

# Great Explorations



## Trip Dates

### 2012

May 6-12

May 12-18

September 8-14

September 21-27

### 2013

May 5-11

May 11-17

September 7-13

September 20-26

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

## Trip Size

8-16 participants

## Total Days:

7 days/ 6 nights

## Arrive/Depart:

Torgiano / Orvieto

## Activity Level:

Moderate/Challenging  
20-40+ miles daily  
van supported

## Terrain:

1 day flat, 2 days  
gently rolling, 3 days are  
moderately rolling  
with some hills.

## Umbria, Biking The Soul of Italy

If Tuscany is the heart of Italy, Umbria is its soul. Being rural, it allows for an authentic experience when visiting with plenty to see and do including a wonderful combination of monuments in historic villages and dream-like vistas of bucolic countryside.

## Itinerary



### Getting there :

Torgiano: Arrive via Rome or Florence (2 hours away from either by train); Torgiano is 15 km south of Perugia and can be reached easily by taxi on arrival at the train station.

### DAY1:

*Torgiano* - Arrive in Torgiano. We'll stay at Hotel Al Grappolo D'Oro, ideally located in the historical center of this wine village- we'll meet prior to dinner for bike fit and introductions.



### DAYS 2+3:

*Bevagna* - Riding east of Torgiano, we'll make our way to Assisi, the hometown of St. Francis, Italy's patron saint and founder of one of the world's largest monastic orders. The town itself is tiered with pink stone set in a verdant valley with sacred Mt. Subasio as a backdrop. You'll have the chance to visit the important monuments here before lunch at a wonderful local restaurant. Afterwards, we'll continue

along a cycling path to the quaint village of Spello, with an optional wine tasting late afternoon. In Bevagna, we'll stay at Palazzo Brunamonti, a former palace recently converted into a distinctive hotel in the historical center with dinner at the wonderful La Bottega di Piazza Onofri. Next day, we'll begin with a walking tour where a local guide will reveal secret treasures of Bevagna. Our cycling route on this day will include options to Trevi and Spoleto. Each are hill-towns seductively medieval in appearance with great restaurants and cafes.

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## Cost

### Land Cost (current year):

US \$2250

Includes 6B/2L/5D

### Single Supplement:

US \$400

### Bike Rental:

US \$140

## DAY 4:

*Todi* - Our ride today takes us through unspoiled countryside with vistas that look out over much of southern Umbria. The shorter option will have you in Todi for lunch and our longer route takes you first to Montefalco to explore this hill-top village en-route. Arriving to Todi, we'll reach the Piazza del Popolo, described as the most perfect medieval piazza in Italy. We'll take a walking tour of the town and enjoy an evening meal in Todi's best restaurant, where they prepare your meal over an open fire. We stay at the 4-star Fonte Cesia, located in the historical city center.



## DAYS 5+6:

*Orvieto* - We'll start the day with a glorious descent and then make our way west, stopping for lunch next to a private castle en-route. Guide-books describe this road as follows: "With its hill-top hamlets, olive groves, vines, herds of white oxen and miles of deserted roads and tracks, this is the archetype of pastoral lowland Umbria" Arriving to Orvieto, there is much to see; we'll join the evening *passaggiata* before dinner at a quiet *trattoria*. On our next day of riding we'll loop to Civita de Bagnoreggio, perhaps the most

perfect hill-town in Italy. As in all of our trips, we'll finish with a celebratory dinner and toast our week together. Our accommodation in Orvieto is in a former palace, now a 4-star hotel.

**DAY 7:** Depart at your leisure by train.



## 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](mailto:info@great-explorations.com) or by telephone at **604.730.1247**

# Great Explorations

## Accommodations



### **Hotel Al Grappolo D'Oro, Torgiano**

A 19th century residence recently converted into a comfortable 3-star hotel with beautiful gardens and swimming pool. Relax and enjoy the panoramic views of vineyards and the green hills of Perugia, Assisi and other historical and cultural centres.



### **Palazzo Brunamonti, Bevagne**

This charming 3-star hotel was once the home of the noble Pierto Brunamonti and his wife, the poetess Lady Bonacci. Restored with the intent to embrace its historic past, this palace creates an atmosphere of comfort and beauty. Its location, just off the central plaza of town is ideal.



### **Fonte Cesia, Todi**

This luxurious hotel is Todi's best and in fact the only 4-star hotel in the historical center. The result of a careful renovation of an ancient and noble 17th century palace, Fonte Cesia offers comfortable and tastefully decorated guest rooms along with several sitting rooms in which to relax.



### **Palazzo Piccolomini, Orvieto**

Formally a beautiful 16th century palace, this masterfull restored 4-star hotel is rich with high-level comforts blended with artistic and histortical riches. The rooms are elegantly simple, tastefully furnished and augmented by lovely common rooms, on-site wine cellar and restaurant. Palazzo Piccolomini is located close to the historical city center.