



VICENZA AND THE WALLED TOWNS

A day tour through Vicenza, Marostica and Bassano: the main artistic cities of Vicenza's province

Arrival in the morning at 9.00 a.m. in Piazza Matteotti (Vicenza)

Guided walking tour in the historical city centre of Vicenza with a visit of the **Teatro Olimpico**, one of the artistic wonders of Vicenza and the façade of **Palazzo Chiericati** that hosts a collection composed by paintings, sculptures and applied arts realized from the 1200s to the beginning of the 2000s.

Walking through the suggestive streets you can admire the palaces that the Unesco included in the Heritage List such as Palazzo Barbaran Da Porto, and Palazzo Thiene and in the main square **the Palladian Basilica**, symbol and iconic building of Vicenza.

Transfer to **Villa Godi Malinverni** in Lugo di Vicenza, the first Villa built from Andrea Palladio in 1542; together with the other Palladian villas, it was added to the Unesco World Heritage list in 1996.

Visit of the Villa: a lot of magnificent painters (Gianbattista Zelotti, Battista del Moro and Gualtiero Padovano) adorned it with frescoes, the main floor is divided into two perfectly symmetrical spaces with four rooms on each side. The park also belongs to this Venetian villa, with its century old trees, the lake with swans, the Italian gardens with basins and fountains, statues and columns by Marinali and Albanese.

Lunch in the traditional restaurant inside the barns of Villa Godi Malinverni, with local recipes.

After lunch, departure to Marostica, one of the most suggestive Medieval villages of Italy. The main square **Piazza degli Scacchi** is the setting of the famous human chess game, played in even 2 years. Visit of the Castello Inferiore, the lower castle, with its room of the Council of Arms and of the Governor, and with the exhibition of costumes that are worn during the game.

Later in the afternoon, visit to the traditional artisan factories in the area (**one** of the following):

> **POLI DISTILLERY – Schiavon:** discover a place where production is performed according to tradition, with an eye to the future. Work at Poli Distillery has always been driven by passion and perseverance, two characteristics that play a huge role in the production of each bottle of grappa. You will visit the Grappa Museum, the result of years of research and experience, where you will learn about the history of distillation and the spirit culture in Italy. Not only your eyes will be delighted, but your taste buds as well!

> **LINEASETTE CERAMICS – Marostica:** Lineasette is happy to welcome you in the ample showroom in the centre of Marostica, where you will have the chance to approach the passion and the enthusiasm driving us since 1977 to create, with a rigorous handicraft production technique, porcelain stoneware handmade objects rendered perfectly waterproof by an extremely high temperature firing. All Lineasette creations are the result of a deep and passionate research of ceramic techniques and contemporary designs. Every artifact is a small sculpture with pure and essential traits, as if shaped by natural elements. The making of every single artifact is personally supervised by the designers, who follow every step of its creation, from its design to the end product, to make sure that, in the process, the quality of each handicraft piece is guaranteed.

Free time and end of service.

Price per person: **€ 79**, for a group of 45 participants (it includes 1 gratuity for the accompanying person) and excluding bus transport service. The package includes: a local tour guide, entrance fees and guided tours of the museums, palaces, villas and/or monuments in the programme, visits to local craft companies, lunch at the restaurant.

