

Tuscany by the Sea

Bike Vacation + Air Package

Like Tuscany itself, seaside Maremma is pure pleasure. Sweeping seascapes, fertile farms, medieval walled cities, and a fascinating Etruscan past combine to create a cycling paradise kissed by Tyrrhenian breezes and nourished by farm-to-table banquets. VBT introduces you to its cultural treasures during Tuscan wine tastings, lunch at an olive oil mill and an organic vegetable and cattle farm, a cooking lesson, and more. If it's Italian bicycling pleasures you seek, you'll find them here along breathtaking routes that showcase Tuscany's coastal splendor, rolling hills, and famed rustic culture.



Cultural Highlights

- Indulge in the amenities of an agriturismo featured in Condé Nast Traveler
- Ride the pathways of Maremma Park, a World Wildlife Fund preserve
- Sample renowned Morellino and Tuscan wines

- Savor fresh farm cuisine during stays at fattorie lodgings
- Dip your toes or go swimming at Tyrrhenian Sea beaches
- Learn from a Tuscan chef how to prepare cantucci almond cookies
- Taste freshly pressed olive oil at the Andreini family mill
- Enjoy a memorable picnic at an organic vegetable and cattle farm
- Pedal across Orbetello Lagoon, a scenic treasure
- Pause from invigorating rides to seek out your favorite gelato
- Walk a panoramic trail with a local guide on Giglio Island

What to Expect

This tour offers a combination of easy terrain and moderate hills and is ideal for beginning and experienced cyclists. Our VBT support shuttle is always available for those who need assistance with the hills. Most accommodations on this tour are on country estates that are not in or near towns. Please note there is one non-biking day to explore Giglio Island.

Tour Duration: 10 Days

Average Daily Mileage: 15 - 35

Average Cycling Time: 00:00 - 03:15

Group size: 20 max

Climate Information

Average High/Low Temperature (°F)

May 72°/53°, Jun 78°/60°, Jul 83°/65°, Aug 83°/65°, Sep 79°/60°, Oct 71°/54°

Average Rainfall (in.)

May 1.2, Jun 0.6, Jul 0.6, Aug 1.3, Sep 2.7, Oct 3.7

DAY 1: Depart from home / Fly overnight to Rome

Depart from home for Italy. The particulars of your arrival overseas are detailed with your flight itinerary.

DAY 2: Arrive in Rome / Transfer to Orvieto

Upon arrival at the Rome Fiumicino airport, claim your luggage and clear customs. If your luggage is lost, you must fill out a PIR form before leaving the customs area; VBT representatives are not allowed into the customs area. Also, make sure that your VBT luggage tags are attached to your bags so that your

representative can identify you.

VBT's local representative will meet you outside the customs area in your arrival terminal and will be holding a VBT sign. Your local representative helps you transfer by private car (approximately 2 hours) to your hotel in Orvieto to begin your trip. Your hotel room may not be available until 1:00 p.m. If you arrive early, you may store your luggage with the reception desk.

If you are going to be delayed meeting our transfer representative for more than 15 minutes due to delayed or lost luggage, please let our Airport staff know by calling or sending a text message to +39 335 12 06 921. Our drivers are generally able to wait for up to 45 minutes from the time your flight lands, after which you will be responsible for your own transfer. However, they might be able to reschedule your transfer if they are aware of the delay. You may also contact our One Call travel assistance to advise of your delay, and they will contact our transfer service.

You have the rest of the day free to explore this wonderful, historic city. Situated in the Paglia River Valley high atop a dramatic volcanic rock, Orvieto boasts centuries of history and architecture, including towers, palaces and noble houses. It began as an important Etruscan center and became prosperous in Roman times thanks to its production of ceramics. After being overrun by several invasions, Orvieto enjoyed the status of a free state in the 11th and 12th centuries. In 1354, it became a city of the Church Estate until 1798. After brief Napoleonic domination, it was finally annexed to the Kingdom of Italy in 1860. During your stay, be sure to visit Orvieto's impressive Gothic cathedral, with its multi-colored façade of mosaics, stained glass and sculpture. You can also see many Etruscan artifacts at the Archaeological Museum.

