



Ciao Tours

Unique, Personalized,
Independent Tours

“Tiffany Circle Discovering Solferino”

6 October - 9 October 2024

About Us

With more than 24 years and countless happy guests, Ciao Tours knows how to help make your dream vacation come true. The Ciao Tours team works hard to provide you with a completely customized tour by working within your budget, and your activity and hotel preferences, to help ensure you get the right trip for you. Whether it's a multi-week trip filled with all the sites and activities you can imagine to a relaxing getaway to decompress, we accommodate your needs.

Our Ciao Tours team of Tour Managers, welcome you and keep in contact with you throughout your trip via WhatsApp. They are available to assist you and can give you some local tips if needed.

Thank you for considering Ciao Tours and we look forward to helping you make your dream vacation a reality & welcoming you when you arrive.



Your Trip at a Glance

Day	Date	Itinerary	Accommodation	City
1	6 Oct 2024, Sun	Welcome to Italy! Private Transfer from Geneva to hotel in Mantua	Hotel****	Mantua
2	7 Oct 2024, Mon	Private Transfer from hotel to Verona Verona Walking tour Hosted Lunch in Verona Exploring on own Transfer from Verona to Mantua Dinner and overnight in hotel	Hotel****	Mantua
3	8 Oct 2024, Tue	Private Transfer for the Day Arrival in Castiglione Delle Stiviere Guided visit to Museo Della Croce Rossa with an English speaking guide Guided visit to Duomo di Castiglione Delle Stiviere Transfer to Solferino Hosted lunch Guided tour to Solferino and the Ossuary Visit to San Martino Tower Transfer back to Mantua Hosted Dinner in Mantua Hotel	Hotel****	Mantua
4	9 Oct 2024, Wed	Transfer from Mantua to Geneva or Milan airport. Ciao Italy - Enjoy your Flight home! Option: to rent your own vehicle and join us for excursions and hotel, however there is no discount to the cost of the tour.		

Day by Day Itinerary

Day 1 Sunday 6 October 2024

Welcome to Italy!

Arriving in Mantua from Geneva

Private Transfer from Geneva to hotel in Mantua

Approx.. 5 hr. 36 min (512.6 km) via E25 and A4

Inclusions: Pick up time: 9 AM

*Pick up location: Woodrow Wilson Hotel, Quai Wilson 47, 1211
Genève, Switzerland*

Drop-off: Mantua

ITINERARY

October 6th

- Transfer from Geneva to Mantua

- Overnight and dinner in hotel

Included:

- Private transfer

- Dinner

Exclusions: Any extras

Overnight: Hotel****

4 stars hotel (name of the accommodation to be defined)

Day 2

Monday 7 October 2024

Private Transfer from hotel to Verona

48 min (46.0 km) via A22/E45

Verona Walking tour

4hr Private Walking Tour of Verona with Guide

The tour starts from the highlight of Verona, the roman amphitheater named Arena, which predates Rome's Colosseum. Visit the impressive Arena inside, walk in the ancient passageways or climb the marble steps today set of summer Opera Festival. Continue then to the Adige River and its stunning views of the surrounding hills and monuments built on its banks, like Castelvecchio and its bridge, towers and battlements. It's an impressive medieval castle built by the ruling family Della Scala in the 14th century. Visit the awesome Pietra bridge (Stone bridge) constructed when Verona did not yet exist.

Discover the narrow roads and the geometrical grid of streets...they all lead to the center of Verona, once the ancient forum and now piazza Erbe, a beautiful square with stunning frescoes, a baroque palace, a colorful market and the winged lion of Venice, dominating all. Close to this lively and busy place, there is a quieter and more elegant square, Signori or Dante square, surrounded by palaces so different in styles and colors as the cemetery, with gothic mausoleums, equestrian statues and wrought iron fences decorated with hundreds of ladders. And finally find the Shakespearean Verona, first Romeo's house, a superb medieval building, now a private palace, and then the very popular and enchanting Juliet's house, where history and fantasy meet.

Hosted Lunch in Verona

Exploring on own

Free time in Verona. In Veneto, Aperitivo Time is the most sacred moment of the day! Thanks to the region's great wine-making tradition, here in Veneto we have grown used to celebrating special occasions with a glass of fine wine or, when it's aperitif time, with a

spritz. As anyone who has spent any time in Verona will have noticed, the great tradition of the aperitif is deeply embedded in our region's culture.

Transfer from Verona to Mantua

Overnight: Hotel****

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 3 Tuesday 8 October 2024

Private Transfer for the Day

Arrival in Castiglione delle Stiviere

Castiglione delle Stiviere is a Charming Town in the north area of Mantua. It is immediately evident that it held an important role in the past. It has a small but charming historical centre with a castle, and elegant squares and monuments. Here is where the Gonzaga family had their summer residence, here Saint Luigi Gonzaga was born and here is the international Red Cross museum.

Guided visit to Museo Della Croce Rossa with an English-speaking guide

An extraordinary journey, among testimonies of the past, voices of the present and interactive technologies, which begins at the Museum and continues between the hills of Solferino and San Martino, the scene of a battle and an idea destined to change history.

