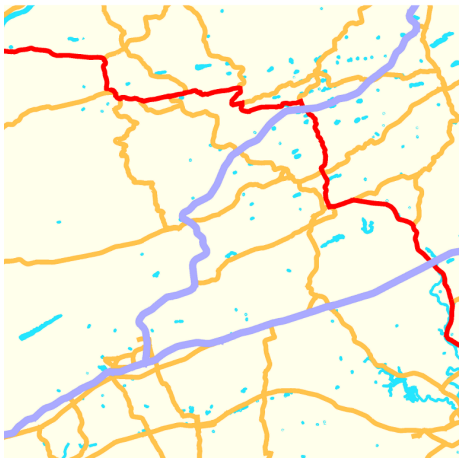


SUMMER SPRING & AUTUMN

type :	Hiking Tours Self-Guided
level :	
duration :	7 days
period:	Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct
code:	ITSW530E

Under the Tuscan Sun: from Siena to Cortona, Via Lauretana easy version - Italy

7 days, PRICE FROM *€ 843*



"*My idea of heaven still is to drive the gravel farm roads of Umbria and Tuscany, very pleasantly lost.*" writes Frances Mayes in her book "Under the Tuscan Sun".

If you are fascinated by these atmospheres, this journey will transform **your dreams into reality**. You'll encounter fig trees, cypresses, **gently undulating hills**, and picturesque hamlets that have always filled your imagination, and even more. Starting from Siena, renowned for its "Contrade" and the distinctive shell-shaped square, the trail leads you through the **thermal baths of Rapolano**, prestigious wineries offering the exquisite local "**Brunello**" red, the otherworldly, **iridescent scenery of the "Crete Senesi,"** dense oak forests, and pastures adorned with cypresses and traditional farmhouses.

And not to be overlooked is **Cortona, the setting of "Under the Tuscan Sun"**. Nestled atop a hill, this charming town has been a residence for artists and saints, Romans and Etruscans alike. It serves as the perfect conclusion to **your quintessential Tuscan adventure.**

Route

Day 1 Arrive in Siena

Arrive in Siena and check-in at your hotel. If you havetime, take the opportunity to explore the city renowned for its biannual "**Palio**" horse race, hosted in **the magnificent shell-shaped Piazza del Campo**—considered **the most beautiful square in Europe.** Visit the **Duomo**, an architectural gem, along with the numerous imposing medieval palaces. The **narrow streets** of this **impeccably preserved Italian gem** bring history to life as you wander through them.

Day 2 Transfer to Torre a Castello and walk to Asciano, 12 km

Following a short transfer, you walk through **the heart of Crete Senesi**. Revel in breathtaking **views of the iconic Tuscan rolling hills**, adorned with ancient stone houses and bordered by majestic cypress trees. Traverse **the lunar landscape of "Biancane di Leonina"** and the **"Sito Transitorio."** The path leading to Vescona winds through ravines and cultivated fields, where shade is scarce, and the predominantly clayey soil characterizes the terrain. Finally, you reach the charming village of Macigliani, perched on a spectacular balcony overlooking Siena.

Distance: 12 km

Elevation gain: +250/-360 m

Day 3 From Asciano to Rapolano Terme, 10 km

You continue your journey through Crete Senesi, where you'll delight in magnificent views of the iconic Tuscan rolling hills adorned with **ancient stone house**s and bordered by **picturesque cypress trees**. Be mindful that, in the event of rain, certain sections may become muddy and slippery due to the clay soil.

Cap off the afternoon at the **thermal baths** complex in **Rapolano**, an ideal spot to bask in the warmth of Tuscany.

Distance: 10 km

Elevation gain: +230/-100 m

Day 4 **From Rapolano Terme to Serre di Rapolano, 10 km**

Today you reach Serre di Rapolano through a quintessential tuscan landscape. **Serre di Rapolano** is an ancient village of byzantine and etruscan origin: visit the local **grancia** (an ancient fortified farmhouse).

Distance: 10 km

Elevation gain: +125/-90 m

Day 5 **Transfer from Serre di Rapolano to Bettolle and walk to Farneta, 10 km**

Today you walk along rural roads, traversing fields and the historic canals' banks, which were once dug to drain the valley for land reclamation. At the end of the walk, it is highly recommended to visit the **Abbazia di Farneta**, conveniently located just across from the hotel.

Distance: 10 km

Elevation gain: +110/-110 m

Day 6 **From Farneta to Camucia and bus to Cortona, 13 km**

Today you walk through the planes and **hills of Valdichiana**. From here on, the path coincides with the Via Romea Germanica, for which we find the signposts. We continue along a flat and not very shady path that winds through small hamlets. When we reach the **ancient parish church of San Michele**, we begin to climb up to **Cortona**, the final destination of our journey.

You avoid the final ascent, taking the alternative route to Camucia Cortona train station from where you can take the bus to Cortona.

Distance: 13 km

Elevation gain: +90/-130 m

Day 7 **Arrivederci Cortona!**

Last day included. Tour ends after breakfast.

Practical info



The closest International Airports to get to Siena are: Florence “A. Vespucci” Airports www.aeroporto.firenze.it Pisa www.pisa-airport.com and Rome www.adr.it

From the airports you can take a train and then busses to reach Siena.

Included

What is included:

- 6 Nights in double rooms in 3/4* hotels and agritourismi with breakfast
- 1 dinner
- luggage transportation from hotel to hotel (max 1 item per person)
- Transfer Siena-Torre a Castello
- Transfer Serre di Rapolano-Bettolle
- Maps and detailed description of the itinerary in digital form, app
- 24h phone assistance
- Medical-luggage insurance

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
- Transfers to reach the starting location or to leave the arriving location of the tour, which will be quoted on request.
- travel documentation in printed form (maps and detailed description of the itinerary), shipped to the first hotel