



# Art and Landscapes of Italy's Piedmont, Emilia-Romagna and the Ligurian Coast 2027

20 APR – 7 MAY 2027

Code: 22708

Tour Leaders **David Henderson**

Fitness Level 

**Level 2 - Intermediate**

For people with energetic lifestyles and very good mobility

Discover the art, history and cuisine of Northern Italy, from Turin in Piedmont to Bologna in Emilia-Romagna. Explore magnificent cities, castles, art collections and the exquisite Ligurian Coast.

## Overview

Join David Henderson, on a captivating journey through the diverse landscapes of Northern Italy from Turin to Bologna.

- Discover Turin, capital of Piedmont, where the city's powerful past is evident in its fine palaces, villas, cathedral and art collections.
- Explore the hills of Piedmont where beautifully preserved and seldom visited castles and churches display medieval and early Renaissance frescoes, and enjoy lunch at a Piedmontese winery to experience the wine and cuisine for which the region is renowned.
- Stroll along Genoa's UNESCO-Listed Le Strade Nuove, the main street of the old town lined with palaces, some now hosting galleries, restaurants and boutiques. Visit some of the finest palaces and museums - the Palazzo del Principe, Palazzo Real and the Palazzi dei Rolli.
- Enjoy the exquisite scenery of the Ligurian Coast. Visit charming villages including Portofino and Porto Venere, the gardens of La Cevara Abbey with views over the Ligurian Sea and the Abbazia San Fruttuoso nestled in a secluded cove.
- Travel by boat and spend a leisurely day visiting the Cinque Terre, the famed villages that cling to the Ligurian Coastline.
- Visit the towns of Emilia-Romagna, each with outstanding treasures. Tour the Castello Fontanellato home to Parmigianino's fresco cycle depicting *Diana and Actaeon*; visit the Museo Violino in Cremona and hear the unforgettable sound of their Stradivarius violin; walk in ancient Roman footsteps at Bescia's archaeological park; visit the jewel that is Parma's Teatro Farnese; and explore Mantua's mannerist Palazzo del Te and the Ducal Palace, home to the powerful Gonzaga family.
- Enjoy rejuvenated Bologna, capital of Emilia-Romagna and home to fine galleries, churches and a thriving food scene that proudly promotes the fine produce of the region, from prosciutto to parmigiana, balsamic vinegar and tortellini.
- This tour is limited to 16 participants.

Overnight Turin (4 nights) • Genoa (4 nights) • La Spezia (2 nights) • Cremona (3 nights) • Mantua (2 nights) • Bologna (2 nights)

### Overview

While not as well-known as Rome, Venice or Tuscany, the cities of Genoa and Turin and the regions of Piedmont, Liguria, Emilia-Romagna and Lombardy boast immense patrimonies; they have made global contributions to the arts, sciences and industry far out of proportion to their sizes.

Since the time of classical antiquity, the urban populations of northern Italy have been understood as iterations of a fundamental and enduring political unit: the *civitas*. Relationships of power and status were negotiated within the context of the *civitas* which remains to this day the primary reference point for cultural identity. Most importantly, Italy's vibrant urban centres evolved into spaces which enabled the conditions under which the extraordinary creative energy of the Italian genius was able to flourish.

The largest of the cities of the north are today regional capitals, governing areas which still follow the broad outlines of the administrative subdivisions established by the Emperor Augustus. Our tour will focus on four of modern Italy's regions, the landscapes of which are also inextricably linked with local cultural identity, and present a remarkable variety within a relatively small area. From the pre-alpine hills to the north of Turin to the fertile plains of the Po Valley, and from the headlands and bays of Liguria to its thickly wooded hinterland, each speaks of distinctive, centuries-old traditions of agriculture, cuisine, vernacular building and artistic expression.

## Leaders



### David Henderson

Award-winning artist & Royal Academy graduate who paints half the year in Italy, David brings an artist's eye & profound knowledge of European art to ASA tours.

After initial studies in architecture, David Henderson spent four years at London's Royal Academy Schools where he was awarded the S.J. Solomon prize for figure painting and was twice selected for the Academy's annual summer exhibition. Since then, he has held over 30 solo exhibitions in London, Rome, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. His work has been selected for a number of prestigious group exhibitions, including the New English Art Club, the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize and Tattersall's Landscape Prize. David has been the recipient of numerous awards including - on two occasions - Best of Show at the Brisbane Rotary art exhibition. In 2021, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Queensland Art Society. David has lectured for the Queensland Art Gallery, Queensland University of Technology and the Brisbane Institute of Art. He has accompanied over 50 tours for ASA to Italy, France, the UK and the USA and now spends a part of each year living and working in Italy. David brings a trained artist's eye to an analysis of painting, sculpture and architecture and takes great pleasure in sharing his knowledge.

