



THE WORSHIPFUL SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES LIVERY COMMITTEE
The Livery Committee International Travelling Club presents

Turin & the House of Savoy

TUESDAY 08TH TO SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2024

Turin, one of the most elegant of Italian cities. As the seat of the Italian Monarchy since the 1500s and the first capital of unified Kingdom of Italy (1861-1865) under King Vittorio Emanuele II, it retains an immense 17th and 18th century wealth of historical, artistic, and architectural jewels. In its 18th century heyday, Turin must have been a very striking place indeed. The English writer Horace Walpole, who passed through on his 1739 tour of Italy, wrote of it as "by far one of the prettiest cities in Italy". Our visit will focus mainly on its outstanding royal sites and great palaces, with a touch of medieval in Fenis and notable archaeological roman remains in Aosta. We will also pay a visit to the Museo Egizio, considered the best Egyptian Museum outside of Cairo. As usual, all visits will be accompanied by excellent local food and wine.

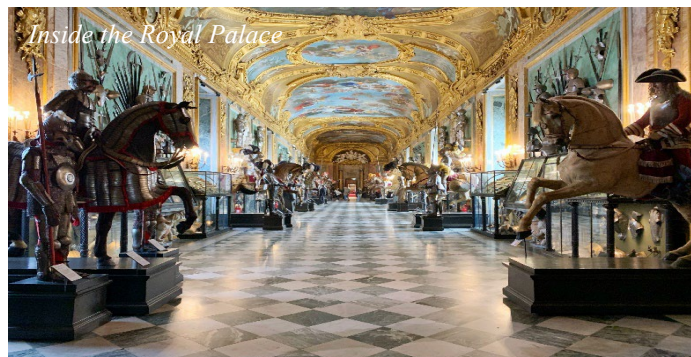


We will stay at the exquisite 4-star boutique Hotel Victoria located right in the city centre and close to many excellent local restaurants. <https://hotelvictoria-torino.com/en/>

OUR PROGRAMME

DAY 1: Tuesday 08 October

Arrival and private coach transfer to our hotel, dinner and overnight. Transfer time from Milan is approximately 90 minutes.



DAY 2: Wednesday 09 October – Morning on foot exploring central Turin starting at the 17th century **Royal Palace**, the epicentre of the Savoy state. Here, the simple austere façade masks a lavish interior created by the most distinguished architects and artists from the 17th to 19th century. The State Apartments have splendid ceilings and floors with finely crafted furniture, tapestries, and paintings. Today, the lavish state rooms seem to be frozen in time with everything perfectly preserved as it was when the royal family abandoned their dynastic capital. After lunch we join our coach for a short drive to the 17th century **Villa della Regina & Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, built for Cardinal Maurizio of Savoy but named after Marie-Anne d'Orleans, queen of King Vittorio Amedeo II, for being her favourite residence. Sat at the top of a hill with splendid views over the city, the villa is a model of a Roman villa with a large park that includes vineyards, gardens, and water features. The interiors are lavishly decorated with 18th century gilded panelling and paintings. Evening at leisure.

DAY 3: Thursday 10 October – We leave in the morning by coach heading north-west of Turin to the nearby region of Valle D'Aosta stopping en route at the 13th century **Castle of Fenis**. The castle is one of the best-preserved medieval fortresses in the region and was the seat of the Challant family, a local medieval noble family who ruled much of the Valle D'Aosta on behalf of the Savoy. Decorated with remarkable gothic frescoes, it features a charming courtyard with wooden balconies and a lovely semicircular staircase. Later we continue onward to the city of **Aosta** where we have lunch. Aosta was a roman frontier town and features outstanding and well preserved roman archaeological sites such a forum, a cryptoporticus and an excellent

archaeological museum. The most famous native of Aosta is the Benedictine monk St. Anselm (1033-1109) who became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1093. Evening at leisure.

DAY 4: Friday 11 October – We leave by coach and spend the morning visiting the 18th century **Royal Hunting Lodge of Stupinigi**. Built for King Vittorio Amedeo II, rather than being a mere lodge, it is in fact an exquisite huge palace housing period paintings, furniture and decorative arts spread across some 40 rooms. Its 1200-hectare park is divided into sectors by a geometrical composition of avenues and paths. Lunch will be arranged at a nearby restaurant. Back in the city centre we visit the 17th century noble palace of **Palazzo Barolo**. Built for the Provana di Druent family it is a beautifully decorated "family home" reflecting the splendour and glamour of renaissance Turin. We will have a short break at the hotel before our evening activities.



We expect to leave the hotel around 6pm and travel by coach to the 18th century **Basilica of Superga** where we will also visit the Royal Tombs and have dinner in the basilica refectory. Built by King Vittorio Amedeo II in 1717-31 in fulfilment of a thanksgiving vow for the deliverance of Turin from the French in 1706.

Day 5: Saturday 12 October – By coach for a morning exploration of the 17th century **Royal Palace of Venaria and Park**. Located some 17km northwest of Turin, Venaria is another majestic hunting lodge built for King Carlo Emanuele II in 1660 but destroyed by the French troops in 1693. Reconstructed by the city's most distinguished architect Filippo Juvarra in 1714-28, it has in recent days been meticulously restored and features spectacular interiors. After a break for lunch at a nearby restaurant, we return to the city heading for the **Lingotto Fiat Factory** (Fiat: Fabbrica Italiana Automobili di Torino), founded by the industrialist Giovanni Agnelli in 1899 and once the largest car factory in the world. Here we will visit the Agnelli family private art collection which features several works by Tiepolo, Canaletto, Canova as well as an impressive display of Fiat vintage cars. We will also view the amazing roof-top testing track featured in the 1969 film "The Italian Job" with Michael Caine. Farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 6: Sunday 13 October – Morning visit to the outstanding Egyptian Museum before an early afternoon departure to Milan airport for our return flight to London.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- British Airways flights to Milan including 23kg of checked luggage: Heathrow / Milan 10:35 / 13:35 – Milan / Heathrow 18:20 / 19:25
 - 5 nights' accommodation
 - 4 x lunches and 3 x dinners with drinks
 - Private coach transport
 - All entrance fees in line with the programme
 - Local professional guide
 - Personal audio system
 - Porterage: coach to rooms on arrival and lobby to coach on departure
 - All local taxes
 - Gratuities, except for driver and guide
- Millennium Tours Director Tony Giambruno will travel with us.*

This visit is proposed on behalf of the Livery Committee International Travelling Club and it will be possible if we have a minimum of 25 participants. If you are interested in joining us, please contact tony@millenniumtours.co.uk and you will be sent an application form to book. Party number will be limited, and bookings will be accepted strictly on a first come, first served basis.

Practicalities:

- (1) PRICE £1,695 PER PERSON SHARING STANDARD DOUBLE ROOM.
- (2) SOLO TRAVELLER SUPPLEMENT £245 (DOUBLE ROOM FOR SINGLE USE).
- (3) DEPOSIT OF £350 PER PERSON PAYABLE UPON BOOKING.
- (4) OPERATED BY MILLENNIUM TOURS LTD – ATOL 10040