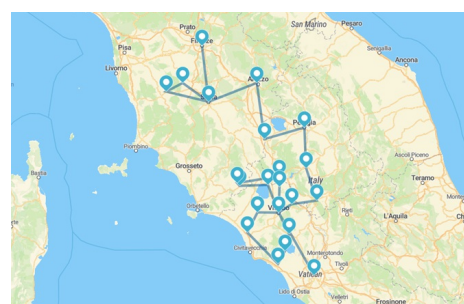




Italy, 9 Days · Tailor-made by car

Tour from Umbria to Tuscany

Few destinations in the world manage to trigger so many emotions as the regions of Umbria and Tuscany do! Come and enjoy this fascinating self-drive tour that meanders through UNESCO World Heritage Sites framed among undulating hills and sweeping fields of sunflowers, vineyards and olive trees. An itinerary that combines major cities such as Rome, Perugia, Siena and Florence with some of the most characterful villages in the Italian countryside. Discover one of the most famous routes in Italy which fuses art and architecture with vibrant local festivals, heavenly landscapes and simply delicious cuisine. The land of Dante, Puccini and Michelangelo cherishes an incredible heritage from the Etruscan era that can still be admired in all its splendour. Medieval fortresses, superb Renaissance works, majestic Gothic cathedrals, famous basilicas, powerful cities, fortified medieval towns, magnificent villas and palaces that narrate a past of stylish parties and refined banquets. .. Before setting out on this tour, you should remember that Tuscany and Umbria are the largest showcases of the Renaissance in the whole world. Between the 14th and 15th centuries, these lands witnessed the birth of great maestros such as Pisano or Brunelleschi, which has led to palaces, monuments and churches even in the tiniest of villages being adorned by priceless works. Such is the art and history housed by the main museums of Rome, Perugia, Siena and Florence that it's pretty much impossible to cover everything in one trip. This is also a tour of 'la dolce vita', so characteristic of this part of Italy. Discover the attractions of the wine trail in the Chianti valley, famous for its picture-postcard landscapes of meadows and vineyards, centuries-old wineries, renowned restaurants and excellent ruby-red wines.



CULTURAL

Departure date: Departures from May 2026 till May 2027

From: Cork, Shannon, Dublin

Travel details

DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - ROME - VITERBO

Flight departure from the city of origin to the cosmopolitan and history-laden Rome. Arrival and rental car pick-up. And here your adventure on Italian soil begins! Plan your tour of Rome depending on the arrival time of your flight to the Eternal City. Built on seven hills and nerve centre of the Roman Empire, the vibrant Italian capital is an authentic open-air museum that fuses the beauty of ancient Rome with the attractions of Renaissance, Baroque and modern Rome. A heritage that has made this stunning Italian city one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. Stroll through its historic centre - declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO - and discover some of the most impressive monuments of ancient times. Among its classic treasures are the Coliseum, a grandiose amphitheatre inaugurated in 80 AD by Emperor Tito for gladiator fights, and the jaw-dropping Pantheon, a building that changed the course of world architecture. Another of our recommendations is to visit the Via Forums and discover the forums of Caesar, Augustus and Trajan. Much of the appeal of Rome lies in its magnificent squares, such as Piazza Venezia, Campidoglio, Popolo, Piazza della Rotondo, Minerva, Piazza Spagna, with its fabulous steps... And if you want to enjoy privileged views of the city, head to Monte Gianicolo and marvel at one of the best panoramas around. After your sightseeing trip around Rome, set off for the enchanting town of Viterbo, an hour and a half away. The town is dotted with churches boasting important works of art. Founded by the Etruscans and conquered by the Romans, Viterbo has a long history and enjoyed its heyday in the thirteenth century, when it became a papal residence. In fact, the Palazzo dei Papi was built in that century with the aim of persuading the Pope to leave Rome. You'll be fascinated to learn how several Popes were elected in its Hall of the Conclaves. Another main attraction is its walled historic quarter. During your visit, you'll see unique sights such as the Piazza del Plebiscito, with its Palazzo dei Priori and the Town Hall; and the central Piazza San Lorenzo, home to the majestic 12th-century Cathedral of San Lorenzo. This town will be your home for the next few days. You can find out more details about Viterbo and its history at the Museo Nazionale Etrusco (Piazza della Rocca). Overnight stay in Viterbo.