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### *Combine this tour with*

#### **Andalucía: Cultural Landscapes of Southern Spain 2027**

30 MAR – 16 APR 2027

#### **Türkiye Beyond the Euphrates: Discovering the Eastern Frontier 2027**

14 MAY – 1 JUN 2027

#### **Spectacular Landscapes, Gardens, Imperial Cities & Kasbahs of Morocco 2027**

1 APR – 20 APR 2027

#### **Spring Garden Masterpieces of England and the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2027**

12 MAY – 21 MAY 2027

#### **Great Monuments, Art and Gardens of the Côte d'Azur, Provence and the Cévennes 2027**

12 MAY – 28 MAY 2027



## Itinerary

This itinerary lists a range of sites which we plan to visit, some of which require special permission and therefore may only be confirmed closer to the tour's departure. The daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified to accommodate alterations in opening hours and confirmation of private visits. Meals included in the tour price are indicated where: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=dinner.

### Turin - 4 nights

Day 1: Tuesday 20 April, Arrive Turin

- Meet in the hotel foyer at 2pm
- Orientation walk of the city
- Palazzo Reale
- Turin Cathedral
- Church of San Lorenzo
- Welcome Dinner at a Local Restaurant

**Meeting Point:** The tour commences at 2pm in the foyer of the [Grand Hotel Sitea](#) which is located in the historic centre.

The city of Turin's moment of fame in the history of modern Italy arrived in 1861 when it briefly took on the role of both national capital and residence of its first king, Victor Emmanuel II, heir to the throne of Savoy. Prior to this Turin had been the capital of a small but prosperous sovereign nation, and as such retains to this day a grandeur normally associated with larger cities, its squares and monuments confidently proclaiming its royal status.

This afternoon's guided walking tour of the historic centre will take in the royal palace, cathedral and church of San Lorenzo. The itinerary provides an opportunity to become acquainted with the work of one of the greatest of all Baroque designers: Guarino Guarini. The brilliantly original schemes of this architect,

mathematician, priest and philosopher look back to Gothic and Moorish structures while anticipating the rational, geometric designs of the 20th century. Our welcome dinner will be in a local restaurant. (Overnight Turin) D

#### Day 2: Wednesday 21 April, Turin

- Mole Antonelliana
- Palazzo Madama
- Egyptian Museum

Our morning's itinerary begins at the Mole Antonelliana, a monumental structure begun in 1863 in which we see a kind of fusion of the forms of both dome and spire. Originally commissioned as the city's synagogue, the Mole was later adapted to a variety of uses and now houses a museum of cinema. Its distinctive silhouette has made it an immediately recognisable symbol of the city of Turin.

Our next visit is to the Palazzo Madama, named for one of its most distinguished residents, a Savoy regent popularly known as 'Madama Reale'. While its reconstruction by architect Filippo Juvara was never fully realised, the building's high vestibule containing a grand staircase is considered to be a masterpiece of late Baroque design. Today it is the home of the Museum of Ancient Art, containing a fine collection of works from the 8th to the 18th centuries.

This afternoon we will be looking at Turin's Egyptian Museum, the oldest of its kind in the world, containing a collection second only to that of the Cairo Museum. Founded by King Carlo Felice of Savoy in 1824, it represents an invaluable resource for scholars and Egyptologists to this day. (Overnight Turin) B

#### Day 3: Thursday 22 April, Turin

- Sacra di San Michele
- Villa Venaria Reale

Today's exploration by private bus of the area surrounding the city of Turin begins at the Sacra di San Michele monastery. As befits its association with Michael, the warrior-saint, the complex is thought to have begun its existence in the Roman era as a military stronghold located on a strategic point on the mountain road between Gaul and Italy. It later flourished as a Benedictine monastery, and today its picturesque silhouette, said to have inspired Umberto Eco, evokes the world described by the writer in 'The Name of the Rose'.

From here, we will be transferred to the Villa Venaria Reale, which represents another dimension to the splendid world of the Savoy dukes and kings. Begun in the mid 17th century as a hunting lodge, by the 18th century this estate had become a stately residence conceived along the lines of Versailles: a place where the court could gather against a backdrop of spacious galleries and formal gardens. This transformation was undertaken by the leading architects of the day including Filippo Juvarra. Following extensive renovations begun in 1999, the complex now incorporates an impressive range of functions and activities including a conservation centre, space for contemporary art, and nature reserve. (Overnight Turin) B

#### Day 4: Friday 23 April, Turin

- Galleria Sabauda
- Pinacoteca Agnelli

The morning's program begins with a visit to the Galleria Sabauda, Turin's main art museum, containing an important collection of works amassed by the Savoy family over the years. It includes paintings by Botticelli, Titian, Van Dyck, and Rembrandt. Highlights include a luminous Madonna by Fra Angelico, Van Eyck's *St Francis receiving the Stigmata*, and a dramatic *Annunciation* by Orazio Gentileschi.

