

VIA DI FRANCESCO SUMMER

type :	Self-Guided Hiking Tours
level :	
duration :	8 days
period:	Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct
code:	ITSW470

St. Francis Way: Stage 1, Florence to Chiusi della Verna - Italy

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8 days, PRICE FROM *€ 1061*



Saint Francis traveled the Apennines during the dark Middle Ages, searching for **signs of God** in nature and spreading the **message of peace, humility, and brotherhood**.

The **St Francis Way from Florence to Chiusi della Verna** begins in one of Italy's most beautiful cities and quickly leads you into a rural landscape that **changes color every day**, offering you new reasons for **enchantment**, surprising you and caressing your senses. The first stretch of Via di Francesco is a **captivating prelude** to the entire journey.

The **Foreste Casentinesi National Park**, a magical place filled with energy, housing the **Hermitage of Camaldoli**; the Medieval center of the village of **Stia**, the **Casentino woods**, the unforgettable panoramic views of the **Val di Sieve and the Valle Santa**.

Finally, **Chiusi della Verna**, with its Sanctuary — few other places preserve so well the **energy** of Francis and the simplicity and **beauty of his message**, which transcends all religious beliefs and soothes body and soul.

Route

Day 1 Arrive in Florence

Arrive in Firenze and breath the Renaissance air all around you: take a stroll along the tiny alleys and end up in piazza del Duomo, or climb up to Piazzale Michelangelo to get a panoramic view, at sunset!

Day 2 From Pontassieve to Consuma pass, 17,5 km

After a short transfer, you arrive in Pontassieve, where you start walking towards La Consuma pass. It's a long walk which runs from the bottom of the valley to the top of the mountains at Consuma pass, with great views over the Sieve valley. You walk mostly in the shade of the forest, passing by Ferrano castle.

Distance: 17,5 km

Elevation gain: +1184/-272 m

Day 3 From Consuma pass to Stia, 14,7 km

From the pass you descend easily to the bottom of Casentino valley. Most of the itinerary runs inside the woods, with an optional detour to the village of Castel Castagnaio. You have also options of an alternative route with great panoramic views over the Casentino valley, before you reach the beautiful hamlet of Stia.

Distance: 14,7 km

Elevation gain: +475/-1073 m

Day 4 from Stia to Camaldoli, 15,8 km

Today you have a long and demanding walk in terms of difference of altitude. You start at the bottom of the valley, you reach the top of Apennines edge and then you descend to Camaldoli monastery, walking through the Casentino's rural landscape, until you reach the fascinating Eremo di Camaldoli, dating back the XI century. A must stop!

Distance: 15,8 km

Elevation gain: +1098/-790 m

Day 5 **From Camaldoli to Badia Prataglia, 8 km**

Today a relatively short but demanding walk for the difference in altitude going from Monastero di Camaldoli to the top of mountain edge, and then down to the village of Badia Prataglia. The walk runs mostly inside the forests. There is also an alternative route you can follow: 6 km longer but more interesting in term of landscape, with spectacular views of southern Casentino valley, its villages and the surrounding mountains.

Distance: 8 km

Elevation gain: +550/-551 m

Day 6 **From Badia Prataglia to Casa Santicchio, 10 km**

Today's walk runs through the forests till the hamlet of Frassineta from where you can enjoy panoramic views of Vallesanta, La Verna mountain and the Apennine's ridge.

Distance: 10 km

Elevation gain: +563/-659 m

Day 7 **From Casa Santicchio to Chiusi della Verna, 9 km**

Today you finally arrive in Chiusi della Verna. Head for the hotel and check in. If you arrive early enough, you can visit the Franciscan Sanctuary in the afternoon. The Sanctuary is opened every day of the year from 06:30 to 19:30 hrs (22:00 hrs in summer) NOTE: To enter the Sanctuary, you need to cover your chest and arms and wear trousers / skirts long to the knee.

Distance: 9 km

Elevation gain: +791/-577 m

Day 8 **Arrivederci Chiusi della Verna!**

Last day is included. Service ends after breakfast.

Practical info



You can reach Florence by train: if your flight is not landing in Florence, you can take a direct train from Pisa, Rome or Bologna, which have international airports. More information and timetables on the Trenitalia website: www.trenitalia.com

Return from Chiusi della Verna: you can take a Tiemme line bus from Chiusi della Verna to Bibbiena. From Bibbiena you can reach Florence by train, changing in Arezzo (Bibbiena-Arezzo and Arezzo-Florence)

Included

What is included

- 7 Nights in double room in **/*** hotels , B&B and agriturismi with breakfast
- 3 dinners (Caiano, Casa Santicchio and Chiusi della Verna)
- 1 packed lunch in Casa Santicchio
- luggage transportation from hotel to hotel
- Transfers (Firenze-Pontassieve, Consuma-Caiano,Caiano-Consuma)
- maps and detailed description of the itinerary in figital form, 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, 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.
- 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