured buildings, and fragrant lemon groves. Wander through its charming historic centre, where narrow lanes are lined with artisan shops, cafés, and trattorias serving fresh local cuisine and the region's famous limoncello.

You have the full day here to explore! Take a boat tour to Capri, or take a cooking class overlooking the sea. Perhaps take a walking tour through the heart of town - stroll through the main squares and historic lanes and past the cathedral, Cloister of Saint Francis. You could even take an excursion along the Amalfi Coast to Positano!

14th May 2027 : Day Eighteen (B, L, D)

Port of Call: Ponza – Italy: 9am-3pm

This is one of Italy's best kept secrets! It's often compared to Capri, but it doesn't have the huge amount of tourists! Ponza is famous for its crystal-clear waters, dramatic cliffs, and sea caves carved by nature over centuries. The coastline is the star attraction, best explored by small boat, where you can swim in secluded coves, drift through grottoes, and admire the island's striking layers of pink, white, and ochre rock. Chiaia di Luna, with its towering crescent-shaped cliffs, is one of the island's most iconic beaches.

The main harbour is postcard-perfect - a semicircle of pastel buildings originally designed during the Bourbon era in the 18th century. Here you'll find lively cafés, seafood restaurants, and boutique shops lining the waterfront promenade.

15th May 2027 : Day Nineteen (B, D)

As our sailing adventure comes to an end, it's time to pack our suitcases and bid a fond farewell to the wonderful friends we've made aboard Star Clippers.

We'll be transferred to Naples and check in at our hotel. This afternoon we'll visit the ruins of Pompeii. Embark on a guided tour through one of the world's most renowned archaeological complexes—the ancient Roman city of Pompeii—and learn the vast history of this well-preserved site. Join your guide on a walk through the ruins, preserved under layers of volcanic pumice and ash since AD 79 until its rediscovery more than 1,500 years later. Pass former houses and storefronts, visit the Stabian Baths, climb the stairs of a Roman amphitheater and more. Return to Naples for dinner at a local restaurant.

16th May 2027 : Day Twenty (B, D)

Today we journey south into the sun-drenched region of Puglia, where whitewashed towns, ancient olive groves, and Adriatic breezes create a landscape rich in character and tradition. Our first stay is in the elegant and captivating city of Lecce, often referred to as the "Florence of the South."

Beyond its architectural splendour, Lecce offers a vibrant yet relaxed southern Italian atmosphere. Stroll along lively pedestrian streets lined with artisan boutiques and cafés, where you can sample local specialties such as pasticciotto (a delicious custard-filled pastry) and savour the bold flavours of Puglian cuisine, paired with excellent regional wines.

17th May 2027 : Day Twenty-One (B, L)

Our day begins in Lecce's enchanting historic centre, where honey-coloured stone buildings glow in the Mediterranean light. We visit the magnificent Duomo – Cattedrale Maria Santissima Assunta e Sant'Oronzo, set within the stunning Piazza del Duomo, one of Italy's most beautiful enclosed squares. Step inside to admire its ornate Baroque detailing and learn about the city's patron saint, Sant'Oronzo.



We continue to the breathtaking Basilica di Santa Croce, the masterpiece of Lecce Baroque. Its extraordinarily intricate façade - adorned with cherubs, mythical creatures, and elaborate carvings - is a true

architectural highlight of Puglia. Inside, elegant chapels and richly decorated altars reflect the city's artistic golden age.

Nearby, we explore the peaceful courtyards of Palazzo dei Celestini, a former convent and an impressive example of 17th-century architecture. The quiet cloisters provide a lovely contrast to the grandeur of the surrounding churches and offer insight into Lecce's religious and civic history.

In the afternoon, we immerse ourselves in the flavours of Puglia with a hands-on cooking experience at a professional cooking school. Under the guidance of expert local chefs, you'll learn to prepare traditional regional dishes using fresh, seasonal ingredients — perhaps handmade orecchiette pasta, rustic focaccia, or classic Puglian desserts.