Our afternoon visit to the Pinacoteca Agnelli enables us to enjoy a first-rate private collection of works by artists as diverse as Canaletto, Manet, and Picasso while marvelling at the highly successful adaptation of an industrial building as a space for culture. Transformed by Renzo Piano in 2002, the original Fiat factory of the 1920s is now an exhibition and events centre. This historic building has retained many of its original features including a rooftop testing area which once gave drivers the experience of circumnavigating its inclined track at exhilarating speeds. (Overnight Turin) B

### Genoa - 4 nights

Day 5: Saturday 24 April, Turin – Castello Della Manta – Bastia Mondovi – Genoa

- Castello della Manta
- Lunch at a local Winery
- San Fiorenzo in Bastia Mondovi

Leaving Turin, our journey towards Genoa enables us to pause to visit two remarkable sites which present themselves as something of a complementary pair, each providing a fascinating window onto the moral and intellectual universe of Piedmont in the 15th century. At the Castello della Manta we shall immerse ourselves in the enchanting world of a late Gothic court. The frescoes showing heroes, heroines, and the fountain of youth reflect a moment of transition between Medieval and Renaissance: even as they they celebrate a rarefied ambience of courtly refinement, the incipient vision of antiquity of the humanists makes itself known.

After lunch at a local winery, we travel a little further along the road to the Church of San Fiorenzo where the emphasis in the near-contemporary frescoes is on the next world rather than this one. With the unadorned directness of a demotic sermon, the vast and elaborate story of sin and redemption familiar to Christians is shown, culminating in vivid and engaging depictions of Heaven and Hell. (Overnight Genoa) BL

Day 6: Sunday 25 April, Genoa

- UNESCO-Listed Le Strade Nuove
- The Palazzi dei Rolli: Palazzo Rosso, Palazzo Bianco, Palazzo Doria Tursi
- Afternoon at Leisure

In the early Middle Ages, the political, social and economic recovery of Italy following the collapse of the Roman empire was led by its maritime republics, as testified by the ensign of modern Italy which bears symbols of the cities of Amalfi, Pisa, Venice and Genoa. Of these, it was the last pair which emerged in the later Medieval period as mercantile centres of immense wealth – and with with a rivalry to match. Atlantic trade and the domination of the eastern Mediterranean by the Ottomans later meant each suffered a gradual decline, although the fortunes of the Genoese took an unexpected turn for the better when they reinvented themselves as bankers in the 16th century. It was in this period that some of Europe's almost magnificent streetscapes were constructed in the Ligurian capital's centre. Here, the Baroque and Mannerist facades of the palaces of Genoa's noble families simultaneously proclaim patriotic virtue and dynastic pride.

We spend today investigating the architecture, history and artistic treasures contained within this unique urban landscape, now classified as a UNESCO world heritage site. The afternoon is at leisure. (Overnight Genoa) B

#### Day 7: Monday 26 April, Genoa – Portofino Peninsula – Genoa

- La Cervara Abbey
- Portofino
- Abbazia San Fruttuoso

With its rugged coastline, the region of Liguria was always going to look to the sea rather than inland. This dramatic natural environment, closely integrated with human settlement has resulted in some of the Mediterranean coast's most striking landscapes. Today we visit three of these: two relatively unknown, the other justly celebrated. The first, La Cervara began as a monastic foundation in the 14th century, and is now in private hands. While its chapel is now more likely to accommodate a celebrity wedding than the requirements of a monastic community, La Cervara's wild and lovely setting overlooking the Gulf of Tigullio is unchanged.

The second, the town of Portofino similarly presents a beguiling image to the visitor: rows of houses painted in warm colours are reflected in the waters of an inlet, in turn surrounded by verdant hills. The image of a safe enclosure is reinforced by a castle perched high above its entrance. Like so many settlements along the Ligurian and adjoining French coasts, this town retains an authentic charm which transcends its present day identity, one sitting uneasily between sleepy fishing village and high-end resort.

