



The Traveling Professor Presents

JEWELS OF NORTHERN ITALY

VENICE • PADUA • VICENZA • VERONA • BASSANO DEL GRAPPA

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

Day 1

Arrival in Venice. After check-in at the Hotel American Dinesen, join us in the evening for a walking tour of the Dorsoduro area, close to our hotel. Join us for dinner or we have plenty of recommendations to try on your own.

Day 2

On the way to the legendary Doge's Palace and Saint Mark's Basilica, our professional guide will provide a glimpse into life at the height of the Venetian republic as well as provide historical context to fully appreciate the city, its art, and its architecture. Along the way, learn a few secrets of the city.

In the afternoon, explore Venice on your own. Visit sites like the nearby Peggy Guggenheim Collection, the Gallerie dell'Accademia, the Punta della Dogana, stroll along the Zattere, or bask in the beauty of Saint Mark's Square. We suggest going at sunset after the tourists have gone away.

Day 3

Free morning to enjoy the last views of Venice. Then, glide down the glorious Grand Canal in a private water taxi. Take the train to Padua, only 30 minutes away. After check-in at the [Majestic Hotel Toscanelli](#), enjoy lunch. Then, it's a short orientation of the city center with our local guide followed by a tour of Giotto's masterpiece, the Scrovegni Chapel.

Day 4

In the morning, depart for a twenty-minute train ride to Vicenza, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the home of Andrea Palladio, the famed architect. Vicenza is often overlooked by tourists but is considered a destination retreat for Italians. It is well worth the visit to breath in the architecture and art that abound. After a guided tour of the city to view some of the most famous of Palladio's works including the Basilica Palladiana and the stunning Teatro Olimpico. Afterward, enjoy lunch in the shade of a Renaissance palace, stroll the banks of the river, or visit Querini Park. Now, this is the REAL Italy.

In the afternoon, return to Padua, to explore on your own. Our travelers love the Botanical Gardens (a UNESCO World Heritage site), the Palazzo della Ragione, the Padua Duomo, Prato delle Valle, and the Diocesan Museum of Padua, or enjoy one of the lively squares near the hotel.

Day 5

Start the day with a guided tour of Padua including the Jewish Ghetto and the Duomo. The Basilica of Saint Anthony is one of the most significant destinations of pilgrims from all over the world. We'll have a special guided tour at the Palazzo Bo to visit the University of Padua, one of the oldest universities in the world. See Galileo's teaching lectern as well as the anatomical theater where medical human dissections were first performed.

Day 6

In the morning, take a seventy-five-minute train ride through the countryside to the Roman city of Verona. Our professional local guide walks us through the centuries starting with Piazza Bra then on to the ancient Verona Arena. We visit Juliet's balcony, pass through the Piazza Erbe, and pass by the Scaliger tombs, Torre dei Lamberti, and the Old Castle as well as markets, churches, monuments and much, much, more.

Day 7

Enjoy a free day to explore Padua on your own. We suggest a second visit to the Scrovegni Chapel, a coffee at the Café Pedrocchi, the Botanical Gardens (a UNESCO World Heritage site), the Palazzo de Ragione, the Padua Duomo, Prato delle Valle, the Diocesan Museum of Padua, the Scrovegni Chapel, or enjoy one of the lively squares just outside the doors of our hotel. There is also an opportunity to re-visit Venice or even take a lovely cruise down the Brenta canal. We are happy to help you plan your day.

Day 8

A private van takes us to the Alpine foothills (called the Venetian Prealps) and the hillside town of Bassano del Grappa, on the river Brenta. See the famous pontoon bridge designed by Andrea Palladio, and revered by the Alpini, the Italian Army's Mountain Infantry. Visit one of the many museums in the city: a grappa museum, Hemingway's museum, the Great War Museum, or Palazzo Sturm. Try some local grappa and regional cuisine then breathe in the fresh air and relax in the charm of this town. Travelers feel they have gone back in time in this old Italian village.

Afterward, travel through the countryside and visit the majestic Villa Angarano, a UNESCO World Heritage site, designed by Andrea Palladio in the 16th century. We'll tour the historic Villa and bask in the harmony of the Palladian architecture and then sample quality wines from the Angarano vineyards operated by the five sisters of the Bianchi Michiel family, an old Venetian family.

Day 9

Departure. Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and take a final stroll through one of the nearby squares in the city center of Padua before moving on to your next destination.

ABOUT OUR SMALL GROUP TOURS

Since each tour is planned with traveler input, your tour may be slightly different. We always add in "off the itinerary" sites of interest. Adjustments may be made for crowd management, weather, special events, or conditions beyond our control.

We travel with a small group of 8-15 active adults. This offers the flexibility to do what we want to do, on our own schedule. Transportation is provided within each city and between cities as well as VIP admission to sites listed on the itinerary. Admission may be provided for sites off the itinerary.

Breakfast is included each day of the tour. Every day we plan a relaxing lunch and dinner. Please join us or go out on your own - we are glad to offer our best recommendations.

Our guide is with us during the day. Tour leaders are with the group 24/7. Unless otherwise noted, we ask travelers to be ready to go at 9:30 a.m. for a full and active day of touring.

Well before departure date, each traveler is supplied with a "final" detailed itinerary along with a complete and detailed information packet. It has advice on packing, money matters, passports, weather, etc. We make sure travelers are well-prepared. And of course, we are always available to personally answer any questions you may have.

Extra nights in Venice or Padua are available upon request.

For more information, including travel dates and pricing, see
www.travelingprofessor.com