18th May 2027 : Day Twenty-Two (B, L)

Our morning takes us to L'Astore Masseria, a beautiful historic estate set among vineyards and olive groves. Here, we enjoy an English-guided visit accompanied by a tasting of four locally produced wines, each thoughtfully paired with typical regional appetisers. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn about Puglia's winemaking heritage while savouring the authentic flavours of the region in an elegant rural setting.

From here, we travel north toward Alberobello, following a scenic coastal route via Brindisi. The journey of approximately 144 kilometres (around two hours) showcases the ever-changing landscapes of southern Italy — from sparkling Adriatic views to rolling countryside dotted with ancient olive trees. Along the way, we pause for a photo stop at the picturesque Grotta della Cala Tre Buchi, where dramatic coastal rock formations meet the clear blue sea. We also stop at Belvedere Santa Lucia, offering sweeping panoramic views — the perfect preview of the unique scenery that awaits us in Alberobello.

By late afternoon, we arrive in Alberobello, the fairy-tale town famous for its UNESCO-listed trulli houses with their distinctive conical roofs.

19th May 2027 : Day Twenty-Three (B, L)

Our day begins with a short transfer to nearby Putignano (approximately 15 minutes), to visit the fascinating Trullo Sovrano Museum. This remarkable two-storey trullo - the only one of its kind - offers insight into traditional life within these distinctive limestone dwellings and the history behind their unique conical design.

In Alberobello we'll get to explore the enchanting Trulli districts. We stroll through Rione Monti, the more lively quarter with its winding lanes lined with whitewashed trulli shops and cafés, and continue to the quieter, residential Rione Aia Piccola, where you'll see authentic homes still lived in today.





Highlights include viewing the historic Casa D'Amore, the first house in Alberobello built without the traditional dry-stone technique, marking an important turning point in the town's history. We also visit Casa Pezzolla, a complex of interconnected trulli that further illustrates the architectural and cultural story of this UNESCO World Heritage site.

As the day draws to a close, we enjoy an English-speaking guided visit to Cantina Albea, one of the region's well-known wineries. Here, we relax with a delightful sunset aperitivo, sampling local wines while learning about Puglia's rich viticultural traditions — the perfect way to toast the day.

20th May 2027 : Day Twenty-Four (B, L)

The Castellana Caves (Grotte di Castellana) are one of Italy's most spectacular natural wonders, located in the heart of Puglia just a short drive from Alberobello. Discovered in 1938, this vast underground karst cave system stretches for approximately 3 kilometres and descends to depths of more than 70 metres below the surface. Formed over 90 million years ago, the caves are a breathtaking world of limestone chambers filled with dramatic stalactites and stalagmites, shimmering calcite formations, and vast cathedral-like caverns. As you walk through the illuminated pathways, you'll encounter a series of awe-inspiring grottoes, each with its own character and name.

One of the highlights is the White Cave (Grotta Bianca), often described as the most beautiful cave chamber in the world. Its walls are coated in dazzling white alabaster formations that sparkle under the lights. The constant temperature inside the caves — around 16–18°C — makes it a comfortable and fascinating visit year-round. A visit to the Castellana Caves offers a striking contrast to Puglia's sun-drenched landscapes above ground, revealing a hidden subterranean world shaped entirely by nature. We'll return to Alberobello for lunch, before free time in the afternoon.

21st May 2027 : Day Twenty-Five (B, L)

Today we will be travelling to Matera. Perched on the edge of a dramatic ravine in southern Italy's Basilicata region, it is one of the country's most extraordinary and atmospheric destinations. Known for its ancient cave



dwellings — the Sassi di Matera — this UNESCO World Heritage listed city is considered one of the oldest continuously inhabited settlements in the world, with evidence of habitation dating back over 9,000 years!

