

ITALY

— Rome · Amalfi · Florence · Venice —

"In Italy, food isn't part of the story — it is the story."

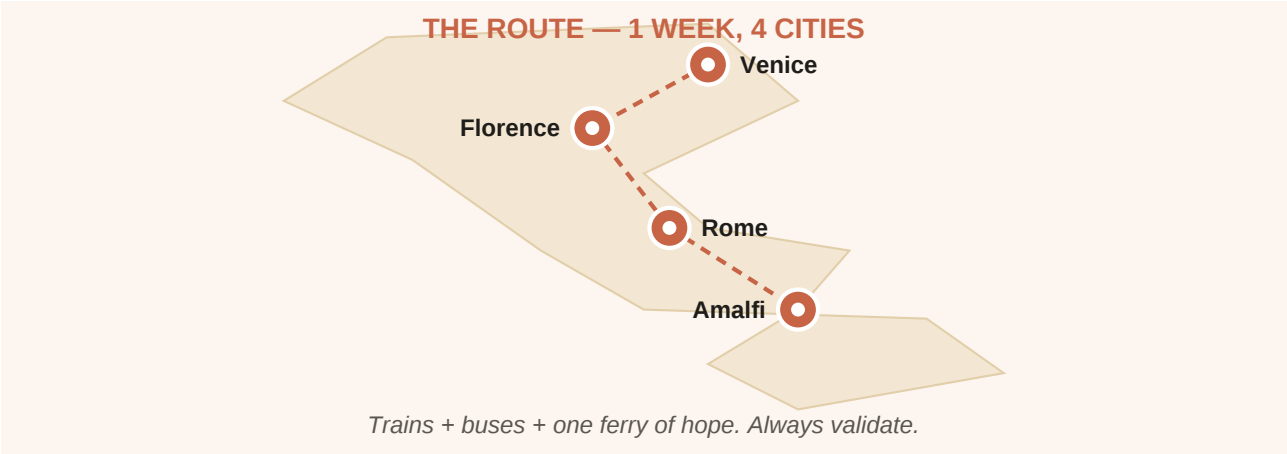


desk2destinations.com · Honesty over hype. Slow over rushed. Practical over pretty.

By Ayushi & Harshit Jain

Italy at a glance

A whirlwind week across Rome’s ancient stones, Amalfi’s coastal drama, Florence’s Renaissance soul, and Venice’s watery dream. Missed stops became memories, queues became rituals, and every city revealed layers of art, history, and food that refuse to leave you.



Best time	April — shoulder season, perfect weather, fewer crowds than peak summer.
Visa (IN)	Schengen visa for Indian passport holders; up to 90 days.
Currency	EUR (€)
Getting around	Trenitalia and Italo trains link the major cities; regional buses (SITA, Flixbus) handle secondary routes and the Amalfi coast. Venice runs on water — vaporetto and the occasional gondola.
If we did it again	We rushed Florence in a single day. Next time, three nights in Florence and a real overnight in Amalfi instead of the dawn-bus scramble back.

The top 10 — our personal highlights

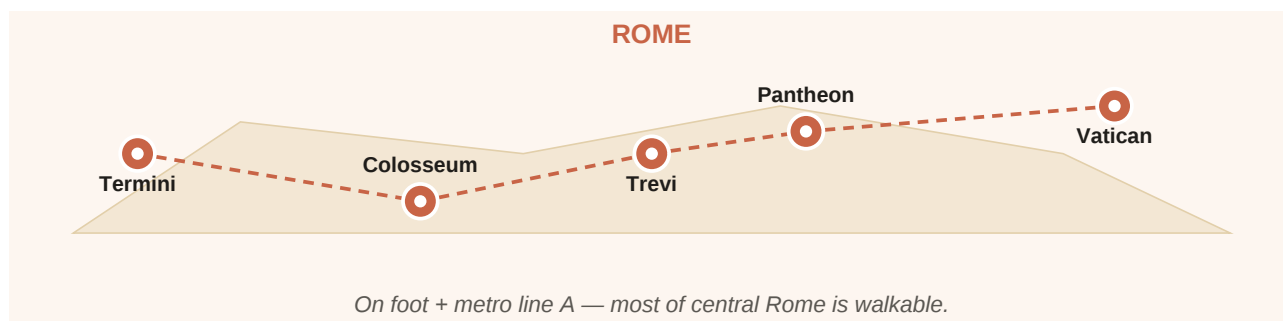
Ten moments worth flying back for. Ranked roughly in the order they made us go “oh.”

