

# Civilisations of Italy

Discover rich history, ancient peoples & unique treasures



Small groups | Guided by experts

Save up to \$630pp | \$0 Single Supplement places available





# Learn about the rise of the Romans, Samnites Etruscans and beyond...

Dear Traveller,

Peppered with conquests, wars and empires, Italy's rich history of clashing cultures and enduring influences, tapestry of literature, art and philosophy and spectacular scenery make it one of the world's most fascinating destinations to discover. Independent-minded cities, territories and islands characterise the country's history, alongside the foreign powers who desired them, sailing across the Mediterranean Sea in search of new lands and strategic strongholds.

Archaeological findings have confirmed that Italy has been inhabited by humans, or homo neanderthalensis, since the Palaeolithic period. Over time, various peoples such as the Samnites, Umbri, Celts and others settled here, yet it flourished under the Greeks and Etruscans who transformed the well-located peninsula into the centre of the ancient world. In 509 BCE, Rome overthrew the Etruscan Empire, forming the Roman Republic, and in the period that followed, Rome gained control of Spain, France, Greece, Turkey and North Africa. In 27 BCE, unrest in Rome led to the toppling of the republic and the Roman Empire was officially founded, dominating Western Europe and the Mediterranean for centuries thereafter. The remnants of these periods are truly remarkable, showcasing human ingenuity amongst stunning landscapes of dramatic mountains, rolling countryside, sublime lakes and volcanic islands.

There is certainly plenty of choice, whether you would like to stand on the very spot where our ancestors created fascinating rock art thousands of years ago, visit the Samnite religious and political centre in the stunning mountains of Molise, admire the incredible 5th-century Riace Bronzes rescued from the Ionian Sea or re-discover Pompeii with its recently excavated sites and captivating stories.

No matter your interest, these tours offer the fantastic chance to step into a land shaped and influenced by each of its historic periods, from the initiative of the Romans to the flourishing of art and architecture of the Renaissance and beyond.

We look forward to your company.



*Jackie Willis*  
CEO



OF EXPERTISE & EXPERIENCE

*We are thrilled to celebrate our 40th anniversary, marking four decades of innovation, dedication, and growth.*

*Founded in 1985, Andante Travels started as a small group with a big vision. Over the years, we have expanded our horizons to deliver exceptional tours to our valued customers and create immersive experiences that uncover the rich tapestry of the ancient world. Today we are proud to be one of the foremost providers of archaeological tours.*

*Trust Andante Travels to deliver exceptional tours backed up by our expertise and experience.*

## Travel for less with our Special Offers

### SAVE up to \$630pp

Enjoy a saving on selected tour departures featured in this brochure. To secure your discount book as soon as possible as there are a limited number of discounted places on each tour.

### \$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES

We still have some places on our Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania tour (page 8) and our Samnites tour (page 11) with no single supplement to pay.

## Get in touch with an expert

If you are interested in joining one of our tours and want to know more, please give our Specialist Travel Executives a call today. They are ready to help with all of your questions.

800 234 1693 | [andantetravels.com](http://andantetravels.com)

## NEW IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR 2025 TRAVEL TO EUROPE: EES & ETIAS

*If you are travelling to Europe, new mandatory border checks (EES) and travel authorisation requirements (ETIAS) are likely to be introduced at some point in 2025. Please read the information carefully to understand how this may affect your journey and what pre-travel requirements you will need to make. Further details can be found at <http://travel-europe.europa.eu>.*

# So much included...

The price you pay for your Andante Travels tour offers excellent value for money. Most aspects of your tour are included, covering everything from and entry to all sites mentioned in the itinerary to tips and treats. More often than not, wine is also included with dinner. Consequently, the only additional expenses you may need to budget for during your holiday are souvenirs and drinks at the bar.

If you require assistance with official form-filling or advice on what to pack, our friendly team is always available to help from the office. While you are on holiday, our Tour Manager is there to assist you, whether it's a quick phone call or just a short distance away. With round-the-clock support from our operations team, we are ready to provide practical assistance at every stage of your tour.



## NO STONE IS LEFT UNTURNED TO ENSURE YOU RECEIVE THE MOST INCLUSIVE HOLIDAY

We make sure that we have included as much as possible in the cost of your holiday. From transfers, guides and entrance fees, tips for local staff, domestic flights where appropriate and, on most of our tours, all meals which often include wine with dinner. It's all covered so you can simply relax and enjoy your tour.



## INSIDER KNOWLEDGE

We know the destinations and sites we visit inside and out, which enables us to create the most in-depth, all-encompassing, and immersive tours possible for our guests. We know the best way to get you there, the most effective routes to travel around and how to make your time on site as memorable and worthwhile as it can be.



## SMALL GROUPS MEAN MORE ATTENTION

Most of our tours are limited to 18 guests, which means that you get the chance to get up close and personal to those things you've only ever read about or seen on TV or film.



## THE BEST GUIDE LECTURERS, TOUR MANAGERS AND LOCAL GUIDES

Every tour with Andante Travels is accompanied by a Guide Lecturer and a Tour Manager. Often you will be further joined by a local guide who adds an element of local flavour to the expertise from your Guide Lecturer. This means that you are never short of someone who will help you satisfy your curiosity.



## KEEPING CLOSE TO OUR SITES

All our accommodation is carefully chosen to help you get the most out of your tour. Location is key as we want to be close to the sites we visit and keep travelling between them to a minimum. Your accommodation costs are all included in the price of your holiday; however if you do fancy that extra bit of luxury, do contact us and we will be pleased to advise on room upgrades.



## DINE WITH US

We know how important a good meal is whilst you are enjoying your holiday, so we have made sure that the majority of your meals are included in the price. Dinner is often taken at a local restaurant and most evening meals include wine.





Guests with Tony O'Connor in Pompeii

## Look forward to seeing something new...

### ADMIRE THE STUNNING MOSAICS AT CAPPELLA PALATINA DURING A SPECIAL-ACCESS EVENING

After a day discovering the ancient wonders of Sicily's Palermo, we enjoy a private visit to the UNESCO-listed Cappella Palatina, an extravagant chapel, glittering with mosaics, gold leaf and a remarkable ceiling of star-shaped panels, carved and painted by Maghreb craftsmen. The epitome of the island's tricultural state in the 12th century, it beautifully showcases Byzantine, Norman and Fatimid architectural styles and was commissioned in 1132 by Roger II, the first king of Sicily. Described by Maupassant as 'the most beautiful religious jewel dreamt of by human thought', it truly is a sight to behold, made even more special with our evening access. Away from the crowds, this is the perfect chance to admire the intricate mosaics, which likely date back to the rule of William I (1154-1166) and are perhaps the most stunning examples of Byzantine art to be found on the island.

