

**Current as of:** May 16, 2019 - 13:15  
**Valid for departures:** From January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019



# Self-Guided Walking in the Venetian Hills Trip Notes

 **Ways to Travel:** Self-Guided  
 **Destinations:** Italy  
 **Programmes:** Walking & Trekking

Trip Code:  
**W08VN**



**9 Days** Land only  
**Min age:** 8

## Trip Overview

This walking holiday is based in the wonderfully unspoilt Euganean Hills, tucked in a quiet corner below the beautiful mediaeval city of Padua, west across the plain from Venice. Once volcanic islands, these hills have a striking conical appearance; they are cloaked in an astonishing variety of plant life including holm oak, maple, orchids, heather and poppies and have been recognised as a National Park. The lower slopes give way to colourful meadows and immaculately groomed vineyards so it's little wonder the region produces such a fine variety of wines

## At a Glance

- 8 Nights, hotel-to-hotel
- Departs Every two days from 13 Apr '19 to 22 Oct '19
- Headwater wine service
- Route notes and maps provided
- Luggage transfers between hotels
  
- Countries visited: Italy

## Trip Highlights

- Untouched verdant walking country: rolling hills, shady forests, vineyards and olive groves
- Hotels full of character; lovely friendly hosts; genuine Italian hospitality

- Amazing array of wild flowers: heather, poppies, wild orchids and Mediterranean maquis
- Venetian architectural treasures: villas, churches and monasteries
- Venice, Vicenza, Padua and Este - hidden gems in the Venetian crown

## Is This Trip for You?

Starting in the tiny hamlet of Cortela, nestled amongst vines, you head across poppy fields and through forests to Valnogaredo. You discover the jumbled cobbled streets of mediaeval Arqua Petrarca, where the famous C14 Italian poet, Petrarch, made his home, before continuing through fertile fruit orchards to Galzignano. A convenient stone's throw from the Italian Baroque gardens of Valsanzibio, there's time to explore its magnificent maze before a series of outstanding views leads you to panoramically perched Teolo.

## Group

As this is a self-guided holiday there is no group and no leader. A local representative is on hand to assist you and will meet you at the beginning of the week to go through the route notes and point out particular places of interest. Your luggage is transferred and route notes and maps are provided. Please note: the walking and luggage transfers included in this tour are subject to a minimum of 2 people (in total) booked on the departure. A supplement (payable in advance) to cover these transfers and sole occupancy of a room will apply if only 1 person travelling on a departure date.

**Adult min age:** 18

Child min age: 8

**Child max age:** 17

## Itinerary



## Land Only

**Start City:** Cortela

**End City:** Cortela

## Land Only Itinerary

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## Day 1

### Arrive in Cortela

Arrive at Gabriella and Alessandro's farmhouse in time for dinner in their cosy dining room. **(Staying at Agriturismo Il Feudo)**

**Meals included:** Dinner

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## Day 2

### Cortela to Arqua Petrarca

Head 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. Enjoy glorious views over Arqua Petrarca before heading to your hotel. **(Staying at Hotel Villa del Poeta)**

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Distance covered:** 14 km / 9 miles

**Activity (hours):** 5

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## Day 3

### At Arqua Petrarca

Explore Arqua Petrarca, still as it was when Petrarch came here in 1370. Visit his well-preserved house and walk up geranium-decked streets to sumptuous C15 villas. **(Staying at Hotel Villa del Poeta)**

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

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## Day 4

### Arqua Petrarca to Galzignano

Today's walk undulates through shady woodland before dropping down to the fabulous Villa Barbarigo at Valsanzibio. Before continuing onto a choice of routes. **(Staying at Belvedere Resort ai Colli)**

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Distance covered:** 17 km / 11 miles

**Activity (hours):** 5

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## Day 5

### At Galzignano

Catch the local bus (35 mins excl Sundays) to Padua, the region's second art city. View the Cappella degli Scrovegni (Giotto frescoes), admire Donatello's Gattamelata statue or savour a cappuccino in the largest square in Italy! You may wish to treat yourself to a spa/massage at Montegrotto - great for aching muscles! **(Staying at Belvedere Resort ai Colli)**

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

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## Day 6

### Galzignano to Teolo

Ascending through olive groves you reach Monte Rua hermitage, a 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. **(Staying at Villa Lussana)**

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Distance covered:** 13 km / 8 miles