The Sassi are a labyrinth of limestone caves, stone houses, churches, and narrow alleyways carved directly into the rock. Once a symbol of extreme poverty, Matera has undergone a remarkable transformation and is now celebrated for its beauty and cultural significance.



It is like nowhere else in Italy and we get to stay here for two nights. Today we will visit the Matera Olive Oil Museum. Housed within a restored cave dwelling carved into the rock, the museum beautifully reflects Matera's agricultural and cultural heritage. During your guided visit, you'll learn about the centuries-old importance of olive oil in Basilicata — not only as a culinary staple, but also as a source of light, medicine, and trade. The highlight of the visit is, of course, the olive oil tasting. Guided by a knowledgeable host, you'll sample locally produced extra virgin olive oils, learning how to identify quality, aroma, fruitiness, and peppery notes. Often paired with rustic bread or regional products, the tasting allows you to fully appreciate the distinctive character of southern Italian olive oil.



22nd May 2027 : Day Twenty-Six (B, D)

This morning we roll up our sleeves and dive into the colourful world of local craftsmanship with a hands-on ceramic workshop. Guided by skilled artisans, you'll try your hand at the potter's wheel, shaping and moulding your very own creation - perhaps a cup, a bowl, or a small decorative piece. It's a wonderfully tactile experience — the cool, mineral-rich clay connecting you directly to the earth of Basilicata. Fun, a little messy, and incredibly rewarding, this workshop offers not just a souvenir to take home, but a memorable moment of creativity rooted in tradition.



Enjoy free time this afternoon to wander the enchanting streets of Matera at your own pace — explore hidden alleyways, browse artisan shops, or simply soak up the atmosphere of the ancient Sassi. This evening, we'll come together for dinner at a local restaurant, savouring the regional flavours of Basilicata in a memorable setting.

23rd May 2027 : Day Twenty-Seven (B, D)

Today we farewell the ancient stone city of Matera and journey north toward Rome, with a spectacular cultural highlight along the way. Our first stop is the magnificent Reggia di Caserta, one of Europe's grandest royal residences and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Often compared to Versailles, this extraordinary 18th-century palace was commissioned by the Bourbon kings of Naples and is renowned for its sheer scale, elegance, and opulence.



You'll explore the lavish Royal Palace, where grand staircases, glittering chandeliers, frescoed ceilings, and richly decorated state apartments showcase the power and prestige of the Bourbon dynasty. Each room tells a story of royal life, diplomacy, and artistic achievement.

We also visit the vast Royal Gardens, an extraordinary landscape stretching for kilometres behind the palace. Stroll along sweeping avenues, admire ornate fountains and cascading waterfalls, and take in the perfectly aligned vistas that create a breathtaking sense of symmetry and grandeur. The gardens blend Italian formality with English romantic landscaping, offering both structure and natural beauty.

After our half-day visit, we continue our journey to Rome, watching the scenery shift from countryside to the Eternal City. Upon arrival, we check in to our hotel and settle in, ready to begin the last chapter of our Italian adventure.

24th May 2027 : Day Twenty-Eight (B, D)

Step back in time with a full-day exploration of Ancient Rome. Our journey begins at the iconic Colosseum, the largest amphitheatre ever built and one of the world's most recognisable landmarks. Step inside this extraordinary monument and imagine the roar of 50,000 spectators gathered for gladiatorial contests and grand spectacles. As you explore the Colosseum Museum, your guide will share fascinating insights into its construction, engineering brilliance, and the dramatic events that once unfolded within its walls.

We then continue to the legendary Roman Forum, the political, religious, and commercial heart of ancient Rome. Walking among the ruins of temples, basilicas, and triumphal arches, you'll discover where senators debated, emperors ruled, and daily Roman life played out more than 2,000 years ago. Our tour also includes the majestic Palatine Hill, one of Rome's seven hills and the birthplace of the city according to legend. Here, amid the ruins of imperial palaces and shaded pine trees, you'll enjoy sweeping views over the Forum and Circus Maximus while learning about the emperors who once called this hilltop home.

