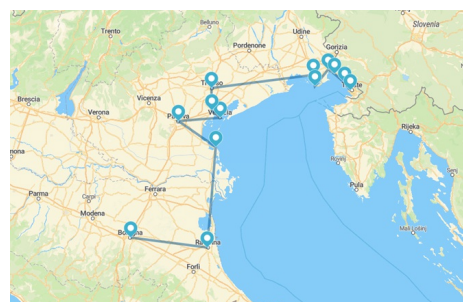




Italy, 7 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route along the Italian Adriatic Coast

Many wonders await you along the stunning Italian Adriatic coast. Your road trip will take you to fascinating cities such as Bologna, Padua and Venice, as well as picture-postcard villages with quaint coves such as Duino. You'll also soak up the charismatic atmosphere on the streets and in the literary cafes of Trieste, a city practically on the border with Slovenia; admire the beautiful mosaics of Ravenna; and experience the vibrant university spirit of Padua and Bologna. Discover a fascinating heritage, majestic landmarks, spectacular beaches and an exquisite cuisine. .. all from behind the wheel. Can you think of a better destination to spend a few days on holiday?



Departure date: Departures from June 2026 till June 2027

From: London

Travel details

DAY 1 · SPAIN - BOLOGNA - RAVENNA

Flight departure from the city of origin to Bologna. Arrival and rental car pick-up at the airport.

Your road trip begins in the beautiful city of Bologna. Head straight to the magnificent Piazza Maggiore, home to the city's most iconic buildings, such as the Basilica of San Petronio (which houses valuable frescoes by Giovanni da Modena), the Palazzo dei Notari, the historic Palazzo Comunale, the Palazzo Re Enzo or the Palazzo del Podestà. Another option is to pop over to the Museo Civico Archeologico, located in the Palazzo Galvani. Your next stop could be the nearby Piazza Nettuno. You'll love its magnificent fountain crowned by a gigantic Neptune. Then go to the Piazza di Porta Ravegnana to see the two leaning towers and, if you fancy, climb the hundred metres or so to the top of the Torri degli Asinelli. From there you'll enjoy a breathtaking view of the city. We also recommend a visit to the amazing Basilica di Santo Stefano and the adjacent religious buildings, as well as the Pinacoteca Nazionale, an art gallery showcasing valuable works of art from the Bolognese School. And make sure you stop off at the bustling Piazza Cavour for a refreshing spritz or some exquisite local cuisine. When you're ready, jump in the car and drive for just over an hour to Ravenna.

This town boasts a glorious past, stemming both from its time as the capital of the Western Roman Empire and its Byzantine influences thanks to the Emperor Justinian. Unearth the secrets of this fascinating place and marvel at its splendid mosaics, listed as a World Heritage Site. First of all, visit the Basilica di San Vitale, consecrated in the 6th century, and leisurely admire this architectural treasure that's a fusion of Byzantine art: precious marbles and splendid mosaics, like the one you'll see in the apse. Look out for the famous Mosaic of Christ Pantocrator painted on the roof facing San Vitale. Then head to the Mausoleo di Galla Placidia, a fifth-century mausoleum with some breathtaking mosaics, especially the Good Shepherd. Another must-see religious building is the Basilica di Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, where its architectural features and stunning mosaics provide an unbeatable synthesis of Byzantine art. Finally, the Basilica di Sant'Apollinare in Classe will whisk you off on a unique artistic and religious experience. Explore its majestic interiors, brimming with columns, sarcophagi and glittering mosaics like no others in the world.

Overnight stay in Ravenna.

