



#### GASTRONOMY CAMINOS

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| type :     | Caminos Self-Guided   |
| level :    |  |
| duration : | 8 days  |
| period:    | Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct   |
| code:      | ITSW330E  |

## Via degli Dei Easy - Italy

8 days, PRICE FROM € 1050



Winding from Bologna to Florence, an age-old Roman military path unravels through extraordinary terrain, revealing the intricate dance of history and the surrounding landscape over a captivating six-day trek. Step into the enchanting realm of the Via degli Dei, the renowned Road of the Gods. Join this captivating journey, where each stride unravels a tapestry of diverse legends, weaving together the threads of history and the natural world into an unforgettable adventure.

Commencing our expedition in Bologna in Piazza Maggiore, we navigate the ancient "Flaminia militare" Roman road whose traces linger beneath our feet. Along this path, we encounter mountains bearing names inspired by Roman deities, Roman amphitheaters, military cemeteries quietly enshrined within the woods, and fossils of prehistoric shells seamlessly embedded in the rock.

Our journey ends amidst the cradle of the Renaissance, in Piazza della Signoria in Florence, a coveted destination. Emerging from the captivating beauty of nature, we find ourselves compelled to marvel at the unparalleled mastery exhibited by the human hand.

## Route

### Day 1 Arrival in Bologna

Arriving individually in Bologna, a city brimming with attractions, you can explore the **7 chapels of the Santo Stefano Basilica**, enjoy panoramic views from the **Torre degli Asinelli** (known as "the Donkeys' Tower"), and, of course, savor the delectable tagliatelle al ragù. Don't overlook the opportunity to witness the illuminated beauty of **Piazza Maggiore** or the charm of **Piazza Grande**, immortalized in a renowned song by Lucio Dalla, one of the most acclaimed Italian songwriter who once resided just a few meters away.

### Day 2 From Bologna to Casalecchio, train to Sasso Marconi, 8 km

From Piazza Maggiore, the pulsating heart of the city, head straight to the **Portico di San Luca**, constructed in 1674. This remarkable structure holds the title of the **world's longest covered street**, spanning 4 km and adorned with 666 arches, leads directly to the majestic **Basilica of San Luca**.

Pass through **Tolon Park**, where the Casalecchio lock has controlled the Reno River's flow to Bologna for eight centuries.

In Casalecchio catch a train to reach your lodging in Sasso Marconi.

*Distance: 8 km*

*Elevation Gain: +240/-230 m*

### Day 3 Transfer to Brento walk to Monzuno, 8/10 km

After breakfast you take a short transfer to Brento, from where you start walking towards Monzuno.

Traverse sandy paths that ascend to the brink of an abyss, guiding you along a breathtaking route to **the summit of Mount Adone**, embellished with its **distinctive stone towers**. This sandstone rock, towering between the Setta and Savena valleys, captured the imagination of the ancients, earning it the name of the beautiful Adonis, reminiscent of the demigod son of Venus.

From the summit, soak in panoramic views of the **entire Emilian segment of the Via degli Dei**.

Your final destination awaits in **Monzuno**, where we recommend a visit to the local charcuterie shop—a genuine haven of regional gastronomy. Indulge in the Slow Food-protected meats, a tribute to the abundant culinary heritage of the area.

*Distance: 8/10 km*

*Elevation Gain: +390/-230 m*

### Day 4 Transfer to Madonna dei Fornelli, walk Bruscoli, 9 km

After breakfast you take a short transfer to Madonna dei Fornelli, from where you start walking towards Bruscoli.

This stretch stands out for its extraordinary beauty as you traverse vast green fields and chestnut forests. Within this stage, you'll encounter some of the **best-preserved segments of the Flaminia Militare**. At your feet, the **Roman paving stones** of the 'Flaminia Militare' emerge, a historical road linking Bologna to Arezzo.

Follow the visible traces of the Roman passage on the stones, leading you all the way to Pian di Balestra, **marking the border between Emilia and Tuscany**.

