



Turin

Planning a short break that doesn't involve a long journey? Here's a city to consider...

Since the Piedmont capital played host to the Winter Olympics in 2006, Turin, Italy, has been given a new lease of life and last year was crowned World Capital of Design. As well as art, the Torinesi also have a great appreciation of food and wine. Those with a sweet tooth might be interested to learn that Turin is the birthplace of solid chocolate.

WHEN TO GO?

This depends on your preferred weather, Turin and the Piedmont region is great for snow and incorporating a ski trip with a city break from mid-December to April. However, in the summer months, particularly July and August, temperatures can rise to 30°C.

Alternatively, why not plan your visit around a festival? Turin holds an array of festivals, including, CiccolaTo, held each March and devoted to chocolate. There's also the Torino Film Festival which focuses on the research and discovery of new authors of contemporary cinema. And Artissima, the International Fair of Contemporary Art, which attracts people from all over the globe each November.

GETTING THERE

- **BA** (www.britishairways.com) flies from London Gatwick.
- **Ryanair** (www.ryanair.com/site/EN/) flies from Bournemouth, Bristol, East Midlands, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool and London Stansted.

- **Easyjet** (www.easyjet.com) flies from London Luton.

GETTING FROM THE AIRPORT

A shuttle bus runs to Porta Nuova station in the centre of Turin and takes 40 minutes. A single ticket (which can be bought from machines inside the terminal), costs €5.50. Alternatively, a taxi (from the rank outside arrivals) takes you to the city centre and costs €30.

WHAT TO SEE AND DO

SEE THE DUOMO AND TURIN SHROUD

Stroll along the wide, arcaded Via Roma, one of the city's main shopping strips before heading to Piazza Castello square – a central point, close to many of Turin's main sights. From here, a short walk will take you to The Duomo (cathedral), home to the Turin Shroud. The Shroud (thought to be Jesus' burial cloth) is currently not on display, though it is expected to be back on display in spring 2010, but visitors can view a copy of it and also view the display case which conserves and protects it.

VISIT THE OPEN-AIR MARKET

For a flavour of local life, get up early and experience Porta Palazzo, Europe's largest open-air market held each weekday morning and all day Saturday at Piazza della Repubblica.

TAKE IN A FILM MUSEUM

The Museo Nazionale del Cinema is great for film enthusiasts, with an extensive collection of movies, books, magazines, scripts, posters and props. But the venue itself is also an attraction, originally designed to be a synagogue – Temple

Hall, the museum's centre, is a spectacular space where visitors can lie back and relax on reclined seats and marvel at the architecture or watch a film montage on one of the big screens.

The museum building is also known as the Mole Antonelliana, and is one of Turin's most recognised landmarks. If you visit the museum on a clear day, make sure you take a trip on the panoramic lift, which whisks visitors 85metres high in a transparent glass elevator to see views of the entire city and surrounding mountains.

Open Tues-Fri & Sun 9am-8pm, Sat 9am-11pm. Closed Monday

Admission Adult €6.50, senior citizens 65+ €5. A ticket can be bought for both the museum entry and lift and costs an extra €1.50

GO BACK IN TIME

With a collection of Egyptian artefacts which comes second only to that found in Cairo, the Museo Egizio boasts more than 30,000 antiquities, 6,500 of which are on display. **Open** Summer: Tues-Sun 9.30am-8.30pm, Winter: Tues-Sun 8.30am-7.30pm. Closed Mon **Admission** Adult €6.50, senior citizens 65+ free

WHICH? HOLIDAY TIPS

■ **Buy a Torino+Piemonte card** (2 days, €19; 3 days, €22) from a tourist info centre and make getting around the city hassle-free. It entitles you to free public transport and admission to more than 160 cultural sights.

■ **Turin is a chocoholics' paradise**
Buy a ChocoPass from a Tourist Information Centre (€12) and sample an array of pralines, Gianduotti, cakes, biscuits and hot chocolate at various historic cafes throughout the city.

For the full magazine report on Turin,
see p46 of the April 2009 issue of Which? Holiday

GOOD PLACES TO STAY

■ AC Torino

Via Bisalta 11

Tel 0039 01163 95091

www.ac-hotels.com/1110-AC_TORINO.html

An über-modern, five star hotel housed in a former pasta factory. The AC Torino makes an ideal base for all foodies, and as such, a trip to Turin would not be complete without a visit to Eatly. Situated in Lingotto, approx 10-15 minutes from the city centre by bus.

Doubles from €100 (£93). We booked online with Expedia.co.uk and paid £77

TIP This hotel offers a free shuttle bus service to and from the city centre at weekends

■ Art Hotel Boston

Via Massena 70

Tel: 0039 01150 0359

www.hotelbostontorino.it

This historic Art Nouveau building plays host to a stylish hotel-come-art-gallery, which features original artwork throughout, including that of Andy Warhol. For something extra special, pay a little more and stay in an Art Theme room such as the one dedicated to Lavazza coffee. The hotel often hosts an exhibition evening with cocktails on Thursdays, so make enquiries about this when you book.

Doubles from €110 (£103). We booked online with lastminute.com and paid £84

■ Townhouse 70

Via XX Settembre 70

Tel 0111 9700 003

www.townhouse.it/th70/

Townhouse 70 is homely and welcoming – creating a perfect base for those looking for a cosy hotel, right in the heart of the city centre. It is just a stone's throw from The Duomo and a few minutes walk from several main streets, including Via Roma and Via Garibaldi, which are filled with shops, boutiques, restaurants and bars. The hotel's friendly manager, Alberto Reinerio likes to eat breakfast with guests as often as he can, and with this in mind, visitors are encouraged to dine together on a large square table and share traveller's tales over a cappuccino and pastry. Service is provided for guests who prefer to dine alone.

Doubles from €106 (£99)

GOOD PLACES TO EAT

■ Caffè Torino

Piazza San Carlo

Take a break in this historic café, with its lavish décor, high ceilings and grand chandeliers.

If, like us, you struggle to choose from the hundreds of cakes on offer, ask for a selection of the small dry cakes, fresh cakes and pralines.

Open everyday 7.30am-midnight

■ Eatly

Via Nizza 230/14

www.eataly.it

Purported to be the world's biggest wine and food centre, Eatly provides the opportunity to buy, taste and learn about Italy's cooking heritage, such as the birth of the Slow Food movement, which actually began in the nearby town of Bra.

Open Tues-Sun 10am-10.30pm, closed Monday

■ Tre da Tre

Via Verdi 33

Conveniently located close to the Mole Antonelliana, this friendly pizzeria serves a good selection of meat, gnocchi, risotto and salads, as well as its speciality, pizzas. Expect reasonable prices, hearty portions and delicious desserts. Prices range from €3.50-€16.

Open Mon-Fri 12noon-2.30pm and 7pm-12.30am, Sat and Sun 7pm-12.30am

RECOMMENDED GUIDEBOOK

Time Out Turin, £12.99 (ISBN 9781904978077)