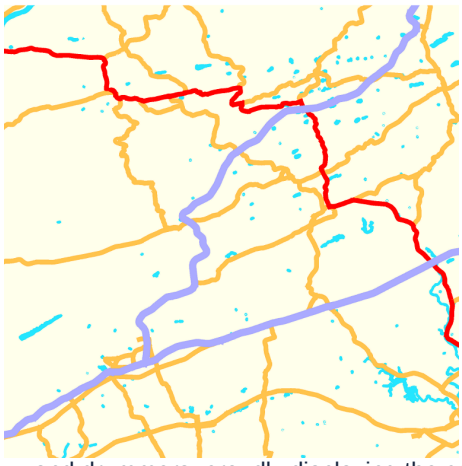


GASTRONOMY CAMINOS

type :	Caminos Hiking Tours Self-Guided
level :	
duration :	9 days
period:	Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct
code:	ITSM365E

Best of Tuscan Via Francigena, Easy Version - Italy

9 days, PRICE FROM *€ 1016*



Have you ever wondered which part of the Via Francigena is the most spectacular? Well, here it is, nestled in the heart of Tuscany. This version of the walk **cuts some sections** by **taxi** or **public transport**, allowing **an easier experience** for less experienced walkers and camino beginners.

You will immerse yourself in the quintessential Tuscan countryside – the very image immortalized on postcards. But this is no mere photograph; it's alive, and you're here, experiencing it firsthand! Before you stretch gentle rolling hills adorned with cypress trees, a gravel road extending into the distance, and a horizon painted with ever more stunning landscapes.

Step inside the **Pieve di Chianni**, where Sigeric the Serious once rested, and find solace within the frescoed walls of its hostel. The next day, catch sight of **the towers of Monteriggioni castle** from afar, drawing closer with each step as you traverse the picturesque Val d'Elsa.

The rust-colored earth beneath your feet guides you towards **Siena** until you pass through its gates: here, it's not uncommon to round a corner and encounter a procession of flag-wavers and drummers, proudly displaying the colors of their district. Finally, lose yourself in the lunar landscape of the Crete Senesi, where colors blend and shift before your eyes on windswept, sun-kissed grass.

All of this awaits you in a single journey: savor the best, all the while knowing that you'll never be able to resist the allure of everything this beautiful land called Italy has to offer!

Route

Day 1 Arrival in San Miniato

Your journey commences in San Miniato, **a quaint town nestled atop a hill**. While this charming hamlet may not boast the fame of other art cities along your route, we believe that sometimes, "the lesser-known, the better". Here, you can meander through the narrow lanes of the old town center and marvel at the painted façade of the Seminary – especially enchanting under the glow of the night sky, following a delectable dinner.

And speaking of dinner, for the food enthusiasts among you, don't overlook the local culinary delight: the **white truffle**, a delicacy that awaits you as a delightful celebration of your journey.

Day 2 Transfer to Coiano and walk to Gambassi Terme, 13 km

Are you ready to start your adventure? Your first day of walking includes **one of our favorite walks** of the route. You'll traverse the gentle slopes of **rolling hills**, adorned with vibrant spring greens and speckled with wildflowers, or bathed in a golden, windswept sea during the summer months.

Gambassi Terme is home to the **Pieve di Chianni** – and one of the most stunning hostels along the entire route. Here, you'll rest in bedrooms with ensuite facilities, their walls often adorned with meticulously restored original frescoes, lovingly cared for by the family who manages the hostel with dedication.

Share travel tales with fellow guests over a glass of ice-cold beer, followed by an unmissable visit to the Pieve, where you'll discover a treasure trove of engravings, bas-reliefs, and paintings, each with its own captivating story to tell.

Distance: 13 km

Elevation gain: +340/-200 m

Day 3 From Gambassi Terme to San Gimignano, 14,5 km

Today's walk may be short, but it's certainly sweet. Before long, you'll catch sight of **the shimmering towers of San Gimignano in the distance**: a promising sight indeed, but remember to savor every step of the journey.

This leg of the walk guides you through gentle hills, dotted with charming farmhouses, until you reach the **Pieve di Cellole**. Nestled in serene tranquility, this unique place is home to a monk community. If you detect a soft, distant sound emanating from the Romanesque church guarded by cypress trees, quietly draw nearer and listen: the monks sing here every day, and you might just be fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of their harmonious melodies.

As you continue your journey towards San Gimignano, the iconic towers draw nearer with each step. Our recommendation is to head straight to the **Torre Grossa**. From the summit of this tallest tower in San Gimignano, far removed from the bustling crowds filling the narrow streets below, you'll be treated to a breathtaking 360° panorama of the historic city center and the stunning landscape beyond.

