



1 – 11 NOVEMBER 2026

Two iconic worlds. One unforgettable ladies' journey.

# ITALY & ISTANBUL

4 nights Rome • 2 nights Venice • 2 nights Istanbul



Discover the timeless elegance of Italy and the vibrant energy of Istanbul on a thoughtfully curated ladies-only journey. From Rome's ancient wonders to Venice's canals and Istanbul's bustling bazaars, each day unfolds with culture, cuisine and unforgettable sights, shared with like-minded women at a pace that feels effortless, enriching and truly memorable.



# YOUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

Ten days, three unforgettable cities, and every detail taken care of: flights, hotels, breakfasts, the scenic train through Italy, and hand-picked experiences along the way.

| DAY    | DATE       | WHERE             | THE PLAN                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------|------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Day 1  | Mon 2 Nov  | Fly → Rome        | Midnight Turkish Airlines flight (00:20; we meet at the airport at 21:00 on Sunday evening, 1 Nov). Land Rome 13:50, check in, welcome drink.                   |
| Day 2  | Tue 3 Nov  | Rome              | Morning guided walking tour: Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon, Piazza Navona. Afternoon shopping trip to a designer outlet village (transport included). |
| Day 3  | Wed 4 Nov  | Rome              | Hands-on pasta-making class with a local chef. The rest of the day is yours.                                                                                    |
| Day 4  | Thu 5 Nov  | Rome              | Open day: Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel, St Peter's, Colosseum and more, at your own pace (own arrangements).                                                |
| Day 5  | Fri 6 Nov  | Venice            | Morning high-speed train through the Italian countryside. Afternoon exploring the canals.                                                                       |
| Day 6  | Sat 7 Nov  | Venice            | A full free day: St Mark's Square, hidden alleyways, boutiques, optional gondola ride.                                                                          |
| Day 7  | Sun 8 Nov  | Venice → Istanbul | Farewell coffee on St Mark's Square, afternoon flight (14:50), evening arrival in Istanbul.                                                                     |
| Day 8  | Mon 9 Nov  | Istanbul          | Walking food tour with tastings, Spice Bazaar & Grand Bazaar, ferry across the Bosphorus. Optional Topkapi Palace.                                              |
| Day 9  | Tue 10 Nov | Istanbul          | Hagia Sophia & Blue Mosque, shopping and free time, optional Hamam experience, then the late-night airport transfer.                                            |
| Day 10 | Wed 11 Nov | Home              | Depart 02:05, land Johannesburg 11:00. Home by lunchtime.                                                                                                       |

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- International flights (Turkish Airlines)
- 8 nights' hotel accommodation (sharing)
- Daily breakfast
- High-speed train Rome – Venice
- Designer-outlet shopping trip (transport included)
- Welcome drink in Rome
- Guided walking tour of Rome
- Hands-on pasta-making class
- Istanbul walking food tour with tastings & ferry ride



# ROME

4 NIGHTS · LA DOLCE VITA



Where history lives and life is celebrated. Arrive mid-afternoon, settle in with a welcome drink, then spend four nights wandering sunlit piazzas, with a guided tour, an included shopping trip, a pasta class and a whole day to make your own.

## A WALK THROUGH THE HEART OF ROME, THEN THE BOUTIQUES

Your first full day starts with a guided walking tour through the historic centre: the elegant Spanish Steps and Via dei Condotti, a coin tossed into the Trevi Fountain to make sure you return one day, the 2,000-year-old Pantheon with its famous oculus, Bernini's fountains on Piazza Navona and the market square of Campo de' Fiori. In the afternoon, an included shopping trip to a designer outlet village south of Rome, with transport arranged: more than 150 boutiques at 30-70% off the big names in fashion, accessories and sportswear, set in an open-air village built like a little Roman town, with cafes for the non-shoppers. Purchases are for your own account.

## PASTA, PROSECCO & LA DOLCE VITA

Day two in Rome is all about the table: a hands-on pasta-making class with a local chef. Roll fresh dough, learn the classic sauces, then sit down together to enjoy what you've made, with wine included. The rest of the day is yours for wandering, gelato and people-watching.



## AN OPEN DAY FOR THE ICONS

Your last full Rome day is deliberately left open, so you can experience the city's giants at your own pace, cost and arrangements: the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel (pre-booking online is well worth it, and note the Sistine Chapel sits inside the Museums), St Peter's Basilica with its climbable dome, or the Colosseum and Roman Forum. Prefer a slow morning, a long lunch and the shops of Via del Corso instead? That is exactly what this day is for.