- 1 Colosseum · Rome**
2,000-year-old amphitheatre that survived earthquakes, fires and a million selfie sticks.
- 2 Trevi Fountain · Rome**
Baroque marvel collecting €1M+ a year for charity. Three coins, one wish, every time.
- 3 Vatican & Sistine Chapel · Rome**
Nine miles of museums culminating in Michelangelo's ceiling — stand still, look up.
- 4 Amalfi Coast Drive · Amalfi**
Cliffs, lemon groves, sea-sparkle and a bus driver who clearly trusts physics.
- 5 Sal De Riso, Minori · Amalfi**
Delizia al Limone by candlelight beside the Tyrrhenian. Worth every euro of the seating charge.
- 6 Leaning Tower, Pisa · Florence**
55.86 m of beautifully wrong, where Galileo did the falling-bodies thing.
- 7 Gustapizza · Florence**
Two-hour queue, two-minute revelation. Wood-fired pizza that recalibrates expectations.
- 8 Rialto Bridge · Venice**
1591 Istrian-stone arch lined with shops — the original instagram-the-canal spot.
- 9 Bridge of Sighs · Venice**
Prisoners' last view of Venice; lovers' first under the sunset. Same bridge, different stories.
- 10 Gelato, everywhere · All four**
Romeo (Rome), Venchi (Florence), and one no-name Venetian cone we still dream about.

Rome

Ancient stones, Trevi coins & the perfect tiramisu

Rome doesn't whisper — it hands history to you on a paper plate, somewhere between a slice of pizza and a fountain full of wishes. We landed off the Barcelona flight, fumbled with the Roma Pass, and let the city do the rest.



Top 5 here

- **Colosseum** — 80 AD gladiator arena — still humming.
- **Trevi Fountain** — Three coins. One wish. Try the tiramisu next door.
- **Vatican City** — St Peter's, Sistine Chapel, nine miles of museums.
- **Spanish Steps** — Hepburn-and-gelato territory; ignore the rose sellers.
- **Two Sizes** — Tiramisu in every flavour. Get more than you think.

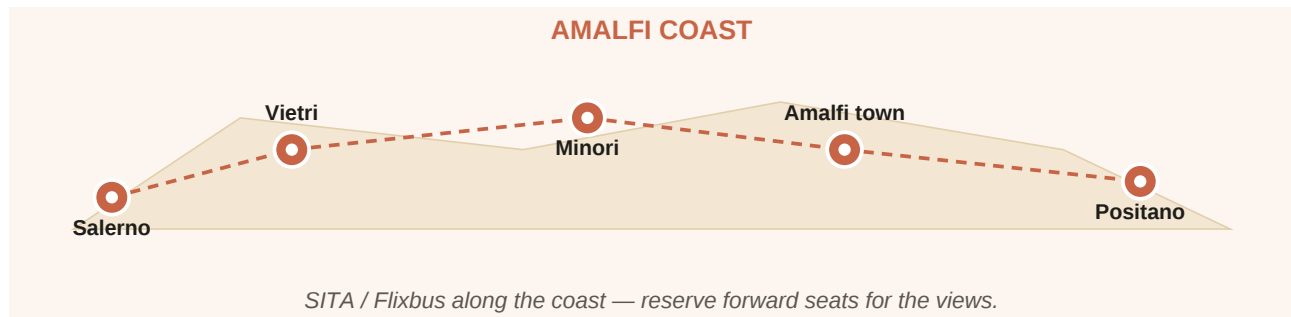
Days	1 day (we should have done 2)
Where we stayed	Airbnb near Termini — host ran late, a delivery guy let us in. Welcome to Rome.
Getting around	Bus from FCO; 24-hour Roma Pass for metro, buses and museum cuts.
Where we ate	Romeo Gelateria near the Spanish Steps, Two Sizes (tiramisu), neighbourhood pizza-and-pasta spot for a no-fuss dinner.
Reality check	Crowds are real, ticket inspectors are real, and yes — they do check at the busiest stop, not the quietest.

→ Read the full Rome guide on the site: desk2destinations.com/italy-rome.html

Amalfi Coast

Lemons, cliffs and a candlelit dinner by the Tyrrhenian

Train from Roma Termini to Salerno, a connection muddle to Vietri, a gamble back to Salerno, and finally the bus that hugs the coast. The Tyrrhenian sparkles, the lemon groves lean in, and every wrong turn turns out to be a postcard.



Top 5 here

- **Tyrrhenian drive** — The bus ride is the attraction — sit on the right.
- **Sal De Riso** — Candlelit dinner, the famed Delizia al Limone, sea breeze.
- **Beach dip & sorbet** — Cold water, cold sorbet, warm afternoon.
- **Cuoppo d'Amalfi** — Veg-friendly fried cuoppo — perfect walking food.
- **Minori apartment** — Two minutes from the pasticceria, fountain across the road.

