ITALIAN WALKS

Walking in

Tuscany and the Riviera

OCTOBER 7 - 17, 2024
Itinerary

DAY 1
U.S. / FLORENCE
Overnight flight to Florence.

DAY 2
ARRIVAL FLORENCE
(Overnight Florence)
We’ll gather in Florence today where we’ll explore the city on an afternoon walking tour, followed by a welcome reception at our hotel. Dinner is on your own. HOTEL EXECUTIVE

DAY 3
FLORENCE / VAL D’ORCIA
(Overnight Montalcino)
This morning we’ll drive south to San Quirico d’Orcia a quintessential Tuscan town in the Chianti region with views of rolling hills as far as the eyes can see. After a welcome lunch at a local trattoria, we’ll make our first memories on a panoramic hike from Vignoni Alto to Bagno Vignoni where its main central square is a large pool filled with hot springs water. Reach the Tuscan hill town of Montalcino our home for the next two nights. HOTEL DEI CAPITANI (B, L, D) / 4 MILES HIKING, 2 HOURS

DAY 4
VAL D’ORCIA
(Overnight Montalcino)
Following breakfast, we hike down past silvery clouds of olive groves and a patchwork quilt of vineyards to Sant’Antimo, a Romanesque Benedictine Monastery dating back to the 8th century. We’ll enjoy lunch and hospitality at a local farmhouse. In the afternoon, we’ll reach the charming Renaissance village of Pienza, a UNESCO World Heritage site in the heart of the Val d’Orcia region. We’ll return to Montalcino for a dinner on our own. HOTEL DEI CAPITANI (B, L) / 5 MILES HIKING, 3 HOURS

DAY 5
SIENA
(Overnight Colle Val d’Elsa)
We’ll spend the morning exploring the enchanting city of Siena, once a historic rival to Florence, and graced today with winding red-brick lanes, Gothic churches, fountains, and elegant palaces. We’ll learn about the city’s competitive contrade or districts. Enjoy lunch on your own at the great central square, Il Campo. We’ll continue to Colle di Val d’Elsa where crystal and glassware have been produced since the 17th century. After meeting with a local artisan we’ll proceed to our accommodation. PALAZZO PACINI (B, D) / 5 MILES HIKING, 3 HOURS

DAY 6
SAN GIMIGNANO
(Overnight Colle Val d’Elsa)
We begin the day in San Gimignano—one of Tuscany’s most beautiful hill towns and a UNESCO World Heritage site. At the height of its glory, San Gimignano’s patrician families had built 72 towers as symbols of their wealth and power, now 14 towers remain. Explore the city’s maze-like streets and fresco-adorned Duomo. A short drive takes us to the striking Abbey of Strove. From here a scenic walk brings us alongside the Via Francigena, an ancient road and pilgrimage route through the striking Abbey of Isola before reaching the unmistakable crown of towers of Monteriggioni, one of Italy’s best known walled towns. PALAZZO PACINI (B, L) / 5 MILES HIKING, 4 HOURS

DAY 7
LUCCA / SESTRI LEVANTE
(Overnight: Sestri Levante)
At the Tuscan town of Lucca, we’ll have the opportunity to enjoy a bicycle ride along its unique Medieval walls and to explore its historical and artistic treasures and gorgeous public squares (electric bikes are available on request). We examine with our guides the striking Cathedral as well as the hidden gem of Palazzo Pfanner, before
proceeding to the seaside town of Sestri Levante, our base for delving into the Riviera di Levante, on one of the most attractive stretches of coastline in Italy. Unwind with a seafood dinner by the waterfront.

**HOTEL VIS À VIS (B, L, D) / 4 MILES CYCLING, 2 HOURS**

**DAY 8**

**LIGURIA (Overnight: Sestri Levante)**

Fresh air and pure nature, towns nestled amidst mountain rocks, and terraced vineyards welcome us as we hike the Ligurian coast towards Moneglia. The itinerary winds through a silent and intimate Liguria with unforgettable scents and colors and remarkable testimonies of peasant culture. Forest of holm oak, centenary specimens of cork, Mediterranean scrub, and stunning maritime pines grace the coast. As we walk, the views are striking and span from the coast of Tuscany to the French Riviera.

**HOTEL VIS À VIS (B, L) / 4 MILES HIKING, 3 HOURS**

**DAY 9**

**CINQUE TERRE (Overnight: Sestri Levante)**

Today we explore memorable Cinque Terre, a string of fishing villages perched high on the Italian Riviera. Take a short train ride to Monterosso al Mare, one of the five villages that make up the Cinque Terre. Clinging to cliffs above the Mediterranean, these hamlets dazzle with clusters of pastel-hued homes overlooking harbors dotted with fishing skiffs. Depending on the trail conditions, we’ll hike along the trail that links the neighboring villages of Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola, and Riomaggiore, or enjoy a scenic train and boat ride from village to village.

