

Italy: Tuscany

Nine Days, Seven Nights including hotel, meals, day trips, and airfare from New York



Tuscany, an ancient land with a great vital energy is ready to embrace you and tempt your curiosity, to open your mind and your heart. Lands of saints and artists, ancient monuments, captivating scenery, undulating landscapes that look exactly the same as the ones represented in many amazing Renaissance frescoes. Tuscany is possibly the greatest repository of art in the world, from extraordinary paintings and sculpture to frescoes and architectural masterpieces. Visitors to Tuscany come for many reasons. Many come in search of fine art, others to explore the extraordinary countryside. Gourmets and wine buffs descend on Tuscany to enjoy the simple yet wonderful cuisine and wine. Taste the famous Tuscan and Umbrian wines and the flavors of the local cuisine, discovering their hidden secrets. Walkers enjoy the mountain paths, cyclists the rolling hills, summer vacationers the sea coast and islands. Students come to learn the beautiful Italian language and culture.

Included features:

ROUNDRIP AIR TRANSPORTATION: From New York (JFK) on the scheduled services of an international airline.

FIRST CLASS ACCOMMODATIONS: Stay at one relaxing hotel throughout the program for seven nights at the four star Hotel Niza et Suissel or similar.

SUPERB CUISINE: Your special rate includes daily buffet breakfasts and dinners.

SIGHTSEEING/ENTERTAINMENT TOUR PROGRAM: Full day tour of Florence and a full day tour to Siena and San Gimignano. Optional tours available.

COMPLIMENTARY SPACES: Based on all group departures.

DELUXE MOTOR COACHES: Deluxe motor coaches and experienced drivers escort you for all transfers, tours, and guided excursions.

BAGGAGE HANDLING AND TRANSFERS: ABC handles your baggage outside of the airport for your arrival and departure, based on one checked bag per person.

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM HOSTS: An experienced professional local host will assist you on the tour upon arrival in Italy.

LOCAL TAXES AND SERVICE CHARGES: On all included features.

MARKETING PACKAGE: Full marketing package including brochures, e-mailable brochures, webpage etc.

EXPERIENCE AND ADVICE: ABC holds over 45 years of experience in the travel industry offering assistance and advice in fundraising programs.

FOR PRICING AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT ABC DESTINATIONS AT 1-800-227-5858



ITINERARY

Day 1 - Depart the US: Depart the U.S. for Italy.

Day 2 - Montecatini: Upon arrival, proceed to baggage claim and after clearing customs you will be met by the ABC Destinations representative and transfer to your hotel. For centuries, Montecatini has been an exclusive world-renowned spa resort, famed for its spring waters, thermal baths and numerous spa treatments. Have a Welcome Cocktail and briefing at 7.00pm at the hotel. Dinner is at the hotel. (Dinner)