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## 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. There are lovely walks available including a circular one up Monte della Madonna with its panoramic views (walking notes provided). For a longer day out, take the bus/train to Venice and see St Mark's Square, the Doges' Palace and the Peggy Guggenheim Museum. **(Staying at Villa Lussana)**

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

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## Day 8

### Teolo to Cortela

Walking through rows of lush green vines you reach the highest point of the holiday, on the flanks of Monte Venda (601m). The plain is mapped out before you, with views towards the Berici Hills near Vicenza. Then it's on through oak and chestnut forests, and down through vineyards and olive groves, back to Gabriella and Alessandro's farmhouse for a spot of well-earned wine-tasting! **(Staying at Agriturismo Il Feudo)**

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Distance covered:** 16 km / 10 miles

**Activity (hours):** 5

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## Day 9

### Leave Cortela

**Meals included:** Breakfast

All ascents, descents and distances listed above have been measured by our local partners or tour leaders. Please note that different GPS measuring devices can give differing results dependent on the barometric pressures at the time. Measurements stated throughout these trips notes are given to help you understand the types of terrain and distances you will encounter.

## Accommodation

### Hotels



The hotels we've selected for you are full of character and are all family run, with warm welcomes throughout. They range from a hillside villa just outside mediaeval Arqua Petrarca and Gabriella and Alessandro's rustic, yet cosy agriturismo, to the exquisite Liberty Villa Lussana with its stunning position overlooking the dramatic Euganean Hills.

*Where a single supplement is available, paying for a single only guarantees a room for single use. It does not always mean a twin or double room will be provided for sole occupancy.*

Single supplement from \$124.00 USD

## **Food & Transport**

### **Eating & Drinking**

All continental breakfast and evening meals.

The Veneto ranks as one of the most fertile agricultural regions in the country. You will see fields of maize and barley everywhere. It is also a big area for fruit; expect to eat cherries, peaches, melons, plums, pears, strawberries and apples. The cuisine varies from the coast up into the mountains and reflects the region's mixed cultural past. Nearer to Austria in the mountains, you get a more Tyrolean cuisine with dishes such as apple strudel creeping onto the menu, whereas towards the coast, you will find a lighter cuisine with lots of fish dishes.

Three typical dishes you are likely to find throughout the region are baccalà (air-dried salted cod soaked and cooked to a creamy consistency in garlic, parsley and olive oil), carpaccio (now seen on menus throughout Italy and even internationally, this is thin slices of very rare beef sprinkled with lemon juice and garnished with parmesan cheese, mushrooms or even white truffles according to the season and the restaurant) and polenta (made from maize, this is served as an accompaniment to meat or fish).

## **Weather & Seasonality**

### **Weather Information**

In Veneto and the surrounding areas the temperatures are cool/mild in spring and autumn and warm/humid in summer, with potential summer storms. You can find more information on the weather in Veneto on [www.arpa.veneto.it](http://www.arpa.veneto.it).

## Arrival Details

Tour prices do not include airport or rail station transfers. We can usually arrange rail tickets and pre-booked train station transfers for you at an additional charge (inquire for details and prices).

**Nearest arrival airport:** Venice Marco Polo airport

**Nearest departure airport:** Venice Marco Polo airport

Recommended travel: Fly to Venice Marco Polo then rail (not included, inquire for prices) Venice Mestre to Vicenza 13:32/14:03 and pre-booked transfer (not included, inquire for prices) to hotel 50 minutes. Return: Pre-booked transfer (not included, inquire for prices) to station 50 minutes then rail Vicenza to Venice Mestre 13:56/14:28 then fly out of Venice Marco Polo.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers will be sent to you as part of our Final Joining Instructions. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

**Location start:** Cortela

**Location end:** Cortela

## What to Take

### Essential Equipment

- Walking boots
- Water bottle
- Daypack
- Sun hat, sun cream and sunglasses
- Warm jumper
- Waterproofs

### Optional Equipment

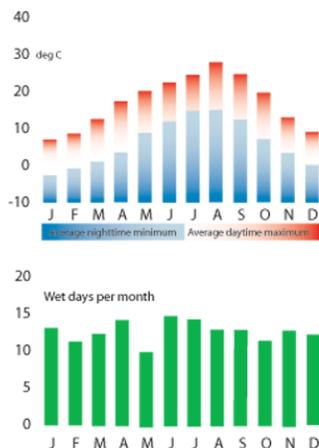
- Walking poles are strongly recommended
- A small umbrella in case of unexpected showers
- Swimming suit and towel for swimming pool at the hotel

## Reading List

- The Rough Guide to Venice and the Veneto
- DK Eyewitness Travel Guide: Venice & the Veneto
- Venice and the Veneto Lonely Planet City Guide



# Weather Charts



## Practical Information

### Passport

#### Italy

All nationalities require a full passport that must be valid beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information offered below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

### Visa

#### Italy

No visa required for US passport holders. Please note in Italy it is compulsory to carry ID with you at all times.