Throughout the day, our local guide will bring ancient history to life with stories of power, ambition, and intrigue, helping you visualise the grandeur of Rome at the height of its empire.

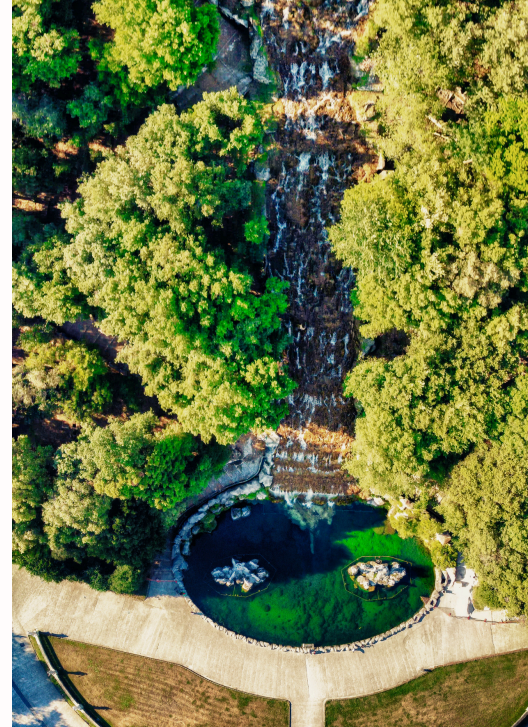
25th May 2027 : Day Twenty-Nine (B, L)

This morning we have a unique opportunity to explore Rome's highlights – by riding around in a Vespa sidecar! Feel the breeze on your face and enjoy unobstructed views as your driver takes care of the navigation. Cover more ground than a traditional walking tour and pass by attractions such as the Colosseum, the Spanish Steps, Villa Borghese, and more.

We conclude the tour at a local restaurant in Rome, gathering for a special farewell lunch to celebrate our unforgettable journey together.

26th May 2027 : Day Thirty (B, meals in flight)

Today we will be transferred to the airport for our flight back to Australia. We will arrive back into Sydney on the **27th May 2027 (Day Thirty-One)** and you will be transferred home to Newcastle/Hunter.





*Your 2027 Embark
Tour includes*

- Return Transfers from your home address* to Sydney airport
- Economy Class Flights with a full-service airline (upgrade to business class available closer to departure)
- All accommodation (4-5 star where possible)
- Sightseeing and transport as per the itinerary - all entrance fees included
- Meals: Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) and Dinner (D) where indication - minimum of 2 meals per day
- Small Group of only 12 women (plus guides and Embark Travel representatives)
- Embark Travel tour manager, travelling with you
- Local sightseeing experts throughout
- Pre-tour get together meal
- All tipping throughout
- Departure Pack (luggage tags, luggage straps, ticket wallet etc)
- Welcome Home Pack
- Any required visas for Australian passport holders

PACKAGE COST: \$28,300 per person twin share

SOLO Supplement - Hotels \$4,000

SOLO Supplement - Star Clippers Cruise \$2,620 (limited cabins available as solo share)

First deposit is \$3,500 per person (due within 7 days of booking)

Second deposit of \$2,000 due 30th June 2026

Balance due 4 months prior to departure. All payments are non-refundable unless otherwise specified.

Please note: While this itinerary includes specific restaurants, hotels and activities, occasional changes may occur due to circumstances beyond our control—such as venue renovations or updates to group dining availability. Rest assured, any adjustments we make are thoughtfully chosen to enhance your overall experience. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility, as part of the joy of travel lies in embracing the unexpected and discovering new highlights along the way.



ARE YOU READY TO JOIN US?

TO SECURE YOUR PLACE, CALL
0402335919

OR EMAIL
MICHELLE@EMBARK-TRAVEL.COM.AU