Find out more on our **Classical Sicily tour on page 12** and **Sicily & the Aeolian Islands tour page 13**.



Palatine Chapel





House of the Vettii in Pompeii

## VISIT POMPEII'S RECENTLY EXCAVATED HOUSES AND NEWLY REOPENED SITES

Travelling via the best routes to avoid the crowds, come along and visit sites that are newly reopened to the public. There is no better time to head to this ancient wonder – the joy of the Great Pompeii Project is that the new discoveries have been accompanied by the opening of many more sites, so any trip to Pompeii today is like visiting a completely different site compared with 10 years ago. Exciting reopened sites include the House of the Silver Wedding, one of the finest examples of Pompeii's aristocratic villas, and the House of the Vettii, once belonging to freedmen who rose to wealth which boasts spectacular frescoes, mosaics and architectural features. Of equal interest is the opening of the Central Baths, which have never been accessible to the public. The largest and most luxurious baths built in Pompeii, it is fascinating to walk among them and to think they were still being built at the time of the fateful eruption.

**Find out more on our Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania tour on page 8.**

*“A tour that was packed with activity led by a very knowledgeable and enthusiastic expert and a great tour manager. In addition to the sites I enjoyed a lovely hotel in the hills and wonderful food and wine.*

”



Rock Drawings in Val Camonica

## EXPLORE A GALLERY OF OVER 100,000 REMARKABLE ROCK ART DEPICTIONS IN NAQUANE PARK

Embark on a memorable discovery of the stunning Val Camonica valleys, once an important route through the Italian Alps that connected northern and southern Europe. Just one highlight is the extraordinary prehistoric and protohistoric rock art sites in Naquane Park, which extends over 14 hectares and is Italy's first archaeological park to be added to the UNESCO World Heritage Site list. Containing more than 100,000 prehistoric rock art images depicting people, animals, boats, carts, huts tools and weapons, each representation is unique, creating a varied and concentrated gallery of prehistoric life, with some even strung together into narratives! These rocks were engraved by Neolithic and Iron Age inhabitants between the 5th and 1st millennium BC and offer a captivating 8,000-year journey through history. Don't miss Rock No. 70, which features what is believed to be the oldest depiction of the Celtic deity, Cernunnos.

**Find out more on our Prehistoric Italy tour on page 15.**



## DISCOVER THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF VERONA WITH ITS UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

The spectacular city of Verona is the jewel in the Veneto region's crown, immortalised by Shakespeare and blessed with an abundance of Roman and medieval remains, reflecting the evolution of this fortified town over its 2,000-year history. Explore the core of the Roman town, its pastel-coloured buildings, atmospheric squares, city gate (Porta Borsari), the Arco dei Gavi, the Roman theatre and the magnificent amphitheatre, the third largest in the Roman world as well as admire many of its medieval structures. We also pay a visit to the Archaeological Museum, housed in a deconsecrated monastery which was literally built on top of the Roman theatre. The view from the panoramic terrace offers a stunning view of the city and helps to understand Verona's Roman foundation, while the old refectory, cells and cloister showcases fascinating relics of the past.

Find out more on our **Lake Garda & the Cities of Veneto** tour on page 10.

*“It was an excellent tour with items added to the itinerary and great value for money”*



Arena di Verona



Riace Bronzes

## SEE THE WORLD-FAMOUS RIACE BRONZES AT THE NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF REGGIO CALABRIA

A highlight of the brand-new Sicily & the Aeolian Islands tour is the National Archaeological Museum of Reggio Calabria, accessed by hydrofoil to the mainland. The museum hosts an extensive collection of Greek and Roman objects plus significant archaeological finds ranging from ceramics to ancient coins but is most famous for its display of the Riace Bronzes in an environmentally-controlled room. These magnificent bronze sculptures of Greek bearded warriors date back to the 5th century BCE and were remarkably recovered in the

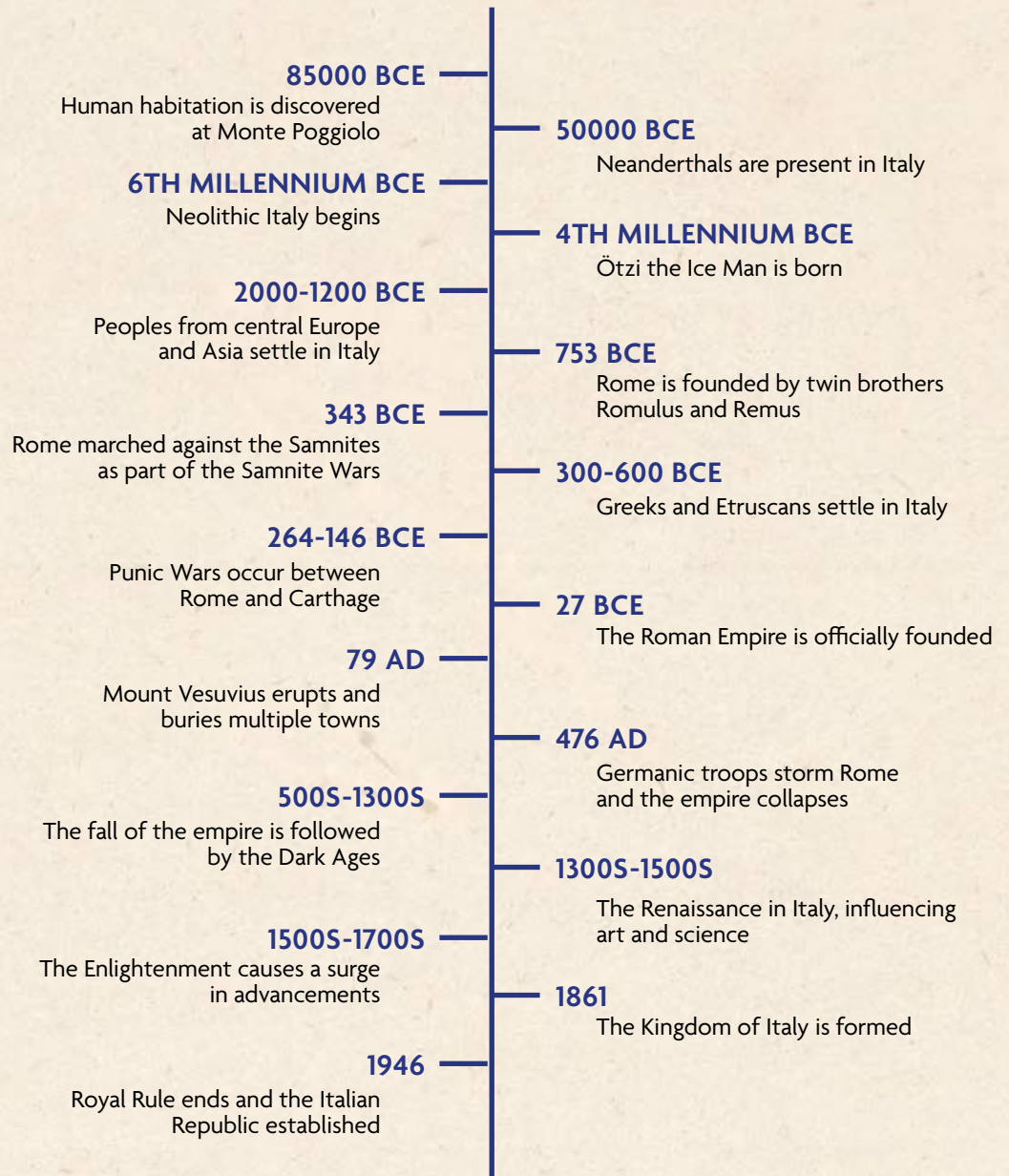
Ionian Sea in 1972. These masterpieces of classical antiquity are two of the few surviving full-size bronzes from this era and provide invaluable insights into the techniques of sculpting over two millennia ago. It is widely believed that the statues were being transported on a ship that sank, sitting at the bottom of the sea until a snorkeller happened to spot one of the arms thousands of years later.

