


# Highlights of Tuscany

Hotel-to-hotel  guided walking and sightseeing

- Fully guided holiday: gentle walking and relaxed sightseeing
- Wonderful art cities: Florence, Siena, Lucca, San Gimignano
- Mountain and coastal walks; hillside rambles; the Cinque Terre and Apennines
- Mouthwatering Tuscan cuisine, world-famous wines
- Renaissance, Etruscan and Roman treasures



This holiday combines gentle walking with sightseeing and introduces you to the very best of Tuscany. It's a journey of extraordinary variety and beauty, balancing the rugged landscapes of the Cinque Terre and the Apennine mountains with the splendor and opulence of some of Italy's finest Renaissance cities.

You'll visit Tuscany's bustling historic art cities, and discover some peaceful and out-of-the-way corners. We'll make sure you discover the best of Florence and Siena and, with us, you won't have to worry about getting lost in the enchanting Tuscan countryside. Above all, we aim to keep the trip relaxed and flexible. Your guide will tailor the itinerary to meet the needs of the group, and to allow for changes in the weather. You stay at carefully-picked ★★ hotels in La Spezia, Florence, San Quirico d'Orcia and Lucca. They are traditional and comfortable, with private facilities throughout, and a good choice of restaurants for dinner nearby. (Dinner is included on days 6, 7 and 8 in San Quirico d'Orcia.) Lunches will be arranged en route. We'll either stop at local *trattorie* or get together the ingredients for a picnic in the region's morning markets.



Book now on 1-800-567-6286 or visit [www.breakaway-adventures.com](http://www.breakaway-adventures.com) for more information

## HIGHLIGHTS OF TUSCANY | DAY BY DAY

### Day 1 Arrive in La Spezia

We meet you at Pisa airport and take you to the lively coastal town of La Spezia (75 mins) where we spend the next three nights. Time for a stroll before a welcome drink and dinner.

### Day 2 Portovenere & the Poets' Gulf 6km/4mi/2.5hr

This morning we charter a small boat to the nearby island and Regional Park of Palmaria. Here we follow a circular path around the island and are rewarded with spectacular views of the Gulf of Poets and nearby islands. After a picnic lunch we head back to explore the charming seaside town of Portovenere. Set in a beautiful sweeping bay (great swimming), and once the haunt of Byron and Shelley, it boasts an impressive C16 castle and several medieval churches.

### Day 3 Cinque Terre Walk 10km/6mi/4.5hr

We discover the heart of the beautiful Cinque Terre following the Via dell'Amore to C12 Manarola where pretty pastel colored houses cling vertiginously to the dark hillsides, their balconies affording stunning views across the turquoise bay. Then past farmers working their precipitous vine terraces before ascending to Cormiglia for lunch. On to Vernazza for a well deserved swim before returning by ferry to enjoy stunning views over the five lands.

### Day 4 La Spezia to Florence

After breakfast we set off for Florence (75 mins), stopping off at Pisa along the way to see the Leaning Tower, the Duomo, and the extraordinary 14C Trionfo della Morte frescoes in the Camposanto. We aim to arrive in Florence in good time to explore some of the main sites on foot before dinner.

### Day 5 Florence

For many, the great art city of Florence is the most beautiful city in the world. Explore the Uffizi, Duomo and Baptistery (pay locally) or cross to the quieter side of the Arno at the Boboli Gardens.

### Day 6 Florence to San Quirico d'Orcia

We leave Florence late morning, stopping in C12 Monteriggioni for lunch. We then continue south via Pienza to the medieval village of San Quirico d'Orcia - C12 collegiate church and formal Renaissance gardens.

### Day 7 Etruscan Walk 11km/8mi/4hr or 16km/10mi/6hr

It's like stepping back in time today as we walk south through truly unspoilt countryside, taking in fabulous views of Tuscan hill villages, castles and ruins, before arriving at the thermal spa town of Bagno Vignoni where we have lunch. The hot spring basin here was an important Etruscan site, and consecrated to the Nymphs by the Romans.

