

# TUSCANY'S TREASURES

Montecatini Terme, Florence, Siena, San Gimignano, Pisa & Lucca



*With a timeless familiarity, rolling hillside vineyards crowned by frescoed churches and a legacy of artistic prodigies creating iconic masterpieces, the region of Tuscany truly captures Italy's romantic essence. Journey through elegant Florentine streets once walked upon by Michelangelo, witness the unforgettable sight of Pisa's Leaning Tower and enjoy locally produced wine within a hilltop castle that once played host to Leonardo da Vinci.*

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Italy. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

#### Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

#### DAY 1: UK to Montecatini Terme D

Depart London on your direct flight to Pisa, where you will be transferred to your hotel for an afternoon at leisure. Wander the streets of Montecatini Terme, taking in grand art nouveau buildings and open-air cafés alive with the scent of freshly ground coffee.

#### DAY 2: Florence City Tour B/D

Following breakfast, travel to the city of Florence; boasting priceless masterpieces, striking Renaissance architecture and winding streets, this historic metropolis looks as it did during 1550. On your half-day escorted tour witness the cathedral's domineering masonry dome, examine a copy of Michelangelo's statue of David in Piazza della Signoria and stroll across the iconic Ponte Vecchio Bridge lined with antiquated jewellery boutiques. Later that afternoon spend time exploring at leisure; marvel at intricate fresco paintings upon the Cathedral of Saint Mary's ceiling, discover the world's greatest collection of Renaissance art at the Uffizi Gallery or visit Le Volpi e l'Uva to sample lesser-known wines and mouthwatering Italian morsels.

#### DAY 3: Montecatini Terme B/D

Today is free explore the magnificent region of Tuscany

at your own pace. Head to Montecatini Terme train station and onto Florence, exploring tucked away gems scattered throughout. Visit Pistoia city's intriguing sculpture garden at Fattoria Celle or travel west to Italy's magnificent Mediterranean coast for unique lobster, octopus and cuttlefish specialities within the bustling town of Viareggio.

#### DAY 4: Siena & San Gimignano Tour B/D

This morning tour the enchanting medieval city of Siena; your guide will take you through cobbled streets, past gothic boutiques and aromatic cafés to the heart of a UNESCO site, Piazza del Campo.

Once a Roman marketplace, this public square is overlooked by the striking tower of Palazzo Pubblico town hall and is famed for Fonte Gaia, a fountain decorated with religious scenes carved into marble panels. After lunch travel to San Gimignano, a hilltop 'medieval Manhattan' with distinctive 11th century towers that oversee this UNESCO site; tour the town's picturesque streets to sample white wine produced from Vernaccia grapes that grow on the surrounding sandstone hillside. Return to Montecatini Terme for an evening at leisure.

#### DAY 5: Pisa & Lucca B/D

Begin today with a visit to Italy's most photographed monument - the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Stroll across immaculate lawns to admire the slanting bell tower and neighbouring cathedral, which displays a Romanesque marble design adorned with the baptistry's distinctive red-tiled dome. Continue past rolling hills that form Tuscany's scenic countryside to the charming city of Lucca. Surrounded by imposing Renaissance walls,

your guide will show you a city filled with picturesque piazzas, pine shaded promenades and traces of French architecture alluding to the Napoleonic occupation.

#### DAY 6: Greve in Chianti B/L/D

Depart after breakfast to the Castle of Vicchiomaggio, a 15th century stronghold Leonardo da Vinci stayed within during his painting of the Mona Lisa. Discover the steps of creating exquisite Italian wine, taking you from the surrounding vineyards into a cellar lined with oak barrels for a chance to savour the castle's delicious produce. After an authentic Italian lunch, wander through hillside gardens to absorb the Mediterranean climate and marvel at panoramic views across the verdant Greve valley.

#### DAY 7: Montecatini Terme B/D

Today encounter the archetypal Tuscan town of Montecatini Terme at leisure, beginning with a cappuccino and accompanying fette biscottate biscuit at an outdoor café. Meander past illuminated fashion boutiques and souvenir stands within Grocco Market or unwind in one of the town's luxurious spas that enjoy rejuvenating natural mineral springs. In the evening, witness majestic views as you ride a funicular to the old town, visiting a local pizzeria for an authentic stone baked pizza - the perfect way to end your Italian journey.

#### DAY 8: Montecatini Terme to UK or Extension B

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight back to the UK or continue on to your chosen extension.

#### Hotel Information

Tuscany (7 nights): 4★ Hotel Royal Palace - Viale Alessandro Bicchierai, 113, 51016 Montecatini Terme PT, Italy. Telephone Number: +39 0572 70161

#### Accommodation

All accommodation features an en suite bathroom, air-conditioning, satellite TV and a hairdryer. Mercury Holidays has visited and inspected the hotel to ensure that it meets the high standards of service which we require for our clients. If the hotel detailed is not available alternatives will be used of a similar standard.