Find out more on our **Sicily & the Aeolian Islands** tour on page 13.





# Delve into a world of different civilisations...



*“Overall I really enjoyed the tour, it was a small group with interesting people, a lovely informative guide and we saw some really interesting places”*

## Get in touch with an expert

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**800 234 1693**  
[andantetravels.com](http://andantetravels.com)



Pompeii



**ADDITIONAL DATE ADDED**  
DUE TO HIGH DEMAND\*

# Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania

*Exclusive access to the off-site theatre of Herculaneum*

50 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES AVAILABLE



Nowhere in the world gives deeper insight into Roman life than the dramatic seaside towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Before the cataclysmic eruption of Vesuvius these were thriving, lively seaside towns.

Pompeii, a trading town equipped with many bars, shops and brothels, while neighbouring Herculaneum was an affluent and elegant town. All this came to an abrupt halt, however, one autumnal day in AD 79, when Vesuvius - which had done little more than rumble for years - erupted with incredible force.

Two thousand years later, the sites of the Bay of Naples confront the modern visitor with a vivid, haunting immediacy like nothing else in the ancient world. In some cases we even know the names, professions and personal histories of the people who owned the villas and shops we visit. The preservation of Herculaneum, Pompeii and its surrounding sites is remarkable and the archaeology beyond compare, which is why we have been leading tours here for over 30 years. And this is an exciting time for visitors as new discoveries are being made and new houses opened. Walk with us as the Romans did, from amphitheatre to baths to forum, as our Guide Lecturer conjures an evocative picture of the everyday life of these prosperous Roman towns.

## Day One | Naples - Cava de' Tirreni

Meet the group at Naples airport or at our hotel in Cava de' Tirreni.

## Day Two | Cava de' Tirreni - Paestum

Our day begins with a visit to the fascinating site at **Paestum**, ancient Poseidonia. Long before the Romans came, this was a thriving Greek city that was part of greater Greece from the 6th century BC. After lunch, we visit the **Paestum Museum**, famed for its archaic metopes and its painted tombs. We will also be able to visit the magnificent **Store Rooms** of Paestum.

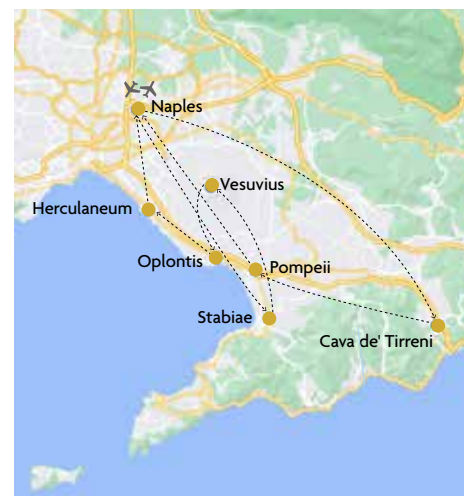
## Day Three | Pompeii

We devote the entire day to **Pompeii**. No other site compares in revealing details of daily life in a Roman town. We visit some of the most well-preserved buildings as well as an amphitheatre, theatre, forum,

