

GERMANY & ITALY: Fashionable Europe

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

Day 1: Depart today on your flight to Berlin.

Day 2: Today you arrive in **Berlin**.

Day 3: Spend today in the historic heart of the city around the aristocratic old Berlin, Unter Den Linden, once the heart of socialist Germany. Begin at **The Reichstag**, or Parliament Buildings The Reichstag is the site where on October 2, 1990 Germany was reunified. Cross what was the **Berlin Wall** towards the **Brandenburg Gate** that at one time symbolized a divided Berlin. See the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. Continue to Bebelplatz, see the site and plaque commemorating the famous Nazi book burning, as well as the German State Opera Building. Cross the Spree River to Museum Island. Pass the Rathaus Schöneberg, site of President Kennedy's famous "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech in 1963. Finish at Alexanderplatz, the area that once was the pride and joy of East Berlin and today is lively and interesting. One million people congregated here, on November 4, 1989 to demonstrate against the GDR regime shortly before the fall of the Berlin Wall. South of the Unter den Linden find Gendarmenmarkt Square. Visit the Topography of Terror which is rubble marking the command center of Hitler's Gestapo and SS. See the infamous **Checkpoint Charlie**. Further South of Unter den Linden you will also find the Jewish Museum. Evening visit to the Reichstag Dome.



Day 4: Explore what once was West Berlin. West Berlin's main drag is the **Kurfurstendamm** (nicknamed Ku'damm). When Berlin was a wealthy and important capital this street was the Champs Elysees of Berlin. Visit Kaufhaus des Westens (KaDeWe) department store. See the ruins of the Kaiser Wilhelm Gedachtniskirche bombed in 1943. Possible visit of Tiergarten, one of the city's most beautiful and extensive public parks. South of the Tiergarten is the **German Resistance Memorial** which tells the story of the German resistance to Hitler. The "Times Square" of Berlin, **Potsdamer Platz**, was cut in 2 by the wall and left deserted as a wasteland for 40 years The New Potsdamer Platz is an immense commercial, residential and entertainment center. See the Daimler Chrysler Atrium and auto showroom. Visit the Kunstgewerbemuseum – the Museum of Decorative Arts Berlin located in Potsdamer Platz. Berlin is home to numerous well respected fashion design schools. Today visit one of these prestigious schools.



Day 5: Head to Friedrichstrasse. The street offers visits to local young and exciting **fashion designers shops** as well as many well-known designers such as Escada. Also here are Parisian department stores Galleries Lafayette and Quartier 206. **Visit a local designer**. Transfer to airport for flight to Milan.

Day 6: **Milan** is Italy's center of publishing, silk production, TV and advertising and fashion design. Visit one of Milan's Fashion outlets, D Magazine Outlet. The store offers discounts from names such as Fendi and Armani. Alternatively Il Sallvagente at Via Bronzetti 16 is a legendary shop where you will find slashed down prices on Ferretti, Marni, Armani, Prada and others. This outlet is the most famous designer discounter in all of Italy.

Day 7: Guided visit of the gorgeous spired and lacey Gothic Duomo. Across the Piazza del Duomo, Milan's main square is the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele. This grand four story glass domed shopping arcade is a work of art. Its finest feature is its metal and glass roof crowned with a magnificent central dome. All leading fashion designers have shops in the "**Fashion Quadrilateral**". In the 1920's the top fashion shops moved in and today it remains "the" place for designer labels. The focal point of the area is Via Montenapoleone. Bargain hunters head for the Corso Buenos Aires. You will find more bargains in the Brea, an area often compared to Greenwich Village in New York. For cutting edge fashions, up and coming designers are gathering in the areas around Corso Garibaldi and Corso Como. Evening transfer to Florence.



Day 8: The Renaissance began in **Florence** and the city has more sights to visit within one square kilometer than any other city in Europe. Meet guide for a guided orientation walking tour. See the gorgeous Duomo, the Bell Tower, Pont Vecchio the medieval district, and a central bustling food market. The remainder of the afternoon is free to shop in San Lorenzo Market or visit the Santa Croce area where Galileo, Michelangelo and Dante have their monuments.

Day 9: Day of fashion activities. Today's activities include a Textile Workshop where you can stimulate your creativity and uniqueness as well as a visit to the Palazzo Pitti / Costume Museum. Pitti Palace is a vast mainly Renaissance Palace that once served as a power base for Napoleon, and the royal family's home. It now houses art and luxurious possessions of Italy's past. The Costume Museum is located in Pitti Palace. It covers the historical garments from the 18th century to the present day. Spend time along the high end fashion shopping streets in Florence. Visit the Ferragamo Shoe Museum.

Day 10: Today you arrive in the eternal city of **Rome**. Short transfer to your hotel for quick check in. Travel to the Vatican where you will meet your guide for your visit. The **Vatican** is a city unto itself with its own postal service, radio station, newspaper and army. Visit **St. Peter's Basilica** and Square, the Vatican Museum and the **Sistine Chapel**. After the Vatican, see the **Spanish Steps and Trevi Fountain**.

Day 11: Stroll through the major archaeological monuments. Meet your guide at **The Forum**, the city's religious, political and commercial center in the days of Caesars. See the **Colosseum**, Capitol Hill, Victor Emmanuel Monument and Piazza Venezia. Visit the **Pantheon** with its original doors and ancient granite columns. Spend some time in Piazza Navona originally built as a stadium in the first century for athletic contests and chariot races. Now it is lined with luxurious cafes and is the home to three lavish Baroque fountains. For shopping head to Piazza del Popolo and walk along Via del Corso, the main shopping street. Don't miss shopping the famous Via Condotti.

Day 12: Today, you bid Arrivederci to Italy.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return airfare to Berlin return Rome
- One way flight Berlin – Milan
- One way flight or train Milan – Florence
- One way flights or train Florence - Rome
- Coach transfers:
 - o Berlin – return airport transfers
 - o Milan, Florence & Rome – return airport and train station transfers
- Assistance upon arrival in Berlin
- 10 nights hotel accommodation with private facilities
- 10 Breakfasts
- 5 dinners
- Guided orientation tours
 - o Walking Tour in Berlin & Florence
 - o 2 Walking Tours in Rome
- Entrances/visits:
 - o Guided visit to Berlin fashion school
 - o Visit to local designer(s) in Berlin
 - o Jewish Museum in Berlin
 - o Topography of Terror in Berlin
 - o Evening visit to the Reichstag in Berlin
 - o Museum of Decorative Arts in Berlin
 - o Local fashion designer in Berlin
 - o Guided visit of Milan's Cathedral
 - o Ferragamo Shoe Museum in Florence
 - o Pitti Palace and Costume Museum in Florence
 - o Fashion/ Textile Workshop Florence
 - o Uffizi Gallery in Florence
 - o Guided visit to Vatican City

