

CULTURAL WALKING ADVENTURE

Tuscany & the Cinque Terre

Chianti, Florence & Seaside Villages



CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



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*Classic Journeys
provides unbeatable
access to experiences
around the globe.”*

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TRAVEL + LEISURE

A Forbes Magazine 'Luxury Walking Favorite'

Drinking in the sunset and the Chianti at our friend Marco's farmhouse, we decided that a Tuscany walking tour couldn't be improved upon. Since he's a staunch Tuscan, he surprised us by saying, "Then you've never been to the Cinque Terre." So we went to these five once almost unreachable villages that grow out of rock along the Ligurian Sea. For centuries, a connecting footpath was their lifeline, but for us it's the scenic route into a remote and vibrant coastal culture. Beforehand, we spend three nights in the parts of Tuscany we love best...complete with hilltowns that rise out of silver-green olive groves, homemade prosciutto and potato ravioli and the sunny vineyards of Chianti. Throughout, we'll explore the art history, and savor the food and wine. Will you prefer walking in Tuscany or the Cinque Terre? The good news is that this trip gives you both, so you don't have to decide.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 1 lunch and 5 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip, handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip
- Award-winning boutique hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience

Above & Beyond Benefits

→ WINE ON US

In many regions, we uncork wonderful local wines at every dinner, compliments of Classic Journeys.

→ PERFECT PAIRINGS DINNERS

A special dinner prepared by one of our favorite chefs with a procession of wines tailored to each course.

→ INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

→ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Terrain

Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths, with support vehicle in Chianti. In the Cinque Terre, easy transfers by boat and train.

CLASSIC JOURNEYS ITINERARIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGES, HOTEL SUBSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS.

DAY 1 »

Florence / Chianti

After meeting in Florence, you'll head straight into the Chianti countryside to immerse yourself in the pace and palate of Tuscan living. First stop: home of one of Chianti's great wineries. Enjoy being welcomed in for a private tour of the cellars and tasting of the acclaimed wines, the perfect way to begin your Tuscan explorations. Learn about the wine making process and cheers 'salute' with your local Italian guide.

After tasting, walk through the region's vineyards and silvery olive groves. And that villa on the hillside ahead? It's not just a great photo op. It's also your hotel, constructed as a palatial family home in the 16th century. You'll have time to stroll the manicured estate with the hosts—the count and countess—before dinner on the terrace.

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: CHIANTI

DAY 2 »

San Gimignano

Was yesterday a mirage? Not at all! The proof comes to you just after a beautiful Tuscan breakfast, as you head into the countryside again on a trail that leads through the legendary landscape to the grounds of a 15th-century castle. You'll be introduced to a local friend who resides there and greeted with a traditional home-cooked lunch (not to mention a midday glass of you-know-what pressed from his own grapes).

Later this afternoon, you'll return to the hilltop villa-hotel to relax before a special visit to San Gimignano, while its 14 medieval towers shimmer in the afternoon sun. The rest of the day is yours for exploring the walled hill town. During the height of the Guelph-Ghibelline conflict, when the town competed with Florence and Siena for supremacy, San Gimignano boasted over 70 towers. A local expert explains how the towers were used both for defensive purposes (as they were good lookouts and excellent for pouring boiling oil over people), as well as for ego building (as their owners competed to see who could build the highest tower).

This evening, dine at a favorite trattoria in San Gimignano, under a barrel vaulted brick ceiling.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: CHIANTI

DAY 3 »

Chianti / Monteriggioni

Following a breakfast of local specialties, you'll begin the day with a private visit to an 11th-century Benedictine abbey that was an important medieval center for learning. Then get ready for some unsurpassed scenery as your guide leads you on a footpath that offers magnificent views of stands of cypress, poppy fields and olive groves (often with an impromptu olive oil discussion with your guide right in the groves).

After crossing the Via Francigena, the route ancient pilgrims took to Rome, a real vision appears. Oval-shaped with 14 towers placed evenly along its sheer walls, Monteriggioni is the most spectacular fortified village in all of Tuscany. Take your time to savor a leisurely lunch before exploring the bustling village that was mentioned by Dante in his *Inferno*.

Later in the afternoon, visit with a friendly local shepherd for a private look at how he makes sheep's-milk cheeses and the chance to sample some of his traditional specialties. Back at the hotel, you can relax by the villa's pool before dinner.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: CHIANTI

DAY 4 »

Lucca / Santa Margherita

Heading north and west through Chianti and the Arno Valley, you'll arrive in Lucca for a visit, shopping time and lunch. It was here in 56 BC that Caesar, Pompey and Crassus agreed to rule Rome as a triumvirate. It was also the first town in Tuscany to accept Christianity.

