

Great Explorations



Trip Dates

2012

Apr 20-26
Apr 27-May 3
May 6-12
May 21-27
Jun 24-30
Aug 31- Sep 6
Sep 11-17
Sep 21-27

2013

Apr 19-25
Apr 26-May 2
May 5-11
May 20-26
Jun 23-29
Aug 30- Sep 5
Sep 10-16
Sep 20-26

Custom and self-guided trips also available and can start any date. Call or email for details.

Trip Size

8-16 participants

Total Days:

7 days/ 6 nights

Arrive/Depart:

Siena / Chiusi

Tuscany, Biking

"...Birthplace of the Renaissance, land of Dante's poetry, and Chianti wine, muse to Michelangelo..."

Tuscany is deservedly world-renowned for having the many elements that make for an enriching travel experience. Traveling by bicycle allows us to enjoy the subtler aspects of this region, off of the 'touristed' main routes into the heart that is Italy.

Only Great Explorations:

- Small groups, extraordinary guides, and authentic experiences.
- A ride you will never forget: Asciano to Pienza with a picnic along the way at a secret location where the view is breathtaking.
- A meal you will never forget: lunch at Tre Porte in the picture perfect village of Montichiello.
- Our guest chef will teach you how to make hand-made picci in an Italian kitchen.
- Order off the menu at restaurants you won't find in guidebooks.
- Distinctive, charming hotels too small for larger groups.
- We design and operate our own trips so there are only good surprises.

Itinerary

Getting there :

Siena: Most participants will arrive via Rome or Florence the evening before our 'trip rendezvous'.



DAYS 1+2:

Castellina in Chianti - Meet in Siena and cycle north through fields and vineyards. After lunch in a tiny village, we'll visit Radda on our way to Castellina. Exclusive wine tastings at a wine enoteca and dinner at a local trattoria. On our 2nd day enjoy a scenic ride with a visit to the Castle of Meleto, which has marked the history of one of the most important families of the Chianti area. For those who would like

a more challenging ride, San Gimignano's medieval towers beckon from distant hills. The village, surrounded by stone walls boasts some of the best-preserved monuments in the region. If you are not up to riding back (up) to Castellina, our van will gladly provide a lift. Our hotel in Castellina is a charming 3-star hotel, close to cafes and restaurants.

Great Explorations

Activity Level:

Moderate/Challenging
20-40+ miles daily
van supported

Terrain:

1 day gently rolling, 3
days are moderately
rolling, 2 days are hilly

Cost

Land Cost (current year):

US \$2250
Includes 6B/2L/5D

Single Supplement:

US \$400

Bike Rental:

US \$140



DAY 3:

Sovicille - Our route takes us to Monteriggioni; with its perfectly preserved walls and cobble streets you will find the charm immediate. Our hotel is located in the country-side with a pool and surrounded by an extensive park. For those interested in cooking lessons prior to dinner, the chef here will gladly demonstrate.

DAY 4:

Sovicille - Our route takes us to Monteriggioni; with its perfectly preserved walls and cobble streets you will find the charm immediate. Our hotel is located in the country-side with a pool and surrounded by an extensive park. For those interested in cooking lessons prior to dinner, the chef here will gladly demonstrate.



DAYS 5+6:

Pienza - We save the most spectacular riding for last as we visit the tiny villages of Petroio and Castelmuzio on our way to Pienza, full of Renaissance monuments; our hotel here is quietly situated 150 meters from the central plaza and has large comfortable rooms and a casualness that you will enjoy. On our final day of riding, we'll ride to Montepulciano and Monticchiello riding through a 'photographers's paradise'. We'll complement our final evening meal with bottles of the local wines and toast our time together in Tuscany. Viva dolce!

We'll complement our final evening meal with bottles of the local wines and toast our time together in Tuscany. Viva dolce!

DAY 7 : Transfer to Chiusi for trains onward.



What's Included in the Cost of Your Trip?

- services of one or more experienced Great Explorations guides and support vehicle
- 6 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**

Great Explorations

Accommodations



Palazzo Squarcialupi, Catellina

A former palace from the 15th century, this is one of our favourite hotels in Italy. Enjoy private salons, a terrace with views over the magnificent Chianti countryside, large swimming pool set in the garden, and a Turkish bath. Sip wines produced in the antique wine cellars beneath the hotel using grapes from the vineyards extending around the village.



Villa Cennina, Sovicille

This dignified villa sits on the ground of the Celsa Castle estate, in the hills south of Siena. Surrounded by a spacious garden, this country inn offers a large pool, tennis court, and driving range with putting green. Guest rooms offer traditional Tuscan furnishings complemented with simple yet elegant décor and boast splendid views from every window.



Hotel La Pace, Asciano

Built in 2002 in the center of Asciano, this 3-star hotel offers modern rooms amid country character. Relax by the large swimming pool and grounds and enjoy traditional Tuscan cooking at tables "en plain air."



Hotel San Gregorio, Pienza

This 3 star hotel is conveniently located steps to the historical district of Pienza in the heart of Tuscany. All rooms are finely furnished suites complete with sitting rooms and Jacuzzi tubs. A new swimming pool and restaurant were added in 2007 making this an extremely comfortable hotel.