

CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



Tuscany & the Cinque Terre

Chianti, Florence & Seaside Villages



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

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.

DAY 1 »

Florence / Chianti

- Meet the winemaker in his vineyard, learning about his family's passion
- Explore a 16th-century villa estate with its aristocratic owners

Immerse yourself in the pace and palate of Tuscan living as you venture into the Chianti countryside. At one of Chianti's renowned wineries, the winemaker himself greets you in the vineyard. As you stroll through the sun-drenched rows of grapes, he shares his family's passion and love for the land, explaining how this deep connection translates into their exceptional winemaking process. Enjoy a private tour of the cellars and taste their acclaimed wines, raising a glass in a traditional 'salute' with your local Italian guide.

After the tasting, continue your curated walk through picturesque vineyards and silvery olive groves. The villa on the hillside ahead is not just a stunning photo op; it's also your hotel, constructed as a palatial family home in the 16th century. You'll have time to explore the manicured estate with your hosts—a count and countess, and very close friend of ours—before savoring dinner on the terrace, surrounded by breathtaking Tuscan vistas.

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: CHIANTI

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 2 »

San Gimignano

- Savor breakfast overlooking Tuscan vineyards and villages
- Explore San Gimignano at sunset with an expert guide, avoiding daytime crowds

Begin your day with a beautiful Tuscan breakfast on the terrace, overlooking rolling vineyards, silvery olive groves, and picturesque nearby villages. After this idyllic start, venture into the countryside on a trail leading through the legendary landscape to a 15th-century castle. Here, you'll meet a local friend who welcomes you into their home for a traditional lunch, complete with wine pressed from their own grapes.

As the afternoon sun begins to soften, you'll embark on an expertly guided visit to San Gimignano. While most tourists crowd the town during midday, you'll experience this medieval gem at its most enchanting hour - sunset. The warm light bathes the 14 medieval towers in a golden glow, creating a truly cinematic scene. Your local expert will reveal the town's rich history, from the Guelph-Ghibelline conflict to the significance of its once 70 towers, all while you enjoy the tranquility of the less crowded streets.

As twilight descends, you'll meet a world-renowned artisanal gelato maker. Known for his innovative flavors, including his signature saffron gelato, Sergio welcomes you personally. He'll share the secrets behind his acclaimed creations before joining you in a tasting of his exquisite gelatos. The evening concludes with a memorable dinner at an acclaimed trattoria, where you'll dine under a barrel-vaulted brick ceiling savoring Tuscan specialties.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: CHIANTI

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 3 »

Chianti / Monteriggioni

- Walk along the historic Via Francigena, tracing ancient pilgrim routes to Rome
- Taste traditional cheeses with shepherdess Sarah at her welcoming farm

Following a breakfast of local specialties, you'll begin the day with a private visit to an 11th-century Benedictine abbey, an important medieval center for learning. Then get ready for some unsurpassed scenery as your guide leads you along a scenic footpath that offers magnificent views of stands of cypress, poppy fields, and olive groves. This path also crosses the Via Francigena, the ancient pilgrim's route that stretches from Canterbury, England, to Rome. Like the famed routes to Santiago de Compostela, this historic trail is steeped in tradition and spirituality.

As you walk, a real vision appears: Monteriggioni, Tuscany's most spectacular fortified village, oval-shaped with 14 towers placed evenly along its sheer walls. After savoring a leisurely lunch in this charming village described by Dante in his *Inferno*, you'll be welcomed to the farm of our friend Sarah, a dedicated shepherdess. She'll share her family's passion for caring for their sheep and goats, explaining how they produce their delicious cheeses. Sit down with Sarah as she shares a tasting of her traditional specialties, experiencing firsthand the flavors of Tuscany. Later in the afternoon, return to your villa-hotel to relax by the pool before dinner.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: CHIANTI

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 4 »

Lucca / Santa Margherita

- Discover marble artistry firsthand with a master sculptor in Pietrasanta
- Experience techniques used by Michelangelo before visiting his iconic David

Heading north and west through Chianti and the Arno Valley, you'll arrive in Lucca for a guided visit, shopping time, and lunch. It was here in 56 BC that Caesar, Pompey, and Crassus agreed to rule Rome as a triumvirate. The town boasts wonderful 16th-century Renaissance walls, a spectacular white marble duomo, a Roman amphitheater, and elegant shops situated on cobblestone streets. Join your local guide on a fascinating 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, you'll visit Pietrasanta, renowned for its marble artisans. Here, you'll meet a master sculptor who welcomes you into his studio. He'll demonstrate how he carves marble using techniques reminiscent of Michelangelo himself, making the artistry come alive in a way that simply viewing a statue cannot. This hands-on experience elevates your understanding of sculpture and foreshadows your upcoming visit to see Michelangelo's David later in the week. Continue your scenic drive along the Apuane Mountains, past quarries that provided the marble for many of Michelangelo's masterpieces, before arriving at your hotel perfectly situated in the heart of the Italian Riviera.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: SANTA MARGHERITA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 5 »

Portofino

- Explore Castello Brown, a hilltop fortress with panoramic coastal views
- Shop for exquisite handmade lace and artisanal crafts in Portofino's charming streets

As the Ligurian sun rises, you set out from Santa Margherita following a classic seaside footpath that's as beloved by locals as it is cinematic. The walk is gentle yet exhilarating, winding along gardens tumbling toward the blue sea and through stands of umbrella pines that shelter spectacular views at every bend. This quintessential Italian Riviera stroll connects you not just to place, but to the living rhythms of local life—from fishermen mending nets to bakeries unloading golden cornetti. With your guide's insights, you pause at panoramic outlooks that reveal Portofino's fabled crescent harbor—its pastel houses and bobbing wooden boats appearing like a watercolor come to life.