Our third visit today is to San Fruttuoso, an abbey founded in the uncertain period of the 8th century. San Fruttuoso's location beneath rocky headlands overlooking a secluded bay would have made it all but invisible to the crews of Saracen raiding ships while at the same time protecting it from potential land-based threats. Embellished with additional defensive works provided by the wealthy Doria family in the 16th century, this abbey today represents one of the happiest juxtapositions of topography and architecture to be seen along this stretch of the coast. (Overnight Genoa) B

#### Day 8: Tuesday 27 April, Genoa

- Palazzo del Principe
- Palazzo Reale

This morning we visit the Villa del Principe, the grandest of all of Genoa's noble dwellings, dating to the early 16th century. Like so many of his contemporaries among Italy's elites, its owner Andrea Doria intended to emulate the ancient Romans by constructing a 'villa suburbana', a country house located just outside the city – although this has since been absorbed within the fabric of present-day Genoa. Doria, the republic's supreme naval commander sought to distance himself from local political intrigues, and his villa became the centre of a vital Renaissance culture. Decorated by some of the period's leading artists, it was once a venue for princely receptions and events, hosting such geopolitical titans as the Emperor Charles V and King Phillip II of Spain.

Begun in 1643, the magnificent Palazzo Reale underwent numerous additions throughout its history under the ownership of the Balbi and Durazzo families. It was eventually acquired by the Savoy family on the occasion of the annexation of the territories of Genoa to the Kingdom of Sardinia in 1815, a date marking the definitive end of this once-mighty republic. Our visit to the interiors of this palace provides an insight into the extravagant tastes of the Genoese during the city's golden age. The collection of paintings includes

a portrait by the young Anthony Van Dyck whose depictions of the local nobility in attitudes of effortless grandeur would contribute to his subsequent international fame. (Overnight Genoa) B

### La Spezia - 2 nights

Day 9: Wednesday 28 April, Genoa – Porto Venere – Lerici – La Spezia

- Church of San Lorenzo, Porto Venere
- Church of San Pietro, Porto Venere
- Museo Amedeo Lia, La Spezia

Our exploration of Liguria continues as we journey south to some of the most evocative of the region's coastal towns. On the coast of Porto Venere, the bell tower, defensive walls and striped facade of the Romanesque church of San Pietro seem to have grown out of the rocky headland. The legendary exploits of the Romantic poets are enshrined in these landscapes: Byron spent time in Porto Venere and once swam some eight kilometres across the Gulf of La Spezia to visit his friend Shelley in Lerici.

After lunch, we visit the town of La Spezia to view the Amadeo Lia Museum. While little known, this private collection contains works by some of the greatest names in Italian art including Giotto, Pietro Lorenzetti, Salvator Rosa and Canaletto. (Overnight La Spezia) BD

Day 10: Thursday 29 April, La Spezia – Cinque Terre Villages – La Spezia

- Boat excursion along the Ligurian Coast to the Cinque Terre Villages

We shall be acquainting ourselves with some of the most extraordinary of all of the landscapes of the Ligurian littoral today as we visit the famous Cinque Terre – the 'Five Lands' – a string of towns perched above the sea to the north of Porto Venere. The remarkable state of preservation of the traditions as well as architecture of this area is largely due to the fact that until relatively recently its all but impenetrable topography prevented access from the inland. While a railway was built in the 19th century, it was not until the postwar period that a modern road was established. Trade was always possible by sea however, and the Cinque Terre have been famous for their wines since the Middle Ages. The 'vernaccia' mentioned by Boccaccio in the 14th century is still grown today on a vast complex of stone terraces built into the vertiginous hinterland. Our exploration of the area by boat and on foot will focus on the unique combination of fishing and wine making which has sustained the local economy for centuries. (Overnight La Spezia) BD

### Cremona - 3 nights

Day 11: Friday 30 April, La Spezia – Mamiano – Fontanellato – Cremona

- Magnani Rocca Foundation
- Castello Fontanellato (Rocca Sanvitale)

Today's visit to the Fondazione Magnani-Rocca provides not only an opportunity to enjoy a collection of paintings to rival those of many public museums, but also to reflect on the economic strength associated with the rich farming and agricultural lands of Emilia-Romagna. Heir to an empire based on sugar beet, Parmesan cheese and other products associated with this region, Luigi Magnani-Rocca bequeathed works by Titian, Goya, Renoir, and many others to a private foundation, now open to the public. In addition to this generous legacy, the foundation includes a garden unlike any other in Italy, constituted as it is by a fusion of its this country's three principal garden types. Here, a classic Italian scheme characterised by manicured

parterres is juxtaposed against its historical successor, one based on the park-like expanses of an English 'romantic' garden. The third kind of garden is represented by a contemporary layout with its emphasis on originality of design and effects derived from botanical variety.

