JOIN US IN ITALY AND EXPERIENCE FLORENCE, PISA, LUCCA, GREVE, SAN GIMIGNANO, GARDA/SIRMIONE, VERONA AND VENICE

Return economy flights from JNB, with options from CPT or DBN
9 nights in local hand-picked albergo with daily continental breakfast
Five full day sightseeing excursions | 2 wine tastings & a cellar lunch
Ferrari Museum in Maranello | Hop-on/Hop-off boat in Venice
3 rounds of golf (2 on Italy’s “Top 3” courses), including buggies

Golfer from R 29 940 / Non-golfer from R 24 665
ITALY.
08 to 19 September 2019.

What you can look forward to in September...

Sunday 8 September: Departure day...
We meet at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg late morning for check-in, and depart at lunch time on Emirates Airlines... enjoying the world’s best inflight entertainment and hopefully some sleep.

**Should you wish to fly from Cape Town or Durban, please chat to us before booking to discuss the options.

Monday 9 September:
After a short leg stretch in Dubai, we catch our early morning flight across to Bologna. Once we’ve collected our bags, we take an air-conditioned coach ride to our hotel in Montecatini Terme (which we’ve been using for many years) to drop-off our bags before freshening up so that we can commence our exploration. Our hotel is centrally located in town, with a lovely piazza in front for socialising and relaxing at the end of the day.

We’ll get together late afternoon for a short stroll around town to get you orientated and then, for those keen, head up the funicular to Montecatini Alto for sunset views over the valley below. While we usually end up at Mario’s in the square, there are a number of restaurants options to choose from. And don’t forget to pickup a gelato for dessert before heading back to the funicular.
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Tuesday 10 September:
We start our tour in earnest, with a fun-filled day of exploration... as we head to FLORENCE!

We take the train from Montecatini Terme and we’ll then lead you through the city to the major sights to get you familiar with what is where, and allow you take the “must take” tourist photos. While you’re free to explore on your own, we’ll almost certainly part ways after the “must see” list has been ticked... allowing you an afternoon of free time to explore, climb the Duomo, go shopping, have a leisurely lunch watching the masses and much more. If you’re still in Florence late afternoon, head up to Michaelangelo Square on the hill across the river for a stunning sunset over the city.

Wednesday 11 September:
The golfers head off this morning to Montecatini Golf Club. With it’s 11th century Tuscan stone estate home turned clubhouse, the course is set among olive groves and is routed through valleys and along ridges, providing great views and will give you a hard time deciding if you’re going to swing your club... or pull out your camera.

With the course being close by, and a small field of golfers, we’ll be back mid-afternoon allowing time to explore the beautiful town, soak or have a treatment at one of the many famous spas (which we are pretty sure the non-golfers will do while we are on the course).
Thursday 12 September:
Our full day excursion (with air-conditioned coach) into the CHIANTI region starts off with a visit to the Florence American Cemetery and Memorial, one of fourteen American World War II military cemetery/memorials around the world and it certainly is a very moving experience.

From here we’ll head to the impressive CASTELLO DI VERRAZZANO which dates back over 1000 years, and their wines having been mentioned in manuscripts dating back to 1150! The Castle became the property of the Verrazzano family in the 7th century and Giovanni da Verrazzano, the navigator and discoverer of the bay of New York (and the majority of the East coast of the nowadays United States) was born here in 1485. The famous bridge between Brooklyn and Staten Island in New York (the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge) is named after him.

Here we’ll tour the cellars and castle grounds, before settling into a wine tasting as well as sampling their olive oil and the incredible balsamic! You’ll definitely want to buy a bottle or two...

Our next stop is Greve in Chianti where we continue our journey into the wines of Italy. We’ll have a light lunch (included) and a wine tasting experience in an underground wine cellar with over 1000 wines on the shelves... 100 of which are available for tasting through their unique system. The team will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about wines of the region (or Italy as a whole).

Before continuing our day, we’ll take a short stroll through town and visit the local butcher (who owns the wine cellar where we had lunch) among other sites.