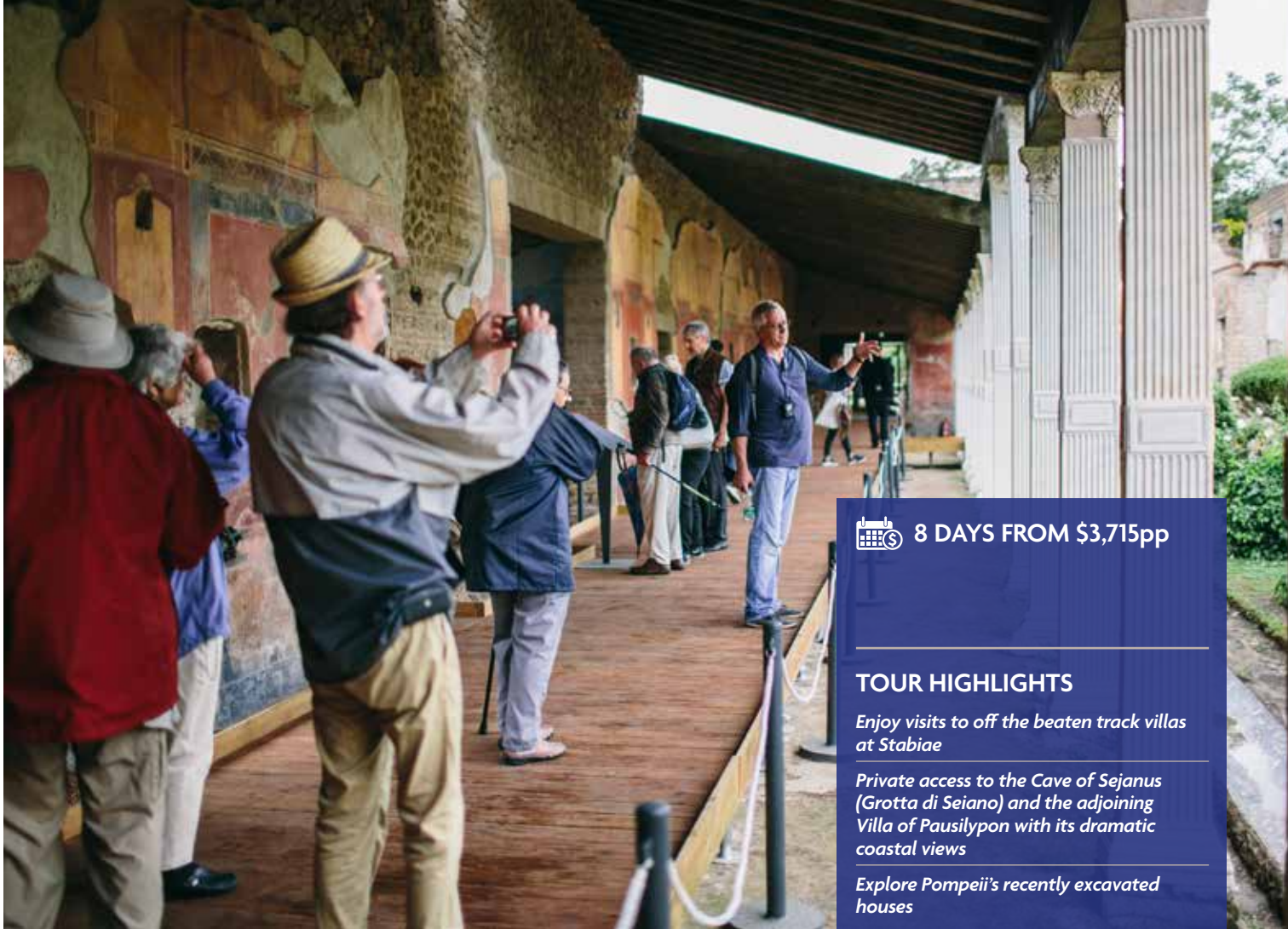
bath-houses, bars and even brothels. Fountains in the street are worn from where countless people rested their hands to take a drink and Roman graffiti can still be seen on the walls. Travelling via the best routes to avoid the crowds, we visit some houses that are newly reopened to the public.

## Day Four | Naples - Pozzuoli

Our first visit of the day is to the fabulous **National Archaeological Museum** in Naples, home to exceptional collections of artefacts. After lunch, we move on to **Pozzuoli** and visit one of the world's most impressive amphitheatres. Later, we are granted private access to the **Cave of Sejanus**, an impressive tunnel dating to the age of Augustus, which gives access to the lovely seaside villa of **Pausilypon**. During our visit here, we can see a theatre and odeon, built at a later date.







 **8 DAYS FROM \$3,715pp**

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

*Enjoy visits to off the beaten track villas at Stabiae*

*Private access to the Cave of Sejanus (Grotta di Seiano) and the adjoining Villa of Pausilypon with its dramatic coastal views*

*Explore Pompeii's recently excavated houses*

#### Day Five | Stabiae

Go off the beaten track today to the villas of **Stabiae**, an exclusive Roman resort for the very wealthy. The vast **Villa San Marco**, with its swimming pool and bath complex, is one of the most opulent along this coast and it remains very impressive in its scale. Subject to renovations being completed, we hope to visit the **Villa Arianna**, with its wonderful frescoes and fabulous views over the Bay of Naples. After lunch we visit the **Archaeological Museum of Castellammare di Stabia Libero D'Orsi** which opened in September 2020 specifically for the exhibition of the many important items found in the region of Stabia. There are a large number of finds on display, some never before exhibited in Italy, including frescoes, inlaid floors, stuccoes, sculptures and tableware.

#### Day Six | Herculaneum

This morning we head to **Herculaneum**, which perfectly complements a visit to Pompeii. This seaside city was buried to a significantly greater depth than Pompeii — under 23 metres of pyroclastic to be exact — perfectly preserving every-day objects as well as houses up to their rooftops. In addition to the site, we explore the Antiquarium, newly opened after 44 years, and which houses precious articles found along Herculaneum's sea front, including a well-preserved boat. After lunch we visit Boscoreale where we visit the Villa Regina, discovered in the late 20th century while digging for the foundations of council housing. In contrast to the opulent villas we have seen on other days, this is a modest small holding which provides us with evidence of how ordinary people lived. Boscoreale is a locality north of Pompeii located on the slopes of Vesuvius, identified by some

with the Pagus Augustus Felix Suburbanus. With the inauguration of the Great Pompeii, in October 2023, the Antiquarium of Boscoreale was reopened with a room dedicated to the excavations underway in the suburban villa of Civita Giuliana, with the ceremonial chariot found there in 2021.

#### Day Seven | Vesuvius - Oplontis

Today, we ascend to the great volcanic crater of **Vesuvius**. The majority of our journey will be by bus, but the final part requires a short walk, which will be well worth the effort. The walk starts at Monte Somma, the crater of the AD 79 eruption, where we grasp the scale of it. After the ascent and peering into the crater being forged since the ancient eruption, you will see fumaroles and the layers of previous eruptions, while walking around the perimeter of the crater affords magnificent views over the Bay of Naples. On good days, you can even make out Pompeii. After lunch, we will continue on to the impressive villa at **Oplontis**, which boasts sumptuous frescoes, a bath complex, an enormous swimming pool, and interesting slave quarters. This villa was supposedly owned by Emperor Nero and was both destroyed and subsequently preserved by Vesuvius' eruption.

#### Day Eight | Cava de' Tirreni - Naples

After breakfast we transfer to Naples airport to make our independent onward journeys.



### LED BY YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

#### John Shepherd

Winner of the Wanderlust World Guide Award - History & Culture 2023, John has worked extensively in the field in Europe as an archaeologist, including France, Italy and Bulgaria.



### YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities
- All local transport
- Accommodation in the Hotel Scapoliatiello
- 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

#### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
27th May - 3rd Jun*	<del>\$3,995</del> \$3,715	<del>\$371</del> \$0

**Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/apom](https://andantetravels.com/apom)



# Lake Garda & the Cities of Veneto

*Romans to the Renaissance*



From Roman Province to Doge Republic, the Veneto has a long and illustrious history. We take a closer look at the intriguing area around Lake Garda and explore a truly unique mix of archaeology, art and architecture. From a prehistoric cave site adjacent to a 15th century 'Roman' villa, to a medieval monastery perched on the steps of an ancient Roman theatre, there is a great deal to unpick here. Visiting in the quieter months of spring, we enjoy the undulating landscapes of vineyards and olive groves which surround the southern shores of Lake Garda and explore the pretty piazzas, medieval market places and tangled streets of Verona, Vicenza, Mantua and Padua. We're sure this tour will hold your imagination and, to cap it all, we will be in the region of the Valpolicella wine villas – noted for their products and histories.

## The Archaeology

### Lake Garda's ancient gems

The fascinating **Desenzano Roman Villa** was once a large and sumptuous property which enjoys stunning views of the lake. Here we discover a rich group of mosaic floors depicting various scenes of cupids, maenads and satyrs; wild beasts and images of the four seasons. We return to Sirmione and take the train up to the **Villa Catullus**, the largest and most complete Roman villa in northern Italy. The villa was constructed with long porticoes and terraces to maximise the views over the lake and at its centre was an extensive garden.

### Romantic Verona

Enjoy a day devoted to **Verona**, a city immortalised by Shakespeare and blessed with an abundance of Roman and medieval remains, reflecting the evolution of this fortified town over its 2,000-year history. We explore the core of the Roman town, its city gate, Porta Borsari, the Arco dei Gavi, the Roman theatre and the magnificent amphitheatre, the third largest in the Roman world as well as admire many of its medieval structures. We also pay a visit to the **Archaeological Museum**, housed in a deconsecrated monastery.

### Serene Mantua

**Mantua** is a gem of Italian art and architecture often overlooked by unenlightened visitors to the region. Once home to many literary figures of the late 1st century BCE Augustan age, it is also full of Renaissance wonders and contains the **Palazzo Ducale**, the largest residence in Italy after the Vatican. We explore this labyrinth which includes a castle, basilica, courtyards, sumptuous galleries and gardens.



### The cave site of Fumane

We take a step further back into the past when we visit the cave site of **Fumane**, where finds provide a crucial link in the history of human life on Earth. The cave contains traces of Neanderthal man and evidence of habitation by modern Homo sapiens, including sharpened flints, bones and decorations made from seashells.

### Impressive Vicenza

We spend our day in **Vicenza**, a UNESCO World Heritage site and almost archetypal ideal of the Renaissance and Baroque era. Once a Roman settlement, this jewel of a place is full of galleries, palaces and churches and is noted for the works of the great architect Andrea Palladio. We visit his amazing villa at **La Rotunda**.

### Perfect Padua

Our final visit of the tour is to **Padua**, home to some of the greatest philosophers, scientists and artists in Western culture: Dante, Galileo, Giotto, Donatello and Copernicus. Our visits include the Scrovegni chapel, with its priceless frescoes by Giotto, the Civic Museum, the Palazzo del Bo and the Basilica of St. Anthony and baptistry.

 **8 DAYS FROM \$4,215pp**

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

*Discover the extraordinary cave site of Fumane, one of the major prehistoric archaeological sites in Europe*

*Enjoy the picture-perfect setting and cobalt blue waters of Lake Garda, Italy's largest lake*

*Explore the beautiful cities of Verona and Vicenza, Padua and Mantua and their plethora of UNESCO World Heritage Sites*



## LED BY YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

**Dr Eireann Marshall**

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has led many Andante tours. She won the Top History and Culture Guide prize at Wanderlust magazine's 2019 World Guide Awards and has also published a variety of articles on Roman North Africa.



## YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities
- All local transport
- Accommodation in the Hotel Continental Thermae and Spa, Sirmione
- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
28th Apr - 5th May	<del>\$4,705</del> \$4,215	\$623

**Save \$490pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/alga](http://andantetravels.com/alga)



# The Samnites

War and peace in the ancient Apennines

50 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES AVAILABLE



 7 DAYS FROM \$4,015pp

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Visit the theatre and sanctuary at Pietrabbondante, the Samnite religious and political centre in the mountains of Molise

Explore the ancient site of Saepinum with an impressive theatre, which was developed to pasture flocks sent to Rome, something still done to this day

Admire the massive abbey at San Vincenzo al Volturno, established by Charlemagne

Examine the stunning UNESCO-listed Carolingian Oratory of San Pellegrino with its priceless frescoes

For three hundred years the hardy peoples of central Italy were Rome's bitterest enemies. Rome fought three wars against the tenacious mountaineers who had a habit of humiliating Roman generals. The Samnite Wars were fundamental for establishing Rome's control over the Italian peninsula and led to the creation of the Via Appia. Set amongst spectacular mountains, ancient cities, castles and abbeys, this tour considers early Italians who were so important for establishing and maintaining the might of Rome.

## The Archaeology

### Ancient Venafro

The site of **Venafro** on the River Volturno is famous for its olive groves and was created as a Samnite sanctuary, then re-founded as an Augustan colony at the end of the civil wars to guard the road into the mountains. Here we explore the remains of its amphitheatre, which once held 15,000 spectators.



### Scenic Castelpetroso

The **Santa Chiara National Archaeological Museum** houses significant finds such as imperial statues and the so-called Venus of Venafrum. After some time here we proceed to the **Pandone Castle**, originally built in the 10th century on the remains of earlier fortifications, and onwards to **San Vincenzo al Volturno**. Here we explore the excavations, partly conducted by our Guide Lecturer, which have revealed the great 9th-century Carolingian Abbey and its painted crypt.

### Storied Isernia & Saepinum

**Isernia** was a strategic Samnite city which dominated the roads across Italy. Our first visit is to the **National Museum of the Palaeolithic**, which displays the amazing Palaeolithic finds from the area. We continue to the excavations under the **Cathedral** and the **Civic Museum of the Memory and History** before making our way to **Saepinum**. Here, a market town was established to control the movement of flocks from the grasslands of Apulia north to Rome.

