



Italy Knitting Holidays

OVERVIEW

Explore the beauty and charm of northern Italy on this 13-day tour of Milan, Chiavenna, and Venice. Start in business first Milan, the country's fashion and financial capital. Stroll through the historic city and participate in a unique fashion workshop. Enjoy the beauty of the lake region, visit Como and glimpse into the history of this silk region. Next settle into the charming alpine town of Chiavenna nestled among the Italian Alps with dramatic views in all directions. Taste treats await in a hands-on Italian cooking class. Mix wonderful knitting sessions led by Beth with times to explore more of this region including Switzerland's St. Moritz. Then on to Venice, the Queen of the Adriatic, and a city like no other, it must be experienced to be believed.

TOUR LEADER



Beth Brown-Reinsel has been teaching historic and traditional knitting workshops, nationally and internationally, for over 30 years. Her focus has been to bridge the gap from 19th century knitting, fashion, and culture to present-day practices, making a connection to women, their daily lives, and their handwork. She has traveled to over 20 countries to research textiles, visiting museums to examine artifacts, gaining inspiration for the development of new knitting patterns and workshops. Her books, DVDs, and workshops explore historic knitting from many cultures, including the UK, Scandinavia, and the Baltic. Beth so enjoys working with knitters that she holds two retreats each year in Vermont beyond her busy teaching schedule. Her work can be seen on her website (www.KnittingTraditions.com) and on her Patreon project (www.Patreon.com/BethBrownReinsel).

TOUR DATES

September 25 – October 7, 2024

TOUR PRICE

\$5,495 per person, twin share
\$890 single supplement

TOUR DEPOSIT

A **\$800** non-refundable deposit is required per person to confirm your booking on tour.

GROUP SIZE

Minimum number of **10** and Maximum number of **20** in this group.

ITINERARY

Milan (2 nights), Chiavenna (5 nights), Venice (5 nights)

INCLUSIONS

12 nights' accommodation on a twin-share basis in 4-star hotels, all breakfasts, most lunches and dinners, travel by private, comfortable air-con vehicle, services of well-qualified English-speaking local guides, entrance fees to museums, galleries, and attractions as mentioned in the itinerary.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Milan

Milan, city, capital of Milano province and of the region of Lombard, northern Italy. It is the leading financial centre and the most prosperous manufacturing and commercial city of Italy.

Lake Como

Lake Como, locally known as Lago di Como or Lario, is the third largest Italian lake (after Lake Garda and Lake Maggiore). Located at the foot of the Alps, Lake Como offers some of the most romantic and picturesque scenery in Italy. Its characteristic inverted-Y shape comes from the melting of glaciers combined with the erosive action of the Adda river.

Venice

Venice, city, major seaport, and capital of both the province of Venezia and the region of Veneto, northern Italy. An island city, it was once the centre of a maritime republic. It was the greatest seaport in late medieval Europe and the continent's commercial and cultural link to Asia. Venice is unique environmentally, architecturally, and historically, and in its days as a republic the city was styled la Serenissima, "the most serene" or "sublime".

DETAILED ITINERARY

Start & Finish

The tour starts at 3:00pm on Wednesday, September 25, at Hotel Una Galles in Milan.

The tour ends after breakfast on Monday, October 7, at Hotel Firenze in Venice.

Arrival and departure airport/hotel transfers are not included.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D.

Day 1 Wednesday September 25 Arrive Milan

Individual arrivals to Milan. Check in at the hotel. Meeting the tour members at 6:30 pm in the lobby.

Welcome dinner in local restaurant. (D)

Day 2 Thursday September 26 Milan

Discover vibrant, fashion-forward Milan with a guided walking tour. Marvel at Milan monuments like the Duomo cathedral and the 18th-century Scala theatre, then browse the designer boutiques of the historic Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II shopping arcade. Attend a unique workshop experience and immerse yourself in the fascinating world of custom fashion with designer and tailor Fiorella Ciaboco. Enjoy free time to browse Designer Boutiques on Via Monte Napoleone. (B)

Day 3 Friday September 27 Milan to Chiavenna

Depart from Milan by coach after breakfast to drive north to Lake Como. Visit Como silk museum (*Museo didattico della seta*). The museum shows the cultural and entrepreneurial tradition of silk in Como with machines, looms, fabrics and stories that had huge impacts on the territory.

Followed by free time for lunch in the town of Como before driving along the full length of the lake to the historic town of Chiavenna.

Arriving for check in and dinner in the heart of this charming town, our base for 5 nights. (B D)

Day 4 Saturday September 28 Chiavenna

Italy's most iconic dish by far is pasta, and with this hands-on cooking class, you can discover the secrets to turning out fresh pasta dishes like an authentic Italian "nonna" with a local chef. Today we learn how to prepare "sfoglia", or sheet of pasta, and then cut or shape it to suit your sauce. Once both pasta and sauce are ready, relax over lunch to enjoy what you've prepared.