DAY 2 · RAVENNA - CHIOGGIA - PADUA

You can take advantage of the morning to further discover the town of Ravenna. Musts include the the Battistero Neoniano, a baptistery featuring a vault covered with beautiful mosaics, the Mausoleo di Teodorico and the Tomb of Dante. Next stop is Chioggia, an hour and a half's drive away. This seaside town will enthral you. It's formed by two islands linked by a bridge to the mainland. Stroll along the Corso del Popolo, its main street, and soak up its lively atmosphere. We definitely recommend a visit to its fascinating fish market. Stroll around the Piazzetta Vigo, cross the canal over the Ponte Vigo bridge and make sure you see the famous winged lion atop a column at the end of the Fossa Clodia. You can also stop off at the cathedral, the Cattedrale di Santa Maria Assunta. Another option is to head over to the Isola di San Domenico on Calle di Santa Croce. And if you want to find out more about the maritime history of Chioggia from its archaeological remains, then pay a visit to the Museo Civico della Laguna Sud. The last stop today will be Padua, located an hour's drive away. Named Patavium in the Roman era, the city was destroyed by the Lombards in the 7th century but regained prominence to enjoy its heyday between 1337 and 1405, under the rule of the Lords of Carrara. Padua is today a fabulous university city with a spectacular artistic and cultural heritage. The city, known for its connection with Saint Anthony, is dotted with magnificent churches and civil buildings which devotedly guard major works by artists such as Giotto, Luini and Mantegna. The Musei Civici agli Eremitani and Scrovegni Chapel, commissioned by Enrico Scrovegni in memory of his father, are must-visits. The Chapel, created by the brilliant Giotto, is famous for its humanist approach, which was to represent a revolutionary approach in contrast with the artistic dictates of the Middle Ages. Take a leisurely stroll through the lively squares and visit the Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua (with the saint's tomb and the Equestrian Statue of Gattamelata by Donatello), the cathedral baptistery, the magnificent Palazzo della Ragione with its wonderful collection of fifteenth-century frescoes... And let's not forget the beautiful botanical gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and considered some of the oldest and most beautiful in Europe. Round the day off enjoying a delicious gelato in the vibrant Prato della Valle square.

Overnight stay in Padua.

● DAY 3 · PADUA - VENICE - MESTRE (OPTIONAL BOAT TRIP TO THE ISLANDS OF BURANO AND MURANO)

Today's destination is Venice, just forty kilometres away from Padua. Rest of the day at your leisure to explore this magical city, which shifts between real and reverie in time with the rhythm of the water. To this day, it's still surprising just how audacious the Venetians were in daring to square up to the high tides and design a city full of marble palaces in the middle of a lagoon. The city, famous for its carnivals, is also a renowned centre for art, music, and Italian cuisine. Your sightseeing tour should definitely take in unique places such as the Palazzo Ducale, the Museo Correr with the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, the Gallerie dell'Accademia, and San Giorgio Maggiore Monastery... Venice is also famous for the captivating Piazza San Marco, a true treasure trove waiting to be discovered. The image of doves flying over the imposing basilica is famous worldwide. Soak up the atmosphere that for centuries has attracted major artists and writers to Caffè Florian. And climb up Il Campanile bell tower to enjoy one of the best views in the city. Around the square lies a maze of old and romantic canals dotted with palaces and golden domes that remind the traveller of a golden age in which the Republic of Venice was an important Mediterranean power. If you have time, we recommend a boat trip to the islands of Burano, famous for its fine lace, and Murano, known for its excellent glass crafts. (Note: Cars are not allowed on the islands. You can reach the islands in a "vaporetto" (local water taxi). The journey from the quay to the islands takes about 30 minutes. Tour not included). Then head to nearby Mestre, where you can bid farewell to the day with an Aperol Spritz at one of its typical osterie (taverns). Overnight stay in Mestre.

● DAY 4 · MESTRE - TREVISO - AQUILEIA - GRADO

The next leg of your road trip is from Mestre to Treviso, a distance of some thirty kilometres. The city of Treviso is simply fascinating. Explore its spectacular historic quarter and discover its links with its neighbour Venice. Take a wander around the Piazza dei Signori, which houses outstanding buildings such as the Palazzo del Podestà, the Palazzo dei Trecento and the Palazzo Pretorio. In Piazza San Vito you can visit the churches of San Vito and Santa Lucia, the latter with priceless frescoes by Tommaso da Modena. You could also pop into the Cappella dei Retori in the Piazza del Monte di Pietà or head to the Musei Civici, a museum showcasing archaeological sites and other artistic objects from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Then head towards the Church of San Nicolò, a Romanesque and Gothic temple with stunning frescoes, or the Church of San Francesco, the final resting place of Petrarch's daughter and Dante's son. Finally, head over to the Duomo San Pietro cathedral, with its seven domes, classical façade and Romanesque crypt. What's more, the Cappella dell'Annunziata houses the Malchiostro Annunciation by the Italian Renaissance artist Titian. Then it's back on the road for just over an hour and a half to your next destination: Aquileia. Legend has it that an eagle (aquila) crossed the sky on the day that this former Roman settlement was founded, hence its name. Whatever the actual truth is, this pocket-sized town boasts a history closely linked to Augustus and the bishops that governed it for several centuries. The must-visit here is the magnificent Romanesque-style basilica, which was built on foundations dating back to the fourth century. This building has a magnificent mosaic floor like no other in the Christian world. Make sure you see the famous Cripta degli Affreschi, with its breathtaking Romanesque frescoes, and the Cripta degli Scavi, with its wonderful floor. We also recommend a trip to the remains of Roman Aquileia, which you'll find behind the basilica. The Archaeological Museum and the Early Christian Museum also showcase the most important finds from digs that have taken place in the city. Then it's back to the car for a quarter of an hour over to Grado, a town founded by the inhabitants of Aquileia. Today, it's a lively fishing village that boasts an amazing historic quarter with beautiful cobbled streets. Take a stroll through the narrow alleyways (known as 'calli') in the picture-postcard Quartiere Vecchio. And make sure you visit the Duomo di Santa Eufemia, with its priceless Venetian altarpiece and its mosaic floor, and the Basilica di Santa Maria delle Grazie, which dates back to the 6th century and also has original mosaic floors. Overnight stay in Grado.

