

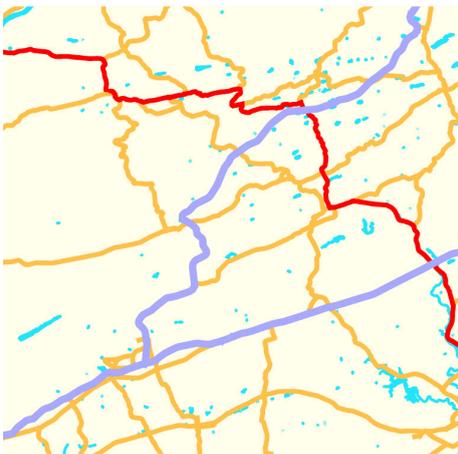


VIA FRANCIGENA GASTRONOMY

type :	Solo Holidays Caminos Hiking Tours Self-Guided
level :	
duration :	8 days
period:	Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov
code:	ITSM360E

Via Francigena Easy, from Lucca to Siena - Italy

8 days, price from € 822



This section of Via Francigena stands out as one of the most beloved parts of the entire journey: **this version of the itinerary shortens some of the walks** by public transport or transfers, enabling less experienced walkers to complete this fascinating route.

The charming town of Lucca, adorned with walkable ramparts, **towers crowned by hanging gardens**, and the unique amphitheater square, is an excellent starting point for your walk.

After the medieval town of San Miniato, you traverse **the quintessential Tuscan scenery** – characterized by cypresses and **rolling hills**, rustic farmsteads, and vineyards. Passing by **the iconic towers of San Gimignano and Monteriggioni**, navigating through riverside parks, dirt paths, and picturesque villages.

The final leg of the journey takes you amid the contrade of **Siena**, where you end the walk in its shell-shaped square. This is where the renowned Palio unfolds, and where pilgrims find rest, celebrating the completion of a **unique trip**.

Route

Day 1 Arrive in Lucca

Lucca boasts a captivating old town center brimming with attractions. We recommend savoring a leisurely **stroll atop its sixteenth-century walls**, reveling in the panoramic views, before unraveling the mystery of why oak trees grow on the summit of the Guinigi tower. Of course, the secret can only be unveiled by ascending the numerous steps! Taste a Buccellato before exploring the splendid Duomo.

In the evening, venture out to admire the **elliptical square** constructed atop the remnants of the ancient Roman amphitheatre, now concealed by a tapestry of multicolored houses housing charming restaurants and artisan shops.

Day 2 Morning walk in Lucca. Train to S.Miniato and transfer to San Miniato Alto

Today, you can explore the Lucca town center a bit more, before taking a train to the San Miniato-Fucecchio station. From there, a transfer will take you to **San Miniato Alto** (the **medieval** part of the town), a charming little village whose history is closely connected to Via Francigena.

The Seminary, after which the main square is named, will captivate you with its distinctive facade. Admire the illuminated spectacle, perhaps following a meal featuring a risotto adorned with **the renowned white truffle**, a source of pride for the local region.

Day 3 Transfer to Coiano and walk to Gambassi Terme, 13 km

The first walking day of your journey will be within a **genuinely wonderful landscape**. You reach Coiano by a taxi transfer, and from there the path winds through the magnificent ridges of the **Val d'Elsa hills**. Along the route, you have the opportunity to step into the **Pieve di Chianni**, tracing the path of numerous generations of pilgrims. To conclude the day on a satisfying note, immerse yourself in the rejuvenating hot springs of Gambassi.

Day 4 From Gambassi Terme to San Gimignano, 14,5 km

This stage, offering splendid natural views, takes you to **San Gimignano**, among the most enchanting towns along the Via Francigena. Anticipate your arrival as you catch sight of the renowned towers that define **its unmistakable skyline**. Don't miss the opportunity to behold the medieval town and the surrounding valleys from **the pinnacle of the Torre Grossa**. If you still have some energy left, ascend the steps of the Rocca di Montestaffoli for an even more exceptional panorama.

in the evening, take a leisurely stroll to appreciate the illuminated town before indulging in **a fine glass of Vernaccia** at one of the taverns in the historic town center.

Day 5 From San Gimignano to Colle Val d'Elsa, 12 km

Departing from San Gimignano, your path will lead you **up and down the undulating Tuscan hills**. Your destination for the day is **Colle Val d'Elsa**, a Tuscan village that transports you back in time with its captivating old town center and **meandering narrow alleyways** weaving through stone walls.

Day 6 From Colle Val d'Elsa to Strove, 10 km

Prepare for **one of the most beautiful segments** of the Via Francigena: a contemplative path through the **Parco Fluviale dell'Elsa**. This wooden section will offer some shade during the hottest months, and you can even bath or swim in the waters of the river. Before the end of today's walk, you can admire the Pieve di Strove (alas, only from the exterior).

Day 7 From Strove to Monteriggioni and train/bus to Siena, 7 km

Today's walk will allow you to bask in the tranquility of **the splendid Abbadia a Isola** - another waypoint on Archbishop Sigerico's journey, frozen in time from a millennium ago when he traversed this route. Your breath will be taken away at the sight of **Monteriggioni Castle**, adorned with **its regal crown of towers**, strategically perched on a hill to safeguard the ancient Republic of Siena. Inside, discover a small, ancient world featuring a charming square and petite gardens where you can catch your breath before ascending the walls to enjoy the panoramic views.

A train (or bus) will then take you to Siena.

Day 8 Arrivederci Siena!

The trip and our services end after breakfast, unless you have booked extra nights.

Practical info



From Pisa Airport (PSA), you can take a train to Lucca with change in Pisa Centrale station.

From Florence Airport (FLR), take a public bus to Florence Santa Maria Novella Train Station, and then a train to Lucca (with change in Pisa Centrale).

On departure, if flying from Pisa airport PSA, you first need to reach Florence by bus. Once in Florence, you need to take a train to Pisa Central Station. From there, you can reach the airport by either bus or train.

As an alternative, you can catch a bus from Siena station to Pisa airport: www.tiemmespa.it/index.php/Viaggia-con-noi/Altri-servizi/Lunga-percorrenza/Siena-Firenze-Pisa-Aeroporto.

You can also reach Pisa from Siena by train, but you always have to change in Empoli.

If flying from Florence airport FLR, you first need to reach Florence train station Santa Maria Novella by either bus or train (both direct). Once in Santa Maria Novella, you can reach the airport by either taxi or bus.

Train timetables are available on the website www.trenitalia.com
Bus timetables on www.busfox.com/timetable (Florence-Siena)

Included

What is included

- 7 Nights in double room in **/** hotels , B&B and agriturismo with breakfast
- 1 dinner in Gambassi
- luggage transportation from hotel to hotel (max 1 item per person)
- taxi transfers (San Miniato railways station-San Miniato Alto, San Miniato Alto-Coiano)
- official guidebook, App
- Pilgrim Passport
- Medical and luggage travel insurance
- 24h phone assistance

What is not included

- Transfers to the starting location and from the arriving location of the tour
- lunches and dinners, if not otherwise stated
- visits and entrance fees - tips
- personal expense
- possible sojourn taxes
- everything that is not mentioned in the "What is included" section.

Optional Services

These services can be added to the ones included in the base price of the tour:

- Single room supplement
- cancellation insurance
- Transfers to reach the starting location or to leave the arriving location of the tour, which will be quoted on request.