

Opera & Ballet in Milan 4-nights, departing 21 September 2022



Indulge in your love of Opera and join us for this four-night opera and ballet break to Milan.

Discover the heart of Milan, home of Renaissance Italy. See Milan's famous Duomo, a much-loved symbol of the city which dominates the Piazza del Duomo, and one of the largest Gothic churches in the world. Explore the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele shopping arcade, a highlight of Italy's fashion capital. Luxuriate in two evening at the famous La Scala Opera House, *Il Matrimonio Segreto* and *Onegin* in ballet. The famous La Scala opera house was inaugurated in 1778 and was built on the site of a previous theatre that was destroyed by fire. Today it is seen as one of the leading Opera Houses of the world.

Day 1 – Wednesday 21 September 2022

Your tour will start with a morning flight to Milan. Flying with Aer Lingus, your flight departs Dublin at 07:00 and arrives into Milan at 10:35. On arrival in Milan, meet your local guide for transfer to the 4* Hotel de la Sina where you are booked for four-nights on a bed & breakfast basis.

Your hotel: Hotel de la Sina Ville

The 4-star Hotel Sina De La Ville is just a few steps away from the Duomo. Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, La Rinascente department store and La Scala Theatre are all less than five minutes' walk, while the Via Montenapoleone boutiques can be reached in 10 minutes. In the immediate surroundings of the hotel you'll find Hoepli, one of Milan's best historic bookshops, and several bars and restaurants.. The hotel offers a buffet breakfast.

Arrival time at your hotel is approximately 12:00

The afternoon today is free for you to relax and explore the area at your own leisure.

Day 2 – Thursday 22 September 2022

Start the day with breakfast at your hotel and then your local guide for a unique and fascinating 'historic tram tour of Milan'. Listen as your local guide enthalls you with interesting stories and facts about the city. Tour finishes with entrance to La Scala Opera House.

Considered by many to be one of the world's most famous opera houses, see the celebrated La Scala stage, famous royal box, admire the boxes and the recently restored auditorium to uncover the hidden gems of La Scala. Also included is entrance to the museum, open since 1913 and home to an impressive collection of opera memorabilia. *(Please note that the time and date for the backstage tour can change at the theatre discretion due to rehearsals).*

Tour is approximately 6 hours with free time for independent lunch.

After the visit return to your hotel.

In the early evening, enjoy pre-opera dinner restaurant before the performance of 'Il Matrimonio Segreto' in Milan's famous La Scala Opera House.



Domenico Cimarosa

Teatro alla Scala New Production

Teatro alla Scala Academy Orchestra
Soloists of La Scala Academy of Lyric Opera

Conductor Ottavio Dantone

Staging Irina Brook

Every year, La Scala presents a title entrusted to the young talents at the Academy. In 2022 it will be *Il matrimonio segreto*, a dramma giocoso composed by Domenico Cimarosa in 1792 that conquered Piermarini's auditorium after being performed at the Piccola Scala in the historic version by Giorgio Strehler and Lamberto Puggelli. Summoned to work with the students are director Irina Brook, master of wit and imaginative ardour who successfully debuted at La Scala in 2021 with a diptych of operas by Kurt Weill, and conductor Ottavio Dantone.

Performance start time: 20:00

Please note that the restaurant and hotel are just a short stroll from the opera house. Your local guide will accompany you on foot this evening.

Day 3 – Friday 23 September 2022

Explore Cremona, a city with stunning medieval architecture, and known for its violin-making skills. Walk with your guide through the historical old quarter and visit the Violin Museum. Here you will have a visit with a Luthier and a short violin audition.

This evening, coach transfer to Maison Milano for dinner.

Day 4 – Saturday 24 September 2022

Today you will visit the spectacular Lake Como. Explore the beautiful streets of Como city with your guide and enjoy a short cruise on the lake. Lunch included.

After the visit return to your hotel.

In the early evening, enjoy pre-opera dinner before the performance of *Onegin* (Ballet) in La Scala Opera House.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Teatro alla Scala production

Teatro alla Scala Ballet Company

Teatro alla Scala Academy Orchestra

Ballet in three acts by John Cranko
Inspired by Aleksandr Puškin's poem

Arrangement and orchestration Kurt-Heinz Stolze

Conductor Felix Korobov

Sets Pier Luigi Samaritani

Costumes Pier Luigi Samaritani e Roberta Guidi di Bagno

Lights Steen Bjarke

Revived by Agneta Valcu and Victor Valcu

Choreographic supervision Reid Anderson

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A young aristocrat, bored with life, lets his one true, great love slip through his fingers, thinking it a game, only realizing his error later. *Onegin*, perfect example of a modern dance drama, is inspired by Pushkin's novel in verse, which John Cranko rewrote with masterful sensitivity: a story of unhappy love, with pas-dedeux of extraordinary expressivity, characters sculpted with precision, and splendid company dances to music by Tchaikovsky, without a single note from the opera of the same name.