As it’s now well into the afternoon, we’ll head off to SAN GIMIGNANO & its many many towers... and the world’s best gelato. With time to walk around, explore and shop (foodies - be sure to seek out the truffle oils and salts) we’ll meet back at the bus with sore feet and grateful for the scenic drive back to Montecatini as the sun fades away after a long day of food & wine (and gelato).
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Friday 13 September:
The golfers head up into the mountains today to play the striking Golf Club Castelfalfi, one of the most spectacular golf courses in Italy and regularly mentioned when media and golfers alike discuss Italy’s best courses. The 18-hole Mountain Course takes full advantage of the natural landscape and you’ll enjoy sweeping views of the Tuscan countryside as you weave through the hills.

While the golfers enjoy their day on the course, non-golfers eager to learn the Tuscan ways have the perfect opportunity to embark on a local cooking course. There are a few options available, including in an old farmhouse country kitchen outside Montecatini Terme. Alternatively, you can head off to the coast and enjoy some time in the ocean... or explore the seaside Cinque Terre. Or if pure relaxation is what you’re after, head off to one of the many spa and thermal bath options in town itself.

Saturday 14 September:
Another day of exploring the region today and we head to PISA first... where you’ll get the chance to climb 296 steps of the Leaning Tower of Pisa and enjoy the stunning views from the top, snap shots of you “holding it up”, visit the Baptistry and the Cathedral, or just sit back with a coffee (or gelato?) and enjoy the visual spectacle and admire the architecture and construction before you.

From Pisa we head to the ancient walled town of LUCCA, a majestic fortified island with a magnificent and intact circular wall dating back to the 16th & 17th century. There are countless monuments, many places of worship (hence the nickname “city of 100 churches”), a wide variety of places to eat & drink, loads of shops... all surrounding the impressive Roman amphitheatre... the piazza dell’Anfiteatro.
As we are travelling by train today, you’ll have the chance to spend as little or as much time as you wish in Lucca… so you can enjoy it until your feet can no longer carry you, or head back & enjoy Montecatini Terme.

**Sunday 15 September:**
We relocate today, and head north to **VERONA**... but our stop enroute is a special one! The **Ferrari Museum in Maranello**! We’ll get to live the Prancing Horse dream first hand with a voyage of discovery and a story told through cars that have made automotive history on streets and circuits the world over. This is the stuff dreams are made (especially for car enthusiasts)! And, if you’re an F1 fan, then why not try your skills on a track of your choosing in a genuine F1 simulator?

With our motoring fix complete, we head onwards to Verona... a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the home of Romeo & Juliet. The old town dates as far back as 550 BC, and many gates, arches, bridges and towers are still intact... including the dramatic and regularly used Arena, the 3rd largest Roman amphitheatre in Italy.

We’ll take an orientation walk around town after checking in and having a chance to freshen up at our hotel on the outskirts of the Old Town. Walking along the Adige River for a bit, we’ll then turn into the old town and...
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follow a route to ensure you see some of the “must see” sights in Verona before finding somewhere to enjoy dinner and the views... and maybe a show if we’re lucky.

Monday 16 September:
As if Verona isn’t romantic enough, we head to Venice today by fast train and then jump onboard the Hop-on/hop-off boat and get to see part of the city from the water (including their unique Police Station). If you wish, you can jump off at the stop near Piazza San Marco and begin your exploration of the main city right away.

If you’re keen to visit the islands of Murano (famous for its glass. Be sure to go watch a glass blowing session right at the boat stop) and Burano (famous for its lace-making and the small canals lined with colourful houses), then just stay onboard the boat and head off to the next stops.

Doing this, you can expect to be back on the main island early afternoon – perfect for savouring Venice in the afternoon and evening. And with so much to do, you will most likely spend most of the day wandering around and ticking the likes of Piazza San Marco, Saint Mark’s Basilica, Doge’s Palace and Rialto Bridge off the “must see” list. Also be sure to visit “Nino & Friends”, and incredible chocolatier near the Rialto Bridge.

In the build up to the tour, we’ll send out some information that will assist with planning your day in Venice and getting the most out of it...

