



# HIKING THROUGH TUSCANY

BOOK BY APR 30  
SAVE \$200 PP



SEP 27 - OCT 10, 2025 | 14 DAYS | 31 MEALS

**JOURNEY LEADER: MARC CIANFRINI**

*Where the vines meet the sky: San Gimignano's timeless beauty rises above lush vineyards*

Experience the varied landscape of the beautiful central Italian region of Tuscany. Hike through the scenic terrain of the Apennines in the North, over the rolling hills in the center, to the vast plains and sandy shores of the southern Mediterranean islands. Hike on trails, some of which are more than 2000 years old, founded by the Etruscans and Romans. These trails will lead us to villages and cities whose appearance has changed very little since the Middle Ages. Delight in the renowned culinary offerings of Tuscany, savouring the excellence of its main agricultural products - the finest wines and olive oil.

With your journey leaders and our local guides, we will hike this beautiful region and learn about the country, its people, history, and native flora and fauna. This is truly the most magical way to experience the Garden of Italy!

### Book With Confidence

For peace of mind, your deposit for this journey is fully refundable until: **June 24, 2025**



*The famous Leaning Tower of Pisa*

### Journey Leaders

**Marc Cianfrini** is a retired teacher who devoted over 40 years inspiring Secondary and Post Secondary students to achieve their academic and career goals. He was a leader in many innovative experiential educational initiatives. Marc also has been actively involved in his local community as a volunteer and coach. He has travelled extensively and has led numerous group tours. **Kerstin** retired after a very successful career in the airline sector. Her experiences varied from being a flight attendant to an operational analyst. Kerstin is also an avid traveller who like Marc is fluent in a second language. She is an active community volunteer and embraces natural gardening. Marc and Kerstin are also proud parents who instilled the love of travel in their children. Marc and Kerstin welcome their fellow travellers as we embark on another wonderful Craig adventure!



### Tour Highlights

- 8 guided hikes through the beautiful Tuscany countryside
- 6 nights in Montecatini Terme, 6 in Castiglione Della Pescaia
- Day trip and tour of Elba Island
- Special lunch at Chianti winery Verrazzano, including tour and wine tasting
- Discover the Piazza dei Miracoli, or "Miracle Square" and see the Leaning Tower of Pisa

### Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare between Canada and Italy
- 12 nights in comfortable hotels as indicated or similar
- Baggage handling for one piece of luggage per guest at hotels
- Sightseeing and excursions as cited in the program
- Welcome reception and dinner
- Glass of wine and mineral water provided with lunches and dinners
- 31 meals included as noted in the itinerary (B - 12 breakfasts, L - 7 lunches, D - 12 dinners)
- Services of your Canadian journey leaders and an experienced tour director and hiking guide in Italy
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

**SEP 27, Saturday****DEPART CANADA**

Group members gather in Toronto for the transatlantic overnight flight to Rome, Italy.

**SEP 28, Sunday ARRIVE ROME / MONTECATINI TERME**

Upon arrival in Rome, a warm greeting from our national guide marks the start of our incredible journey. We will venture north along the picturesque Appenin Mountain range to the popular hill town and spa centre of Montecatini Terme. Tonight we will celebrate with a welcome reception and dinner at our centrally located hotel, complete with superb spa facilities.

**Hotel Columbia Wellness & Spa** (6 nights)

D

**SEP 29, Monday****FLORENCE**

Our adventure takes us to the breathtaking Florence area today. We'll embark on a hike from the beautiful hills of Fiesole, journeying along the stunning Arno Valley and descending into the heart of Florence. Delight in a lunch of your choice in the charming old town, where traditional Florentine cuisine awaits. Spend your afternoon exploring the cradle of the Renaissance, a city renowned for its artistic brilliance and timeless beauty. We'll return to Montecatini for a delightful dinner and a restful overnight stay. (2 hours hiking)

BD

**SEP 30, Tuesday ELSA RIVER VALLEY / SAN GIMIGNANO**

Embark on an exhilarating hike from Colle di Val d'Elsa, weaving through picturesque vineyards and enchanting wooded areas until we arrive at a charming garden restaurant. Indulge in a rustic meal with crostini and various types of pasta, wine, and water. For those interested, there will be various draft beers on tap (optional). Travelling by bus, we journey down a bustling road to the historic town of San Gimignano. In medieval times, each merchant family built its own fortress tower and residential area, many of which still stand, earning the town its nickname "Town of the Fine Towers." Enjoy some free time to explore San Gimignano and visit Tuscany's most famous ice cream parlour before heading back to Montecatini. (3 hrs hiking)

BLD

**OCT 1, Wednesday****CHIANTI CLASSICO**

We drive to the world-famous Chianti Classico wine region, where our hike begins in the picturesque wine village of Greve in Chianti. As we hike through the wonderful landscapes of central Tuscany, passing through serene forests and vibrant vineyards, we make our way to the renowned Verrazzano winery. After a tour of the centuries-old wine cellars, we will savour a traditional wine-grower's lunch, featuring homemade sausages and other ham specialties. Paired with our meal, we will have a choice of excellent wines. We return to Montecatini for a delightful dinner. (3 hours hiking)

