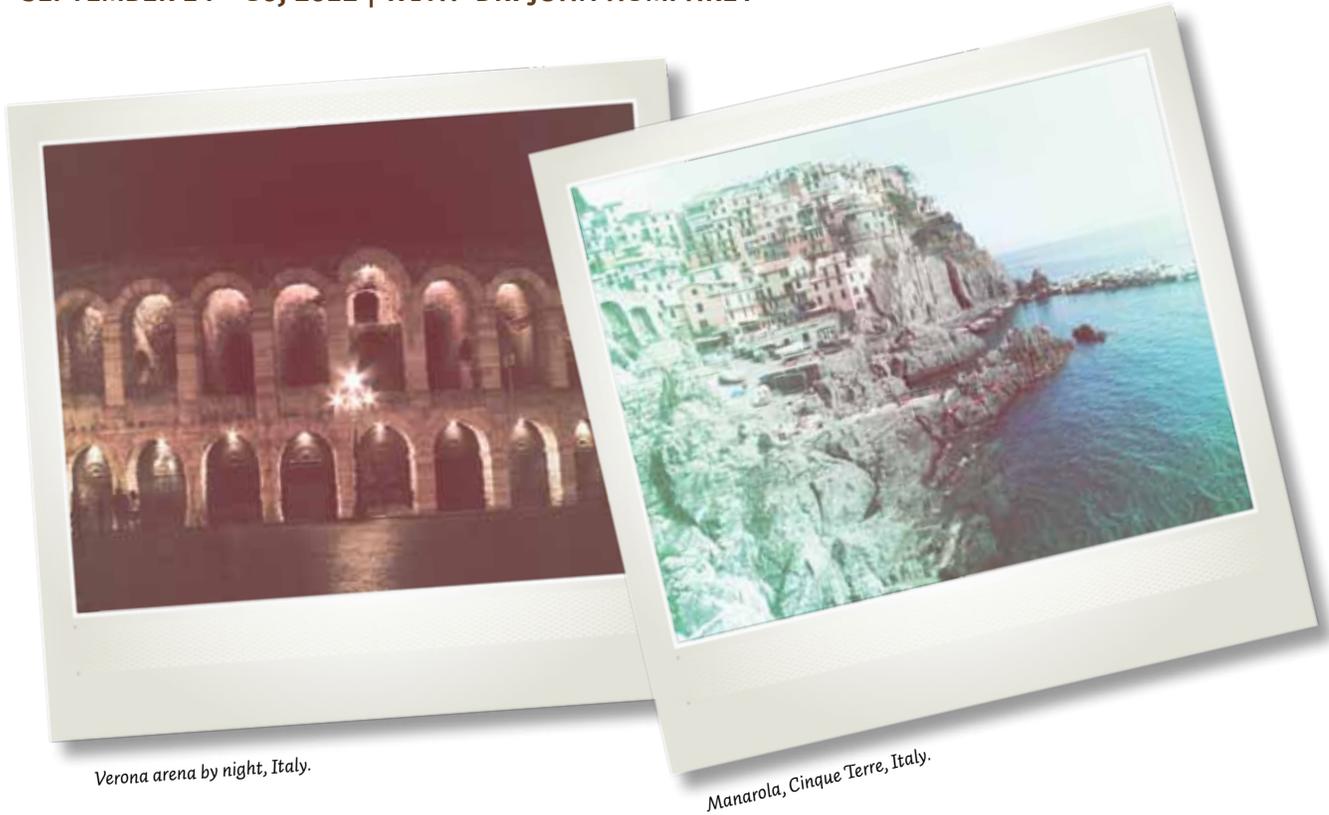


From Genoa to Venice: An Historical and Cultural Exploration of Northern Italy

SEPTEMBER 14 – 30, 2012 | WITH: DR. JOHN HUMPHREY



Verona arena by night, Italy.

Manarola, Cinque Terre, Italy.

We are excited to present our first journey through the north of Italy, beginning with the financial and fashion centre of Milan, then traveling to the fine old port of Genoa, walking between the pretty coastal villages of the Cinqueterre, visiting Lake Garda's beautifully restored town of Sirmione, exploring the charms of Shakespeare's Verona and the university town of Padua, and ending at the islands that form Venice.

Our leisurely itinerary will take us to seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Leonardo's painting of the Last Supper, the old city of Genoa, the Cinqueterre, Verona, the botanical gardens of Padua, the lagoon of Venice, and the early Christian churches of Ravenna. We'll explore the vineyards of Valpolicella, the culinary centre of Parma, St. Mark's Basilica, and the islands of the Venetian Lagoon.

At Genoa we'll take a short coastal cruise past nearby towns; from Padua we'll be floating for a whole day slowly down a canal past 16th-18th-century villas. En route we'll enjoy food and wine tastings, and you will have lots of time for exploring, shopping, and dining on your own. Many of our hotels are small and historic, and we have chosen some gastronomic restaurants to give you the best possible experience of food and wines of the region.

