

CINQUE TERRE TOUR

24 May – 28 May 2017

6 Sept – 10 Sept 2017

(5 days/4 nights) AUD \$2,590



VITA ITALIAN TOURS

Vita Italian Tours are designed
for the traveller who wants
more than just a holiday

The Cinque Terre has always captivated the traveller with its extraordinary beauty and rugged coastline. The five villages which make up Cinque Terre: Monterosso al Mare, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore are all steeped with fascinating history and vibrant culture. They have been home to generations of simple fishermen and farmers who carefully built terraces on the steep mountainsides overlooking the sea to produce a stunningly beautiful garden landscape.

We will explore all the five towns including the beautiful Portovenere, Portofino as well as a special visit to Pisa and its iconic leaning tower.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 Florence (D) Your tour leaders will meet you at the hotel in the centre of Florence at 7.00pm. There will be introductions and a small talk on the tour. The group will then enjoy dinner in a traditional restaurant.

Day 2 Florence/Portofino/Monterosso al Mare (BD) After breakfast we journey north west from Florence and Tuscany heading towards the Ligurian Riviera. Before reaching Monterosso and the Cinque Terre, we take in views of the rugged Ligurian coastline and make a stop at the picturesque seaside town of Portofino. There will be some time for travellers to explore the shops and sights of this small but beautiful harbour and have a coffee or a bite to eat at one of the many water side restaurants or bars. Finally, our day ends in the spectacular town of Monterosso al Mare, the northernmost of the five villages of the Cinque Terre, which will be our stay for the next 3 nights. Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 3 Cinque Terre (BD) Today we explore the entire coast of the Cinque Terre by catching the local train from Monterosso to the first of the five towns Riomaggiore. From there we will walk leisurely along the famous *Sentiero dell' Amore* (Lover's Walk) to the village of Manarola where there will be time for you to stop and grab some lunch or coffee. We will also visit the quaint villages of Corniglia and Vernazza before returning to Monterosso for dinner.

Day 4 Monterosso/Portovenere (BD) After breakfast we will catch a ferry from Monterosso to the beautiful seaside town of Portovenere and its tranquil waters of the Golfo dei Poeti. Upon our return in the afternoon the group will have the opportunity to independently explore further any of the towns along the coast. Otherwise, there will be free time to wander through the many local specialty boutiques in Monterosso before our final dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 5 Monterosso/Pisa/Florence (B) We leave the Cinque Terre for Florence. On the way we make a special stop to one of Italy's most famous landmarks: the Leaning Tower of Pisa which is one of several architecturally important structures in the Piazza dei Miracoli. The Leaning Tower is the campanile, or bell tower, of the Cathedral. It is famous for its noticeable lean which has recently had a lot of work done to stop it from falling to the ground. In the afternoon we make our way back to Florence and we should arrive in the City by mid afternoon. The tour ends in Florence.

Items included in the Tour

- All land travel in air-conditioned mini buses
- All train/ferry travel in Cinque Terre
- Accommodation for 4 nights in 3/4 star hotels in Florence/Monterosso al Mare
- 4 breakfasts
- 4 dinners (Meals include dinners in traditional local restaurants as detailed in the itinerary)
- Regional wines and mineral water served with meals
- Admission to all galleries, museums and historical sites included in the itinerary
- Personally guided tours to all towns mentioned in the itinerary
- Services of the tour leaders throughout the tour

Items not included

- Airfares
- Travel insurance (we strongly recommend you take travel insurance during your travels) Vita Italian Tours can arrange airfares, travel insurance, pre and post tour accommodation and transfers if needed.
- Admission fees to places other than those specifically itemised in the itinerary
- Meals on tour except when specifically mentioned in the itinerary
- Drinks outside normal meal times or additional wine and other drinks in restaurants
- Personal transport costs, phone calls and other personal needs
- Accommodation Tax

Cost

The cost of the tour, land content only, is **AUD \$2,590** per person in twin share accommodation. A **deposit of AUD \$500** is required to reserve a place on the tour which is not refundable unless the tour is cancelled. **Single** supplements are available at an additional cost of **AUD \$430**. The full balance is due 90 days before departure. **The tour** is costed on a minimum of 6 people travelling on the tour with the maximum number of 14.

We recommend that you carefully read the conditions applying to Vita Italian Tours

Additional information

The weather: it is the end of Spring. It can get warm during the day however the evenings can be cool. For the September departure the weather is similar: generally warm days with mild nights. We recommend light, comfortable clothing, a light jacket with your favourite walking shoes. The countryside is undulating and hilly. Many of the hill towns have their historical centres closed to traffic and therefore lots of walking is required. You should expect to stroll leisurely for up to an hour or so with many breaks for sightseeing, coffee and a taste of the local produce. **The program** appears to be full; however it is mixed with long restful lunches and leisure time for your enjoyment and comfort.

If you need to, you can always take time off from the organised program.

For further information

Visit the web site www.vitaitaliantours.com for the full list of tours.

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