BLD

**OCT 2, Thursday****VINCI**

Walk along the low Montalbano mountain range through olive groves and vineyards. We start in Vinci, the hometown of the world-renowned genius, Leonardo da Vinci. Our path takes us to his picturesque birthplace where we'll stop at a vineyard and olive oil mill. During a traditional oil farmer's lunch, a specially appointed sommelier will familiarize us with the different types of wines we'll be served. In the afternoon, we'll take a short walk from the small village of San Baronto to an Italian Villa for some wine and appetizers, before returning to Montecatini. (1.5 hours hiking)

BLD



*Revel in the magnificence of Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance*



*Chianti vineyards in Tuscany, Italy*



*Take a ferry to explore Tuscany's most important island, Elba Island*



*Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence*

**OCT 3, Friday** **MONTECARLO / LUCCA**

Today, we hike around the hills of the wine village of Montecarlo. Lunch will be in an old farmhouse with excellent cuisine and wines. Afterward, we will visit the well-known art city of Lucca with free time for shopping in the many elegant boutiques or perhaps enjoy a cappuccino in a cozy café before we return to Montecatini. (2.5 hours hiking) BLD

**OCT 4, Saturday** **PISA / ASTIGLIONE DELLA PESCAIA**

After bidding farewell to Montecatini Terme, we drive west towards Pisa. Visit the Piazza dei Miracoli, also known as the 'Miracle Square,' where the Leaning Tower is a must-see in Tuscany. After a brief exploration, we shall continue along the coast of the Tyrrhenian Sea, driving south to Castiglione della Pescaia, likely the most beautiful seaside village in Tuscany. Tonight, we enjoy a cocktail and a dinner of local dishes. **Hotel L'Approdo** (6 nights) BD

**OCT 5, Sunday** **MAREMMA NATURAL PARK**

During today's hike we will explore the Natural Park of Maremma, a completely untouched area with rich, unspoiled flora and fauna. Afterward, we transfer to a small medieval town for lunch at a traditional Maremma restaurant featuring local cuisines like homemade pasta, wild boar stew, and more. We return to Castiglione with free time to explore the beautiful city. (3 hours hiking) BLD

**OCT 6, Monday** **SOVANA / PITIGLIANO**

Hike between the towns of Sovana and Pitigliano, both of which were important in Etruscan times and went on to become powerful republics in the Middle Ages. Enjoy a packed lunch and free time in Pitigliano to explore before returning to Castiglione. (2.5 hours hiking) BLD

**OCT 7, Tuesday** **ELBA ISLAND**

We travel by bus to the port of Piombino where we board a ferry to the enchanting Island of Elba, famed as the site of Napoleon's first exile. During our journey, we will take a brief bus tour of the island and make several exciting stops along the way. BD

**OCT 8, Wednesday** **CASTIGLIONE DELLA PESCAIA**

Today has been left completely free to enjoy our hotel's amenities, unwind at the beach, or head out and explore this beautiful seaside village. BD


**OCT 9, Thursday** **PORTO ERCOLE / PORTO SAN STEFANO**

For our last hiking day, we have chosen a spectacular area and an ambitious route. We will walk along the Lagoon of Orbetello down to Monte Argentario. Originally part of the Tuscan archipelago, Monte Argentario's rocky massif is now connected to the mainland by two dunes. Our main destination is the historic port village of Porto Ercole, with its three fortifications. After a short visit, our bus will take us to a restaurant with select local fish specialties. At the end of our journey, we drive to the elegant main town of Porto San Stefano for free time. Back in Castiglione, we gather for our farewell dinner. (3.5 hours hiking) BLD

**OCT 10, Friday** **RETURN TO CANADA**

All too soon we say goodbye to Italy as we transfer to Rome's Fiumicino Airport for our return flights to Canada. B

**CT Rating 4.5/5 - Extremely Challenging:** This journey involves a number of difficult hikes on hilly, uneven surfaces for up to 4 - 5 hours per day. Hiking times listed are estimated and refer to the total time spent hiking throughout a full day. Travellers must be in excellent physical condition and be able to maintain the group pace. Alternate activities may be available for those unable to complete some of the hikes. Depending on weather and location conditions, daily activities may have to be altered or adjusted. Accommodations will be in comfortable traditional European hotels with atmosphere and character. Trail conditions may vary and are subject to change.

 **Book by April 30, 2025**  
**and save \$200 per person** 

**Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person**

Land-Only* (Join first hotel / Leave last hotel) .....	\$5,275
Toronto .....	\$6,645
Ottawa / Montreal .....	\$6,795
Halifax.....	\$6,895
St. John's / Fredericton / Winnipeg .....	\$6,995
Saskatoon / Regina .....	\$7,045
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver .....	\$6,995
Victoria.....	\$7,045
Single Supplement .....	\$1,175

\*Land-only price is based on joining at the hotel in Montecatini Terme and leaving at the hotel in Castiglione della Pescaia. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carriers are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for details.

Tour price is based on sharing a twin-bedded room at hotels. Prices are based on a minimum of 20 members and on rates, taxes and fees effective July 2024. Prices are subject to change due to factors beyond our control.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

**Final payment is due on June 25, 2025**  
**Deposit is \$700 per person**

To reserve your spot on this tour, you can either book online through our website or submit an enrollment form along with your deposit to:



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