**Bruscoli** is your destination for the day, where you'll spend the night in a charming farmhouse nestled in the hills.

*Distance: 9 km*

*Elevation Gain: +440/-330 m*

### Day 5 Transfer to Futa pass, walk to Sant'Agata, bus San Piero a Sieve, 14 km

After breakfast you take a short transfer to Futa pass, from where you start walking towards Sant'Agata.

**Passo della Futa** serves as the final resting place for over 30,000 German soldiers who fell during the Gothic Line—a site originally constructed for war, now embraced by silence and tranquility. This vast complex, resembling a long concrete spiral, occupies an entire hill establishing itself as **the largest German cemetery in Italy**.

Descending we reach **Monte Gazzaro**, marked by a prominent white cross, representing the **highest peak of the day's journey**. From this vantage point, a breathtaking panorama unfolds, offering stunning views over the Firenzuola valley and Mugello.

A broad downhill path guides us to **Sant'Agata**, revealing museums dedicated to sacred and peasant art. Here, the landscape undergoes a notable transformation, transitioning into a more typically Tuscan scenery. This **charming village** boasts an important Romanesque parish church founded in 984.

In Sant'Agata, **take a bus to San Piero a Sieve**, where you can relish the local Mugello cuisine and savor the distinctive Ramerino bread — a delight enriched with rosemary.

*Distance: 14 km*

*Elevation Gain: +440/-330 m*

### Day 6 Transfer from San Piero a Sieve to Olmo, walk to Fiesole 10/15 km

After breakfast you take a short transfer to Olmo, from where you start walking towards Fiesole.

Standing **at the gates of Florence**, the culmination of your journey draws near, and the anticipation is palpable.

Today's walk is shorter, commencing **in the direction of Fiesole**, an enchanting terraced Etruscan town that overlooks the city of Florence. Explore the **well-preserved Roman amphitheatre**, ascend to the church of San Francesco, and take in the panoramic views of Florence.

Don't miss the **archaeological area**, featuring imposing Etruscan walls, a Roman amphitheatre, and thermal baths—once the vibrant heart of town life during Etruscan and Roman times. Immerse yourself in the **civic archaeological museum**, showcasing Etruscan-Roman artifacts from the Fiesole region and a Longobard tomb. The history and cultural richness of this area come to life through these captivating exhibits.

*Distance: 10 km*

*Elevation Gain: +330/-470 m*

### Day 7 From Fiesole to Florence, 8km

**Florence is the cradle of the Renaissance**, the manner in which you choose to visit it is entirely at your discretion. After exploring the iconic landmarks like the Duomo, Uffizi Gallery, Piazza della Signoria, and Piazza Santa Croce, consider delving into the lesser-known facets of Florence.

Take a **leisurely stroll through the Oltrarno**, navigating narrow streets adorned with artisan workshops and charming eateries. Conclude your adventure with a final supper at a rustic trattoria, savoring the authentic flavors of this enchanting city beyond the well-trodden paths.

*Distance: 8 km*

*Elevation Gain: +140/-370 m*

### Day 8 Depart from Florence

Last day included. Tour ends after breakfast.

## Practical info

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### ON ARRIVAL:

From Florence airport (FLR), take the direct local bus to downtown and then the train to Bologna.

From Pisa airport (PSA), you can take either a direct train or bus to Florence and then the train to Bologna.

From Bologna airport (BLQ), take the bus downtown.

### ON DEPARTURE:

To return from Florence you can reach both Pisa and Bologna by train.

## Included

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### What is included

- 7 Nights in double room in \*\*/\*\* hotels , B&B and agriturismo with breakfast
- luggage transportation from hotel to hotel (max 1 item per person)
- transfers as per itinerary
- official guide of the route, App
- Pilgrim Passport
- Medical and luggage travel insurance
- 24h phone assistance

### What is not included

- Transfers to the starting location and from the arriving location of the tour
- Lunches and dinners
- 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.
- Official camino guidebook, shipped to the first hotel
- Travel documentation in printed form (maps and detailed description of the itinerary), shipped to the first hotel