The Castello di Fontanellato was begun in the period characterised by struggles between supporters of the Holy Roman Empire and those who backed Papal and communal factions in the 12th century. Additions were regularly made by its many inhabitants over the following 600 years, and the complex we see today is both functional military structure and luxurious aristocratic residence. A highlight of our tour of the castle is a room decorated with a fresco cycle representing the myth of Diana and Actaeon, an early masterpiece in the Mannerist style by Parmigianino dating to the mid 1520s. (Overnight Cremona) B

#### Day 12: Saturday 1 May, Cremona

- Cremona city tour
- Museo Violino
- Chiesa Parrocchiale di Sant'Agostino
- Museo Civico Ala Ponzzone

Walking amongst its elegant inhabitants and fine civic buildings, the modern-day visitor to Cremona sees a prosperous, medium-sized city like many others in northern Italy. Cremona is distinguished however by its status as home to makers of the world's finest stringed instruments. Our guided tour of the historic centre of the city will introduce us to the traditions associated with its *lutieri*, including of course the most celebrated of all, Antonio Stradivari. The improvement of violins with age is said to be enhanced by regularly playing, and our morning tour of the Museo Violino includes a brief recital on one of these priceless instruments.

Among the artistic highlights to be discovered after lunch are a fine altarpiece by Perugino, and a painting by Caravaggio showing St Francis in meditation. The latter is a particularly moving work, as much a self-portrait revealing the inner turmoil of the troubled genius who made it as a depiction of the saint in anguished prayer. (Overnight Cremona) B

#### Day 13: Sunday 2 May, Cremona – Brescia – Cremona

- Santa Giulia Museum
- Archaeological Park, including Roman Theatre and Capitoline Temple
- Duomo Vecchio
- Pinacoteca Tosio Martinengo

The region of Lombardy in which Brescia is located takes its name from the Lombards or Longobards, a tribe of fierce Germanic warriors who took control of much of the Italian peninsula in the 6th and 7th centuries. Today's visit to the monumental Santa Giulia Museum UNESCO & Archaeological Park provides an unparalleled introduction to this fascinating period in European history. Located in a monastery which incorporates a church dating to the Lombard era, this complex includes an archaeological area in which the remains of Roman-era houses can be seen, along with a museum.

The town of Brescia is unique in that it contains not one, but two cathedrals. The first is a monumental Baroque structure, the other a round building in the Romanesque style, thought to be the largest of its kind in Italy. Our afternoon's visits will also take in the local art museum whose collection of works by lesser-known painters such as Moretto and Francesco Hayez provides an insight into the extraordinary range and quality of art produced in this region from the 16th century onwards. (Overnight Cremona) B

## Mantua - 2 days

Day 14: Monday 3 May, Cremona – Sabbioneta – Mantua

- Palazzo Ducale, Sabbioneta
- Teatro all'Antica, Sabbioneta
- Galleria degli Antichi, Sabbioneta
- Parmigiano tour dairy production & tasting

Established by Vespasiano Gonzaga at the end of the 16th century, Sabbioneta is a rare example of the principles of Renaissance urban planning brought to their full realisation. Located precariously between a number of more powerful city states, its fortified walls and military structures are a testament to the delicate balance of trade and military power in this region. Containing a ducal palace, antique theatre designed by Palladio's pupil Vincenzo Scamozzi, and gallery of antiquities, Sabbioneta's great stylistic integrity and architectural clarity have assured its place as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The farming area around Parma is of course celebrated, and not least of all for one of the world's best known cheeses: Parmesan, or Parmigiano. This afternoon's program includes a tour of a dairy followed by a cheese tasting. (Overnight Mantua) B

Day 15: Tuesday 4 May, Mantua

- Ducal Palace
- Palazzo del Te

Mantua's foundation dates to Etruscan times; under the ruling Gonzaga family it would become one of the most influential centres of the Renaissance in Italy. The Gonzaga used the prestige of high art to reinforce their authority as diplomats and soldiers as they negotiated the perilous arena of Italian statecraft. Our tour of this most evocative of historic city centres begins in the ducal palace. While virtually all of the legendary Gonzaga collection was sold off or plundered centuries ago, the 'Camera degli Sposi', the room frescoed by court painter Andrea Mantegna remains as perhaps the most vivid depiction of a cultivated humanist prince and his entourage in existence. Equally groundbreaking was Leon Battista Alberti's design for the nearby church of Sant' Andrea. Alberti's brilliant adaptation of the vaults and triumphal arches of Roman architecture to a place of Christian worship would be a point of reference for Italy's most innovative designers for centuries to come.

