



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.

This is a based trail where you will stay at the same accommodation for the week and the riding builds up progressively throughout the week.

The Riding

This trail is designed for experienced, confident riders with a good level of riding fitness. It's also a good introduction to multi-day trail riding for experienced riders who haven't previously completed a longer point-to-point style ride.

The week has been deliberately designed to build progressively. Your first two riding days are based around Il Cornacchino, with guided rides or Natural Western Riding lessons depending on the needs of the group. This gives you time to get to know your horse before progressing to a full day in the saddle.

The latter part of the week takes you onto the Etruscan Trail itself, with longer days exploring the forests, rivers and historic landscapes of southern Tuscany. Expect varied terrain including woodland tracks, ancient pathways, stream and river crossings and the remarkable Vie Cave cut into the area's volcanic rock.

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 7 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 rides 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

You'll stay at Il Cornacchino, an atmospheric agriturismo set in a restored stone hamlet in the countryside near Castell'Azzara in southern Tuscany.

Accommodation is spread between several traditional buildings. Casa della Miniera has seven

rustic guest rooms, along with a shared lounge and large terrace overlooking the surrounding countryside. Casa di Quinto has five guest rooms on the first floor, with the restaurant and kitchen downstairs, while Casa della Fonte offers a separate ground-floor room for guests looking for a little more privacy.

The property's central facilities are housed in the Officina del Cornacchino, where you'll find the reception, bar, a cosy relaxation room with a fireplace, yoga room, massage room and meeting spaces. Free Wi-Fi and an internet point are available here.

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. Special dietary requirements and allergies can be catered for with advance notice.



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival & Welcome

Arrive at Il Cornacchino and settle into your accommodation. In the late afternoon, enjoy a welcome aperitif with drinks and a selection of snacks. You'll meet the Il Cornacchino team and riding guides, who will introduce you to the programme, the horses and what to expect during the week.

Dinner and overnight at Il Cornacchino.

Day 2: Introduction & First Ride

After breakfast, head out for your first guided ride in the beautiful countryside surrounding Il Cornacchino. Depending on the needs and experience of the group, a Natural Western Riding lesson may be offered instead.

After lunch, there is the option to take part in an additional afternoon riding activity for an extra charge.

Dinner and overnight at Il Cornacchino.

Day 3: Horse & Rider Preparation

After breakfast, continue getting to know your horse with another guided ride through the countryside surrounding Il Cornacchino. Alternatively, depending on the group, you may have a Natural Western Riding lesson.

After lunch, an optional additional riding activity is available for an extra charge.

Dinner and overnight at Il Cornacchino.

Day 4: Full-Day Ride

Today you'll set out on your first full-day ride through the Tuscan countryside. Lunch will be prepared and delivered by the support team along the route.

This longer day in the saddle is the final preparation for the multi-day Etruscan Trail ahead. In the late afternoon, ride back to Il Cornacchino.

Dinner and overnight at Il Cornacchino.

Day 5: The Etruscan Trail Begins

After breakfast, set out on horseback for the first stage of the Etruscan Trail. Ride through the beech forests of the Monte Penna Nature Reserve, following ancient trails towards the valley of

the Fiora River.

Lunch will be prepared and delivered by the support team along the way. In the afternoon, follow the river and enjoy several river crossings before reaching the end of today's stage.

The horses remain overnight at an equipped stopping point while you return to Il Cornacchino by shuttle, a journey of approximately 30 minutes.

Dinner and overnight at Il Cornacchino.

Day 6: Through the Etruscan Landscape

After breakfast, transfer by shuttle to rejoin the horses and begin the second stage of the trail.

Ride through the landscapes surrounding Pitigliano, Sovana and Sorano, following quiet country trails and the ancient Vie Cave of Sovana. Along the way, stop to visit the fascinating Etruscan necropolis of Sovana.

Lunch will be prepared and delivered by the support team. At the end of the day's ride, return to Il Cornacchino by shuttle.

Dinner and overnight at Il Cornacchino.

Day 7: Sorano & The Return

The final stage of the Etruscan Trail takes you through the Etruscan necropolis of Sorano and the medieval village, before continuing along further sections of the ancient Vie Cave.

Ride through the landscapes of southern Tuscany, with panoramic views across the valleys and several stream crossings along the way. Lunch will be prepared and delivered by the support team.

For the final stretch, you and your horse return to Il Cornacchino on horseback, completing the trail loop.

Enjoy a final dinner and overnight at Il Cornacchino.

Day 8: Departure

After breakfast, check out of Il Cornacchino and begin your journey home.



Price includes

- Seven nights accommodation at Il Cornacchino
- Full board throughout your stay
- Welcome aperitif with alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and snacks
- 6 days of riding
- Entrance to the Etruscan necropolis of Sovana
- All local transfers during the trail

Not included

- Flights
- Airport transfers
- Tips

Flights & Airport transfers

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

- Arrival airport: Rome Fiumicino (FCO) or Rome Ciampino (CIA)
- Arrival time: Flights should arrive in time for the Saturday group pick-up at 3pm from

Ciampino or 4pm from Fiumicino.

- Departure time: The return transfer leaves Il Cornacchino at 9:30am, arriving at Fiumicino at approximately 12pm and Ciampino at approximately 1pm. Book departing flights with sufficient time after these arrival times.
- Transfer arrangements: Group transfers from Rome Fiumicino or Ciampino are available at set times, please check the website for the latest prices.

For a cheaper option, take the train to Chiusi–Chianciano Terme station, on the main Rome–Florence railway line. Please check the website for the latest prices. Hiring a car can also be a cost-effective option and gives you the freedom to explore the surrounding area during your stay.

Single room supplement: There is a supplement for a private room as the price is based on two sharing. Please check the website for the latest price.

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.



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

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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