ORIENTATION

The orientation course will consist of five Wednesday evenings, from August 15 to September 12, 2012, 7 – 9:30 pm held at the University of Calgary campus. Discussion topics include history and culture of Italy, civilization of the region, and background information on the sites we will be visiting. The itinerary, travel arrangements, and health matters will be discussed in detail.

ITINERARY

Meals that are included are shown in brackets following the daily itinerary. B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner.

SEPTEMBER 14 Depart Calgary for our flights to Italy.

SEPTEMBER 15 – 16 Milan. We'll have the afternoon free to relax after our arrival, then take a 90-minute evening sightseeing drive of the city before arriving at our restaurant for dinner. Among the sights that we will visit in the city are Santa Maria delle Grazie (where we'll see Leonardo's Last Supper), the duomo (Cathedral), La Scala opera house (a real treat), the medieval castle Sforzesco, and the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II for trendy (and expensive) shopping. (B, and L or D).

SEPTEMBER 17 – 19 Genoa. A two-hour drive brings us to Genoa, where we'll begin our exploration with a tour of two mediaeval palaces and a pair of lovely piazzas. Over the next two days, we'll spend some time in the area of the ancient harbour, including a glass elevator ride for a panoramic view, the city's spectacular aquarium, the Museum of the Sea, and a cruise along the coast. Both days you'll have time to explore the city on your own, shop, and find the perfect trattoria for lunch. (B, and L or D)

SEPTEMBER 20 – 22 Cinqueterre. A short drive southwest from Genoa, including a stop at the beautiful 16th-century city of Rapallo on the Mediterranean coast, brings us to the charming stretch of coast known as the Cinqueterre, where we will find our home in the attractive village of Monterosso. The next day we'll walk at a leisurely pace through the coastal villages to Manarola, returning by boat or train to Monterosso. On our last day in Cinqueterre we'll explore Monterosso itself, with its narrow streets and wine cellars, and have some time on our own to walk, shop, swim, or simply relax over a leisurely lunch. (B, and L or D).

SEPTEMBER 23 – 24 Verona. En route from the Cinqueterre to Verona, we'll stop at Parma, famous for its ham and cheese, which we can enjoy at lunch in the oldest and most famous restaurant in the city. In the afternoon we'll drive to Verona. The next day we'll explore the old city, as famous for its amphitheatre as much as its association with Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. (B, and L or D).

SEPTEMBER 25 Padua. Before driving the short journey east to Padua, we'll head to the southern shore of Lake Garda, one of the popular destinations for tourists in the 19th and early 20th centuries (including D.H. Lawrence). There, we'll visit the attractively restored Renaissance town and castle of Sirmione, where you can find a pleasant restaurant for lunch, overlooking the lake. In the afternoon we will explore Padua, including the Duomo and Baptistery, and the remarkable frescos of the Scrovegni Chapel (B, D).

SEPTEMBER 26 – 29 Venice. Most people make the rather dreary two-hour drive along the highway from Padua to Venice. Instead, we will board a comfortable river boat near Padua, and spend eight hours cruising slowly downstream along the Brenta Canal, stopping en route to visit a pair of Renaissance villas, some locks, and have lunch at a traditional restaurant, arriving about 19:30 in Venice itself. Our three days in this floating city will be busy: the first day we'll visit the famous monuments of Venice itself, including St Mark's Basilica, the Baptistery, and the Doges' Palace (and its much-photographed Bridge of Sighs), and an afternoon free for wandering on your own; the second day we'll explore three of the islands in the Venetian lagoon: Murano (famous for its glass), Burano (for lace work), and Torcello (an almost-deserted island with a pair of early mystical churches); and our last day will take us on a journey south along the Adriatic coast, to the 5th/6th-century city of Ravenna, with its late-antique and early-Byzantine monuments, many with spectacular mosaic domes and walls illustrating early Christianity in the western Mediterranean. (B, and L or D).

SEPTEMBER 30 We leave early from the hotel by boat to Marco Polo Airport to begin our flights back to Calgary. (B)

ACCOMPANYING RESOURCE PERSON

Dr. John Humphrey is a professor of history and archaeology in the Department of Greek and Roman Studies at the University of Calgary. He has excavated at sites in Greece and Turkey, and now specializes in the history of ancient technology, on which he has published two books. Since his first in 1977, he has planned and accompanied more U of C Continuing Education trips than he can remember, to Turkey, Italy, Greece, France, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, and Cyprus.

COST

AIRFARE	\$1,600
LAND, TUITION AND OTHER COSTS	6,500
GST	60
TOTAL	8,160
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	+1,200

Cost includes: Tuition and five-week orientation course, airfare, accommodation, transfers, all surface travel, and meals as listed in the itinerary. A deposit of \$500 is required with the registration form. There is a \$200 withdrawal fee prior to the final payment date. Final payment is due on March 16, 2012. Please see the Refund Policy section for withdrawal/refund procedures and liabilities. Fees are based on the information available at the time of print and are subject to change to reflect any changes in currency rates, airfares, or land costs. There are possibilities of decreases or increases, and any changes will be reflected on the final payment and passed on to the participant. All fees are based on double occupancy.