

The Venetian Hills

Hotel-to-hotel   independent walking

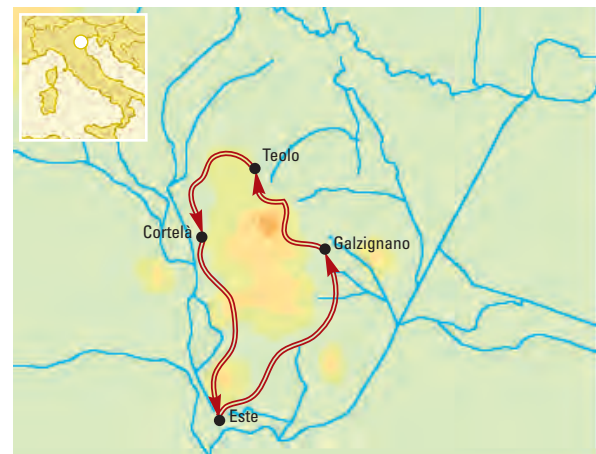
- Untouched green walking country: rolling hills, shady forests, vineyards and olive groves
- Hotels full of character; lovely friendly people; superb value-for-money holiday
- Amazing array of colorful wild flowers: heather, poppies, wild orchids and Mediterranean *maquis*
- Venetian villas, churches and monasteries
- Splendors of Venice, Vicenza, Padua and Este – jewel in the Venetian crown



This walking holiday is based in the wonderfully unspoiled Euganean hills, tucked in a quiet corner below the beautiful medieval city of Padua, west across the plain from Venice.

Once volcanic islands, these hills have a striking conical appearance and are cloaked in an astonishing variety of plantlife – holm oak, almond, maple, heather, orchids and poppies are just a few that you'll see on the way. The lower slopes give way to colorful meadows and immaculately groomed vineyards - little wonder the region produces such a fine range and variety of wines!

The peacefulness of the region holds an eternal appeal as a haven for locals to escape the punishing summer heat of Venice. Venetian nobles built sumptuous villas here - you'll pass by many on the way, and even stay in one. More recently, the hills have become a National Park, with clearly way-marked footpaths.



Book now on 1-800-567-6286 or visit www.breakaway-adventures.com for more information

THE VENETIAN HILLS | DAY BY DAY



Day 1 Arrive in Cortelà

We pick you up at Vicenza station and take you to Gabriella and Alessandro's farmhouse (50 mins) in time for dinner in their cozy dining room.

Day 2 Cortelà/Este 18km/11mi/6hr

Across bright poppy fields, then through mountain ash and oak forests to the hamlet of Valnogaredo. The convent of Beatrice d'Este crowns the next hill, Monte Gemola. Glorious views over Este as you descend through woodlands, past Byron's former villa, into the old town. Our hotel lies opposite the castle.

Day 3 In Este

Everyone loves Este. It has a very Venetian feel, criss-crossed by a narrow canal and with an imposing golden clocktower and immaculately preserved C14 mediaeval walls. There's a public pool (June-Sept), or it's a short bus ride to the walled city of Montagnana, famous for its hams.

Day 4 Este/Galzignano 11km/7mi/4hr or 13km/8mi/4.5hr

A lift to Arquà Petrarca, still as it was when Petrarch came here in 1370. Visit his well preserved house, then walk up geranium decked streets and past sumptuous 15C villas into the serene hills, not a soul in sight except for the odd wine grower in the fields. You descend through cherry and plum orchards to the fabulous Villa Barbarigo at Valsanzibio, whose 17C Italian gardens are the best in the region.

Day 5 At Galzignano

Catch the local bus (35 mins excl Suns) to Padua, the region's second art city. View the Capella degli Scrovegni (Giotto frescoes), admire Donatello's Gattamelata statue or savor a cappuccino in the largest square in Italy! Or treat yourself to a spa/massage at Montegrotto - great for aching muscles!

Day 6 Galzignano /Teolo 13km/8mi/4hr

Ascending through olive and lemon groves you reach Monte Rua hermitage - popular lunch stop. A woodland path leads towards Rocca Pendice, an imposing volcanic stone massif. You skirt round it to enjoy breathtaking views across the chain of hills as you descend to Teolo, the only "alpine" village here. Our hotel, an exquisite Liberty Villa, lies above the square.

Day 7 At Teolo

Supposedly the birthplace of the Roman historian Livy, Teolo is alive with history, and many of the buildings from its Serenissima heyday remain. Or there's a lovely circular walk around Monte Della Madonna taking in a hermit's cave and cascading waterfall. For a longer day out take the bus/train to Venice: St Mark's Square, Doges' Palace, Peggy Guggenheim Museum.

Day 8 Teolo/Cortelà 11km/7mi/3.5hr or 19km/12mi/5hr

Walking through rows of lush green vines you reach the highest point of the holiday, on the flanks of Monte Venda (603m). The plain is mapped out before you, with views towards the Berici hills near Vicenza. Then through oak and chestnut forests, and down through vineyards and olive groves, to Gabriella and Alessandro's farmhouse for a spot of well earned wine tasting!

Day 9 Return home



"Seeing [Italy] this way made me fall in love with it and its people. Just so beautiful and clean - you can tell that Italians love their country."

Mr J Oney

Dates and Prices

Departs every two days	Tour Only
2012 departures	
May 5-25	\$2,451
May 27-31, Sep 10-Oct 16	\$2,453
Jun 2-30	\$2,527
Jul 2-Sep 8	\$2,595
Child (any dates, see notes)	\$1,522

Singles: Add \$17 per night (2 nights will be in a single room; 6 nights will be sole occupancy of a double room).

Child: Over 2 and under 12, sharing with 2 adults.

Room upgrade: Prices from \$13 per person, per night, based on 2 sharing.

Holiday type: Independent walking, hotel-to-hotel, no minimum group size.

Departs: Every two days from May 5 to Oct 16.

Duration: 9 days (8 nights).

Meals: Continental breakfast and evening meals.

Other details: For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

Tailor-made travel choices

Nearest Arrival Airport: Venice Marco Polo 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: Vicenza train station at 17:03 (transfer to hotel, 50 mins, provided). **Return:** Vicenza train station by 09:56.

Rail Options: Venice Mestre to Vicenza 16:32/17:03. Return: Rail Vicenza to Venice Mestre 09:56/10:28.

Second Class Italian Rail: Add \$105 per person, round trip.

First Class Italian Rail: Add \$175 per person, round trip.

Tour only: Transfers included from Vicenza train station at 17:03, and back to Vicenza train station departing hotel at 08:50.

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THE VENETIAN HILLS | WHERE YOU STAY



Agriturismo Il Feudo
Cortelà
Days 1+8



Hotel Beatrice d'Este
★★★★
Este
Days 2+3



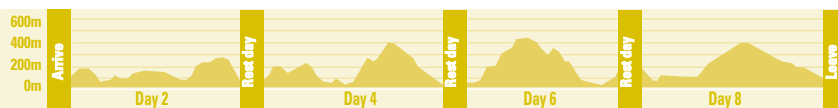
Hotel Belvedere
★★★★
Galzignano Terme
Days 4+5



Villa Lussana
★★★★
Teolo
Days 6+7

For extra nights we recommend Teolo, and city add-ons can be arranged in Venice and Verona.

THE VENETIAN HILLS | WALKING DETAILS



This walk is of easy/medium difficulty. It mainly follows forest paths and country lanes, with just a few brief steep sections.



Average daytime temperature (°C):
21 25 28 27 24 18
MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



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