

Italy – Tuscany



Trip Summary

Chic and steeped in culture, Tuscany will charm you with its abundant lush landscapes and mouth-watering cuisine. We'll bicycle rural roads along gently terraced hills, hike through vineyards and olive groves with plenty of time to appreciate the region's timeless beauty and historic art treasures. Prior to the trip, be sure to visit Florence: rich in art, history, science and shopping, Florence is truly a Tuscan jewel.

Itinerary

Day 1: Siena

We meet in Florence in the morning and begin the day with a transfer to Chianti • Hike in the vineyard-clad hills of Chianti Classico and continue to the famous wine village of Gaiole • Savor a lunch in an old abbey with an olive grove • Stop for a wine tasting and a castle tour and find out why Italy is so well-known for its wine and vineyards • The route is filled with temptations before it leads to the golden hued, sentimental city of Siena • Tonight, we'll gather for a memorable Florentine welcome feast in Siena • *(L, D) Overnight at Hotel Villa Scacciapensieri*

Day 2: Siena

Travel back in time on an easy spin to the quiet, medieval villages of Belcaro and Sovicille • Spend the remainder of this day in Siena with a local historian who leads us on a spirited tour of this grand city • Share another amazing dinner together tonight at one of Siena's best restaurants, Ristorante da Enzo • *(B, L, D) Overnight at Hotel Villa Scacciapensieri*

Day 3: Siena

Relax and enjoy the scenery as you are transferred from Siena to Sinalunga this morning • Today's bike ride explores the graceful Tuscan landscape, famous for its sprawling green and sepia-toned farms • Visit the walled town of Asciano and take a group tour of the museum there • Break for lunch before visiting the famous abbey at Monte Oliveto Maggiore • Returning to Siena, delicate cypress trees frame dramatic views of the chalky cliffs of the Crete hills • Tonight offers you more time on your own to relax or experience more of this amazing city • *(B, L) Overnight at Hotel Villa Scacciapensieri*

Day 4: San Gimignano

Wooded hills form the backdrop for a picturesque and exhilarating day • We'll hike in the region of Monteriggioni, surrounded by 14 medieval towers, enjoy some more wine tasting at another one of Italy's fine wineries • Nearing day's end, everyone will meet in San Gimignano, the "Manhattan of Italy," and dine on expertly prepared local specialties, with panoramic views from your hilltop hotel • *(B, D) Overnight at Hotel la Cisterna*

Day 5: Artimino

Your destination today is Artimino, home to the famous Medici Villa of the Hundred Chimneys • Passing through orchards and vineyards, you'll visit traditional towns like Certaldo and Montespertoli before crossing the Arno into Artimino • Your home tonight is a 16th century villa located beside the famous Medici Villa • A gourmet farewell dinner awaits you as the group reflects on their adventures over the past days • *(B, L, D) Overnight at Hotel Paggeria Medicea*



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Day 6: Florence

Say arrivederci to la dolce vita, and shuttle to Florence after enjoying one last breakfast • Your guide will drop you off at the Florence airport or your hotel at the appropriate times for your departure home or the beginning of your trip extension • (B)

**Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

Activities

Hiking:

Day 1 Hiking mileage options: 4/5

Day 4 Hiking mileage options: 6

Cycling:

Day 2 bicycle mileage options: 17 / 23

Day 3 bicycle mileage options: 17 / 23 / 34 / 40

Day 5 bicycle mileage options: 31 / 36

Walking:

Day 2 walking tour of Siena

Discovery:

Ciao Bella! No place brings out the romantic in you like Italy. Learn all about the Palio and the competitive Contrades during our walk in Siena. Find St. Catherine's dried finger and shrunken head in the church in Siena. And wonder why the inhabitants of San Gimignano built the many towers. Evenings we'll relax at small luxury hotels, perfectly situated in the region's favorite towns, enjoying inspirational views, gourmet meals and fine local wines, as we embrace the people and the lust for life that makes Italy so unique.

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They take the time to explain the local history and daily sightseeing and route options. Each route has been carefully planned to include options to please each traveler's interests. Austin Adventures guides are available to help you select the distance that's right for you and to offer advice and assistance as you desire.

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Distinctive Accommodations

Nights 1 – 3: Hotel Villa Scacciapensieri

A heaven of greenery and peacefulness, the Hotel Villa Scacciapensieri is located in the city, yet it's surrounded by its own garden and a luxurious park of oak trees. Its peaceful and traditional setting is ideal for relaxing the mind and body.

Night 4: Hotel la Cisterna

Located in San Gimignano, a town of fairy tales with medieval towers, this charming hotel is housed in a stone-walled 14th century palace. You'll be surrounded by splendid views and the beautiful Tuscan countryside.

Night 5: Hotel Paggeria Medicea

Rustic style meets maximum comfort at the Hotel Paggeria Medicea. Situated on a peaceful location, this hotel offers stupendous views of the surrounding hills while offering the highest level of hospitality.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



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Arrival and Departures

Prior to the trip, arrive at your own convenience in Florence. On Day 1, we will meet you in the lobby of Grand Hotel Minerva in Florence at 8:30 a.m. After a briefing and a transfer to Gaiole in Chianti, the hiking begins. After breakfast on Day 6, we take you to the airport, train station, or the hotel of your choice in Florence (one hour transfer).

Trip Price

\$3,198 (\$680 single supplement)

Trip Length

6 days/5 nights

2020 Dates

June 14 – 19
September 6 – 11
October 11 – 16

Host City

Florence, Italy (FLR)

Reservations & Availability

1.800.575.1540

*Food, wine, history, and scenery
that can't be beat*

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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800-575-1540

Phone: 406-655-4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- Meals as listed in detailed itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities and national park entrance and permit fees.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.



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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you. If you book 90 days before the trip and we cannot find you a suitable roommate, we will take care of the single supplement. **some restrictions may apply*

Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.