● DAY 5 · GRADE - MONFALCONE - DUINO - GRIGNANO - TRIESTE

Set off from Grado to Monfalcone, only half an hour's drive away. Head straight to La Rocca, a medieval fortress that's one of the most iconic landmarks of this town. It houses a fascinating palaeontology museum. Another option is to take a stroll through the ruins of the prehistoric 'castellieri' settlements or get to know the historic buildings here, such as the Palazzo Comunale, Palazzetto Veneto, Casa Paparotti, Favoriti and Lonzar. For lovers of war stories, Monfalcone is home to the Theme Park of the Great War. This outdoor museum features three different itineraries across its four square kilometres. You'll be amazed when you see places where key battles were fought between 1915 and 1917. The final stop in the town could be the Duomo di Sant'Ambrogio church. Then it's time to continue your tour over to Duino, just eight kilometres away. This stunning town is perched on steep cliffs overlooking the Adriatic Sea. Head to the legendary Castello di Duino, an authentic treasure trove packed with history and legends. Once you've visited this building, home to illustrious characters, you can set off towards Grignano, just fifteen minutes away from Duino. You can visit the Castello di Miramare, with its beautiful tiered gardens, or the Grotta Gigante, just a few kilometres from Grignano. This is one of the largest caves in the whole world. (Note: Wear some warm clothes for this visit). And exploring these superb cave formations, head over to the modern Tempio Mariano di Monte Grisa. The terrace of this church commands outstanding views of the local area. And then it's time to end the trip in Trieste, twenty minutes away from Grignano. You can get to know the surroundings of this picturesque city by taking a funicular from Trieste to Villa Opicina. You'll be rewarded by some outstanding views. Overnight stay in Trieste.

● DAY 6 · TRIESTE

You can spend the day discovering the main attractions of the beautiful border town of Trieste, closely linked to both Austria and Slovenia, which has seen quite a few flags flying from its most iconic landmarks over the years. The Romans, Byzantines and Venetians have all walked the streets of Trieste, as have countless Austrians, because the town was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire from the 14th century right up to 1914. Over the centuries, this town that flourished under the Habsburgs has seduced great artists and writers such as Thomas Mann and James Joyce. The history of Trieste, like that of many other border cities, is characterised by a wealth of influences. And you can discover these influences at its castle, in its Roman ruins, or in one of the Europe's largest squares with sea views... Today, the city is a model for coexistence between cultures. Must-sees include the bustling Piazza Unità d'Italia, a beautiful square dotted with grandiose palaces built during the 19th century; the Canal Grande and Piazza San Antonio Nuovo, a Venetian-style canal with the square and an Orthodox Serbian temple in the background; the city's Roman theatre; Mount San Giusto with the Castello di Miramare and the Cathedral... And to learn more about its cultural wealth, you can take a stroll around the Borgo Teresiano neighbourhood. Overnight stay in Trieste.

● DAY 7 · TRIESTE - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Ravenna.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Ravenna.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Padua.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Padua.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Mestre.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Mestre.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Grado.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Grado.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Trieste.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Trieste.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.
- ✓ Insolvency protection.
- ✓ Amount of the supplement for collection and return of the vehicle in a different office.

Your trip doesn't include

✗ Accommodation taxes in Padua direct payment in facility.

✗ Possible toll charges.

Destinations Visited

Bologna



Ravenna



Chioggia



Padua



Venice



Mestre



Treviso



Aquileia



Grado



Monfalcone



Duino



Grignano



Trieste



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.