

Great Explorations



Trip Dates

2012

Jun 4-9
Sep 25- 30

2013

Jun 3-8
Sep 24- 29

Self-guided and custom trips also available and can start any day. Call or email for details.

Trip Size:

8-12 participants

Total Days:

6 days/ 5 nights

Arrive/Depart:

Santa Margherita/ Levanto or Monterosso

Activity Level:

3 to 6 hours of hiking each day

Terrain:

There are hard climbs on most days

Cinque Terre, Walking Walking Along the Ligurian Coast

Welcome to the Ligurian Coast — the jewel of the Mediterranean! Become entranced by the seductive charms of this stunning coastline. Feel the heat of the sun as you walk through terraced citrus orchards and vineyards high-above the sparkling blue waters of the sea. Breathe the aroma of freshly baked foccaccia while meandering the cobbled streets of tiny cliffside villages. Embrace the contrast between Santa Margherita's stately villas and chic boutiques with the tranquility of Mediterranean oak forests teeming with butterflies, birds and wild flowers. Delight your palate each night with traditional pastas and fresh seafood while sipping a crisp Ligurian white. Discover this most exquisite.

Itinerary



Getting there :

Santa Margherita: The closest airports are in Genoa, Milan and Pisa. All of these are international airports with flights from European capitals as well as from Rome.

From all of these locations it is possible to take a train to Santa Margherita (Genoa 30-60 min; Milan 4-5 hrs — via Genoa; Pisa 2-3 hrs — via La Spezia).

DAYS 1+2:

Santa Margherita - Arrive in Santa Margherita a beautiful seaside town with palm-lined harbour and boulevards. Spend some time getting acclimatized by exploring the many sites in town - the Villa Durazzo, the churches and the many shops. Perhaps go for a short warm-up walk to Portofino.



DAY 2:

Santa Margherita - Dramatic landscapes is the watchword of the day as you explore the protected area of Parco di Portofino (location of some of the best hiking in Italy!). Your route follows the contour of the peninsula, beginning in Camogli and heading toward the sanctuary in San Rocco. Stop for lunch in the small village of San Fruttuoso - accessible only on foot or by boat, ending the day in the elite

resort town of Portofino, before heading back to Santa Margherita. Basic Walk 18km - 4h30 - elevation gain 755m. Shortcut Possible reducing your walking time

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Cost

Land Cost (current year):

US \$2250

Includes 5B/2L/4D

Single Supplement:

US \$370

DAY 3:

Monterosso - A short train ride will take you to the trailhead for your walk to the Cinque Terre region. Beginning in the village of Framura follow the path past a 15th century guard tower and a delightful Romanesque chapel, through the picturesque village of Bonassola - famous in antiquity for its baths (perhaps stop in for a dip). Another day of stellar views and sensational walking. Night in Levanto or Monterosso. Walk is 3 1/2 hours long with 520m of elevation.



DAY 4:

Monterosso - Explore the hills above Monterosso today - stopping in at the Sanctuary of Soviore and at the top of Colla Bagari for great views. You'll also have time to explore the historic sites in Monterosso—like the 13th century church of St. John and the castle ruins. Night in Levanto or Monterosso. The walk is approximately 4 1/4 hours long with 650m of elevation gain - leaving lots of time to explore Monterosso.

DAY 5:

Monterosso - The classic Cinque Terre walking trail awaits you today. Begin in Monterosso, the northernmost of the five famous perched villages and make your way to the southernmost - Riomaggiore. See for yourself what makes this region so famous! Be sure to stop in at one or more of the enotecas that can be found in these villages, to sample some local fare. Night in Levanto or Monterosso. The walk is 4 1/2 hours long with 550m of elevation gain.

DAY 6: Day of departure.



What's Included in the Cost of Your Trip?

- services of one or more experienced Great Explorations guides and support vehicle
- 5 nights lodging
- all breakfasts, 2 lunches, and all dinners but 1
- entrance fees for selected historical sites and museums
- detailed map and route instructions
- all baggage transportation
- all transportation from initial meeting point to final drop-off (see arrive/depart cities)

Please note: Final itinerary is subject to revision; any changes made are done so in an attempt to provide the best possible trip given route conditions and available services. Due to the nature of our business and exchange rates, prices are subject to change. All prices quoted are U.S. dollars but we gladly accept payment in Canadian dollars also. Due to cancellations and waiting lists, trip availability fluctuates daily. If you have any questions or would like to confirm space on this trip before making your reservation, please contact us at info@great-explorations.com or by telephone at **604.730.1247**

E-mail: info@great-explorations.com—Website: <http://www.great-explorations.com>
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Accommodations



Hotel Jolanda, Santa Margherita

This inn represents everything we like in a hotel: intimate, charming, distinctive with superb service and a casual elegance that finds just the right balance. Just 100m from the sea, Jolanda is housed in an elegant building and offers guests pampering and relaxation. This hotel should be given an extra star to add to the 3 they have.



Albergo Amici, Monterosso

Situated in the historical center of town, and just 150 meters from the sea, this 3-star hotel has adjoining vineyards and olive trees. Breakfast is excellent, served in the hotel's dining room and the restaurant offers an inviting menu of traditional dishes. Rooms are tastefully furnished and open to balconies through French doors.