As we are train based for transport, you have the freedom and flexibility to explore and enjoy Venice for as long as you want... and then make your way back to Verona at leisure.
Tuesday 17 September:
Golfers & non-golfers are in for a treat again today... starting off with getting the golf underway at Garda Golf, one of Italy’s top 3 courses and home to the 75th Italian Open in 2018. The wonderfully undulating and excellently maintained layout will test your full range of shots, while cypresses, olive groves and century old oaks line the course in the magnificent landscape with stunning views... Lake Garda to the East, and the Alps to the North. You’ll also be able to the see the impressive 10th century Soiano Castle and the renowned Rocca di Manerba.

With the golfers underway, the non-golfers will head down the shores of Lake Garda and explore the lakeside towns... lapping up the scenery and the Italian way of life.

Our first stop will be Desenzano del Garda, offering a mix of history, culture, shopping and relaxing... offering you just about everything you can possibly want while the golfers sweat it out. If you’re up for the walk, the town’s small fortress (the Castello) is worth visiting, as is the Roman Villa.

From there, we head off to Sirmione. This resort town on the southern bank of Lake Garda is known for it’s thermal baths and Rocca Scaligera, a medieval castle overlooking the lake. Set on the tip of a peninsula, the Archaeological Site of Grott di Catullo encompasses a Roman villa, a museum and olive trees. Just below the ruins you’ll find the rocky Jamaica Beach. While the art lovers should definitely visit San Pietro an Mavino.
The golfers will meet up with the non-golfers outside Sirmione mid-afternoon, as we head back to Verona to explore the beautiful old town one last time.

**Wednesday, 18 September:**
After a last sunrise stroll along the Adige River, or a struggle packing all the wine, fashion & treats you’ve bought along the way, we enjoy our last breakfast in Italy and then start our homeward journey late morning. We fly out of Bologna and head to Dubai and then onward to Johannesburg… and we’re sure you’ll sleep incredibly well after the fun and jam-packed week.

**Thursday, 19 September:**
We land in Johannesburg mid-morning, allowing those with onward connections to get home by lunch time. Now to unpack the wine, and share all the memories with family and friends who didn’t join you.

If you have any questions regarding the package, extensions or additional activities available during the tour, please contact Ray (your tour manager) on ray@golftravel.co.za.
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The package pricing* »

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<td>Economy class, ex Johannesburg</td>
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The package includes »

➢ Return economy flights on Emirates Airlines, from Johannesburg
  o Cape Town & Durban pricing available on request, and subject to availability
  o Including a luggage allowance to accommodate golf bags (2 bags of 23kg each)
➢ 9 nights in local albergo (bed & breakfast basis)
  o Six in Montecatini Terme, three in Verona
➢ Air-conditioned coach transfers
➢ 3 rounds of golf on fantastic courses
  o Two in Tuscany, one in Garda
  o Including shared golf buggies
  o With transfers in air-conditioned coaches/vans
➢ Full day lead excursion to Chianti wine region, including two wine tastings & lunch
➢ Lead excursion to Florence (return train ticket included)
➢ Lead excursion to Pisa & Lucca (return train ticket included)
➢ Visit to the Ferrari Museum in Maranello (entrance ticket included)
➢ Lead tour to Venice (with return train ticket, and full day hop-on/hop-off boat pass included)
➢ Day outing to Garda & Sirmione, including boat trip (for non-golfers, while golfers play)
➢ Experienced, English-speaking tour leader onsite for the duration of the tour
➢ Sightseeing programme and on-site assistance for activities for non-golfers and on free days

Not included »

➢ Airport taxes (currently R4845*)
➢ Medical and cancellation insurance (chat to us about Travel Insurance from TIC)
➢ Visa (South African passport holders require a valid Schengen visa)
➢ Activities & entrance fees not specified
➢ Meals & drinks not specified
➢ Gratuities
➢ Extension tours / breakaways

How to book »

In order to book, please complete BOTH pages of the booking form and e-mail them to ray@golftravel.co.za along with a copy of your passport and payment confirmation for the deposit (R4500/person).