After lunch, our tour of Mantua continues at the Palazzo del Te, completed in 1534. This villa was conceived by its builder Federico Gonzaga as both a retreat from the city and place to throw lavish parties for high-ranking guests. Its architect and decorator Giulio Romano interpreted the intentions of his patron with great insight, creating a building whose audacious re-imagining of the classical language of architecture reconciles high seriousness with playful caprice. Similarly, Giulio's boldly conceived frescoes are by turns comical, lewd and dignified. Palazzo del Te is considered to be one of the most significant buildings of its time, and represents an important moment in the genesis of the Mannerist style. (Overnight Mantua) B

## Bologna - 2 nights

Day 16: Wednesday 5 May, Mantua – Parma – Bologna

- Galleria nazionale di Parma
- Teatro Farnese, Parma
- Duomo and Baptistery, Parma

Just as Mantua is identified with the Gonzaga, so the history of Parma is inextricably linked with the powerful Farnese clan. The origins of the Farnese as petty strongmen with territories to the north of Rome give little hint of their subsequent status. Not only would they produce one of history's most influential popes, Paul III, but they would also go on to establish themselves as lords of Parma, eventually marrying into some of Europe's most illustrious families. The Farnese were major patrons of art, much of it conserved in Parma's Galleria Nazionale. Our visit to the Palazzo Pilotta's rich collection provides an opportunity to look closely at work by the city's two greatest artists, Correggio and Parmigianino, and to see the Teatro Farnese, a rare example of a 16th century theatre.

Our afternoon visit to the city centre of Parma takes in the cathedral whose dome is decorated with frescoes by Correggio. This artist's visionary scheme showing a profusion of figures borne aloft on clouds represents a milestone in the history of art. Correggio's dome is the ancestor of innumerable airy scenes painted on the domes and ceilings of palaces and churches throughout Europe. We shall also pause to admire Parma's famous baptistery, begun in 1196, and clad in glowing pink stone. (Overnight Bologna) B

#### Day 17: Thursday 6 May, Bologna

- City walking tour
- Basilica of S. Stephano
- Palazzo Magnani Salem (Carracci frescoes)
- Pinacoteca Nazionale
- Afternoon at leisure
- Farewell Dinner at a Local Restaurant

There are many reasons why the city of Bologna can claim to be one of the most distinguished in Italy. It is home to Europe's oldest continuously operating university, and is considered to be the country's food capital. Our morning walking tour of its historic centre will take us through atmospheric streets of harmonious red brick flanked by fine churches and lofty medieval towers. Bologna's artistic heritage is also noteworthy. In the late 16th century, an ambitious family of painters known as the Carracci established an art academy which fostered an innovative approach to painting based on a close study of the most prominent Italian artists to date. The most flamboyantly gifted of these, Annibale Carracci would play a central role in the development of the Baroque, a style which would come to define European art in the 17th century. Our afternoon visits to the Palazzo Magnani and Pinacoteca Nazionale will enable us to trace the course of these important threads in art history.

Bologna's contribution to the visual arts did not end with the Carracci. It was also home to Giorgio Morandi, often named as Italy's greatest 20th century artist. Emerging as an exponent of the 'Pittura metafisica' movement around the time of the First World War, Morandi is best known for his still lifes and landscapes. A painter of great economy and directness, Morandi's biscuit-coloured objects and silent farmhouses convey a powerful sense of the strange beauty of the everyday. An afternoon at leisure will provide an opportunity to explore works and places associated with this most enigmatic of artistic personalities, including a reconstruction of his studio. Our farewell meal this evening at a local restaurant will provide us with the opportunity to sample Bologna's famous cuisine. (Overnight Bologna) BD

#### Day 18: Friday 7 May, Depart Bologna

- Tour concludes in the morning

Our tour ends in Bologna after breakfast. In the morning you will be required to check out of the hotel. Please contact ASA if you require assistance with a transfer to Bologna Airport. B

## Accommodation

ASA has selected 4- and 5-star hotels many of which are themselves historical buildings and/or are located in historical centres.

