

La Via Francigena From San Miniato to San Quirico d'Orcia



San Miniato can easily be reached by train from Florence (less than 1h). This week unfolds in the very heart of Tuscany passing by the most famous towns such as San Gimignano, Siena and San Quirico d'Orcia. Unforgettable landscapes among Chianti vineyards and cypress crested hills; powerful fortresses and castles are to be seen along the way. At your hotel you will find all the material you need for your trip: hotel vouchers, the detailed description of the walking and the GPS maps.

Level: Easy to Moderate - **Total Mileage:** 122 km - **Daily Average:** 20km - Walking time 3-6hr **Duration:** 8 Days – 7 Nights

Tour highlights:

Monteriggioni walled fortress - Siena & San Gimignano towers - The collegiata in S.Quirico. the unique landscape of the “Crete Sienesi”

Day by day walking program

SAN MINIATO

Day 1 – Arrival in San Miniato – possible extra night in Florence

The railway station is in S. Miniato Basso, there are busses to San Miniato Alto where you spend the night, but if you let us know your arrival time we can send you someone to pick you up for a small fee

GAMBASSI

Day 2 – San Miniato – Gambassi – Distance : 24km - Walking time: 6h00 - Type of route: almost entirely unpaved

After the first 6 km of traffic-less asphalt, the whole itinerary is on unpaved roads or trails. The oak woods of the initial part give away to vineyards in the second part. Along the road you can visit two interesting churches, Pieve di Coiano (possibly still under repair) and S. Maria a Chianni just before arriving in Gambassi.

SAN GIMIGNANO

Day 3 – Gambassi– San Gimignano – Distance: 14km - Walking time: 3h00 - Type of route: almost entirely unpaved

A short day among Chianti vineyards to allow for time in the town of towers, one of the most famous places in Tuscany. It is pleasant to see the town in the evening or early morning when the busloads of tourists have not yet invaded it.

Strove

Day 4 – San Gimignano – Strove - Distance: 25km - Walking time: 6h00 - Type of route: almost entirely unpaved

To shorten a fairly long day we decided to have you spend the night in the small village of Strove 6 km before Monteriggioni. You can visit the round walls of the historical fortified military post, last stronghold of Siena resistance to Florence, the next morning.

SIENA

Day 5 – Strove - Monteriggioni – Siena – Distance: 22km - Walking time: 5h00 - Type of route: almost entirely unpaved, but a few stretches of busy asphalt

Shortly after departure, do not miss the very interesting parish church of Abbadia Isola. Stop in Monteriggioni and walk a stretch of the city walls. Apart from the pleasant countryside, there is nothing remarkable along the road once you leave Monteriggioni. The route is unpaved almost to the arrival in Siena. The “clou” of the day is the ice-cream you will have at a cafe on the Piazza del Campo, the famous square where the “Palio” is run, watching people go by.

BUONCONVENTO

Day 6 – Siena – Buonconvento – Distance :36km (31 to Ponte d’Arbia and 19 to the Grancia di Cuna) - Walking time depending on the arrival point you choose - Type of route: almost entirely unpaved

You will follow a winding route for most of the day until you reach the “Grancia di Cuna” an ancient food storage place fortified to protect it during the never-ending wars between towns in the Middle Ages. It also provided shelter for the pilgrims. The stage ends in Ponte d’Arbia and is

already very long; what is more, there is no hotel in town so the lady who transfers your luggage will pick you up (it is included) wherever you chose to end the walk, and take you to Buonconvento. She can pick you up either at the Grancia after 19km or at ponte diArbia after 31km.

SAN QUIRICO D'ORCIA

Day 7 – Buonconvento – San Quirico – Distance: 23,6km - Walking time: 5h00 - Type of route:
30% secondary asphalt

A medium length day on an easy terrain. Dirt roads to Torrenieri then the last third of the road follows the old Cassia. San Quirico was one of the most important stops on the way to Rome and has some of the most interesting buildings in the area with the Collegiata and the remains of an ancient pilgrims hospital.

DEPARTURE DAY

Day 8 – End of our services after breakfast.

Some of our accommodations

San Miniato



Gambassi



Strove



Siena



Buonconvento



San Quirico