**HOTEL VIS À VIS (B, L) / 5/6 MILES HIKING, 5 HOURS**

**DAY 10**

**PORTOFINO (Overnight: Sestri Levante)**

This morning we’ll take a short train ride to Santa Margherita Ligure. From here we walk the coastal path to stunning Portofino, one of the most romantic places in Italy and considered “one of the eight wonders of the world”: an incredibly well-preserved fisherman’s village in the heart of a Natural Park. It offers a breathtaking landscape, spectacular views of the coast and sea, and amazing food and wine. This afternoon, we’ll return to Santa Margherita Ligure by ferry boat and take the train back to Sestri Levante. We’ll gather tonight for a hearty farewell dinner.

**HOTEL VIS À VIS (B, D) / 3 MILES WALKING, 1.5 HOURS**

**DAY 11**

**GENOA / U.S.**

Private group transfer to catch your flight home from Genoa airport. Those continuing on the Rome post-trip extension will take a short flight to Rome today.
OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION TO
ROME October 17 - 20, 2024

Few cities can outshine Rome, the Eternal City. No matter if you have visited Rome before, you will discover that the further you go, the deeper it is. Surrounded by antiquity, encounter over two thousand years of history as well as the latest fashion trends. Start your extension with a transfer to Genoa airport and board a flight to Rome where you will spend 3 nights. On this post-trip extension, see the glories of Roman emperors, splendid Renaissance and Baroque churches, plazas, cafes and gelaterias, shops, and fountains. Visit the Colosseum and tour the Vatican, including the peaceful Vatican gardens. You will see Ancient and Baroque Rome, including Piazza Navona, Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, the Spanish Steps, the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter’s Basilica. In addition, there will be some free time to leisurely walk the streets, see the latest fashion trends before stopping for a gelato or a café.

Extension includes 3 nights’ accommodations, porterage, city taxes, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner, private group transfer from the airport, entrance fees, and all tips. Extension price is based on a minimum of 8 participants. HOTEL STENDHAL OR EQUIVALENT.

PROGRAM COST DOES NOT INCLUDE: U.S. domestic and international airfare (quoted separately) • Excess baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary • Personal items such as laundry, email, fax or telephone calls • Alcoholic beverages except those mentioned above • Dishes or beverages not included with meals • Room service • Passport fees • Private transfers • Covid-19 testing • Quarantine expenses • Medical expenses • Travel insurance • Optional extensions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Tip to the tour director is not included and is at passengers’ discretion.
Pricing

$6,595 Per person double occupancy
$7,720 Single occupancy

FLORENCE PRE-TRIP EXTENSION
$985 Per person double occupancy
$1,170 Single occupancy

ROME POST-TRIP EXTENSION
$2,375 Per person double occupancy
$2,945 Single occupancy

Program Cost Includes

All activities per itinerary • Professional English speaking guides and tour director throughout • Professional expert guide in Florence, Siena, and Lucca • Transportation by private motorcoach • Airport transfers for group flights • All local train tickets in the Riviera • Ferry boat tickets in the Riviera • Cinque Terra Card • Bicycles in Lucca (e-bikes available on request) • Tips to local guides and drivers • Service charges and taxes • Baggage handling • Entrance fees • Pre-departure information • Coordination and administration.

PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION FORM

Please mail or fax your pre-registration form and deposit information to: Royal Adventures, 9 Crow Canyon Ct., Suite 205, San Ramon, CA 94583. Fax 925-855-1909.

Enclosed is my deposit for $_________($800 per person) for ______ person/s. This secures our space on the Italian Walks tour October 7-17, 2024. Please mail a check or alternatively charge my deposit to: ☐ AMEX ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Card # ____________________________ Expiration Date ___________ Security code ___________

I/we understand that I will be contacted once the final pdf brochure for the tour is available online. I will be given the opportunity to cancel within 10 days of the date of notification in writing, without penalty. I also understand that billing and a complete confirmation packet, including information about optional trip insurance and travel protection will follow once I convert this preliminary registration into a confirmed booking which will be subject to the cancellation terms and responsibility clause and other terms stated in the brochure. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign the terms of the brochure and a separate liability release.

Passport Name ________________________ Date of birth__________ Gender ____ Class Yr. ________

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Street Address __________________________________________ City ________________State ____ ZIP __________

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See impressive and lovely scenery

Dine in charming trattorias and ristorantes that only seasoned travelers know

Bicycle in Lucca and explore Porto Fino

Discover the Cliffside villages of Cinque Terra and savor the exquisite tranquility of quaint hill towns

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Walking in Tuscany and the Riviera

OCTOBER 7-17, 2024

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY Alumni Association