

## Trip to Italy

After studying Italian at U3A for 6 months and feeling a little more comfortable with the language, my girlfriend and I flew off to Italy via Dubai. Dubai was full of breathtaking skyscrapers, a snow field, dancing water fountains and the Gold Souks old and new. Of course we succumbed to purchasing gold earrings from the Souk as a memento of our trip. The desert safari in 4W drives was exciting followed by an entertaining night of food and belly dancing in the desert.

We flew from Dubai to Venezia and marveled at this city built on water and like everyone used the vaporettos to travel to the islands of Murano famous for the blowing of Venetian glass and Burano famous for lace making. We were not disappointed. St Mark's square was not far from our little albergo (hotel) on the canals and proved to be as breathtaking as we had read. We got lost as everyone does in Venice, however it was very worthwhile finding the Rialto Bridge. The fashion was mind blowing being worn and in the shops.

In Milano we stayed in a Monastery and information on monasteries can be accessed from the internet. Beautiful cathedral and the city of fashion. We also accommodated in Monasteries in San Gimignano and Assisi. The Franciscan Sisters of Atonement are caretakers of St Anthony's Monastery in Assisi and I would recommend a visit. Visiting the Cinque Terre was very special and if you are a lover of walking, this is where you can marvel at the views and exercise at the same time.

We continued south on the train and visited Lucca, Pisa, San Gimignano in Tuscany and Assisi in Umbria

After 4 weeks traveling we chose the perfect place to rest and recover in Positano on the Amalfi Coast. This place is heaven on earth and from Positano you can visit Isle of Capri, Amalfi, Pompei, Sorrento and Naples.

Then to Roma where we stayed in a 5W's apartment which she rents. Her name is Margareta Duarando and she is listed in the 5W Worldwide list. Her rental apartment (Breakfast provided) is 15 minutes from the Colosseum and very close to public transport for seeing Roma.

You will fall in love with Italy as all the songs say.