

DISCOVERING SIENA AND THE COUNTRYSIDE!

SIENA



SIENA BY MOONLIGHT *A night walk in Siena*

A "magic" night walking through the fascinating back streets of Siena, enjoying the peaceful atmosphere of a by-gone era.

During the summer it will be possible to stop and enjoy some of the most popular districts' festivals such as 'Pania' (Contrada del Nicchio) or 'Baobello' (Contrada del Bruco).

Languages: Italian, English, French, Spanish.

Departure from Fonte Gaia, located in the main square of Piazza del Campo.
From June to September.

UNIQUE SIENA : THE COUNTRYSIDE IN THE TOWN *A tour off the beaten path through gardens, back streets and beautiful panoramas!*

Our meeting point is Fonte Gaia, the white fountain located in the main square of Piazza del Campo. From there, walking through the old Ghetto and the Tower District 'Contrada della Torre', we reach 'Basilica dei Servi' where we can enjoy an amazing view of the town.

Our next stop is 'Orto dei Pecci'. A pleasant and easy hike through this garden, located just behind the main square, the serenity and tranquility of this green oasis, together with the view of the incredible Torre del Mangia won't disappoint you!

A few steps through one of the most authentic and fascinating streets of Siena 'Via Duprè' takes us to another green space: 'Orti dei Tolomei'.

'Castelvecchio', a group of houses enclosing a square, is our next site. We are on the highest point of Siena, where the city was born!

Before ending our tour we will visit 'Fonte delle Monache' (the nuns' original basins) where the nuns used to wash their clothes without being seen. Then a short walk through the panoramic street of 'Via del fosso di Sant'Ansano' leads us to our last stop, 'Piazza del Duomo'.

All of our efforts will pay off with the view of the stunning Cathedral and the old Siena hospital, currently museum complex, of 'Santa Maria della Scala'.

On request it will be possible to visit a 'Contrada' museum.

Reservations for the museum are necessary at least 2 weeks prior to the visit.

Languages: Italian, English, French, Spanish.

Departure from Fonte Gaia, located in the main square of Piazza del Campo.

IN THE 'HEART' OF SIENA: ENJOYING THE BACKSTREETS, FOOD AND WINE

A different way to experience Siena.

An itinerary to discover the 'hidden parts' of Siena walking through ancient backstreets and alleys, old merchants and pilgrims roads seeing noble palaces, churches, 'osterie' (local tiny restaurants) and artisans workshops. A unique walk between 'art and craft', during which you will enjoy pleasant stops to taste the famous Sienese wines and cakes: Ricciarelli, Panforte and Cavallucci.

Languages: Italian, English, French, Spanish.

Departure from Fonte Gaia, located in the main square of Piazza del Campo.

.....AND THE COUNTRYSIDE



CHIUSURE - ABBAZIA DI MONTE OLIVETO MAGGIORE

A beautiful abbey in the middle of nowhere!

The tiny village of Chiusure with its fortress is located on top of a hill in the Crete Senesi area; the view from there is breathtaking.

This lunar landscape is comprised of 'calanchi' (clay formations).

From Chiusure a scenic road will take us to the Abbey of Monte Oliveto Maggiore, a beautiful monastery immersed in cypress wood and famous for its painted cloister.

Signorelli and Sodoma, two of the most important painters of the Renaissance, worked there portraying the life of Saint Benedict.

The library with its ancient books and the old pharmacy are not to be missed!

ABBADIA A ISOLA - MONTERIGGIONI

A scenery walk through the old Pilgrims route 'Via Francigena'.

We start from 'Abbadia a Isola', an ancient monastery. The name comes from an island located in a marsh. A scenic walk on the old Pilgrims road throughout the fields, to the picturesque village of 'Monteriggioni', probably the most well preserved medieval walled town in the Sienese territory.

SAN GIMIGNANO

A tour off the beaten paths along the medieval city walls

A walk along the ancient city walls, through backstreets and amazing views, an unusual way of visiting San Gimignano, famous for its towers. During the tour we will enjoy a 'sweet' break, tasting delicious hand-made ice cream and a glass of the local wine, Vernaccia.

STIGLIANO - TORRI
Two 'jewels' in the Merse Valley

Medieval villages, ancient towers and castles stand out in the green Merse Valley, a natural and preserved area far away from the tourist flow. We will start our itinerary in the village of Stigliano, comprised of three little medieval hamlets, whose picturesque towers were once owned by the powerful Ardengheschi family. A nice walk along a path in the woods will take us to the near village of Torri: the square, the Romanesque church, which was once a mighty abbey, and the cloister (XII century), authentic jewel still well preserved, won't disappoint you!

BAGNO VIGNONI - ROCCA VIGNONI - SPA
Enjoying the Spa!

The medieval village of Bagno Vignoni is located in the Val d'Orcia area, it is a Unesco World Heritage site. This little town is famous for its natural thermal water used for centuries by dignitaries such as Santa Caterina da Siena, the Florentine 'Lorenzo Il Magnifico', the French philosopher Montaigne.

From this fascinating town we will walk to the castle of 'Vignoni' with its mighty cut-off tower.

We will end our tour enjoying a relaxing bath in the warm thermal waters.

SAN GALGANO - MONTESIEPI
The sword in the stone!

Secret hideaways in a oasis of green, where legends and myths melt into reality.

The hill of Montesiepi and its chapel tell the story of the knight Galgano Guidotti and the miracle of his sword in the stone.

Walking along a path throughout the countryside we arrive at the Abbey of St. Galgano, the most important expression of the Gothic Cistercian style in Tuscany.

THE ABBEY OF SANT'ANTIMO
Listening to the melodies of the Gregorian chants!

Only a few kilometres from Montalcino, the Abbey of Sant'Antimo stands in solitary splendour in the land of Brunello. According to legend it was built during the reign of Charlemagne.

We'll visit this jewel of Romanesque architecture in French- Lombard style listening to the melodies of the Gregorian chants.

The visit of the little town of Montalcino with a tasting of the famous Brunello are not to be missed!

Languages: Italian, English, French, Spanish.

These tours are perfect for those who have their own trips planned out, but want to spend a day or two tasting wines, enjoying the countryside and visiting Siena in a unique and unforgettable way!

For further information fees and bookings please contact us:

E-mail: finalmenteguide@alice.it

Claudia Buracchini +39 349 6444522

Ilaria Pieroni +39 339 8036451

Sara Testi +39 333 1911322

Antonella Manna +39 347 6972219