Got some questions? Need more information?
Please get in touch with Ray (your tour manager) via e-mail: ray@golftravel.co.za
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BOOKING FORM

*Please note: Both pages are to be completed & signed and submitted along with your passport scan & tour deposit. Full pack per person.*

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<td>WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXTEND YOUR STAY IN EUROPE?</td>
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If yes, please tell us more...

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SIGNATURE: ________________________ DATE: ___________

Please also complete page 2...
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PAYMENT »
Please ensure you use the correct banking details AND payment reference for this tour (outlined below) and send payment confirmation directly to ray@golftravel.co.za

I have transferred R____________ into the account:

Account name: The Golf Travel Company
Bank: Investec
A/C Number: 100 114 257 03
Branch: 100 Grayston Drive
Branch Code: 580 105
Reference: “Your Surname” + ItalySep

GENERAL INFORMATION AND TOUR CONDITIONS:
Price: The price of the tour is subject to Standard Terms and Conditions, exchange rates and airfares and taxes at time of final payment. Only EFT payments are accepted (NO credit card payments). The price of the package is based on a minimum of 20 passengers and a reduction in this number may lead to a price adjustment for the tour package.
Deposit and Payment: A deposit of R4500.00 PER PERSON is payable on booking and is not refundable unless in the case of the cancellation of the tour by the tour operators. You are therefore encouraged to take out travel insurance which includes a cancellation clause. A tour package statement will be e-mailed to you approximately 2 months (60-70 days) prior to departure and the full package price is payable within 72 hours (3 days) of presentation. No cancellations can be accepted after 10 weeks (70 days) prior to departure, and the full relevant package price for the tour is payable if cancellations are received after this date. If the booking is made 10 weeks or less before departure date, the full contract price is to be paid at the time of booking and may be subject to late ticket issue fees from the airline. A late payment fee of R250 per person will be charged automatically on all accounts not settled by the stipulated date. By signing these Terms & Conditions, the passenger confirms their acceptance of the bookings. Any deposit made for a declined booking will be refunded in full.

Bookings: on the day due to inclement weather or conditions.
Golf cars: The Golf Travel Company will book golf cars when requested to do but cannot accept responsibility for availability or restrictions. A doctor’s certificate confirming good health will be required for passengers 65 years and older.
Medical Certificate: A doctor’s certificate confirming good health will be required for passengers 65 years and older.

Cancellations and Refunds: No refund can be made for visits, sightseeing, meals, transfers, accommodation, golf or other services included in the tour price which were not utilized. Should the client wish to cancel for whatever reason, The Golf Travel Company must be advised in writing under the signature of the customer. No air tickets will be issued until full and final payment is received and the airline’s late ticket issue levy will apply in the event of late payment.

Travel Insurance: Passengers are advised to have travel insurance for injury, death, accident and medical expenses, enforced pre-tour cancellation and loss of luggage.

Handicaps: All golfers must be able to provide proof of handicap if required by golf clubs while on tour. We may apply the Nomads adjustment system if and when required.

Passport, Visas & Health requirements: We provide basic advice to South African passport holders regarding visa requirements. Clients travelling on a passport of a different nationality should check with their embassy or consulate and make sure they have all the necessary valid travel and health documents to comply with the requirements of the country they are visiting or travelling through. Clients are advised to travel on one passport for the duration of the tour to ensure compliance with the latest travel regulations. All passports must be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled date of return home.

Liabilities: The Golf Travel Company and/or their agents, in making arrangements for air and land services, act as agents only and on condition that they shall not be liable for any injury, death, damage, loss, accidental delay or irregularity that may be occasioned by any defect in any vehicle or form of conveyance or mishap at any place of accommodation, or for any reason whatsoever.

Passenger and Terms & Conditions: By signing these Terms & Conditions, the passenger confirms the acceptance of these Terms & Conditions. No booking can be confirmed until the completed and signed form is received and the deposit reflects on The Golf Travel Company’s bank statement.

By confirming this booking, you are agreeing to accept our terms & conditions and any charges for amendments to, or cancellation, of your booking.

NAME [print]: _______________________ SIGNATURE: _________________________ DATE: ___________

The Golf Travel Company | Established 1999 | T: +27 21 713 1282 | E: Info@GolfTravel.co.za