

ITALY – CLASSIC TUSCANY

8-day / 7-night one-hotel - centre-based group guided walking & sightseeing tour



- Gentle countryside walks through classic Tuscan countryside crowned with historic towns
- The beautiful Renaissance city of Siena makes a fascinating sightseeing day
- Visit the charming hill-top villages of Montepulciano, Montalcino and Pienza
- 3-star Tuscan hotel, a few minutes stroll from the walled town of San Quirico d'Orcia

Tuscany is a wonderful destination for walkers, particularly those interested in art or historical cities in food, wine and spectacular scenery. This guided walking holiday offers spectacular walking in the gentle rolling countryside and the beautiful hill-towns of Tuscany.

The historic fortified village of San Quirico lies in the heart of the Val d'Orcia, in a wonderful landscape of green and golden hills for which Tuscany is famous. San Quirico is probably of Etruscan origin and is situated about 40km south of Siena. Located in the middle of the main Via Francigena pilgrimage route, the town has long been a staging post for wayfarers, pilgrims and merchants on the way to Rome.

This centre-based walking holidays offer a choice of two guided walks each day – usually an easier walk and a more challenging option. There is also a free-day midweek for you to relax or join-in a sightseeing itinerary.

Cost: AU\$1275 per person (twin share) Single room supplement: AU\$120

Departures: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th May, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th September, 2012

Tour includes: 7-nights in a comfortable 3-star hotel room with ensuite bathrooms where available, 7-breakfasts, 7-evening meals, experienced walks leader, 5-guided walks and a free-day midweek.

Not Included: Airport transfers from Pisa (these can be pre-booked at extra cost – we recommend you take these - please ask for details when booking), meals & drinks not mentioned & personal expenses.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Please note that the itinerary outlined below is provisional and could be subject to change.

Day 1: Arrival Day

Day 2: Pienza

Both walks will leave from the hotel. From the walls of San Quirico we will get a glimpse of Pienza, our destination. We head out through the gates of the town heading east to cross the valley of the Fasso Rigo. We walk on tracks and traditional Tuscan "white" roads, finally ascending to Pienza with ample time to explore and take refreshments before we return to the hotel by coach.

Day 3: A View from the Rocca

Today we take transport south to the castle keep of Tentennano, known locally as Rocca d'Orcia. Both walks are circular starting and finishing at the Rocca. At the conclusion of the walk there will be the opportunity to climb to the top of the keep and see one of the most spectacular views in Tuscany, or visit the nearby village.

Day 4: Siena - Full Day Excursion

We travel by coach to the famous city of Siena. Within its medieval walls lies a stunning collection of beautiful buildings. We will make the 1 hour journey by coach. As well as visiting the principal sights, including the Campo & Duomo, there will be a chance to relax & refresh or wander through some of the city's quieter corners.

Day 5: Montepulciano

Montepulciano is the highest of the Tuscan hill-top towns, being built on a limestone ridge at approx 2,000ft (605m) above sea level. The day starts with short coach journeys to Pienza or Monticchiello. Both groups then walk east across rolling countryside and conclude with a steady ascent to Montepulciano. There will be time for sightseeing and sampling the local wines (or other refreshments) before returning to San Quirico by coach.

Day 6: Free Day

Today no walks are organised, allowing you to explore the area independently or just relax around the hotel and San Quirico. If there is sufficient interest your leaders will organise an excursion (at extra cost).

Day 7: Montalcino

Our walks today head through forests, vineyards and farmland to Montalcino and the Abbey of San Antimo. We will have the opportunity to look around this most picturesque of abbeys and (if the timing is right) hear the monks singing mass. Finally we will head to Castelnuovo dell'Abate where we can take refreshments and/or walk up into the mediaeval heart of the village.

Day 8: Departure.

Please Note: This program should give you a good feel for the walks on this tour, but is subject to change. Each year we listen carefully to the views of our guests and make improvements to our walking programmes. Your walking leaders will make the selection of the walks offered each week.

Local transport to and from walks: Local transport is not included in the cost of your holiday. Please allow Euro 95 (approx \$150) per week for transport during the week, excluding your free day (payable locally).

Footpath information



Easier Walks: 7 to 12km on good tracks and paths, with short but steep ascents to the hilltop towns. Up to 250m of ascent in a day.



Harder Walks: 12 to 16km on good tracks and paths, with short but steep ascents to the hilltop towns. Up to 450m of ascent in a day.

Similar guided or self-guided walking holidays are available in many other areas of Italy including the **Cinque Terre, Umbria, Dolomites, Lake Garda & Amalfi Coast**. Similar walks are also offered in most countries of Europe in areas such as **Provence** or **Dordogne** & in the United Kingdom including the **Coast-to-Coast** walk or the **Cotswolds Way**, the **West Highland Way** in Scotland, the **Brecon Beacons** in Wales or the **Ring of Kerry** in Ireland. Also the **Way of St James** or Camino de Santiago in France & Spain or **Via Francigena** in Italy.

Contact **Outdoor Travel** or your travel agent for more details, travel brochures and reservations:

- Call Toll free 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741, Australia
- Travel Agent Licence No 31102