

# Piedmont for the future: new technologies and the environment



Torino, once known as an industrial city, has now become a green city that values the Savoy residences, their gardens and the former industrial areas, transformed into parks and residential areas. It promotes various initiatives to develop environmental awareness and sustainable technologies. It takes part in the European project "Smart Cities", designed to develop ecological means of transport, eco-friendly buildings and alternative energies. Torino hosts the University of Biotechnology (SDSB), a cutting-edge university structure, and the Environment Park, a project involving companies and institutions with the aim of creating sustainable economic and industrial models. In this project, born in 1996, a particular initiative is that of the "Sustainable Villages of Piedmont," which offers a viable touristic alternative, interesting for the enhancement of little known natural and cultural environments.

Our tour proposal, easily customized to your needs, intends to share with visitors the most important technical aspects of this topic together with the discovery of the beauty of our region.

## 4 days

- 4 nights in a 4-5\* hotel in the centre of Torino in twin room (HB)
- 4 lunches, as indicated in the programme
- Aperitif on the first day
- Tour leader for the whole stay
- Entrance tickets and guided tours as per programme
- transfer with private bus for all the transfers indicated in the programme (including the ones from and to the International Airport of Torino)
- 24/24 phone assistance

## Day 1: Torino "Smart City"

Arrival in Torino during the morning and check in to a centrally located hotel, followed by a light welcome lunch. In the early afternoon a presentation of the programme and an introduction to the "Torino Smart City" project.

Walking tour of the historic centre of Torino, with a stop at the renovated **Egyptian Museum**, inaugurated at the beginning of 2015. The architect Guarino Guarini formerly designed this historic building as a Jesuit school in the 17th century, then it housed the Academy of Sciences and



finally the Egyptian Museum. The project involves the introduction of modern technologies, including an air conditioning system powered by geothermal energy, a high efficiency heating/cooling system, designed in accordance with the requirements of the European Directive in matter of energy saving (RES, Renewable Energy Sources).

“Aperitivo” (a true Italian ritual born in Turin 200 years ago) in one of the renowned historic cafes of the city and return to the hotel for dinner.

## Giorno 2: Torino and the Environment

Guided visit of the headquarters of the **Environment Park**, about 15 minutes from your hotel, with the presentation of the workshops and demonstration of the clean technologies in the area, a true open-air laboratory. The Envipark is specialized in various areas: sustainable buildings, chemicals, clean energy and nanotechnology. These are applied in a wide variety of sectors, from building to textiles and sports facilities.

The day continues to the **skyscraper “Intesa Sanpaolo”**, Torino's first skyscraper and currently the second highest in Italy, inaugurated in 2015. The project of the skyscraper was designed by Renzo Piano, world-renowned architect and senator of the republic, who in Torino also designed the conversion of the large industrial building of Lingotto.

Lunch at the rooftop restaurant of the skyscraper.

Guided tour and explanation of the innovative techniques of eco-friendliness. The building in fact will not need air-conditioning systems, thanks to the adoption of artificial bioclimatic practices such as natural ventilation, the use of double coverings, the installation of solar panels and geothermal energy.

The building aims to achieve the LEED Gold Energy certification, an American classification system that evaluates the more environmentally conscious buildings.

Returning to the hotel, you can admire the innovative design of the new Torino Porta Susa station, opened in January 2013: the first Italian high-speed station on the Paris-Rome line.

The rest of the day dedicated to shopping in Via Roma and Via Lagrange, where you will find the biggest names, or you can take a walk through the "sophisticated" Via Maria Vittoria and Via Della Rocca, which are also host art galleries and antique shops. We suggest you end the day with an aperitif in one of the cafes in the centre.

## Day 3: Excursion in the surroundings of Torino

Not far from Turin there are places that are very interesting an environmental point of view, with many opportunities for education and training.

We propose a excursion to the Chisone Valley, with a visit of the town of **Usseaux**, part of the "Sustainable Villages of Piedmont" project, sponsored by the Region with the support of the Environment Park.

The project was created to promote a more responsible



and sustainable tourism, rewarding the municipalities that implement measures to protect the environment with the use of renewable energy sources, the environmental, architectural and landscaping redevelopment initiatives, spreading an environmental awareness among tourists. The community warmly welcomes visitors and they will be able to access its more authentic life, provided they respect the historical identity and the environment. In this sense, lunch with local products will be a truly unique experience.

In the afternoon, visit to the **Fort of Fenestrelle**, the largest fortified building in Europe, with the most impressive wall development in the world after the Great Wall of China. Built in the eighteenth century and abandoned after the Second World War, the fortress was recovered in the nineties and has become a major tourist attraction thanks to shows, exhibitions and events.

#### **Day 4: Reggia di Venaria and redevelopment of the Lingotto building**

A stay in Torino would not be complete without a visit to the Royal Palace of **Venaria Reale**, the largest of the Savoy residences in Piedmont, and its gardens, restored to their former splendor by 200 experts, including architects and botanists. In 1998 the largest restoration site in Europe was opened and it finished in 2011 giving to the region a magnificent location, declared part of the Unesco World Heritage: it has not been just the restoration of an historical building, but the urban recovery of the entire municipality. Lunch in the old town.

In the afternoon, we will move to the **Lingotto** area, a former industrial zone of the Fiat group, magnificent example of reconversion and requalification.

The requalification project, started in 1983 and designed by Renzo Piano, in 2002 led to the birth of a multifunctional centre of 246,000 square metres, equipped with a Convention Centre, hotels, shops, multiplex cinema, maintaining the famous car testing track on the roof. Between the most amazing projects of Renzo Piano; the "Bolla", a glass walled meeting room suspended at 40 m, and the "Scigno", the metallic building placed on the roof of the old factory, home of the Art Gallery "Giovanni and Marella Agnelli."

The Olympic walkway connects the Lingotto building to the Olympic Village of Torino 2006, a requalification of the former general markets; in the area there is also the world's biggest food and wine centre, **Eataly**.

The most recent project is the tower of the Piedmont Region designed by the architect Massimiliano Fuksas: the highest building in Italy, 205 metres and 41 floors above ground, characterized by the most innovative techniques of energy conservation and environmental sustainability, will be inaugurated in 2016.

Free time to enjoy the delights of Eataly and its "enogastronomic" shopping.

#### **Day 5: Departure**