In the evening, relax in one of the city's restaurants and sample the local cuisine.

Hotel: Hotel Duomo

DAY 3: VBT Bicycle Vacation begins / Transfer to Parrina, Albinia

Meet your VBT Trip Leaders at the hotel in Orvieto at 10:00 a.m. They will be wearing VBT staff garments. You will transfer by motorcoach (approximately 2 hours) to Antica Fattoria La Parrina. Arrive at La Parrina by approximately 1:00 p.m. There you can purchase your lunch, as the hotel will prepare a buffet meal with organic vegetables and cheese produced on the grounds.

Antica Fattoria La Parrina is a welcoming, four-star agriturismo resort, featured in Condé Nast Traveler magazine. Surrounded by beautiful countryside, it produces its own wine, cheese, yogurt, vegetables, oil,

balsamic vinegar, and flowers. Organic pasta, delicious jams and sauces, and cosmetics are also partly prepared and available here. All products are made with natural and healthy ingredients. In the afternoon, you'll join our Trip Leaders for a safety and bike-fitting session, followed by a short warm-up ride over the estate along quiet country roads. Later, gather with the group for a welcome cocktail reception on the terrace. Dinner is at the hotel.

Hotel: Antica Fattoria La Parrina

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Daily Options: 8 miles (13.1 km)

DAY 4: Cycle by the Maremma Park / Talamone / Cooking class

After breakfast, you'll leave La Parrina and cycle to the coast and Talamone, where you'll discover the many Greek legends linked to this little fortress village. There'll be time during the morning's ride to swim in the glittering blue sea. The medieval hilltop town of Talamone overlooks the Mediterranean and is set in the rolling countryside of the Maremma, one of the least-developed areas of central Italy. Its skyline is dominated by an ancient Sienese castle. This little town of fishermen originally stood on Talamonaccio Hill and served as an ancient Etruscan port. Currently, Talamone is set inside a World Wildlife Fund nature reserve known as Parco Regionale della Maremma (Maremma Park), which features an incredible variety of protected flora and fauna. Lunch today is a delicious picnic prepared by your Trip Leaders.

In the afternoon, you'll cycle back to your hotel, where you can relax at the wonderful pool or take a walk on the mapped trails that weave through the estate. Or you may opt for horseback riding in the area, well known for its local breed of Maremma horses.

Tonight, join your hosts at La Parrina on the terrace for a hands-on cooking class. Learn how to prepare typical Tuscan cantucci—delicious almond cookies that are best when dipped in sweet Vin Santo wine. Enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Hotel: Antica Fattoria La Parrina

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Daily Options: 17 or 32 miles (28.6 or 53.9 km)

DAY 5: Cycle to Feniglia and Orbetello

This morning, ride through the countryside toward the coast and Ansedonia, passing elegant villas and

gardens and enjoying splendid views of the sea and the old watchtower that once defended this coast. Enjoy a picnic lunch along the way at a typical Maremma country farm that grows its own organic vegetables and breeds cattle. This afternoon, you'll cycle through a thick pine forest, and then roll alongside a sandy beach; if you wish, you can pause here for a refreshing swim. This is one of the most beautiful routes of the week.

Later, you'll continue to the old town of Orbetello, traversing a cycling path built on the lagoon. Explore the lush byway around the lagoon, then rejoin your Trip Leaders and follow them to a great gelato spot. A short shuttle ride will take you back to your hotel.

Tonight, you'll shuttle to Orbetello for a stroll and maybe some shopping before enjoying dinner on your own; you can opt to remain at your hotel if you prefer.

Hotel: Antica Fattoria La Parrina

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Daily Options: 20 or 32 miles (33.2 or 53.3 km)

DAY 6: Porto Santo Stefano / Ferry to Giglio Island

This morning, you'll say goodbye to your hosts at La Parrina and transfer to the bustling harbor and quaint village of Porto Santo Stefano. From this port town, board a ferry to Giglio Island, arriving in the village of Giglio Porto. With a local guide, you'll shuttle to the walled hilltop town of Giglio Castello, where you'll explore the imposing Rocca Pisana fortress. Giglio Castello is the oldest inhabited center on the island and still retains much of its medieval atmosphere.

