



Etruscan Trail Tuscany

Weight limit: 100kg / 15.7 stone

Nearest airport: Rome Ciampino / Rome Fiumicino

8 days / 7 nights / 6 days riding

Ride the ancient Etruscan pathways and discover this little visited corner of Southern Tuscany. Canter across breath-taking mountain pastures, follow the banks of the river Fiora and find your way through the area's mysterious sunken roads cut deep into the rock over 2,000 years ago.



The Riding

Ride past the terracotta rooftops of medieval villages and discover ancient historical sites of the Etruscan civilisation from horseback. Enjoy the views over lush mountain pastures and wooded valleys as you follow the wild paths by the Fiora River. The trail involves some river crossings on horseback and there are opportunities for wild swimming at some of the lunch stops. During the trail the main pace is walk as you'll be riding on some steep mountain paths. There will be opportunities to trot and canter each day where the terrain allows faster riding and on some sections of the trail long, fast canters are possible.

Guides & Groups sizes

Our partners in Italy have more than 30 years of experience in organising riding holidays. Your guides are very knowledgeable about the horses, local culture and history and make sure you are well looked after for the whole duration of your holiday.

There are a maximum of 8 riders in a group.



Horses & Tack

The horses on this trail have been trained with natural horsemanship methods and with Western riding style. They are well-mannered, responsive riders and have had extensive training for riding through challenging terrain, making them extremely surefooted. The horses live out in a herd all year round on 100 acres of natural pasture land.

The tack used on the trail is Western style. The saddles have a large and comfortable seat which ensures an enjoyable experience during the long riding days. Saddle bags are provided so you can carry daily essentials while riding.

Accommodation and Dining

During the holiday you will stay in traditional countryside guesthouses. The accommodation is carefully chosen for comfort, tasty local food and suitability to accommodate your horse for the night. Your luggage is transported by a support vehicle between overnight stops.

The food is a real highlight of any trip to Tuscany and you can expect to eat extremely well on this trip. Lunches are provided picnic-style while out on the trail while dinners are lively affairs which include a series of appetizers, two first courses, a second course and three side dishes, fruit and dessert. All food is local, seasonal and sustainable with many ingredients coming from your hosts' organic farm. Water and local, red wine from the Montepulciano region is always provided with both lunch and dinner. Special dietary requirements and allergies can be catered for with advance notice.



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival

Arrive at Rome Ciampino/Fiumicino airport and transfer to your hosts organic farm in Tuscany. Settle into your accommodation at the farmhouse. Meet your fellow riders and guide over dinner and discuss the itinerary of the coming week.

Day 2: Introductory ride

After breakfast, meet your horse for the week and get ready for a full day in the saddle. Today is spent by getting to know your horse and the Western style of riding. Enjoy your first picnic lunch before heading back to the farmhouse for another great night's sleep.

Day 3: The trail begins

Set out for the progressive trail. In the morning, ride through beautiful beech woods and follow the banks of the river Fiora. Today's picnic is served by the river where you have the chance of cooling your feet or even having a swim. Continue on an ancient Etruscan road, cut deep into the rock. Some of these roads are deep ravines wide enough for a chariot to pass through whereas others are sunken footpaths. Your path will then pass by the most famous historic monument of Etruria; the Tomb of Ildebranda, famed for its ancient burial chambers which date back to the third century. Overnight and dinner in a country house.

Day 4: Necropolis of Poggio Buco

Continue on the ancient paths of Etruria and pass through vineyards and olive groves. Continue following the river Fiora and cross it before riding past the Necropolis of Poggio Buco, an ancient Etruscan settlement from the 7th century. Continue on until you reach the country house that will be your accommodation for the night.

Day 5: Poggio Conte

Today you will have a longer ride in the morning. Start the day by river Fiora and ride towards the medieval hermitage of Poggio Conte, an unusual chapel that was dug into the tuff rock by hermits. Continue on and reach your overnight destination in time for lunch. Your hosts for tonight breed the Tuscan Maremma horses and train them with traditional methods. They also hold a fascinating private collection of Etruscan afterfacts. Spend the afternoon relaxing by the pool and enjoying the down time.

Day 6: Lamone Forest Nature Reserve

The journey continues along a deep, sunken Etruscan road, the only one in the area that has remains of the ancient Roman road. Cross the river Olpeta and climb up to the historic site of Castro city. Enter the Lamone Forest Nature Reserve and ride through a dense woodland spotting wild flowers. If you are lucky you can even spot various species of falcons and woodpeckers unique to the area, as well as the native Maremma cattle. Enjoy a picnic lunch in the woods and continue the ride in the afternoon over rolling

hills. Admire the spectacular views as you ride towards Lake Mezzano, a crater lake of volcanic origin. Dive in for a refreshing swim before heading to your accommodation close to the lake.