Afternoon is at leisure or join Beth for a knitting session at hotel. (B)



Quadrilatero d'Oro, Milan, Italy



City of Chiavenna, Italy



Venetian masks, Italy

Day 5 Sunday September 29

Chiavenna

After breakfast drive to a Cheese Farm for a demonstration of local cheese-making including ricotta, goat's milk ice-cream, typical pasta of the Valtellina area. All very typical of this mountainous part of Italy. Then travel to the world-famous village of Bellagio located at the tip of the promontory. After strolling through the village and browsing the small shops we continue to Menaggio and visit Villa Balbianello. Return to hotel in the afternoon and enjoy a knitting lesson with Beth. (B D)

Day 6 Monday September 30

Excursion to St. Moritz

Today we drive to St Moritz to explore this upmarket resort. St. Moritz is among Switzerland's leading luxury resorts, but there's more to the Engadin town than just modern glitz and glamor. Uncover St. Moritz's unique history, see its stand-out attractions, and learn more about its culture and architecture. (B)

Day 7 Tuesday October 1

Chiavenna

Knitting session in the morning. Afternoon is at your leisure. (B)

Day 8 Wednesday October 2

Chiavenna to Venice

Depart by coach for Venice stopping to visit Padova or Verona before arriving mid-afternoon at our hotel on the mainland. Get our first sight of Venice, the city on water, at nighttime for an amazing experience. (B D)

Day 9 Thursday October 3

Venice

After breakfast, we walk through the narrow 'calle' with water on either side to the heart of the city St Mark's Square. Enjoy 2 hours walking tour to visit the Doge's Palace, St Mark's Basilica, and Glass-Blowing demonstration. Free time for lunch or maybe watch the world go by, sitting at one of the cafés on St Mark's Square. (B)

Day 10 Friday October 4

Venice

Off to the island of Burano, famous for lacemaking. You'll witness the mesmerizing tapestry of colorful houses and the time-honored traditions of lacemaking. Visit the quiet, calm island of Torcello before returning to Venice for Mask-Making workshop. (B D)

Day 11-12 Saturday-Sunday October 5-6

Venice

These days are at free at leisure. Farewell dinner on October 6. (B, D on October 6)

Day 13 Monday October 7

Depart Venice

Our tour concludes after breakfast. (B)

HOTELS

Milan-Una Galles
(2 nights)

Chiavenna-Hotel San Lorenzo or similar
(5 nights)

Venice -Hotel Firenze or similar
(5 nights)

WEATHER

Expect an average daytime high of 68F and a low of 54F at night.

It's generally mild and comfortable in cities like Milan and Venice with occasional rain showers.

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

This tour is physically demanding. To participate on this tour, you should be able to:

- keep up with the group at all times
- walk throughout the day at a moderate pace
- negotiate walking over uneven ground on dirt tracks
- walk up and down steps and slopes
- get on and off a coach with steps unassisted
- move your luggage unassisted



Knitting Class with Beth Brown-Reinsel

Estonian Roosimine Mitts

Description: Estonian knitters have developed many unusual techniques. In this class, students will knit a fingerless mitt using the Roosimine technique. This method uses many colors, **inlaid** into the knitted fabric. Small charts will be provided in black and white and students can color in the chart if they prefer. Included in the class is a cord technique used in some gloves and mittens. Our goal will be to focus on knitting one mitt, developing the confidence needed so that the student can complete a pair once at home. Extra help will be available at times outside class.

Level: Intermediate. Students should be able to knit and purl in the round on small double-pointed needles or Magic Loop or two circular needles. Be familiar with stranding (working with two yarns, although this will not be used extensively).

Sizes: Hand circumference: 7 (7 1/2, 8, 8 1/2, 9) inches / 18 (19, 20.5, 21.5, 23) cm." (1 cm) is added for ease.

Supplies:

Yarn (These are yardages for 2 gloves. If making mitts, you will not use quite as much.) Fingering Yarn, such as:

Rauma Finullgarn: 100% Norwegian wool; 191 yds / 175 m; 1. oz / 50 g

Jamieson & Smith Jumper Weight: 100% Shetland wool; 188 yds / 172 m; 1. oz / 50 g

Main Color (MC): approximately 190 (215, 250, 290, 326) yds / 175 (200, 230, 270, 300) m

Contrast colors (CC): Several yards of each of six colors, or your choice

Needles: US 0 / 2.0 mm, or size to obtain gauge. It is suggested to have several sizes of needle sets on hand.

Notions: Stitch markers, stitch holders or waste yarn, highlighter tape, tapestry needle, ruler for checking your gauge, colored pencils which correlate with your chosen yarns, eraser

Gauge: 16 sts = 2 inches / 5 cm

Homework: None.

ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

For further information or to secure a place, please contact

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