Day 3 - Montecatini/Florence/Montecatini: Breakfast is from 7:30-8:30am - Depart: 8:45am – Return to the hotel around 6:00pm. After breakfast at the hotel, you will transfer to Florence for walking tour. Its striking buildings, formidable galleries and treasure-crammed churches attest to the Florentine love of display. Its elegant appearance the skyline, with its russet rooftops and lofty domes, contributed to give this city its role of important center for culture and arts. See the Cathedral, whose gigantic “cupola” is the symbol of Florence’s artistic achievements, the Baptistery (from outside) with its fine bronze doors adorned with the famous gates of Paradise, and Piazza della Signoria. Enjoy free time for shopping or visiting some of the numerous museums and art galleries Dinner is at the hotel. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 4 - Montecatini/Lucca/Pisa/Montecatini: (Optional Tour) Breakfast is from 7:00-8:00am - Depart: 8:15am - Return to the hotel around 6:00pm. Lucca is peaceful place with narrow lanes that wind among the medieval buildings, opening suddenly to reveal churches, tiny piazzas and many other reminders of the city’s long history, including a Roman amphitheater. This town is well known for its magnificent 16th and 17th century ramparts, having remained intact, encircling its narrow streets, which are lined with many medieval buildings. In the afternoon we continue to Pisa to see its incredible Leaning Tower, the bell tower of the 900-year-old Cathedral of Pisa. It is 14 feet off center at the top because of settling after construction was started in 1173. Your visit of Pisa will also include a sightseeing tour of Pisa’s Campo dei Miracoli, or Field of Miracle, to see the Baptistery, Duomo (entrance included); all fine examples of the Pisan-Romanesque architectural style. Dinner is at the hotel. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 5 - Montecatini/Siena/San Gimignano/Montecatini: Breakfast is from 7:00-8:00am - Depart: 8:15am – Return to the hotel around 6:00pm. After breakfast at the hotel transfer to Siena & San Gimignano for your full day tour. Set in the most beautiful Tuscan countryside of rolling hills, lush vines and gray-green olive trees, Siena offers much to see, from the fine palaces that line the narrow cobbled streets and the superb Duomo, to the celebrated Piazza del Campo where the famed Palio horse race is run yearly. Continue to San Gimignano, a town of Etruscan origin. Built by noble families, the fourteen remaining towers that lined the ramparts look like medieval skyscraper. Dinner is at the hotel. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 6 - Montecatini/Cinque Terre/Montecatini: (Optional Tours) Breakfast is from 7:00-8:00am - Depart: 7.30am – Return to the hotel around 6:00pm. Day at leisure or after breakfast, early in the morning, depart for La Spezia, a coastal town east of Montecatini, along the Mediterranean Sea. Take the train or the ferry boat (April – Nov weather permitting) to The Cinque Terre, one of the most beautiful areas of the Liguria Region. Here, five small villages are suspended between sea and earth, nestled in the cliffs overlooking the sea and green hills. Dinner is at the hotel. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 7 - Montecatini/Chianti/Montecatini: (Optional Tour) Breakfast is from 7:30-8:30am - Depart: 8:45am – Return to the hotel in the late afternoon. Full day at leisure or after breakfast at the hotel you will start on a full day tour of Chianti Region. The beauty of this territory, known for its wineries, lies in the perfect equilibrium between the soft forms of slopes and the thousand nuances of color and the crowded woods populated by ancient castles, secular parishes and beautiful villas. You will visit Greve in Chianti and have wine tasting and a country style lunch at a local winery. Dinner is at the hotel. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 8 - Montecatini: Breakfast is from 7:30-10:00am. After breakfast at the hotel, you will have a full day at leisure. Spend time exploring Montecatini on your own, enjoy a spa treatment, or just relax. Dinner is at the hotel. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 9 - Montecatini/U.S.: After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

OPTIONAL ROME EXTENSION (returns 2 days later):

Day 9 - Montecatini/Rome: After breakfast meet your guide and driver and set off for Rome. Upon your arrival in Rome transfer to your hotel for check in, the rest of the afternoon is at leisure and yours to enjoy. Romans say the “Rome wasn’t built in a day”, nor can Rome be seen in a day. One could live in the Eternal City for years and still not see everything. It’s hard to say what you’ll find most breathtaking: Etruscan tombs, the republican meeting rooms, imperial temples, early Christian churches, medieval bell towers, baroque basilicas or renaissance palaces. Tonight you are you own for dinner. You will have no trouble finding local restaurants in this residential area of Rome, just outside the hotel and around the corner are some lovely places were the locals meet to eat, have a glass of local wine and enjoy a dish of pasta, or ask your guide or the concierge at the front to make a recommendation, they are eager and pleased to help. Overnight at: The Beverly Hills Hotel. (Breakfast)

Day 10 - Rome: After breakfast start your full day tour of Rome. In the morning enjoy a guided tour of Imperial Rome. Visit the Roman Forum, the most important archaeological area in the city and once the center of the public life; visit the Colosseum, the most famous monument of ancient Rome and an impressive testament to her past greatness. After lunch in a local trattoria, continue the tour of the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel. The Vatican Museums and their immense wealth of art, resulting from centuries of papal collections, offer an extraordinary experience. Amongst others, see the great masterpieces of Renaissance art with the frescoes of the Raphael Rooms and one of Michelangelo’s greatest achievements, “The Last Judgment” in the Sistine Chapel. Return to the Hotel, enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure, you can do some shopping or take a stroll on the Via Veneto. Tonight dinner is on your own; enjoy your last night in Rome. (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 11 - Rome/U.S.: After breakfast say ciao to Rome, transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (Breakfast)

Please note: Though rare, it may be necessary to substitute hotels and adjust itineraries due to local conditions.

2011 DEPARTURE DATES: NOV 2-10, 9-17, 16-24

2012 DEPARTURE DATES: MAR 7-15, 14-22, 21-29, MAR 28-APR 5, OCT 31-NOV 8, NOV 7-15, NOV 28-DEC 6