### Crumbling Pietrabbondante

We drive to **Agnone**, famed for its bronze casting tradition. The Oscan table, found here in the 19th century, is the most important inscription in the region and gives us priceless information about Oscan, the language spoken by Samnites. We move onto **Pietrabbondante** where we explore the excavated remains of the ritual sanctuary of

the Pentri tribe. Used for major religious events, the huge temple and theatre were the seat of discussions regarding peace and war.

### Wonders of the Abruzzi Mountains

Today we venture into the Abruzzi Mountains to **Iuvanum**, a market town established for the ancient shepherds of the uplands, which includes a sizeable forum as well as temples and a small theatre. We proceed across the Sangro River to the **Rocca Scalegna**, where we visit the Angevin castle, built during its conflict with the Aragonese and clinging to an overhanging rock. Afterwards, we head to **Chieti** to visit the **National Museum Villa Frigerj** with its extraordinary Caepstrano Warrior and inscription found in Penna Sant'Andrea, written in the ancient Italian language of Paleosabellic.

### Stunning Sulmona Valley

Beginning in the wide valley of **Sulmona**, we visit the sanctuary of **Hercules Curino**, one of the most important ancient shrines of Abruzzo. The sanctuary is laid out on a number of terraces and on the middle level there is a shrine which preserves a polychromatic mosaic and frescoes. We proceed to the UNESCO listed Oratory of San Pellegrino in **Bominaco**, a Benedictine Carolingian chapel which preserves priceless frescoes, as well as the Romanesque church of **Santa Maria Assunta**. **Fossa** is another highlight, where a unique Samnite tumulus cemetery is criss-crossed with rows of standing stones.



## LED BY YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

### Oliver Gilkes

One of our longest-standing Guide Lecturers, Oliver has worked as a field and museum archaeologist in the UK, Albania and Italy. Oliver is still involved in projects in Albania and is considered one of just a handful of experts on Albanian archaeology in the UK.



## YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities
- All local transport
- Accommodation in Venafro, Castelpetroso, Silvi Marina, L'Aquila
- 6 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 6 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
30th Apr - 6th May	\$4,505	\$4,015 <del>\$343</del> \$0

Save \$490pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/asmn](http://andantetravels.com/asmn)



# Classical Sicily

Rich archaeological sites and impressive artistic achievements



 12 DAYS FROM \$8,370pp

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Admire truly exceptional mosaics at the Villa Romana, Piazza Armerina

Discover the unique landscape around Marsala

Discover the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento

Enjoy a special access evening visit to view the stunning mosaics at Cappella Palatina

Some of the richest archaeological sites and the most impressive artistic achievements of European culture are to be found in Sicily. Controlling the trade routes between east and west and the pivot of power between the 'superpowers' of antiquity, Sicily was fought over and repeatedly won throughout the history of Western civilisation. This tour thus presents an extraordinary panorama of changing identities – Phoenician, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Arab and Norman.

## The Archaeology

### Must-see Segesta & Monreale

The ancient Greek city of **Segesta** is home to an elegant but unfinished 5th-century BCE Doric temple and the remains of an impressive hilltop theatre. The sights are also impressive in **Monreale** with its opulent Norman-Byzantine cathedral and abbey, founded by King William II in 1174.

### Eye-catching Palermo

Palermo has plenty of wonders to discover, including the **Archaeological Museum**, which houses one of Italy's most significant collections of Punic and Ancient Greek art, the beautifully decorated church of **La Martorana** and the neighbouring **Chiesa di San Cataldo**. 12th-century **Palermo Cathedral** and the extravagant chapel of **Cappella Palatina** are true sights to behold, and we enjoy special evening-access to the latter, glittering with mosaics and gold leaf.

### Mighty Himara

The archaeological park at **Himera** was the site of the legendary battle between the Greeks and Carthaginians in 480 BCE. Excavations which took place in recent years have revealed an ancient necropolis with more than 12,000 almost untouched burials, an incredibly rare find in the ancient Greek world.

### Coastal Marsala & Motya

The honey-hued town of **Marsala** boasts a fascinating museum, displaying the remains of a Carthaginian warship which sank in the first Punic war. No trip here is complete without catching the boat to the island of Motya, where the **Archaeological Museum** boasts a world-renowned statue of a charioteer from the early 5th century BCE.

### Impressive Selinus

A fascinating day of exploration begins with the quarries of the **Cave di Cusa**, used by Selinus for



their titanic temples. Other highlights include **Selinus** itself with its incredible Temple G, one of the largest temples of the Greek world, and the **Acropolis of Selinus**.

### Ancient Agrigento

The magnificent remains of **Agrigento** await, the site of the ancient Greek city of Akragas. We take in the **Valley of the Temples**, a World Heritage Site of seven Doric sanctuaries, and the remains of the **Temple of Olympian Zeus**, another gigantic, Sicilian temple, with an unusual layout.

### Central Sicily

The magnificent **Villa Romana del Casale** in Piazza Armerina is a late antique villa noted for its superb collection of mosaics, the largest in the world. **Morgantina** meanwhile was the last of the Sicilian towns to succumb to Roman rule and has been the focus of intensive excavations in recent decades, with remains including an ancient Greek political chamber, theatre, kilns and houses.

### Cultural Syracuse

Discover traces of Syracuse's glorious past in the exceptional **Paolo Orsi Archaeological Museum**, and see **Neapolis Archaeological Park**, home to the Great Theatre where Aeschylus' tragedies were once performed in the playwright's presence.

### Sun-soaked Noto, Catania & Taormina

The baroque city of **Noto**, the UNESCO-listed Piazza del Duomo, Roman theatre and odeon of **Catania** and the superbly situated Roman theatre of elegant **Taormina** offer a wonderful way to round off this tour.



## LED BY YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

### Tony O'Connor

A specialist in the Roman Empire, Tony has excavated widely across Britain, Europe and North Africa. He first led a tour for Andante over 10 years ago and he just gets better and better!



## YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities
- All local transport Accommodation in Palermo, Marsala, Agrigento, Ortygia & Taormina
- 11 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 9 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
14th - 25th May	<del>58,790</del> \$8,370	\$1,230

Save \$420pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/ascy](http://andantetravels.com/ascy)



# Sicily & the Aeolian Islands

Explore unearthed treasures, stunning cities and geographical wonders



As far back as we can trace, Sicily was an island that numerous civilisations – Sicels, Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Germans, French, Spanish, Bourbons – flocked to and fought for as a result of its strategic position. Every conquering nation left its indelible mark on the island, creating a unique mosaic of influences and a treasure trove of ancient gems, which we uncover on this extensive tour. We also venture out to the Aeolian Islands, a UNESCO-listed archipelago renowned for its natural beauty, and visit the remains of the villages once inhabited by their Neolithic settlers.