# VENICE

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2 NIGHTS · LA SERENISSIMA



A city unlike any other. Glide in by high-speed train, under four scenic hours from Rome, and step straight onto the water. Drift along canals, stroll hidden alleyways, browse artisan boutiques and pause often for café moments.

## ST MARK'S & THE MAGIC OF THE LAGOON

Admire St Mark's Basilica and the Doge's Palace from the great square (optional entry; the palace ticket also covers the Bridge of Sighs, the old prisons and the museums of St Mark's Square). A full free day lets Venice unfold at your own pace: climb a campanile, hunt for Murano glass, or simply watch the gondolas go by. The classic gondola ride is optional, and always worth it.

## A FAREWELL COFFEE ON THE SQUARE

On your final morning, coffee on St Mark's Square, one of the most beautiful café settings in Europe, before the afternoon flight to Istanbul.

## GOOD TO KNOW

November is Venice's quiet, romantic season: soft light, morning mists on the lagoon and far fewer crowds. Seasonal high tides can briefly leave shallow water on St Mark's Square. Raised walkways appear, life carries on, and water-resistant shoes keep you comfortable.

# ISTANBUL

2 NIGHTS · WHERE CONTINENTS MEET



A vibrant meeting of continents. Marvel at breathtaking mosques, explore colourful bazaars, savour unforgettable flavours and experience a city layered in culture and history, all from a hotel in the heart of historic Sultanahmet.

## EAT YOUR WAY ACROSS TWO CONTINENTS

Your guided walking food tour takes in Turkish delight and spices in the 350-year-old Spice Bazaar, a fresh fish sandwich and simit by the Galata Bridge, then a ferry across the Bosphorus with Hagia Sophia and Topkapi on the skyline. On the Asian side you graze through Kadıköy's markets: meze, lahmacun, stuffed mussels, and baklava with Turkish coffee to finish. The legendary Grand Bazaar, with 4,000 shops under one roof since 1461, is yours to bargain in too.

## DOMES, MINARETS & A PROPER FAREWELL

Stand between Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque, two of the world's great buildings facing each other across a garden square. The Blue Mosque is free to enter between prayers (scarves provided). Hagia Sophia's upper gallery is an optional ticket (€25). Add the atmospheric underground Basilica Cistern, Topkapi Palace with its Harem and imperial treasury (optional; note it closes on Tuesdays, so we plan it for Monday), or a Bosphorus cruise between Europe and Asia.

## THE HAMAM SEND-OFF

Before the overnight flight home, treat yourself to an optional traditional Hamam: steam, scrub and total relaxation, and the perfect way to freshen up before boarding.

## JOIN GERDA ON A HOSTED LADIES-ONLY TOUR

Shared with like-minded women, this is travel that feels effortless, enriching and truly memorable, with your host taking care of every detail from Johannesburg and back.

*Travel with Gerda, your Ladies Travel host*



# GOOD TO KNOW

## FLIGHTS (TURKISH AIRLINES)

Sun 1 Nov · meet at OR Tambo 21:00; depart 00:20 → Istanbul 11:25 → Rome 1.

Sun 8 Nov · Venice 14:50 → Istanbul 19:25

Wed 11 Nov · Istanbul 02:05 → Johannesburg 11:00

*Flight times per current airline schedules; final times confirmed at ticketing.*

## NOVEMBER WEATHER

|                 |              |                               |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Rome</b>     | 16–18°C days | occasional showers            |
| <b>Venice</b>   | 11–13°C days | misty mornings, cool evenings |
| <b>Istanbul</b> | 14–16°C days | mild, breezy on the water     |

Pack layers, one warm jacket, a compact umbrella and comfortable water-resistant walking shoes. Sunset is around 17:00 in Italy, so we make the most of the mornings and save evenings for wine, wandering and long dinners.

## OWN-ACCOUNT OPTIONS (GUIDE PRICES)

- Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel €25 (online) · St Peter's dome climb €8–15
- Doge's Palace €25–30 · St Mark's Basilica €12 · Gondola ride · shared
- Hagia Sophia €25 · Basilica Cistern ±€38 · Topkapi Palace ±€55
- Bosphorus cruise · Hamam experience



## THIS IS MORE THAN A TOUR

It is shared laughter with like-minded women. It is history brought to life. It is culture, connection and unforgettable moments experienced together.

**Limited group size. Secure your place.**

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