Please note that the restaurant and hotel are just a short stroll from the opera house. Your local guide will accompany you on foot this evening.

Day 5 – Sunday 25 September 2022

In the late afternoon, meet your local guide for coach transfer to airport for return flight. Flight departs Milan at 21:45 and arrives Dublin 23:15. ***Flight times are subject to change at the airlines discretion.***

Price includes:

- Return flight from Dublin, taxes
- Four nights in the Hotel Sina de la Ville with breakfast
- 4 evening meals
- Guided historic tram tour of Milan. Listen as your local guide entralls you with interesting stories and facts about the city. Tour finishes with entrance to La Scala Opera House
- Explore Cremona, a city with stunning medieval architecture, and known for its violin-making skills. Walk with you guide through the historical old quarter and visit the Violin Museum
- Enjoy a day at the spectacular Lake Como. Explore the beautiful streets of Como city with your guide and enjoy a short cruise on the lake. Lunch included.
- Category 1 ticket to Il Matrimonio Segreto in La Scala Opera House
- Category 1 ticket to Onegin (Ballet) in La Scala Opera House
- Local guide throughout the programme

Price per person sharing €2359pps

Single Supplement €617

FOR INFORMATION OR TO BOOK, PLEASE CALL (01) 888 7840

reservations@instituteforculturetravel.ie

www.instituteforculturetravel.ie

Booking Deposit

Booking deposit is €500 pp. Remaining balance due 8 weeks prior to departure date. No credit card charge on deposit payments.

Hotel Rating

Please note that our hotel rating is a reflection of how the property compares to the industry standard in the country of destination in relation to when it comes to price, facilities and services offered by the hotel.

Flight information

One small bag (size of a ladies handbag) and one standard piece of luggage is included in your tour price. (10 kilos carry-on). Checked in luggage is available to purchase prior to travel, prices varies according to baggage weight. Please note that checked-in luggage should be booked at the time of booking and must be booked with a minimum of 14 days prior to travel. The flight times advised above are with Ryanair. Please note that we reserve the right to change both airline and airline times as airline schedules are subject to change. In addition, we reserve the right to change the departure date by a day or two in accordance with airline schedule and rates

Passport / Covid Digital Certificate

It is your responsibility to ensure your passport will be valid for your holiday and that your Covid Digital Certificate and/or necessary entry requirements are in order for your selected destination. Please contact IFC should you have any queries regarding your passport and country entry requirements.

EU passport holders do not require a visa to travel within the EU. As a rule of thumb for European travel your passport should be valid until your intended date of return to Ireland. For travel outside the EU a validity of a minimum of 6 months beyond your return date is required. A visa may be needed for your holiday and information regarding this will be sent closer to travel.

Tour Activities

Please note that there is a fair amount of walking on this tour. Ours are active holidays. Walking, stair-climbing and standing around for periods are unavoidable aspects of this tour. This tour is suitable for those of a normal fitness but may not be suitable for those who need support. Walking and getting on and off a coach several times a day is part of the tour.

Tour Itinerary and timing of excursions

Please note that we reserve the right to amend the timings of the tour itinerary in line with supplier requests and included excursions may take place on different days.

Travel Insurance

IFC strongly recommends travel insurance be purchased at the time of booking and can offer a competitive quotation if not already purchased. The EHIC is a European Healthcard available to all EU citizens and is recommended to carry for travel within Europe. Please check www.ehic.ie for more information.

IMPORTANT: If you have purchased travel insurance with IFC. If you or any person travelling has a pre-existing medical condition then you must declare that condition to Health Check

COVID-19 Special information – may change between now tour departure date

Please note that the visitor attractions state that customer touchpoints are frequently cleaned and that in an attempt to reduce crowds, the number of visitors is limited. Masks are required in visitor attractions and indoors and we would ask all travellers to bring their own. Temperature checks are mandatory in certain attractions.

Keeping you safe during COVID-19

- Social distancing enforced throughout experience
- Regularly sanitised transportation vehicles
- Guides required to regularly wash hands regularly

Please note that dates are provisional and that the itinerary is subject to change until airline flights are released by the airline.