**Final confirmation of your hotel will be sent in a document approximately 10 days before you travel.**

#### Meals

Breakfast and dinner each day will be served in the restaurant at the hotel. Any dietary requirements should be made known to our reservations staff at the time of booking.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on 0843 224 0723

### On your arrival

A representative from our local agent, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. However, if you do experience any issues on arrival or need to contact the local team in an emergency the details are:

### Little Italy Tours

Piva 02305120590  
P.zza Municipio,  
9 Terracina Italy  
Contact Number: 0035 0773700062  
**Emergency contact information**  
Please find below the emergency contact details for Little Italy Tours  
Mr Cristian Amuro  
Mobile Number: 0035 3382973972



### Visas

A visa is not required for your trip to Italy. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity.

### Insurance

You must obtain suitable travel insurance prior to departure. Mercury Holidays is partnered with Holiday Extras which offer insurance at the following prices:

Age in years	Up to 64	65-74	75-85
Up to 10 days cover	£21	£42	£62
Up to 17 days cover	£27	£48	£68

For all persons 86 years and over, please contact us for insurance prices.

To book your travel insurance with us please contact our reservations department on 01732 775000.

If you have an existing policy with another company, please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

### Health and Vaccinations

It is strongly recommended that you check the latest health recommendations for travel to Italy with your GP at least 4-6 weeks before travel. Any medicines you may need during your journey should be packed in your hand luggage. We suggest it is worth taking a few first aid supply such as travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc. Because these products can be more expensive

abroad and familiar brands are not always available. If your visit is between April and September, you should always take mosquito repellent. The tap water is fine to drink in Italy.

### Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves moderate days of walking on uneven paths and small hills, and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

### Group Size

The minimum number of passengers on your tour will be 20, and the maximum number of passengers will be 35. If in the unlikely event your tour does not reach the minimum passenger numbers then you may be asked to change to a different date. A full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

### Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour, meaning you will have the services of an English speaking guide throughout ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

### Tipping

Tipping is at your discretion, however we would recommend approximately EUR3.00 per person per day. Tips are accepted in the local currency, however it is asked that if you do not tip in the local currency that you only pay with notes, as coins cannot be exchanged.

### Currency Exchange

The currency in Italy is the Euro (EUR). We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK, however cash machines are available in all the major cities to withdraw money in the local currency.

### Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any lunches where these are not mentioned on your itinerary and personal

purchases, such as souvenirs, extra drinks and snacks. Approximately £200-£300 per person should be sufficient for the duration of your tour. Please also bear in mind that there will be several shopping opportunities throughout your tour.

### Credit Card Information

As normal practice you may be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

### Itinerary changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times or sailing conditions. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to the local conditions.

### What to Pack

- Insect repellent
- Suncream and a hat with a big brim for sunny days
- Comfortable walking shoes such as trainers
- Sunglasses
- Towel, swimsuit and plastic bags
- Ruck sack or light bag per person
- Personal toiletries and first aid kit
- Light rain coat
- The electricity supply is 220V-240V. You will need a two pin round plug adapter in Italy



### Flight and Airport Information

Your flight is to Pisa Airport with British Airways (BA) departing from London Heathrow Terminal 5.

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number
London Heathrow - Pisa	08:50	12:00	2 hours 10 minutes	BA604
Pisa - London Heathrow	13:05	14:30	2 hours 25 minutes	BA605

**IMPORTANT: Please note that all flight times and numbers listed above are provided for guidance only and are subject to change. Final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.**

Due to group transfers passengers flying from London Heathrow will have a waiting time at Pisa airport of 1 hour and 50 minutes while the rest of the group arrives from different flights.

### Baggage Allowance

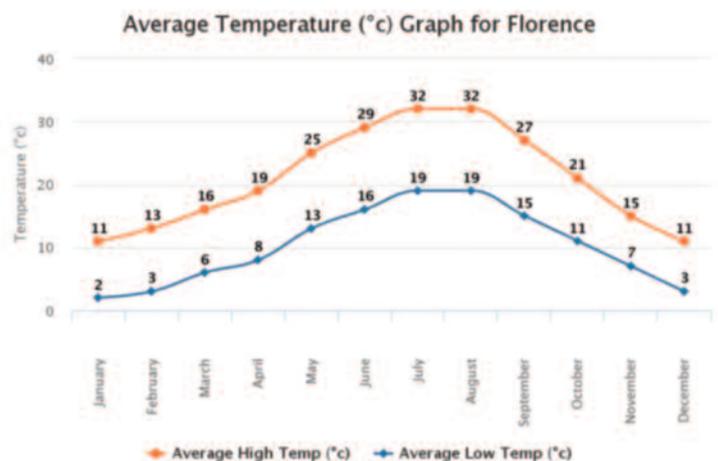
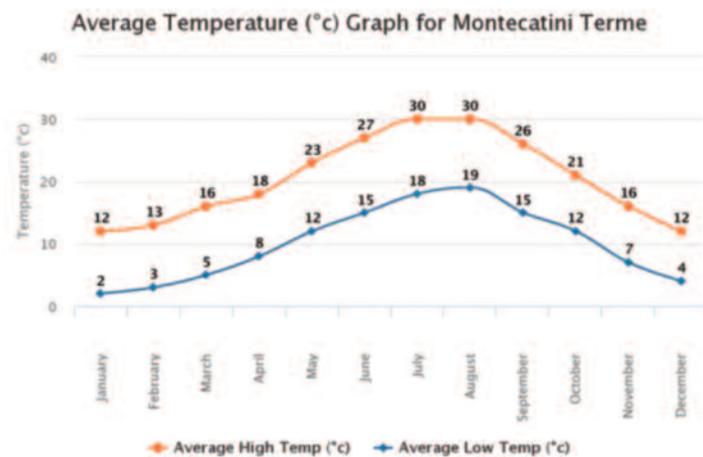
Each passenger is entitled to 23KG of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding in size and 1 personal item such as a handbag, briefcase or laptop case. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in. Check-In should be at least 3 hours before departure.

### Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras - Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

### Weather and Climate

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year so please familiarize yourself with the climate charts below for a guideline of what to expect.



## Regional flight information

Due to group transfers some passengers will have a waiting time at the airport while the rest of the group arrives from different flights. Please note that if your wait at the airport is longer than average then a private transfer is included. If you want to request a private transfer to avoid any wait at the airport then the cost is £139 per person return.

### London Heathrow - Terminal 5 - 23kgs baggage allowance

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number	Airport Waiting Time
London Heathrow - Pisa	08:50	12:00	2 hours 10 minutes	BA 604	1 hour 50 minutes
Pisa - London Heathrow	13:05	14:30	2 hours 25 minutes	BA 605	1 hour 25 minutes

### London Gatwick - North Terminal - 23 kgs baggage allowance

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number	Airport Waiting Time
London Gatwick - Pisa	07:30	10:40	2 hours 10 minutes	BA 2600	3 hours 10 minutes
Pisa - London Gatwick	11:25	12:20	1 hour 55 minutes	BA 2601	No wait

### Manchester - Terminal 1 - 20kgs baggage allowance

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number	Airport Waiting Time
Manchester - Pisa	09:45	13:15	2 hours 30 minutes	EZY 1847	35 minutes
Pisa - Manchester	13:50	15:20	2 hours 30 minutes	EZY 1848	2 hours 15 minutes

### Bristol - Main Terminal - 20kgs baggage allowance

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number	Airport Waiting Time
Bristol - Pisa	10:40	13:50	2 hours 10 minutes	EZY 6189	No wait
Pisa - Bristol	14:25	15:40	2 hours 15 minutes	EZY 6190	3 hours

### East Midlands - Main Terminal - 22kgs baggage allowance

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number	Airport Waiting Time
East Midlands - Pisa	09:00	12:20	2 hours 20 minutes	LS 645	1 hour 30 minutes
Pisa - East Midlands	13:05	14:25	2 hours 20 minutes	LS 646	1 hour 40 minutes

### Leeds Bradford - Main Terminal - 22kgs baggage allowance

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number	Airport Waiting Time
Leeds Bradford - Pisa	07:40	11:10	2 hours 30 minutes	LS 367	2 hours 40 minutes
Pisa - Leeds Bradford	11:50	13:20	2 hours 30 minutes	LS 368	25 minutes

### Newcastle - Main Terminal - 22kgs baggage allowance

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number	Airport Waiting Time
Newcastle - Pisa	14:30	18:10	2 hours 40 minutes	LS 547	Private transfer included
Pisa - Newcastle	18:50	20:30	2 hours 40 minutes	LS 548	Private transfer included

### London Stansted - Main Terminal - 15kgs baggage allowance

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number	Airport Waiting Time
London Stansted - Pisa	08:45	12:00	2 hours 15 minutes	FR 584	1 hour 50 minutes
Pisa - London Stansted	12:55	14:20	2 hours 25 minutes	FR 587	1 hour 30 minutes

### Edinburgh - Main Terminal - 15kgs baggage allowance

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number	Airport Waiting Time
Edinburgh - Pisa	09:10	13:05	3 hours 5 minutes	FR 2753	45 minutes
Pisa - Edinburgh	06:50	07:45	2 hours 55 minutes	FR 2752	Private transfer included

### London Luton - Main Terminal - 20kgs baggage allowance

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number	Airport Waiting Time
London Luton - Pisa	06:35	09:50	2 hours 15 minutes	EZY 2303	Private transfer included
Pisa - London Luton	10:20	11:35	2 hours 15 minutes	EZY 2304	Private transfer included

**IMPORTANT: Please note that all flight information and airport waiting times listed above are provided for guidance only and are subject to change. Final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.**