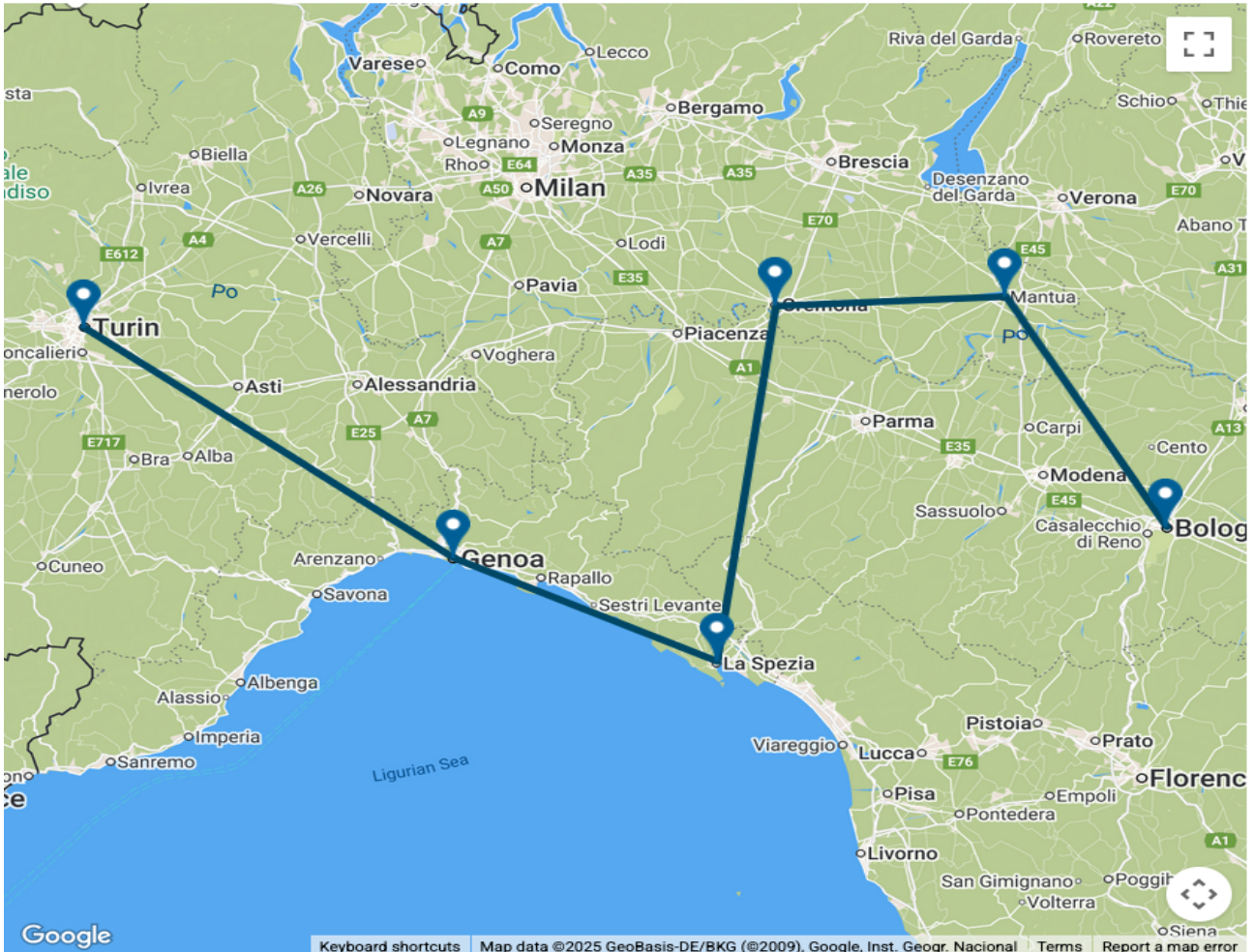
- Turin (4 nights): 5-star [Grand Hotel Sitea](#) – located in the historic centre with a garden sanctuary and refined Carignano restaurant.
- Genoa (4 nights): 5-star [Grand Hotel Savoia](#) – a Belle Époque hotel located in the historic centre, within walking distance to Palazzo del Principe.
- La Spezia (2 nights): 4-star [NH La Spezia](#) – a contemporary hotel, located on the promenade, in front of the departure point for boats headed to the Cinque Terre.
- Cremona (3 nights): 4-star [DelleArti Design Hotel](#) – winner of the 2002 Award for best new design hotel in Europe, located near the Cathedral and the Violin Museum.
- Mantua (2 nights): 4-star [Grand Hotel San Lorenzo](#) – housed in a historic building with a roof terrace overlooking Piazza delle Erbe and the Rotonda di San Lorenzo.
- Bologna (2 nights): 4-star [Art Hotel Orologio](#) – a boutique hotel overlooking Piazza Maggiore square in Bologna's historic centre.

Note: *Hotels are subject to change, in which case a hotel of similar standard will be provided.*

### Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a double room for single occupancy throughout the tour. The number of rooms available for single use is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

## Tour Map



## Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$13,890.00 Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 30 June 2026

AUD \$14,290.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$2440.00 Single Supplement

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 4- and 5-star hotels
- Meals as indicated in the tour itinerary, where: **B**=breakfast, **L**=lunch & **D**=dinner
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included.
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels where available
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Entrance fees
- Use of audio headsets during site visits
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia-Turin, Bologna-Australia
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance



## Fitness Criteria & Practical Information

Fitness Level 

### Level 2 - Intermediate

For people with energetic lifestyles and very good mobility

You must be able to:

- manage at least five to six hours of physical activity per day with ease.
- walk at a regular to moderate pace on flat or undulating terrain.
- negotiate challenging historic sites with several flights of stairs
- stand for one to two hours during visits to galleries and museums without the need to sit.
- manage your own luggage at some hotels.

