

FROM VOLTERRA TO SIENA - THE TREASURED HEART OF TUSCANY

8-days / 7-nights Self-guided inn-to-inn **value tour** walking across the rolling hills of Chianti
Includes the towers of San Gimignano, the walled village of Monteriggioni and spectacular city of Siena



There is something for everyone in Tuscany: the walking, the history, architecture, art, wine and food. The changing colours of the landscapes from the fresh emerald greens of spring and the biscuit browns of autumn always against crystal clear azure blue or moody cloud filled skies.

One of Europe's most famous landscapes and revered cultures, and always one of our most popular walking destinations, the Italian region of Tuscany has attracted visitors from around the world for centuries and will continue to do so. Today of course the important historical towns attract an enormous number of tourists at any time of year, but if you venture outside the town walls and wander into the countryside (as we do on our self-guided walks), the buses disappear and you find some beautiful trails across peaceful, undulating rural landscapes which, like some of the towns themselves, have not changed greatly in hundreds of years.

This is a relatively easy walking tour, which is suitable for those who are new to walking holidays, although the walks can involve some steep (if shortish) hills and warm temperatures especially during the summer months. Enjoy the classic Tuscan landscapes of olive groves, fields of sunflowers, barley and bean fields, evergreen oak and Strawberry Tree forests and of course the many vineyards. More experienced walkers will find additional hill climbs and extra kilometres from your accommodation in the search for the *roads less travelled*.

Departs: Daily from April to November
Grade: Easy to Moderate
Starts: From Volterra to Siena
Cost: AU\$1380 per person twin share Single room supplement AU\$595

Inclusions: 7-nights in 2 and 3-star hotels or guesthouses with breakfast daily, 2 dinners, luggage transfers, route notes & maps, telephone assistance if required.

Not included: Transport to the start or from the finish of the walk, other meals, local hotel taxes (paid locally) and personal expenses. We can organize an optional arrival transfer from Pisa or Florence to Volterra (@ €80 per transfer for two people, paid locally) – this transfer needs to be pre-reserved, so please ask when booking.

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival in Volterra.

You will find your walk route notes, maps & guidebook at the reception desk of your first hotel. You have two nights in a 3-star hotel here with dinner included on one night.

Day 2: Circular walks: 14km – 3 to 5 hours

We suggest a circular route today offering wonderful, expansive views across the heart of Tuscany. On clear days you can see the Apuan Alps. There is a choice of walks available, easier where you can use local transport to get back to your hotel or more challenging with some climbs and an extra 9km along a rail trail.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Day 3: Volterra to San Gimignano: 16km - 5 hours

We arrange a transfer for you after breakfast to the start of the walk this morning. The highpoints today are the views over the rolling hills and the magnificent ruins of the city of Castelvecchio. Overnight you stay in a historic 3-star hotel right on the main square of San Gimignano one of the most visited and photographed towns in Tuscany with its 'dreaming towers' and commanding views. Dinner is included tonight.

Day 4 San Gimignano to Colle Val d'Elsa: 13 or 17km – 3.5 or 5 hours

From San Gimignano you soon discover the Vernaccia wine country, one of the first DOC white wine regions in Italy. There are a couple of climbs through woodlands and across typical undulating Tuscan farmland as you make your way to the ridge and hill top town of Colle Val d'Elsa where you stay in a 3-star hotel in the old town.

Day 5: Colle di Val d'Elsa to Monteriggioni: 17km – 5 to 6 hours

The walk today is across fairly easy terrain, exploring interesting monasteries, castles and many small villages along the way. But it is still 17km of walking which can be a challenge on hot days, so if you want to make this shorter, you can use a taxi or local bus (at your own cost) to the hotel. Tonight is one of 2-nights you will spend in a typical and very lovely B & B (pictured) in Monteriggioni. Your hosts have a small restaurant on the main square inside the walls of this most wonderful medieval fortress.

Day 6: Circular walk into the Chianti Classico: 7 - 18km – 2 or 5.5 hours

A relaxing breakfast with perfect hosts then time to explore the medieval town of Monteriggioni, perhaps climbing the towers for views across the Tuscan countryside. Perhaps wander through the surrounding area – the town is on the ancient Via Francigena pilgrimage route - discovering vineyards, olive groves and avenues of cypress trees. You can also use the free day to visit any of the nearby Tuscan historical towns or villages.

Day 7: Monteriggioni to Siena: 8 - 14km – 2.5 or 4.5 hours

You have the option of a shorter walk, using a local bus to reduce the distance (paid locally), but we recommend you take the longer one, as it is very interesting. Walk from Monteriggioni over the Montagnola Hill following the old Via Francigena on a hilly, rocky trail through a wooded area of mostly oak trees. There are fine views towards the magnificent historical city of Siena. To complete the day, take the bus from San Martino to Siena (tickets are included in your route notes). Overnight is in a 3-star hotel in Siena.

Day 8: Tour ends

Depart Siena after breakfast - extra nights are available at extra cost if required.



Other walking holidays – guided in small groups or self-guided with inn-to-inn luggage transfers & meals – are available in many parts of Europe through **Outdoor Travel** including the Tour de Mont Blanc, the Dordogne or Loire Valley in France or Umbria, the Amalfi Coast or the Cinque Terre routes in Italy. And pilgrimage routes in France & Spain such as the **Camino de Santiago** or **Way of St James** from Le Puy to Santiago or the **Camino Portuguese** from Porto to Santiago and in Italy the **Via Francigena** – the pilgrims **Road to Rome** or **St Cuthbert's Way** from Scotland into England.

We offer other popular trails such as **Wainwrights Coast to Coast Walk** or the **Cornish Coastal Path** in England, the **West Highland Way** in Scotland, **Snowdon** in Wales or the **Ring Of Kerry** in Ireland.

Contact **Outdoor Travel** for more details and reservations:

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