

MON 31 AUG ARRIVE PISA - VICOPISANO

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Welcome to Tuscany! Upon arrival in Pisa, you'll be met by our local guide at the airport or train station for your transfer to the charming village of **Vicopisano**, our base for the next seven nights. Conveniently located just 15 km from Pisa and 50 km from Florence, Vicopisano was once a thriving fortified town in medieval times, complete with a castle designed by Brunelleschi in 1434. Today, it's a peaceful and authentic village with a wonderful selection of dining options—and best of all, it remains delightfully untouched by mass tourism.

We'll be staying at the home of local Tuscan hosts, Massimo & Jon. The property features spacious rooms, a charming garden and courtyard, and a swimming pool – perfect for unwinding after a day of exploring. Just a 10-minute stroll away is the village square, where we'll spend plenty of time soaking up the local atmosphere whilst sipping on Aperol Spritz or Hugos. After checking in and freshening up, we'll take a relaxed orientation walk through the village, followed by an aperitivo and a warm welcome dinner.

TUE 01 SEP PISA & COOKING LESSON

Just a short drive away lies the iconic town of **Pisa**, where we'll enjoy a guided walking tour and visit the famous Leaning Tower and its stunning neighbouring Cathedral – all before the crowds arrive! The tower's winding marble steps lead to breathtaking panoramic views over the city – well worth the climb.



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In the afternoon, it's time to don an apron and roll up your sleeves for a fun and hands-on **Tuscan cooking class** in the home of Daniela & Marco. Afterward, we'll sit down together at the family table to enjoy the delicious meal we've prepared.

WED 02 SEP CINQUE TERRE

We set off early this morning for the coastal town of La Spezia, where we board a boat and cruise out across the Gulf. Our first stop is the picturesque village of **Porto Venere**, with time to wander its cobbled lanes and admire the tall, narrow houses painted in classic Ligurian hues and rich with character.

Back on board, we continue our cruise along the breathtaking coastline for the best views of the Cinque Terre – the **iconic cluster of colourful villages** clinging to the cliffs. We'll stop in **Monterosso** with free time for lunch, after which you might choose to shop, take a refreshing swim, or stroll one of the scenic paths – it's easy to see why people fall in love with this magical region.

This evening, back at our villa, we'll enjoy a dinner inspired by Liguria – the **birthplace of pesto** – featuring traditional trofie pasta paired with exceptional Tuscan and Ligurian wines.

THU 03 SEP FLORENCE

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Today, we explore the **cultural heart of Tuscany** with a walking tour of **Firenze**, a city overflowing with Renaissance art and architectural treasures. We'll visit some of its most iconic landmarks, including the magnificent **Duomo**, with its striking terracotta dome designed by Brunelleschi and Giotto's elegant bell tower. Highlights also include Michelangelo's famous **David** at the Galleria dell'Accademia and masterpieces like Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus* and da Vinci's *Annunciation* at the renowned Uffizi Gallery.

If you're looking to shop, Florence is a haven for high-quality **Italian leather and gold**. Alternatively, you might prefer to spend time in one of the city's many **exceptional museums**—just let us know in advance so we can pre-book tickets for you.

Lunch today is at a charming little eatery, tucked away from the tourist crowds, where you'll enjoy authentic Tuscan flavours. This evening, we'll gather for dinner at one of Vicopisano's delightful small ristorantes.

FRI 04 SEP HILLTOP VILLAGES

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After breakfast, we head out for a day in the Tuscan countryside. Our first stop is the remarkable *Teatro del Silenzio* near Lajatico, the hometown of Andrea Bocelli. This openair amphitheatre, set amid classic Tuscan landscapes, provides a stunning backdrop for outdoor performances.

Next, we enjoy a leisurely **lunch at a local vineyard**, where delicious regional dishes are perfectly paired with wines produced from the surrounding vines.

In the afternoon, we visit the ancient walled town of **Volterra**, rich in Roman, Etruscan, and medieval heritage and where some scenes from Twilight were filmed. Admire the impressive



Palazzo dei Priori, with its striking bell tower and medieval frescoes, and step inside the extraordinary *Palazzo Viti*, filled with unique sculptures and historic art. There's time to explore the cobbled lanes, browse for local alabaster, or simply relax with a coffee or aperitif.

SAT 05 SEP TRUFFLE HUNTING & MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL B,L,D

This morning, we set off on a hunt for the elusive truffle. Accompanied by a skilled guide and a talented truffle-hunting dog, we'll wander through the woods of Savaia on an exciting foray in search of this prized delicacy. After this fun adventure, we'll enjoy a well-earned lunch featuring our freshly unearthed truffles, perfectly paired with local wine.

Take an afternoon nap or laze by the pool and conserve some energy ahead of an exciting evening at the **Medieval Festival of Vicopisano**. Along the village streets that lead to the castle there are outdoor taverns and entertainment set up for the weekend. Musicians and dancers are everywhere. Locals dress in medieval costume for the occasion. As special guests we follow a parade of Lords, Ladies and Flag throwers up to the **14th century castle** where we are seated at long tables under the stars. Between each course of a **sumptuous medieval feast** served by the village waifs and maids, we are entertained by a variety of artists. A truly unforgettable experience.

SUN 06 SEP LUCCA

We have a relaxed start to the day so you can recover from the festival By lunchtime we'll find ourselves exploring the cobbled streets of **Lucca** known for the wellpreserved Renaissance walls encircling its historic centre. A broad tree-lined pathway runs along the top of the massive 16th- & 17th-century ramparts and are popular for walking and cycling (it's easy to walk right around or hire a bike). Or you might choose to relax over lunch at one of the many outdoor ristorantes lining the squares, enjoy some prime peoplewatching, or indulge in a bit of retail therapy.

MON 07 SEP END PISA

Say *Addio* to your hosts and transfer to Pisa Airport or Train Station for your onward journey, or you might choose to join our Puglia tour which starts today.



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Price

NZ\$6990 per person twin share (If you are travelling solo, you will room with another woman – subject to availability) NZ\$7890 single

Includes

- Escorted on arrival in Pisa by Marie Coles from Roam Travel Adventures
- Transportation by minivan, boat, train, ship
- 7-nights comfortable ensuite accommodation at Villa Lenzi
- Meals daily breakfast & dinner plus 3 lunches
- Sightseeing entry and local guides as specified
- Gratuities
- Truffle Hunt and speciality lunch
- Medieval Festival and speciality dinner
- Tuscan vineyard lunch
- Tuscan cooking lesson
- Cinque Terre boat transfers
- Leaning Tower entry
- Walking tour of Firenze, Lucca, Volterra

Excludes

- Airfares
- Travel Insurance
- Personal spending
- Refreshments & any meals not included

Group Size

Minimum 6, maximum 10

Important Notes

Roam Travel Adventure reserves the right to amend the route of the itinerary and accommodation due to unforeseen circumstances/local conditions. Price is subject to change due currency fluctuations. \$500 non-refundable deposit is required to secure your place. Travel Insurance is compulsory and should be taken out at the time of booking to cover you for cancellation leading up to the tour, and to cover you whilst you are travelling in Europe. Roam Travel Adventures can assist with insurance and flights if you require. Refer to Roam Travel Adventures Terms & Conditions.