Once you arrive in Portofino, you'll have time and flexibility to explore the village in ways that suit your own interests. Your guide points out favorite spots and introduces you to some of the makers who help keep Portofino's traditions alive. Browse family-run shops for handmade lace and local crafts, or settle in at a café to watch daily life unfold with a perfectly mixed aperol spritz. If you're feeling energetic, consider the uphill climb to Castello Brown for its panoramic views and a chance to learn about its intriguing history. Break for lunch when you're ready. Maybe you opt for fresh branzino by the water or focaccia from a tucked-away bakery.

In the afternoon, you may choose to join your guide for a walk along the coastal trail from Portofino to the secluded cove of San Fruttuoso, passing olive groves and wildflowers, with sweeping views of sea cliffs and forest. Arriving at San Fruttuoso, tucked in its own secret bay and only accessible by trail or boat, you are welcomed by the custodians of the 10th-century monastery. As you explore the cloisters and hear stories of past abbots and pirates, you feel the resonance of history and devotion. At day's end, you return to Santa Margherita by boat—skimming across the turquoise waters as the coast glows in late afternoon light.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: SANTA MARGHERITA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 6 »

Cinque Terre Villages

- Hike the scenic Cinque Terre trail, passing through terraced lemon and olive groves
- Savor an exclusive cliffside lunch in Vernazza with panoramic sea views

Embark on a scenic coastal train journey to the Cinque Terre. These five picturesque villages, originally settled by people seeking refuge from barbarian invasions, cling precariously to the rugged Ligurian cliffs. With Classic Journeys, you have the unique opportunity to explore all five villages via the connecting footpath, offering breathtaking coastal views. As you traverse the trail, you'll wind through terraced lemon and olive groves, their silvery leaves shimmering in the Mediterranean sun. The path takes you from Manarola to Corniglia, perched high on a cliff, then on to the colorful harbor of Vernazza, where you'll pause for lunch with panoramic sea views.

Continue to Monterosso, passing through fragrant herb gardens and vineyards. Throughout the day, you have the flexibility to customize your journey - walk the entire route, or opt for scenic boat or train rides between villages. This tailored approach allows you to experience the Cinque Terre at your own pace, always with the support of your expert local guide.

End your day with a refreshing swim in the azure waters before continuing to Florence in the afternoon. Your dinner is at one of your guide's favorite restaurants, where, 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

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 7 »

Florence

- Explore Florence's artistic treasures with an expert art historian
- Experience Michelangelo's David with exclusive access and insights from your earlier artisan visit

Florence is one of the world's great treasures of art and culture. Today you'll explore this walkable city in the company of 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.

The highlight of your day is an 'only with Classic Journeys' access to the Accademia Gallery, allowing you to skip the long lines and enjoy a personally guided tour of Michelangelo's David. Your expert guide's explanations of Michelangelo's carving techniques take on new meaning as you recall your earlier visit to the marble artisan's studio. This firsthand knowledge brings the masterpiece to life in a way that few visitors experience.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: NONE

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

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

Curated Walks

CONNECT. ON FOOT. AT EYE LEVEL.

Join us to walk the most cinematic footpaths in a region. With thoughtfully curated walks that are about so much more than just counting miles. Yes, it's likely that your Fitbit or Apple watch will buzz when you hit your step count. But you probably won't notice because your soul will be buzzing from the connections you make with the people and place. Each day, we'll offer you one or two walks. Each walk is generally between an hour or two in duration. And our support vehicles are often nearby and add to your flexibility. Choose one or both to curate the right amount of walking for you each day. It's why Forbes magazine calls our tours their 'Luxury Walking Favorite'.

CURATE YOUR OWN MILEAGE OPTIONS EACH DAY

	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM
Day 1	2.5	3.5	5.5
Day 2	2.5	4.5	6
Day 3	2	5	8
Day 4	1.5	2	4.5
Day 5	1.5	4.5	5
Day 6	2.5	4	6
Day 7	1.5	2	3.5

*No scheduled walks

ROUTE NOTES

The terrain on this trip includes a mix of paved and cobblestone streets in Florence, Santa Margherita, Portofino and the Chianti villages, as well as well-maintained countryside and coastal trails, vineyard and shepherds' paths of compressed dirt and stone, and even sections of the famed Camino de Santiago de Compostela. Generally, the walking paths through the Chianti countryside and to Portofino are mostly level or gently rolling; along the coast among the villages of the Cinque Terre there will be some elevation gain and loss.

THE ART OF THE UNPLANNED:

CRAFTING UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

We've carefully crafted each day's walking adventures with our expert local guides. Your daily itinerary serves as a well-thought-out plan, and we empower our tour leaders to adapt to unexpected opportunities or challenges. Whether it's an impromptu local invitation or a weather-related change, we're adept at making adjustments. So, while your experience may closely follow the itinerary, it might also include some variations. In essence, we invite you to "expect the unexpected" – knowing that our promise is to provide you the most genuine and authentic walking tours in the world.

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

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

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

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

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ **CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES**
 - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ **EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES**
 - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ **ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS**
 - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ **EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS**
 - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ **SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED**
 - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ **REGENERATIVE TRAVEL**
 - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

What's Included

- Accommodations for 6 nights
- 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

- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS**

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

Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.