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Guide to La Scala, Milan Opera Packages

Why Milan?

Milan is a great city for those wanting a short break to see La Scala, one of the most famous opera houses in the world. With an opera schedule being performed around 11 months of the year, there is something for both the first timer and the seasoned connoisseur. There are also a handful of popular ballets, usually including the iconic Swan Lake.

La Scala Opera House

It is easy to see why this is one of the very best opera houses in the world. The intricate design is stunning, and the stall seats (the best in the house) are perfect for seeing everything taking place on the stage. With operas ranging from the well-known Don Giovanni, La Boheme, The Thieving Magpie and Nabucco, to the lesser known Tamerlano, The Master Singers of Nuremberg, there is something for everyone.

Usually there are a few guest performers including the great tenor Placido Domingo. These dates are always the first to book out. We have a direct relationship with our supplier who has access to the very best tickets all year round. These are very highly sought after tickets. Please note the lower ticketing levels can have restrictive views.

Milan also has many other worthwhile sights including the Duomo, Castello Sforzesco, The Peace Arch and of course Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper.



Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper Fresco

It is hard not to feel awed in the presence of this beautiful fresco. With speculation about the identity of the person sitting on Jesus's right, being a key feature to its enduring appeal and mystery.

This fresco was doomed to not survive when a World War II bomb fell very close to it. As if this was not enough, the paints used to create the fresco faded over time and the evidence is still apparent after the repaint today. Lastly, the kitchen next door meant the wall was subject to heat – another bad omen in regards to the longevity of one of the world's most unique frescos.

Other controversies include the suggestion that da Vinci placed the loaves right to left to play a tune – for anyone musical, this is sure to be something to look out for!



Why us?

It is not enough to be there; it's about dong it well, and this is our forte. We have special access to the very best seats at La Scala and tickets for the guided tour of The Last Supper. Getting access can be a real challenge, but with the continued strong working relationships we have with our supplier, together we are able to make this happen for you.

Furthermore, if you decide you need longer in this beautiful city, or want some time on nearby Lake Maggiore and/or Lake Como, we can arrange this to your specifications. Perhaps you would prefer to take in a second night at the opera, but in very different surroundings, in which case we can easily transfer you to Verona, where every summer the Roman open-air arena performs stunning operas including Aida.

All of our airport transfers are private to you, so you are not wasting time waiting on groups of other people. Moreover, all the drivers are vetted as steady drivers, so you can sit back and relax as you travel between your airport and hotel.

We can also arrange special airport assistance for yourself or your loved one, as required, along with help in travel insurance recommendations for all age groups.

Our Top Tip?

Milan is a fantastic destination all year round, but spring and autumn are our favourite months. With reduced hotel pricing, cooler temperatures and less crowds, this is invaluable for a city break when you don't want to spend the time queuing for the must see sights. Of all the Italian cities, Milan is one of the easiest to travel on foot, however, it also has a good Metro underground system and the tram.

Click here to find out more about our Milan La Scala Weekend Break - <u>/italian-short-breaks/destinations/milan-la-scala-packages/la-scala-break/</u>

Recommended Activities

Other great experiences include a private guided visit to the Duomo and roof, which we provide. We recommend Castello Sforeszca for the museums and beautiful park, the art gallery Pinacoteca di Brera, and of course some time to marvel at the windows of the fashion houses!

With fantastic direct flights from most UK regional airports, Milan is a perfect option for anything from a 2 night break to longer. Being close to both Lake Maggiore and Lake Como, it is easy to extend to take in a few nights on a lake. Alternatively you could extend your trip with a stay in Venice or Verona both nearby, or even head to Florence, Rome or Sorrento.

Click here to find out more about all our Milan Opera Packages – <u>/italian-short-breaks/destinations/milan-la-scala-packages/</u>



Why we love Hotel de la Ville

Milan is only a small city and very walkable, so having a hotel right in the middle is absolutely essential, as it means you can spend the time seeing the main sights on offer, rather than travelling to them. Hotel de la Ville is ideally located very close to the Duomo, (around a 5 mins walk).

A further 5 mins walk through Vittorio Emanuele II's fashionable walkway and you arrive at La Scala opera house, along with many fantastic restaurants nearby.

Hotel de la Ville is around a 20mins walk to Santa Maria delle Grazie, which houses da Vinci's masterpiece, The Last Supper, but the Metro and taxis are both readily available if you would prefer.



Travel Information

UK Airports

Milan has 3 main airports – Linate, Malpensa and Bergamo, meaning it is perfectly located for direct flights from most regional UK airports for most of the year round, including the north as well as the south.

Flight Time

Typically around 1.5hrs from London airports.

Weather

Milan is fortunate in being a good place to visit all year round. The temperatures can vary hugely between the seasons. Autumn hovers around 14 celsius, winter 3-7 celsius with the chance of snow, spring 18-24 celsius and summer 27 celsius. If travelling to the opera in the summer months, please note even late in the evening the temperatures can be very humid, so please consider light clothing for the opera as a suit will likely be too warm.

Packing List

For spring/summer travel we recommend you bringing sun screen and a hat, along with a good map. It is recommended not to bring a rucksack, as some of the museums and churches will make you leave this in a locker or even refuse entry. The best option is a cross body bag as this is harder for someone unscrupulous to steal. Whilst Milan is generally a safe city, it is wise to be careful of your belongings, especially in crowded areas like the Duomo.