After, continue westward to Campese Beach for an informal lunch in one of the restaurants. You have free time to swim or relax on the beach. If you prefer, opt for a hike along the Faraglione cliffs: Learn about the 700 different species of wildflowers and plants that grow in this remote corner of Tuscany. On your way back to Giglio Porto, stop for a gelato before ferrying back to the mainland.

This evening at Fattoria di Magliano, our small local country resort and your home for the next three nights, you'll have time to relax by the pool and enjoy the sunset from the landscaped gardens. Dinner is at the hotel.

Hotel: Fattoria di Magliano

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Daily Options: Non-biking day

DAY 7: Capalbio / Wine tasting

After breakfast, cycle to the medieval town of Capalbio. Dating to the 11th century, historic Capalbio is surrounded by massive walls. Stroll along these ancient ramparts above the city and take in the panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. Then enter the historic center through one of two gates—the Sienese or the Porticina—and visit the city’s Romanesque Castle of Saint Nicholas, with its dramatic bell tower. The tower features two rows of mullioned windows dating to the 12th century. Explore the town’s winding cobblestone streets, medieval churches, and shops. Finish your day with a rewarding reel all the way back to the hotel. If you prefer, you may hop our shuttle.

Back at the hotel this afternoon, relax or swim in the pool before sipping local wines—produced right on the farm—during an included wine tasting. Fattoria di Magliano is one of the region’s most renowned producers of the Tuscan wines that have changed the Italian wine industry. Dinner is at our agriturismo tonight, where your chef has prepared a delicious soup, local cheeses, fresh vegetables grown locally and gelato!

Hotel: Fattoria di Magliano

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Daily Options: 18, 29, or 42.5 miles (29.3, 49, or 68.3 km)

DAY 8: Follow the Wine Road / Magliano /Olive-oil tasting

After a leisurely breakfast, set off on quiet country roads, passing fields of poppies and sunflowers and vineyards gently sloping down to the sea. Tour the wine roads south of Scansano, famous for red Morellino wine. Then join the Andreini family at their olive-oil mill. Enjoy a personally hosted tour of the facility and indulge in an interesting olive-oil talk and tasting. After a specially prepared picnic lunch, continue cycling through Magliano. In the Middle Ages, this walled city was the winter home of the Aldobrandeschi court. Some of its 14th-century city walls are still intact.

From Magliano, those who wish to sample the hills of Tuscany on two wheels can join an optional, gentle-but-steady climb to the lovely villages of Pereta and Scansano.

Tonight, enjoy an aperitivo as the sun sets behind the Tuscan horizon one final time during your trip. Then celebrate with a festive farewell dinner at a local farm, featuring organic vegetables from the garden and

local wines.

Hotel: Fattoria di Magliano

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Daily Options: 13, 15, or 37 miles (21.1, 25.8 or 62 km)

DAY 9: Transfer to Rome / Free time / VBT Bicycle Vacation ends

After breakfast, transfer by private motorcoach (approximately 3 hours) to our centrally located Rome hotel for a final overnight stay. You'll arrive at approximately 11:30 a.m. and have the rest of the day to shop or relax in one of the city's outdoor cafés.

If you have chosen the independent Post-trip Extension to Rome, you'll remain at this hotel for the next three nights. Upon your arrival, a VBT Rome representative will be there to answer your questions. Optional walking tours of Rome, including an interesting tour of the Vatican City, will be offered. Check your VBT City Information for all the options.

Hotel: Hotel River Palace

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10: Depart for home

After breakfast* this morning, you will transfer to the Rome airport (approximately 40 to 60 minutes, depending on traffic) for your departing flight**. Please ensure you are ready in the hotel reception area at the designated time.

* Please note: For guests with early-morning departures, breakfast at the hotel may not be available. Please check with the front desk to verify the times that breakfast is served.

** Please note: VBT recommends that you check your transfer time in your "Transfer Reminder." VBT transfer times and departure points are finalized in advance and cannot be modified for individual guests. If you extend your stay beyond the scheduled program dates, return transportation to the airport will be at your own expense.

Meals: Breakfast