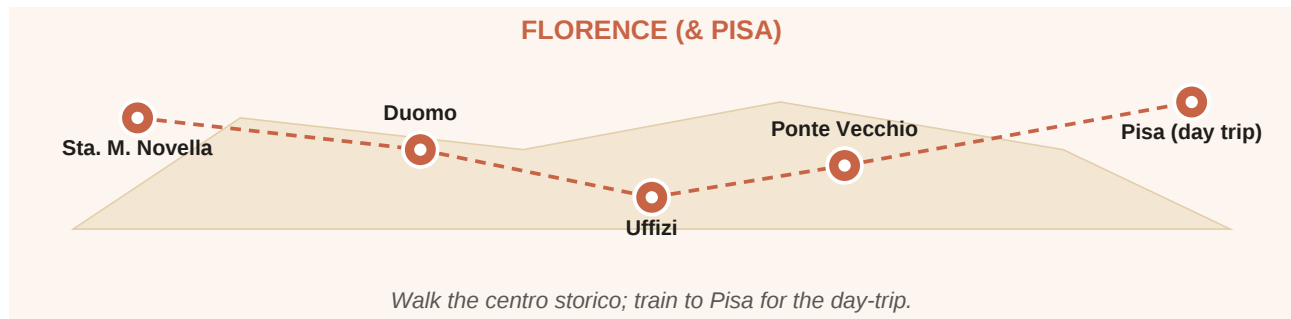
Days	2 days
Where we stayed	A small apartment in Minori with a fountain and the sea across the road — quieter and cheaper than Amalfi town itself.
Getting around	Train Roma → Salerno; then SITA bus along the coast. The 6 AM bus back to Salerno is non-negotiable if you have a morning train.
Where we ate	Sal De Riso (sit-down), Pasticceria Sal De Riso (Delizia al Limone), Cuoppo d'Amalfi for veg-friendly fried snacks, lemon sorbet at every other corner.
Reality check	Sal De Riso's seating + cutlery charge is steep; the pastries are not. Buy the lemon chocolates from a supermarket, not a tourist boutique.

→ Read the full Amalfi Coast guide on the site: desk2destinations.com/italy-amalfi.html

Florence (& Pisa)

An accidental detour that stole our hearts

We weren't supposed to be here. The Naples→Florence bus blew past our stop while we slept, dropped us in Bologna, and a €40 Flixbus rescued the day. Florence wasn't the plan, and it became the city we most want to come back to.



Top 5 here

- 📍 **Leaning Tower of Pisa** — 55.86 m, 12th-century, beautifully wrong.
- 📍 **Gustapizza** — Two hours of queue. Two minutes of bliss.
- 📍 **Duomo & dome** — Brunelleschi's dome — the Renaissance, in stone.
- 📍 **Ponte Vecchio** — Medieval bridge of jewellers; sunset works best.
- 📍 **Venchi gelato** — Cold, creamy, ruinous in the best way.

Days	1 day (next time: 3)
Where we stayed	Apartment with an elderly host who spoke no English — hand gestures and warm bread did the rest.
Getting around	Flixbus Bologna → Florence (€40, cash-saver of the trip); regional train Florence → Pisa (1.5 hr); 4 AM bus to Villa Costanza for the next leg.
Where we ate	Gustapizza (worth the queue), Venchi gelato, supermarket olive oil + chocolates as souvenirs that survive the flight home.
Reality check	Missed stops, wrong stations, two-hour queues — and still the highlight of the week. Florence rewards slowing down.

→ Read the full Florence (& Pisa) guide on the site: desk2destinations.com/italy-florence.html

Venice

Twenty-four hours in a waking dream

Five AM bus from Florence; we arrived as the canals caught the first shimmer of light. Venice is often called the Paris of Italy. It isn't. It is its own thing — romantic, chaotic, and somehow exactly enough in twenty-four hours.



Top 5 here

- **Rialto Bridge** — 1591 stone arch, shops on the deck.
- **Bridge of Sighs** — Last view of Venice; first kiss at sunset.
- **St Mark's Square** — Europe's living room.
- **I Love Italy (pasta)** — Creamy, simple, divine.
- **Old corner gelateria** — No frills. Pure magic. Forgot the name. Will find it again.

Days	1 day (somehow enough)
Where we stayed	Airbnb on the outer island — cheaper, quieter and a more honest pulse than the main tourist zone.
Getting around	Vaporetto where you must, walking everywhere else. The maze of alleys is the city, not a problem to solve.
Where we ate	I Love Italy (pasta), one tiny gelateria near the canals, risotto cooked in the apartment from a local market haul.
Reality check	The first restaurant we picked was closed on Sunday — Venice has Sunday rhythms. Don't over-plan; let the alleys do their thing.

→ Read the full Venice guide on the site: desk2destinations.com/italy-venice.html

Costs — where the rupees went

Mid-range, vegetarian-friendly, two travellers splitting stays. Numbers are per-person, rounded honestly. Flights vary the most — we bought ours 5 weeks out.

Category	Detail	Approx ■ / pp
Flights	IN → Rome via Barcelona	■45,000
Trains	Rome → Salerno → Florence → Venice	■12,000
Buses	Flixbus rescues + Amalfi coast SITA	■4,500
Stays	4 Airbnbs across 7 nights	■42,000
Food	Trattorias, Sal De Riso dinner, daily gelato	■32,000
Attractions	Roma Pass, Vatican, Pisa, museums	■10,000
Local transit	Vaporetto, metro, validated tickets	■4,000
Souvenirs & extras	Limoncello, olive oil, lemon chocolates	■6,000

Total: ■1,80,000 – 2,20,000 per person, all-in (1 week, mid-range)

One last thing

Always validate train tickets at the platform machine — inspectors do check, and the fines are not friendly to tourists.

Follow [@desk2destinations_](#) on Instagram for new diaries and reels, or drop us a note via desk2destinations.com/contact.html. If we got a city wrong, or you want one we haven't covered yet — that's the place to tell us.