## The Archaeology

### Magnificent Messina & Villa San Giovanni

Not to be missed, the **Messina Regional Museum** features notable treasures such as works by Caravaggio and Antonello da Messina. During our first day, the memorable sights continue after we cross by hydrofoil to Villa San Giovanni and visit the **National Archaeological Museum of Reggio Calabria**, known for its world-famous **Riace Bronzes**. Dating back to the 5th century BCE, they were remarkably recovered in the Ionian Sea in 1972.

### Elegant Taormina & Catania

Step into an ancient world in Taormina, discovering the remains of **Naumachia**, the incredible **Greek theatre**, Roman houses, **Palazzo Corvaja** and the **Roman odeon**. Equally fascinating, **Catania** boasts a UNESCO-listed centre where there is plenty to see, including the 18th-century **Elephant Fountain**, the spectacular **cathedral**, **Greek theatre** and the lava-stone **odeon**.

### Historic Milazzo

In the coastal town of Milazzo we visit the imposing **castle**, with its storied past as a royal residence, military fortress and prison, and the **Antiquarium of Milazzo**. A significant archaeological museum which traces the history of the region, exhibits include pottery, tools, coins and more.

### Pretty Lipari

The largest of the Aeolian Islands, highlights of Lipari include **Contrada Diana**, an archaeological site and necropolis famous for its well-preserved tombs and wealth of artefacts, along with **Lipari Castle**, the **Cathedral of San Bartolomeo** and the **Aeolian Archaeological Museum**.



### Volcanic Salina

After sailing to **Salina** we visit the prehistoric village of **Portella**, the **Rinicedda Neolithic site**, where the findings are fascinating, the baths at **Contrada Barone** and the **Civic Museum** at Lingua.

### Scenic Panarea & Stromboli

**Panarea** is the smallest of the inhabited Aeolian Islands, home to the Bronze Age site of **Capo Milazzese**, with excavations revealing circular huts, pottery and various treasures that suggest the area was once a thriving settlement. Weather permitting, we also take a cruise around **Stromboli**, offering an unforgettable chance to see one of the world's most active volcanoes.

### Awe-inspiring Tindari

Back on the mainland, **Tindari Archaeological Park** boasts well-preserved ruins from the ancient city of Tyndaris. Highlights include the ancient theatre, which is still used for performances today, and the impressive basilica.

### Spectacular Palermo

There are plenty of treasures to admire in Palermo's **Antonio Salinas Regional Archaeology Museum** along with **Palermo Cathedral**, with its diverse mix of styles, intricate mosaics, impressive chapels and royal tombs, and the **Normal Palace Phoenician Antiquarium**. Later, a private visit to the breathtaking **Cappella Palatina** awaits.

 **11 DAYS FROM \$8,174pp**

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Spend four nights on Lipari while we explore the archaeology of the UNESCO-listed Aeolian Islands

Admire the remarkably beautiful 5th-century Riace Bronzes rescued from the Ionian Sea

Discover Catania, 'the city under the volcano', with its architecture shaped by Mount Etna itself

Enjoy a private visit to Cappella Palatina, a glorious mix of architectural styles



## LED BY YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

### Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has led many Andante tours. She won the Top History and Culture Guide prize at Wanderlust magazine's 2019 World Guide Awards, and has also published a variety of articles on Roman North Africa.



## YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities
- All local transport
- Accommodation in Taormina, Lipari & Palermo
- 10 breakfasts, 10 lunches & 10 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
27th May - 6th June	<del>\$8,804</del> \$8,174	\$1,393

Save \$630pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/asai](https://andantetravels.com/asai)



# Archaeology in the Heart of Italy

*Etruscans, Romans and cultural transformation in Umbria and Lazio*



 8 DAYS FROM \$5,040pp

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Explore the well-preserved site of Vulci, with its Etruscan tombs, Roman monuments and medieval abbey

Examine Sutri with its amphitheatre, unique mithraeum and medieval Templar church, built amidst the ruins of the ancient city

Consider the important Etruscan remains in the beautiful city of Orvieto with its precious medieval cathedral

Visit the important National Etruscan Archaeological Museum and the Palace of Popes in the amazing city of Viterbo

Explore the ancient wonders and lesser-known sites of Umbria and Lazio, Italy's geographical and historical heart. Along the way, we discover the different peoples who lived here and how they were transformed, first by Etruscans, and later by Romans. Highlights include Latin and Faliscan sites such as Sutri and Falerii Novii, plus Etruscan sites at Vulci and Volsinii, which metamorphosed during the Roman dominance. We also examine the evolution of the cities after the Roman period, when ancient monuments were used to build medieval abbeys, and visit beautiful hilltop cities such as Orvieto and Narni, with their historic cores and Renaissance treasures.

## The Archaeology

### Elegant Viterbo

Spend a day in Viterbo, the city with Etruscan origins which became home of the popes in the 13th century when they were fleeing the hostility of the Roman populace. We start at the **National Etruscan Museum**, where we see precious remains of Etruscan housing and proceed to the medieval **Palace of the Popes**, including the atmospheric audience hall, which held the longest conclave in history. We end the day with a visit to the 12th-century **Cathedral of Saint Laurence**.

### Etruscan Vulci

The famous city of **Vulci** awaits, once a leading member of the Etruscan league. We start with the **archaeological park** which contains a wonderful Mithraeum, as well as a domus with a stunning cryptoporticus. We also visit the atmospheric Etruscan tombs, which date from the 7th century onwards and include the famous Francois tomb. The so-called bridge of the devil, an intact Roman bridge leads us to the Abbey Castle, built on the site of Vulci. Once a Cistercian abbey which offered accommodation to pilgrims including Knights Templar, it now houses important remains from Vulci.

### Historic Falerii Novi & Sutri

Explore the site of **Falerii Novi**, with its gloriously well-preserved city walls, including the wonderful Jove Gate, which is one of the earliest arches in the regions. We also see the remains of a theatre, houses and a temple, as well as an 11th-century Benedictine Abbey Church. Next is the superb archaeological site of **Sutri**, where we can see an amphitheatre cut out of the tuff rock and the 13th-century Church of Santa Maria del Tempio, once belonging to the Knights Templar and boasting preserved frescoes.