### Fitness Levels

Please also view the fitness criteria required for our tours, graded from Level 1 to Level 3, at [www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/](http://www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/)

All ASA tours are active programs suitable for people with a good level of mental and physical fitness and good mobility. They are not suitable for people who lack stamina, have difficulty walking at the group's pace or who have mobility issues. An unavoidable aspect of every tour is the need to manage walking, stair-climbing and standing for long periods of time.

It is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. Before enrolling on an ASA tour please read the fitness requirements carefully.

## Booking Conditions

### ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD \$1000.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.



# Reservation Application

TOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
TOUR DATES \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

## Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr  Mrs  Ms  Miss  Dr  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
MIDDLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_  
POSTAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_  
TEL. (AH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. (BH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL address \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER Male  Female

Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Nationality \_\_\_\_\_  
 Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed  I'm renewing my passport  ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

Covid Certificate  A copy of my current international certificate enclosed

## Travel Plans

I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
 I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.

## Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like:  a twin-bedded room  a double-bedded room  a room for sole occupancy  
I am travelling:  on my own  with a friend/family member Travel Companion \_\_\_\_\_

## Meals

I do not have any specific dietary requests

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

fish  poultry  red meat  dairy products  
 eggs  pork  nuts  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

## Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence  Postal Mail  Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency Contact Details

Note: this person **MUST** be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Traveller \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
TEL. (AH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. (BH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL address \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at [www.asatours.com.au](http://www.asatours.com.au)
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. [www.traveldoctor.com.au](http://www.traveldoctor.com.au) tel: 1300 658 444; [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au) tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

## Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. **You must also be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.** If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

- |   | YES                   | NO                    |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions?               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted?            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted?                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places?      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. Can you administer your own medication?  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. You do NOT have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

## Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program? YES NO
- If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances? YES NO
- If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything?
- If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you carry an epipen?

3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs?
- If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

## Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour? YES NO
- If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine?

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

**Diabetics:** You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

3. Are you diabetic?

Are you insulin dependent?

4. Do you suffer from travel sickness?
- Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.

## Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept the inherent dangers, risks and uncertainties in travel and those beyond ASA's control and understand they may occur before or during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but only for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services associated with the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of booking, preparing for, travelling to, on and from or cancelling any tour.

I release and indemnify ASA with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour;
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
  - a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
  - b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
  - c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally; and
  - d. any event or happening beyond ASA's control
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of any tour, part of a tour or of my continued participation on a tour for any reason (subject to ASA's refund conditions below).

## Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products, services, terms and conditions. If a service provider cancels or does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, and does not give a refund, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (e.g. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, border closures, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any tour service provider or authority however caused (contingencies). You must take out such travel insurance as is available against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour cancelled or changed will be limited to the partial refund of amounts you have paid, less an administration fee of \$500 and other costs and charges of third party service providers. No compensation will be payable to you by ASA where ASA cancels or changes a tour, or any part of a tour.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate and in the best interests of health, safety and wellbeing of tour participants. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

## Booking Conditions

### DEPOSITS

A non-refundable deposit of \$1000.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

### CANCELLATION FEES

If you cancel your booking the following charges apply:

More than 75 days before departure: your initial deposit of \$1000.00 is non-refundable.\*\*

75-31 days prior 50% of total amount due

30-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

\*\*\$500.00 of this amount (ie 50% of your deposit) may be credited to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.

***We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.***

### UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions or services of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

### WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

### FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

## PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW

I accept the conditions on this booking form  I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature

Print Full Name

Dated

## Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Traveller 2 \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

The above amount is payable for:

- Intention to Travel     Tour Deposit  
 Balance of Payment     Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit  
 Travel Insurance     Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

## International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate
- via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg. Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

### By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

### Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

### Australians Studying Abroad bank details

**Bank** ANZ  
**Branch** 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic  
**Swift Code** ANZBAU3M  
**BSB** 013-423  
**Account No** 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. \_\_\_\_\_

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

Date Money Transferred \_\_\_\_\_

### Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard, Visa & American Express 2%

Please debit my:  Mastercard  Visa  American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code (CVC) \_\_\_\_\_

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ) \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Signature \_\_\_\_\_