### Day 8 Siena

For many, Siena is simply the most beautiful city in Italy. We start at the Campo to admire probably the most harmonious town square in the world. Then we visit the Civic Museum and 14C Cathedral. On our way back option to enjoy a spot of wine and olive oil tasting (small charge, pay locally) at the Neri's farmhouse in the heart of the Sienese countryside.

### Day 9 Towers of San Gimignano

Today, San Gimignano, one of Europe's best-preserved medieval citadels. The town is famous for its towers, built by quarrelsome neighbours to outdo each other. We climb the highest for a spectacular view. Then on to the immaculately preserved medieval town of Lucca where we spend the next 2 nights. Time to explore its Roman streets, medieval walls and Forum before dinner.

### Day 10 Grotta del Vento & the Apuan Alps 5km/3mi/2hr

A short drive north, to reach the majestic splendour of the Apuan Alps. We visit the Grotta del Vento, one of Europe's most extensive cave networks to discover the alabaster draperies, emerald green underground lakes, limestone stalactite and stalagmite formations. Then a woodland path lined with sweet chestnuts, beech and oak trees takes us to a woodland stream where we picnic. Then past Sorgente delle Turrite where there is an old water mill, then fantastic views over the chain of Alps as we descend to the tiny village of Fornoalasco, and return to Lucca.

### Day 11 Leave Lucca

*Note: While our guides remain at our clients' disposal during the tour, local laws in Italy forbid them to guide groups in art cities' historical centers, or in museums and art galleries. On all days, the timings given are for the actual walks, rather than the complete day trip.*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF TUSCANY | WALKING DETAILS

This holiday is a mixture of sightseeing and gentle walking, with minibus assistance for all transfers. The walks take place on easy coastal paths, quiet roads and valley paths. There are no challenging ascents or descents but walking boots are essential.



**Average daytime temperature (°C):**  
19 23 27 31 27 21  
MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



**Average monthly rainfall (mm):**  
90 91 68 68 79 99  
MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

## WHERE YOU STAY



**Hotel Firenze e Continentale**  
★★★  
La Spezia Days 1+2+3



**Hotel Cosimo de Medici**  
★★★  
Florence Days 4+5



**Hotel Palazuolo**  
★★★  
San Quirico d'Orcia Days 6+7+8



**Hotel La Luna**  
★★★  
Lucca Days 9+10

For extra nights we recommend Florence and Lucca.

*"We had an excellent holiday. A good mix of activities and Vlad is an excellent group leader."*

*Mrs A Mountain*

## Dates and Prices

### Departs selected Wednesdays Tour Only

2011 departures	
Jul 11, 25, Aug 8	\$3,174
May 2, 16	\$3,334
May 30, Jun 13, 27, Oct 3	\$3,354
Aug 22, Sep 5, 19	\$3,370

**Singles:** Add \$32 per night for a single room. **Jul 11 departure no single supplement.**

**Child:** This holiday is unsuitable for children under 12.

**Room upgrade:** Prices from \$19 per person, per night, based on 2 sharing.

**Holiday type:** Guided walking and sightseeing, hotel-to-hotel, groups of typically 4-8 people on each tour.

**Departs:** Selected Wednesdays from May 2 to Oct 3.

**Duration:** 11 days (10 nights).

**Meals:** Continental breakfast and 3 evening meals.

**Other details:** Prices do not include entrance to some museums and art galleries, allow \$150. For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

## Tailor-made travel choices

### Nearest Arrival Airport: Pisa Airport

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, with connecting transfers as required, prices and details on request.

**The above prices include our standard transfers:** Pisa Airport at 12:20 (transfer to hotel, 75 mins, provided). **Return:** Pisa Airport by 11:15 (transfer provided).

**Tour only:** Transfers included from Pisa airport at 12:20, and back to Pisa airport departing hotel at 10:15.

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