And if you're a wine enthusiast, be sure to indulge in the local pride – **Vernaccia**, a crisp white wine best enjoyed at its source, in the winery of the Montestaffoli fortress.

Distance: 14.5 km

Elevation gain: +350/-350 m

Day 4 From San Gimignano to Colle Val d'Elsa, 12 km

The journey proceeds through a shaded route today. You'll wander through the **forests of Val d'Elsa**, encountering charming little paths as you traverse **gentle rivers and streams**, discover sun-dappled meadows illuminated by rays of sunlight filtering through the trees, and rejuvenate yourself in the crisp waters of mountain streams.

Your destination for today is **Colle Val d'Elsa, a medieval hamlet** ensconced within sturdy stone walls.

Distance: 12 km

Elevation gain: +287/-222 m

Day 5 From Colle Val d'Elsa to Strove, 10 km

Prepare yourself for **a quiet and meditative walk**. Your path will lead you through hills, forests, and meadows, past tranquil churches, and to unique sites like **Abbadia a Isola** – once an ancient abbey surrounded by marshes, now a hostel welcoming pilgrims and hosting an annual slow travel festival. A transfer will take you to Strove where you overnight.

Distance: 10 km

Elevation gain: +170/-55 m

Day 6 From Strove to Monteriggioni and train/bus to Siena, 7 km

Today's destination is **Monteriggioni**, a tiny ancient **village crowned with towers**. You can linger in the main square, observing as it buzzes with pilgrims and locals, or stroll along the fortified walls for a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape. Seek out the hidden gardens for moments of serene rest – but we'll leave the joy of discovering them to you!

You will then reach Siena by train or bus.

Distance: 7 km

Elevation gain: +100/-105 m

Day 7 Bus from Siena to Isola d'Arbia and walk to Lucignano, 10 km

A morning bus will take you outside Siena, to Isola d'Arbia, from where you start the walk. today you will cross the typical **"strade bianche"** – gravel roads winding through the hills. The landscape enveloping you resembles a masterpiece painted by a skilled artist, with each hue carefully selected and placed. **Shades of gray, green, and silver blend before your eyes**, offering a new and captivating view with every glance.

It's a lunar landscape, seemingly **removed from both space and time**, a spectacle unique to this corner of the world.

Just beyond Monteroni d'Arbia, you'll encounter the imposing Grancia di Cuna, **a fortified farm** once responsible for storing the grain reserves of the Republic of Siena.

Distance: 10 km

Elevation gain: +175/-165 m

Day 8 **From Lucignano to Buonconvento, 14 km**

On your last day of walking, you'll journey through the picturesque Ombrone Valley, yet another breathtaking natural masterpiece. The final kilometers of your adventure promise to be just as delightful as the rest, leading you to a village where your journey concludes in style.

Buonconvento epitomizes the essence of Tuscan life – a truly "happy and fortunate place," as its name suggests. Stroll through the streets of the medieval city center, immersing yourself in the leisurely, **serene rhythm of life** in this provincial town. If, after reveling in the beauty of nature, you crave the artistic creations of humankind, the Museum of Sacred Art of the Val d'Arbia showcases the works of some of the most renowned Sienese painters.

Distance: 14 km

Elevation gain: +170/-205 m

Day 9 **Arrivederci Buonconvento!**

Our services end after breakfast, unless you book any extra services.

Practical info



From any airport, get to the closest railway station. From there, you can reach San Miniato Basso by train (the station's name is "S. Miniato-Fucecchio"). Trains are direct from both Pisa and Florence.

Once at the train station, you can reach San Miniato Alto by bus (get off at Piazza del Popolo). Check bus line 320.

On departure from Buonconvento, you can get to Pisa, Florence, Bologna and Milano by train.

Check train timetables on www.trenitalia.com

Included

What is included

- 8 Nights in double room in **/*** hotels , B&B and agriturismi with breakfast
- 2 dinners (Gambassi Terme, Lucignano)
- luggage transportation from hotel to hotel (1 item per person, max 20 kilos, size 65x40x30 cm)
- transfer San Miniato-Coiano, Buonconvento-Pieve a Salti and back
- official guide of the route, App
- Pilgrim Passport
- Medical and luggage travel insurance24h phone assistance

What is not included

- Transfers to the starting location and from the arriving location of the tour
- lunches and dinners, if not otherwise stated
- visits and entrance fees - tips
- personal expense
- possible sojourn taxes
- everything that is not mentioned in the "What is included" section.

Optional Services

these services can be added to the ones included in the base price of the tour:

- Single room supplement
- cancellation insurance
- Transfers to reach the starting location or to leave the arriving location of the tour, which will be quoted on request.