### Hilltop Narni & Orte

Visit two picturesque towns to explore underground excavations and gain a precious glimpse into the past, starting with the pretty Umbrian town of Narni. We discover the **Church of Saint Francis** and explore a series of buildings only recently discovered underground, including a 12th-century church replete with frescoes, a Roman domus and parts of the Roman aqueduct. Next is the small town of **Orte** to see further subterranean excavations and the ancient water management systems.

### Fascinating Lucus Feroniae & Ferento

**Lucus Feroniae** is a city which developed around a lucus, or sacred grove, dedicated to the goddess Feronia. Although it was an ancient religious sanctuary important to Faliscans, Sabines and perhaps Etruscans, the site that we visit was developed in the Roman period. Highlights include a forum area, an **amphitheatre**, an insulae of houses and an antiquarium, known for its remains of a funerary monument depicting gladiators. Next is the **Villa of the Volusii**, an incredibly opulent dwelling constructed for an elite Roman family as a getaway from the city. We then make our way to the archaeological site of **Ferento**, which flourished in the early imperial period and was the home of both the emperor Otho and the wife of Vespasian, Domitilla Flavia Maior.



## LED BY YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

### Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has led many Andante tours. She won the Top History and Culture Guide prize at Wanderlust magazine's 2019 World Guide Awards, and has also published a variety of articles on Roman North Africa.



## YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities
- All local transport/Accommodation in Viterbo
- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
19th - 26th May	<del>\$5,320</del>	\$5,040 \$700

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# Prehistoric Italy

*Ötzi and the Alpine Valleys of Val Camonica*



Throughout history, the fertile (and beautiful) Val Camonica valleys were an important route through the Italian Alps connecting northern and southern Europe. Prehistorians have theorised that the continuing movement of peoples and goods, especially during the Bronze and Iron Ages, gave rise to a dynamic prehistoric society – the history of which is packed into this ice-scoured landscape of lakes and mountains.

The Alpine valleys of Val Camonica hold one of the largest collections of Prehistoric rock art in the world - Italy's first World Heritage Site. From 6,000 years ago – from the Neolithic all the way through the Roman period – the inhabitants of Val Camonica etched pictures into the rock. Each depiction is unique, creating a varied and concentrated gallery of prehistoric life: there are animals, humans, boats, carts, huts - some strung together into narratives - an almost overwhelming profusion of detail.

## The Archaeology

### Spectacular Val Camonica

We begin our survey of the extraordinary rock art with a two-day exploration of Val Camonica. We visit the incredible rock art sites in **Naquane Park**, which contains more than 100,000 prehistoric rock art images depicting people, animals, tools and weapons. We continue with a visit to the huge Copper Age engraved boulders at Massi di Cernn before spending time in the **National Museum of Prehistory della Val Camonica**, home to a marvellous collection of statue stelae and a wide range of valley finds from decades of excavations.

On our second day here, we visit the rock art sites in the archaeological park of **Seradina-Bedolini**, showing scenes of hunting, war, magic and agriculture. After lunch, we contrast art with everyday domestic life as we view reconstructed prehistoric houses – and more rock art – at **Foppe di Nadro**. Here, we can see a Neolithic hut and also a Rhaetic Iron Age house, giving a good idea of how the people that made the rock art lived.

### Gems of the Alps' Foothills

We make our way through the foothills of the Alps to the shores of beautiful Lake Ledro where a Bronze Age pile dwelling village (known as a palafitta) was discovered in 1929. We visit the **Pile Dwelling Museum** to see the finds from the site and view its reconstructed houses. Images of possible prehistoric houses carved in the rocks at Val Camonica may represent settlements such as these. The remarkable finds excavated from the lake village include baked bread moulded around



heated stones. In the afternoon we continue to Riva del Garda and **La Rocca Museum**, where the exhibits include **Copper Age** statues.

### Beautiful Bolzano

We drive further into the Alps and visit the **South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology in Bolzano**, home of Ötzi, the Ice Man. Scientists and archaeologists have unravelled (and continue to unravel) the tiniest details of his life during the Copper Age, 5,000 years ago. His body has yielded information on how he lived and what he ate, how his tattoos possibly indicate acupuncture points, how he survived and how he died. The original artefacts are very well displayed, along with the excellent reconstructions and are irresistibly fascinating.

### Picturesque Trento

Trentino's regional capital of Trento is famous for its TrentoDoc, one of Italy's most popular sparkling wines, along with Buonconsiglio Castle with its ancient frescoes. Other highlights include the magnificent Romanesque cathedral and the excavations of a Roman street below one of its piazzas.

 **6 DAYS FROM \$3,930pp**

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

*Discover Ötzi, the Ice Man, the most complete ambassador from the Copper Age, with all that he was wearing and carrying*

*Enjoy a morning in Ledro on the scenic shores of the mountain lake as we study the well preserved remains of a Bronze Age village*

*Explore the prehistoric gallery of over 100,000 rock art depictions at the rock art sites in Naquane Park*



## LED BY YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

### Dr Tertia Barnett

An archaeologist specialising in rock art, Tertia runs a research project exploring Scotland's Neolithic rock carvings and is also an Honorary Fellow at Edinburgh University.



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- Field notes
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- All local transport
- Accommodation in Boario & Trento
- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 5 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
31st May - 5th Jun	<del>\$4,280</del>	\$3,930 \$450

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# Cruising Malta, Sicily & Campania

*A cruise into the heart of the Mediterranean*

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**10 DAYS FROM \$9,980pp**

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

*Visit the wonderful Co-Cathedral of St. John in Valletta with its staggering Caravaggio masterpieces*

*Explore the beautiful island of Lipari with its rich archaeological finds dating from the Neolithic to the Roman periods*

*Discover the stunning mosaics at Cappella Palatina in Palermo*

*Enjoy a full day at Pompeii where we admire the newly excavated House of the Leda alongside newly opened houses*



## YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

**Dr Eireann Marshall**

Dr Eireann Marshall is a Research Associate and Associate Lecturer with the Open University. She has published a number of articles on Ancient North Africa, and co-edited volumes on 'Death and Disease in the Ancient City' and 'Women's influence on Classical Civilisation'. Eireann has led many tours for Andante, including several to Ravenna, Venice, Pompeii, Sicily and Tunisia, and is bilingual in English and Italian.



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