Guided visit to Duomo di Castiglione Delle Stiviere

Built in neoclassical style, the work of the Milanese architect Giambattista Groppi, it stands on the site where an ancient medieval church already existed, which became a collegiate church in 1607. For its construction, which began in 1761, materials from the Gonzaga castle were destroyed. However, it has great religious and historical importance, and not only for the people of Castiglione. In the Cathedral there are first significant testimonies

of the life of San Luigi. The importance of the Domo is not only linked to the life of San Luigi. This religious building in fact bears witness to one of the most significant events in the history of the Italian Risorgimento and in the history of international solidarity. On the night of the bloody battle of Solferino (24 June 1859), which saw the Italian/French and Habsburg armies clash, thousands of wounded and corpses taken in bulk from the battlefield were dumped in the streets and squares of Castiglione. On that occasion the Cathedral was transformed into a large rescue center where the people of Castiglione gave great proof of solidarity and active human compassion, regardless of the nationalities of the injured. Leading this crowd of improvised and confused rescuers, the priest Don Lorenzo Barzizza worked tirelessly, throwing open the doors of the Cathedral.

Transfer to Solferino

Hosted lunch

Guided tour to Solferino and the Ossuary

on June 24, 1859—a decisive battle of the Second War of Italian Unification that led to the founding of the Red Cross—both the French army under Napoleon III and the Austrian army under Franz Joseph withdrew. They left the battlefield, strewn with the bodies of tens of thousands of fallen soldiers, to the locals to clean up. The bones of around 7,000 dead soldiers were placed in the Church of San Pietro, where they remain today as well as in the small chapel in San Martino. The vast collection of bones is neatly stored according to type. Thousands of skulls line the walls behind the altar, stacked row upon row of shelving. It may sound very gruesome, but the ossuary is a quiet and respectful place to reflect on the ravages of war and pay respects to the fallen soldiers.

Visiting Red Crossers from around the world often leave a small token from their national society when visiting the ossuaries. Sometimes they leave a banner, a picture, a pin, a poem or a flower from their country. Out of a horrific event where many

died, something beautiful was born.... the largest humanitarian network in the world.

Visit to San Martino Tower

The famous Tower of San Martino was built in memory of the bloody Battle of Solferino where tens of thousands of people lost their lives, This 74-meter-high tower was built between 1880-1893. Inside the monuments, a ramp drives visitors from the entrance to the top, allowing them to admire precious frescoes and bronze statues. From the highest point of the tower, you can enjoy a wonderful view of Southern Garda Lake and of the land surrounding it. Every night there are three lights that beam the Italian tricolor on top of the tower. Behind the tower is the historical museum containing memorabilia and historical documents of the battle and adjacent to the tower is one of the larger ossuary chapels containing 2,619 human remains of Italian and Austrian soldiers.

Transfer back to Mantua

Hosted Dinner in Mantua Hotel

Overnight: Hotel****

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 4 Wednesday 9 October 2024

Transfer from Mantua to Geneve airport.

Approx 5 hr. 30 min (511.0 km) via A4

OR

Transfer From Mantua to Milan Malpensa airport

Approx. 2 hr. 19 min (226.6 km) via A4

Ciao Italy - Enjoy your Flight home!

Departing from

Included meals: Breakfast

Destinations

Mantua

Mantua is a city surrounded by 3 artificial lakes in the northern Italian region of Lombardy. It's known for the architectural legacy of the Renaissance Gonzaga rulers, who built the Ducal Palace. This imposing building houses the Bridal Chamber, decorated with Andrea Mantegna frescoes. The Gonzagas also built the Te Palace, known for the Chamber of the Giants, where every surface is painted with mythological scenes.



Verona

It is one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in Italy: Verona is the largest city in the Veneto region after Venice. Located next to Lake Garda, delicately nestled at the foot of the Venetian Pre-Alps and on the banks of the Adige River, it is well-loved for its breathtaking panorama and a wealth of culture that is hard not to love.



Solferino

Situated in a panoramic position towards the plains and Lake Garda, Solferino has a landscape characterised by soft reliefs rich in vines, wheat and barley, which can also be discovered thanks to the cycle-tourism routes present. The town is strongly linked to the memory of the battle of 24 June 1859, one of the most decisive episodes of the Italian Risorgimento, between the Piedmontese and French armies, on the one hand, and the Austrian army, on the other. It is worth visiting the Rocca (fortress), built in 1022 on top of the highest hill of Solferino and known as the 'Spy of Italy' thanks to its strategic position. Walking along the wooden ramp you reach a panoramic terrace from which you can enjoy a marvellous view of the lush countryside below and see in the distance the Tower of San Martino, the suggestive Lake Garda and the foothills of the Apennines.



Upon registration a 25% deposit will be required to secure your tour with full payment due no later than 60 days prior to your departure.

For more information, please read our Terms and Conditions:

<https://ciaotours.com/terms-conditions/>

Category	Description	Charges
Tour Package (Option 1 Arrival and Departure from Geneve)	Double Occupancy	€uro 1,608.40Per Person
	Single Occupancy	Euro 1,908.40Per person
Tour Package (Option 2 Arrival in Geneve and Departure from Milan Malpensa)	Double Occupancy	€uro 1,518.31Per Person
	Single Occupancy	Euro 1,818.31 Per Person

INCLUSIONS

Accommodation, transfers, activities, and experiences as indicated, and meal plans (typically breakfast at the hotel + dinner for the first night) as stated throughout itinerary. All taxes except for Daily City Taxes which are paid locally in EUR (Amounts vary in each city/town and level of Accommodation and are calculated per person per day)

EXCLUSIONS

International flights, trip insurance (Trip Cancellation, Accident and Medical Insurance are highly recommended and is the responsibility of the client. No form of insurance or coverage is ever provided by Ciao Tours or its service providers.), visas, required vaccinations or inoculations, tips and gratuities, city taxes (payable at hotels), meals (unless specifically noted), and incidentals throughout your trip.

We recommend purchasing travel insurance either through your preferred provider or through Simpson Group Insurance Services, whom we have worked with and recommend.

Simpson Group Insurance Services

Tel: 403 281 4403 / 1 800 263 0752 (toll free)

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