

# Historical Tuscany

## Montecatini – Cinque Terre – Florence – Siena – Arezzo – Perugia – Assisi – Rome

**12 days/11 nights**

**Price includes:**

- 4-star hotels
- Air conditioned coaches
- Breakfast and dinners as per itinerary
- Escorted excursions as per itinerary

**Price excludes:**

- Air fare and taxes
- Passport and visa fees
- Travel insurance
- Optional tours

### Highlights

#### Florence

If you had to pick a city to represent all that human kind has achieved, it would be hard not to pick Florence. The Uffizi, one of the world's finest art galleries, features masterpieces from Italy, Germany, Holland and Spain.

#### Cinque Terre

Lying northwest of La Spezia, the magnificent Cinque Terre (five lands) is an isolated region, best reached by train or boat. The rugged coastline is wild but hospitable with its enchanting vineyards and quaint fishing villages. A coastal path links all five villages.

#### Tuscany

World-renowned for its medieval towns nestled upon hilltops, sleepy villages, vineyards, rugged mountains, rustic villas and historical cities. Art and culture are found everywhere, from churches to majestic hilltop monasteries.

#### Day 1 – Rome

Independent arrival to your hotel in Rome. Welcome drinks at 6.00p.m. Overnight stay in Rome.

#### Day 2 – Rome

Breakfast. A day at your leisure to explore the ancient city of Rome. Take a stroll through Piazza Navona, Rome's most beautiful piazza lined with palaces, cafes and three Baroque fountains. Visit the Pantheon built between AD118-125, the famous Spanish steps, the Trevi Fountain, Vatican City, St. Peter's Basilica, the Colosseum and the famous Piazza Venezia. Overnight stay in Rome (B).

#### Day 3 - Rome – Pisa – Montecatini

After breakfast proceed north to Pisa. You will have time to explore 'Campo dei Miracoli', the area where the Cathedral, Baptistry and Leaning Tower of Pisa are located. Then continue on to charming San Miniato, perched high on a hill for a brief stop before reaching our spa town of Montecatini Terme. Overnight stay at Montecatini. (B & D)

#### Day 4 – Montecatini – Lucca – Montecatini

After breakfast depart for a full day excursion to one of the great Tuscan cities, Lucca. The Medici family, grand dukes of Tuscany, had the town fortified by surrounding it with massive walls and eleven bastions. The city walls offer visitors a wonderful way to stroll and oversee the great architecture of the city. Lucca offers many great churches like the Duomo, San Michele in Foro, Santa Maria Forisportam and San Giovanni. Explore the medieval quarter and see the famous 'Case dei Guinigi' houses dating from the 1400's and the elliptical shaped 'Piazza del Mercato,' originally the site of a Roman amphitheatre. Overnight stay in Montecatini. (B & D)

#### Day 5 – Montecatini – Cinque Terre – Montecatini

After breakfast we head west for a full day excursion of the charming villages on the Ligurian coast. We pass the 'Gulf of La Spezia' to reach the picturesque cape of Portovenere. Continue on to Riomaggiore, the southernmost village of the 'Cinque Terre', where you will have time to hop on the 'milk-run' train and see



the other 4 villages or alternatively stroll the romantic 'love path' to Manarola, the second of these ancient fishing enclaves. Return to Montecatini for an overnight stay. (B & D)

### Day 6 – Montecatini – Florence

After breakfast depart for Florence, en route stopping at two other 'jewels' of Tuscany: the towns of Prato and Pistoia. Prato, famous for its textiles, features an exquisite cathedral, the church of Santa Maria delle Carceri and Museo dell'Opera del Duomo. Continue to Pistoia to see the Palazzo del Podesta, Palazzo del Comune and the exquisite churches of San Giovanni Fuorcivitas, Saint Andrea and Madonna Dell'Umita. Overnight stay in Florence. (B)

### Day 7 – Florence – San Gimignano – Siena – Florence

After breakfast depart for another full day of sightseeing in San Gimignano and Siena. The small multi-towered town of San Gimignano is rich in works of art. Collegiata, a 12th-century Romanesque church contains frescoes from the Old Testament, the Life of Christ and the Last Judgement. In the Piazza del Duomo you will find the Palazzo Vecchio del Podesta, the town's oldest tower, Museo Civico and Palazzo Del Popolo. Our next stop is Siena, one of Italy's prettiest medieval towns. This medieval town is a maze of narrow streets and alleys formed around a fan-shaped piazza, one of Europe's greatest medieval squares (Piazza del Campo). This piazza is the setting for the twice-yearly Palio, a festival centred around a bareback horse race. Overnight stay in Florence. (B).

### Day 8 – Florence

Breakfast. Full day at your leisure to explore the historical city of Florence. Visit the Duomo and Baptistry, Europe's fourth largest church and Florence's tallest building. Also visit the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo. To the south of the Duomo you will find the Piazza della Signoria, Palazzo Vecchio and the town hall. Visit the Uffizi, one of Italy's leading art galleries, where you will find not only the world's greatest collection of Italian Renaissance but also masterpieces from Holland, Spain and Germany. Take a stroll over the oldest surviving bridge in the city, Ponte Vecchio built in 1345, which offers some of the finest jewellery in Italy. Overnight stay in Florence. (B)

### Day 9 – Florence – Arezzo – Perugia

After breakfast depart for Perugia, en route stopping at one of Tuscany's wealthiest cities, Arezzo, the setting for the award winning movie 'Life is Beautiful'. Visit the Piazza Grande and the 13th-century church of San Francesco which houses one of Italy's greatest fresco cycles, the Legend of the True Cross. Continue on to Perugia with a brief stop in Cortona, one of the oldest hill-towns in Tuscany. Overnight stay in Perugia. (B)

### Day 10 – Perugia – Assisi – Perugia

After breakfast depart for a full day excursion to Assisi, the mystic town of Saint Francis. The beautiful medieval town is perched halfway up Monte Subasio. Basilica di San Francesco (the burial place of St. Francis) was begun in 1228, two years after the Saint's death. It comprises of two churches; an upper and

lower church. The upper church contains Giotto's sequence of 28 frescoes depicting the life of St Francis. Piazza del Comune, Assisi's main square, is dominated by the columns of the Tempio di Minerva, a Roman temple front from the Augustan age. Return to Perugia for overnight stay. (B)

### Day 11 – Perugia

Breakfast. Full day at your leisure to explore the charming city of Perugia. Visit Fontana Maggiore, San Pietro and Palazzo dei Priori. The Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria is one of the finest examples of Gothic communal architecture and it shelters some of Umbria's greatest collections of paintings dating back to the 13th century. Overnight stay in Perugia. (B)

### Day 12 – Perugia – Rome

After breakfast depart for Rome airport with a brief stop in Spoleto. This quiet town comes alive each June and July when it hosts the 'Festival dei Due Mondi'. (Festival of Two Worlds). The festival was founded in 1958 by Gian Carlo Menotti, with the aim of creating an occasion for matching and exchanging the Italian, American and European artistic cultures in Spoleto.

*End of Tour*

*“ . . . Beautiful the city lies along  
the Ample vale, Cathedral, tower  
and Palace, piazza and street,  
the river trailing like a  
silver cord . . . ”*

Elizabeth Barrett Browning  
(1806-61) Aurora Leigh