For further travel advice please visit U.S. State Department at <https://www.state.gov/travelers/>

Visa regulations can change without notice: please check the current regulations in good time to obtain a visa if one is required.

### Vaccination

#### Italy

There are no specific health risks.

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad.

The above information can change at short notice; as we are not qualified to answer all your questions about travel health we strongly recommend you contact your Medical Professional or a Travel Health Clinic at least 8 weeks prior to departure for up-to-date information. Please note: vaccinations that are routinely recommended to residents of North America or Australasia are not considered to form part of the travel health advice, and you should ensure these are kept up to date where necessary.

For additional information please visit: Centers for Disease Control C.D.C at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>

### Insurance - are you adequately covered?

It is a condition of joining any of our holidays that you must be fully insured against medical and personal accident risks (to include repatriation costs and air ambulance or helicopter rescue services where appropriate). On arrival in destination for your trip, you will be asked to present details to your leader or local representative of your policy.

If you are resident of the United States, we recommend the Travelex Travel Select travel insurance policy, this is specifically designed to cover all activities on your trip. If arranging your own policy please ensure that you are covered for all activities that are part of the trip, optional activities that you intend to take part in and/or on high altitude itineraries, that you are covered up to the maximum altitude of the trip.

## **Local Time**

**Italy's Timezone:** Europe/Rome CEST (GMT +02:00)

## **Electricity**

**Italy's Electricity:** European plug - 2 round pins.

## **Money**

### **Italy's Currency**

The national currency of Italy is the Euro (EUR), with an exchange rate at the time of publication of approximately 0.9 to the US\$.

Exchange rates are correct at the time of publication.

### **ATM Availability**

Cash points are widely available throughout trip and almost all places visited accept major credit cards.

### **Extra Expenses & Spending Money**

You will need spending money for meals not included in the itinerary and all drinks. We suggest €25 per day to cover a few drinks if not then €10 per day. On the days where lunch is not included expect to spend €10-€15.



## **Responsible Tourism**

At Breakaway we believe in the power of Responsible Travel.

Every time we travel, we are part of a global movement that creates jobs, builds more sustainable societies, encourages cultural understanding and safeguards common natural and cultural heritage.

## **Important Information**

### **On all guided trips**

Although our leaders are well trained to deal with different capabilities, if they have any concerns about someone's ability to safely partake in an activity, or their impact on other people's enjoyment, we authorize them to take necessary action which, in some circumstances, may involve asking someone to miss that activity.

Although rarely enforced, by booking this trip you agree to section 5 of our Booking Conditions which clearly states that our leaders have the authority to do this. In these circumstances we will ensure anyone sitting out is safely provided for and offered alternative options where possible. Refunds will not be provided for activities missed and customers may be liable for additional costs incurred.

### **On all trips**

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call the Breakaway office and ask to speak to one of the experts on this itinerary.

In an emergency, please contact our 24 hour out of hours service on +44 (0) 844 326 7041.

Every time that you travel abroad you should take the time to read the warnings in the essential information in the brochure.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers, and details of how to reach the start point, will be sent to you approximately 2 to 3 weeks prior to departure. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure or website, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure and website. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; in order to enjoy them you should be prepared to be flexible where necessary. Occasionally, as stated in our brochure, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned. This may be for a variety of reasons - climatic, political, physical or other. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements that maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

### **TRAVEL AWARE -STAY SAFE & HEALTHY ABROAD**

The U.S. State Department has up-to-date advice on staying safe and healthy abroad. For more on security, local laws, plus passport and visa information, see <https://www.state.gov/travelers/>

Keep informed of current travel health news by visiting Centers for Disease Control C.D.C at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>

Advice can change so check regularly for updates.

For all latest travel information about your holiday, please visit our Travel Safety Advice page.

## **How to Book**

Ready to book? Please contact **Breakaway Adventures on Tel: 1-800-567-6286; International Tel: +1-843-856-9771.**

**<https://www.breakaway-adventures.com>**