Today, Lucca boasts wonderful 16th-century Renaissance walls, a spectacular white marble duomo, Roman amphitheater and elegant shops situated on cobblestone streets. Join your local guide on a short walk along a stretch of the Renaissance walls and through the historical center, then take some time on your own to explore some of the fine shops.

After lunch, head to Pietrasanta, famous for its marble artisans. In the most celebrated workshop, you'll have the unique opportunity to see how marble is transformed into gleaming statues. Continue on your scenic drive along the Apuane Mountains, past quarries that provided the marble for all of Michelangelo's carvings, and then onto your hotel. Perfectly situated in the heart of the Italian Riviera, you can explore Portofino and the Cinque Terre, the five lovely seaside villages along the coast.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: SANTA MARGHERITA

DAY 5 »

Cinque Terre Villages

This morning you'll hop on the little coastal train for a quick and scenic journey to Manarola, the second southernmost of the five coastal villages. This is where the Via dell'Amore walking trail starts and connects to the other villages of the Cinque Terre (the 'five villages' or 'five lands' in Italian). It's also where you can choose your adventure for the day.

Do you prefer to walk among and between the villages, stopping for lunch in one and leaving plenty of time to enjoy a gelato and an espresso? Or do you prefer to skip any or all of the walking in favor of the coastal train and ferry boats that run between the villages. Either way, you'll have a memorable day.

If you choose to walk, the footpath leads through olive groves along cliffs overlooking the sea to four sister villages: Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza and finally Monterosso. The first stop along the coastal path is Manarola, sitting on a tiny harbor and hemmed in by sheer cliffs. Next, reach Corniglia, perched on a hillside among vineyards, and offering excellent views of the entire coast. Then it's on to colorful Vernazza, with its narrow streets, small square and arcades, and the remains of a medieval fort. At the end of the walk in Monterosso, you'll return to the seaside hotel. Of course, in typical Classic Journeys style, you can begin the walk and then switch to the train or boat at any of the villages. Whenever you want, stop for a swim in the warm blue sea to celebrate the completion of the day's activities before enjoying the evening at your leisure.

MEALS: B OVERNIGHT: SANTA MARGHERITA

DAY 6 »

Portofino

This morning, you'll follow a scenic footpath that leads into the fabled coastal resort of Portofino. On your morning walk, you'll see it just like the locals do and marvel at the spectacular panorama. The town reveals itself as you round bends in the coastal path. After a few teasing glimpses, the views of the town unfold before your eyes – one of those travel moments you'll never forget.

You'll have time to explore the town and Castello Brown, perched high above. Then linger over lunch in Portofino, and if time permits, ride by boat to the monastery of San Fruttuoso on its tiny beach that is inaccessible by car. The ride will give you unparalleled views of the sea. Enjoy time to shop and explore Portofino at your leisure before the scenic coastal cruise of just 30 minutes.

This afternoon, make the return journey to Florence. After settling into your hotel, dinner is at one of your guide's favorite restaurants. As they love to say, "In one meal, we eat the whole tapestry of Tuscan cuisine – plate after bowl after platter of the specialties you've loved all week (plus a few more). Buon appetito!"

MEALS: B, D OVERNIGHT: FLORENCE

DAY 7 »

Florence

Florence is one of the world's great treasures of art and culture. Today you'll explore this walkable city in the company of a friend who is an accomplished art historian. It's a perfect – and very personal way – to discover this legendary city. Wandering through the ancient streets you'll see and learn about Brunelleschi's incredible dome, the Ponte Vecchio, and Piazza della Signoria. Graze through San Lorenzo, the Florentine's main market, with its pyramids of produce, olives, breads, meats and more. It's been arranged for you to skip the long lines to see Michelangelo's David, an unforgettable end to your day in Florence.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: NONE

Tour Hotels



[Villa Le Barone](#)

This historic home dates to the 16th century, and your hosts are a count and countess. Its rooms have wood-beamed ceilings and antiques. The property boasts lovely gardens, a new saltwater infinity pool, and a terrace for sunning and Chianti sipping.

NIGHTS: 3 nights



[Grand Hotel Miramare](#)

One of the first grand hotels in the region, this property is a Leading Hotel of the World. It offers all of the luxurious comfort you expect...plus a pool that overlooks the scenic promenade to Portofino.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



[Antica Torre Di Via Tornabuoni](#)

Originally a palace of the Guelf family, this historic hotel in the heart of Florence is known for its attentive service. The rooftop terraces offer remarkable views of the entire city. Rooms are decorated in elegantly understated Florentine style.

NIGHTS: 1 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Lobby of Antica Torre Di Via Tornabuoni**
START CITY: **Florence**
START TIME: **1:00 PM**

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Lobby of Antica Torre Di Via Tornabuoni
Hotel**
END CITY: **Florence**
END TIME: **1:00 PM**