

## 2024 Discover Tuscany Itinerary

**- Day 1 – June 24**

**Florence – Cinque Terre – Montecatini (D)**

**Travelers: Book early morning arrival flights to Florence to avoid Transfer issues.**

---



Arrive in Florence! Meet your Tour Manager and through coach at the airport, and transfer to Montecatini, with a stop in **CINQUE TERRE**. Cinque Terre is a string of old villages on the coast of Italy. Hop on a CRUISE, where you will depart from La Spezia and see Vernazza, Menarola, Portovenere, and Monerosso. See the colorful villages tucked away in the mountains; the fishing boats and the waterfront promenades; the clifftops and vineyards. After your cruise, re-board your coach in La Spezlis and continue to Montecatini. You will have a welcome dinner at a local restaurant La Cascina di Carfelli G. and C. or similar. Overnight in Montecatini.

**- Day 2 June 25**

**Montecatini (B)**

---



Enjoy breakfast at your hotel in Montecatini, enjoy free time to explore the excitement of Montecatini on your own. This Tuscan town is famous for its thermal waters, but also plays host to trendy restaurants, theatres, and nightclubs. There is plenty to see on Montecatini including the Medici family summer residence on Viale Verdi, Palazzina Regia, beautiful fountains including fountain Mazzoni and Guidotti Fountain and more. Dinner is under your own arrangements this evening. Overnight in Montecatini.

**- Day 3 June 26**

**Florence (B/D)**

---



Today enjoy a city tour of Florence after breakfast at your hotel. With your local guides, see the marvels of architecture and history in the city. See Santa Maria Novella Cathedral, or the Duomo, began at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Famous for it's two centuries of construction, you can find the famous Last Judgment fresco by Giorgio Vasari, and look up to see the intriguing dome, built without scaffolding. Visit the cupola. At the time of its construction, it was the largest in the world. View Giotto's Belltower, and the Baptistry with its impressive 'Gates of Paradise'. These buildings demonstrate the traditions of

Florentine art and architecture from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. The insightful walking tour also features a stroll across the famous Ponte Vecchio Bridge lined with shops. There will be free time to explore Florence on your own before returning to Montecatini. Upon your return, you will take the Montecatini Funicular, a characteristic red carriage, up to the medieval village, Montecatini Alto. In Montecatini Alto one can find remnants of gates and the walls for entry into the castle area (now built into other town buildings), the remains of the ancient castle, and the Carmel Fortress. You will have dinner in Montecatini Alto, before returning on the Funicular to Montecatini Terme to your hotel.

## - Day 4 June 27

## Pisa/Lucca (B)

---



After breakfast travel to one of the most famous cities in Italy, Pisa. Here you will have time on your own to explore; perhaps you will stroll into the Piazza Del Miracoli to see the Duomo; or visit the historic Baptistry and the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa. The tower is 180 feet high and no less than 13 feet off the perpendicular; an amazing sight to see. After your visit to Pisa, travel to Lucca. Lucca's great era was in the Gothic time just before the Renaissance, and the city contains stunning architecture from that period. Upon arrival you will enjoy a guided tour of Puccini Museum, the Maestro's restored house which displays manuscripts and music scores from his operas in addition to other memorabilia. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant

in Lucca before you return to Montecatini this evening. Dinner is under your own arrangements. Overnight on Montecatini.

## - Day 5 June 28

## Siena/San Gimignano (B/L)

---



Enjoy breakfast at your hotel. This morning travel to Siena, the heart of Tuscany. Enjoy a Siena Walking Tour with local guides as you stroll the medieval streets to the dramatic Piazza del Campo, the heart of Siena, and scene of the annual Summer Palio horse race. Also, pass the town's famous black and white striped cathedral and enjoy some time at leisure. Either near Siena or San Gimignano you will enjoy lunch and a wine tasting. Later travel to the famous hilltop town of San Gimignano. The town is one of the most picturesque of Italy's perfectly preserved medieval towns with medieval towers, built in the 12th century. Join local guides and fellow travelers on a stroll through the quaint streets and visit Piazza della Cisterna,

one of Italy's most beautiful town squares. Enjoy the scenic return to Montecatini Terme for an evening at leisure. Relax at your hotel or step out to a local restaurant (at own expense) and enjoy the wonderful tastes of Tuscany.

## - Day 6 June 29

## Assisi/Rome (B)

---



After breakfast travel south and into the Umbrian countryside to the beautiful hilltop town of Assisi. Arrive in the birthplace of Italy's Catholica patron saint, St. Francis of Assisi. The town features an interesting medieval center, friendly shops, and Roman ruins. A local guide joins you for your tour of the Basilica of Saint Francis, including the Upper Church and Lower Church. The Basilica was begun in 1228 and constructed into the side

of a hill, and includes a crypt housing the remains of St. Francis. The churches are decorated with the works of late medieval painters, including Cimabue, Giotto and Lorenzetti. Planned for the group is a private access to lesser known areas of the Basilica, with its extraordinary history and musical relics. **AS A SPECIAL FEATURE, ENJOY A PRIVATE RECITAL BY THE OTTETTO DELLA CAPPELLA MUSICALE DELLA BASILICA PAPPALÈ**

**OF SAINT FRANCESCO.** Later travel to Rome and check in for a 2-night stay. The “Eternal City’ is the capital and largest city in Italy. Rome, as the center of power, culture and religion, has exerted a huge influence over the world in its roughly 2800 years of existence. You will have a short orientation walking tour with your Tour Manager in the evening. Pass the Pantheon, the well-preserved former Roman Temple and stop at the Trevi Fountain to make a wish; the fountain is beautiful at night. Your tour manager will return to the hotel with anyone who would like and can also provide dinner recommendations around these sights. Dinner is under your own arrangements. Overnight in Rome.

**- Day 7 June 30**

**Rome (B/D)**

---



This morning you will enjoy a Rome City Tour after breakfast and enjoy some of the highlights of Ancient Rome. See the famous **COLOSSEUM, ROMAN FORUM**, and pass by the Arch of Constantine. See some of the many famous Piazzas including, Piazza Venezia. There is no shortage of sights to see in Rome. After free time for lunch, **YOU WILL HAVE AN EVENING CONCERT IN ROME AT EPISCOPAL CHURCH ST. PAUL’S WITHIN THE WALLS, OR SIMILAR.** After your concert this evening enjoy a Farewell Dinner featuring great wine!

**Day 8 July 1**

**Departure To USA (B)**

---

After breakfast at your Rome hotel, say “Arrivederci” to Rome, and board your flight back to the United States.

*Arrivederci!*