Day 7: Vitozza

Leave Lake Mezzano behind and follow tracks across fields to reach the village of San Quirico. Your journey will then pass by Vitozza, an extended rock settlement inhabited from the 12th to 17th century with medieval treasures, castle ruins and cave houses. Continue on the Etruscan road and descend to the source of the river Lente. Your path will pass by the villages of Sorano and Montevitozzo before returning back to your hosts farm. Tonight a tasty farewell dinner awaits and you spend one more night being pampered with Tuscan hospitality.

Day 8: Departure

Enjoy a final breakfast under the Tuscan sun before getting transferred back to the airport.



Price includes

- 6 full days of riding
- Trail riding horse, tack and saddle bags
- Shared accommodation
- Breakfasts
- Lunches
- Evening meals
- Red wine and water with meals
- Services of a guide

Not included

- Flights
- Airport transfers
- Tips

Flights & Airport transfers

The closest airports are Rome Ciampino and Rome Fiumicino.

Please don't book your flights before receiving the 'Booking confirmation' email from saddletravel.com.

Please plan your flights to Rome as follows:

Flights to Rome Ciampino:

Arrive by 2pm on the first day of your holiday.

Departure any time after 3pm on the last day of your holiday.

Flights to Rome Fiumicino:

Arrive by 3pm on the first day of your holiday.

Departure any time after 2pm on the last day of your holiday.

Airport transfers

Transfers from Rome Ciampino:

Pick up on the first day of your holiday at 3pm.

Drop off on the last day of your holiday at approx. 1pm.

Transfers from Rome Fiumicino:

Pick up on the first day of your holiday at 4pm.

Drop off on the last day of your holiday at 12pm (midday).

What to bring

We recommend wearing your riding boots when travelling and carrying one set of riding clothing and your helmet in your hand luggage, so should your luggage not make it to the destination you'll still be able to ride.

Please pack light and avoid hard-topped suitcases as there is a limited amount of space available in the support vehicle.

Please use the packing list as a guideline, bearing in mind the time of year you are riding.

- Your own well-fitted hard hat
- Comfortable jodhpurs or riding trousers
- Riding / hiking boots with good grip
- Chaps
- Riding gloves
- Long sleeved T-shirts to protect against the sun
- Warm layer such as fleece or woollen jumper for cool evenings
- Water- and windproof coat
- Buff / bandana to protect against the sun and dust
- Comfortable clothes for the evening
- Lightweight shoes for after riding
- Sun cream & lip balm
- Sunglasses & sunhat
- Swimwear
- Plug adapter
- Copy of your travel insurance
- Personal medication

Climate

Tuscany is located in central Italy where the summers are typically hot with plenty of sunshine. The hottest months are July and August when the daytime temperatures can sometimes reach up to 40°C. Spring and autumn are generally mild with mostly good weather. Temperatures during the day can vary between 15°C to 25°C. The annual precipitation is fairly low with most rainfall during the months from September to April.

Health

For health and vaccine recommendations, please consult your healthcare provider at least 8 weeks before your trip.

Country specific information can also be found at National Travel Health Network and Centre website: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>.

Travel documents

For entry requirements to Italy for UK citizens, please visit the Foreign Travel Advice website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/italy/entry-requirements>.

For any other nationalities, please contact your local embassy to check entry requirements. Having the correct travel documents is entirely your responsibility.

Currency & Tipping

The local currency in Italy is Euro. Your holiday is fully inclusive and we recommend not to bring too much cash with you, just enough if you wish to buy drinks outside of mealtimes or souvenirs etc. Tipping your guide is at your discretion.



Riding declaration

"I am confident and in control at trot and canter out in the open and over uneven ground. I'm able to mount and dismount unaided and have a good level of current riding fitness. I do not suffer from any illness or disability that could prejudice my safety or that of others."

Cancellation policy

Payment & Cancellation Terms

Holidays are confirmed with a 20% non-refundable deposit. The full balance is due 56 days before the start date.

If you cancel your booking less than 56 days before the start date of your trail we are entitled to receive full payment, less refunds as follows:

42 days or more before booking date - 50%

30 days or more - 30%

less than 30 days - nil

Book with confidence – Covid Guarantee:

if ride operator is closed/you are unable to travel – due to lockdown:

1/ The deposit is reissued as a rebooking voucher to rebook anytime.

2/ Any balance payment will be refunded to you in full within 1 week of departure date.

Insurance

All saddletravel.com customers are required to take out appropriate travel insurance that covers horse riding and holiday cancellation. Proof of insurance details will be required during the booking process.

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