DAY 2 · VITERBO - TUSCANIA - TARQUINIA - CERVETERI - LAKE BRACCIANO - SUTRI - VITERBO

Today, we propose a circular route of about three hours setting out from and returning to Viterbo, which will let you see some of the most characterful villages in the area and unearth the important legacy left by the Etruscans in this part of Italy. (Note: The Etruscans are one of the Italic tribes that emerged in the Stone Age. Jewels and tombs are key features of their heritage). The first stop could be at Tarquinia, located about fifty minutes away. En route, you could always stop off in Tuscania. An ancient and powerful Etruscan settlement, Roman municipality and outstanding medieval town, it boasts extraordinary Etruscan remains after the discovery of its necropolis. We recommend visiting the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, the oldest place of worship in Tuscania, and San Pietro, perched atop a hill and built in the eighth century. And in Tarquinia, you'll discover one of the jewels of today's itinerary. The main Etruscan city in Lazio houses the interesting Necropoli dei Monterozzi, located about 4 kilometres southeast and one of the most outstanding Etruscan sites in the whole of Italy. In the historic quarter, the Museo Nazionale Tarquiniense (inside the Palazzo Vitelleschi) showcases important Etruscan objects found in the necropolis. From here, you can leisurely stroll over to the Palazzo Comunale and Piazza Trento e Trieste. A nearby viewpoint commands stunning views over the countryside. On the Via Mazzini, you'll find the Porta Castello gateway and the Church of Santa Maria di Castello. Once you've finished, hit the road again in the direction of Cerveteri, a stunning town with sea views that was once a major Mediterranean port. The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Necropoli di Banditaccia, just a few kilometres outside the town, is reminiscent of a great city of the dead with squares and a network of streets lined with tombs dating from the seventh century AD. We recommend visiting the Museo Nazionale di Cerveteri, located in the Palazzo Ruspoli, which has exhibits of jewels and objects found in the tombs. (Note: To get to Cerveteri, located about fifty minutes away, you can take the A12 motorway towards Rome/Civitavecchia and turn off when you see signs for Cerveteri/Ladispoli). On the way to Sutri, you'll skirt the beautiful Lake Bracciano. And once in Sutri, you can explore its amphitheatre, one of the few non-funerary remains built by the Etruscans. Return and overnight stay in Viterbo.

● DAY 3 · VITERBO - BOLSENA - PITIGLIANO - SOVANA - ORVIETO - CIVITA DI BAGNOREGIO - VITERBO

Today's recommended itinerary is a four-hour round trip from Viterbo on which you can choose where to stop off. After a fifty-minute drive through stunning landscapes of vineyards, crops and olive trees, you'll arrive at the beautiful Lago di Bolsena and the town of the same name. This is the largest volcanic lake in Italy. The town has a deep religious roots after a major miracle took place here that led Pope Urban IV to establish the Feast of Corpus Christi. Besides the lake, we recommend visiting the fortress of Rocca Monaldeschi and the Territorial Museum of Lago di Bolsena. A thirty-minute drive will then take you to Pitigliano, a beautiful hilltop Tuscan town that blends in with the jaw-dropping landscape and is surrounded by ravines. The fusion that you'll see between its houses, its curved steps, its cobbled streets and the stones of this promontory is truly unique. Explore the monumental Piazza Petruccioli, visit the Archaeological Museum, located in the Palazzo Orsini, or discover its Cathedral dedicated to Saint Peter and Saint Paul. And to round off this magnificent experience, make sure you taste the white wine of Pitigliano. And don't forget to admire the spectacular surrounding landscapes along the panoramic walks dotted around the town. (Note: Discover its Jewish past in Piccola Gerusalemme). Then set off for the pocket-sized village of Sovana, just ten minutes away, which has managed to preserve its architectural legacy over the passage of time. It's a stunning medieval settlement built on a volcanic tuba. Stroll along the long main street, flanked by beautiful historic mansions, which runs from the imposing Rocca Aldobrandesca past the remains of the Etruscan wall and ends at Piazza Pretorio, where you can visit the 16th-century Romanesque church of Santa Maria Maggiore. Must-sees include the picturesque Rocca Aldobrandesca, a superb 12th-century fortress, and the Cathedral. If you want try some local specialities, ask for an 'acquacotta', a soup seasoned with olive oil, tomatoes and vegetables, or some of the wonderful meat and sheep cheese dishes. Connoisseurs can choose from an extensive selection of local wines. (Note: The most outstanding Etruscan burial sites in Tuscany can be found at the Parco Archeologico della Città del Tufo, which includes Sovana, Sorano and Viterbo. In Sovana, there's also a small necropolis). After lunch, you can drive for an hour over to Orvieto, one of the oldest towns in Italy. It's a picturesque place built on a volcanic tufa and was once an important Etruscan settlement and residence of Pope Clement VII, who had to take refuge here during the Sack of Rome by the troops of Charles V in 1527. And these lands are also home to the world-famous 'Orvieto Classico' white wine. You can visit the Etruscan necropolis known as the Crocifisso del Tufo and the Pozzo di San Patrizio well. One of the main attractions is its imposing Cathedral, an authentic gem of Romanesque and Gothic styles that will captivate you with its beautiful multi-coloured façade. Once inside the temple, spend some time at the Cappella del Corporale, which houses the bloodstained corporal of the Eucharistic miracle of Bolsena. But this cathedral has much more to offer. The Cappella di San Brizio is home to famous apocalyptic frescoes that Fra Angelico began to paint and were ultimately finished by Luca Signorelli in 1490. Before heading back to Viterbo, we recommend a stop at the 'ghost town' of Civitavecchia di Bagnoregio. Perched atop a limestone column, the medieval town began to subside and, little by little, was abandoned by its inhabitants. Take a leisurely stroll through its narrow streets embedded in this magnificent rock, admire all the panoramic views, and visit the Church of San Donato. Return and overnight stay in Viterbo.

DAY 4 · VITERBO - BOMARZO - NARNI - MARMORE WATERFALLS - TODI - PERUGIA

Today will take you from Viterbo to Perugia, a drive of approximately three and a half hours. First stop, though, just twenty minutes from Viterbo, is Bomarzo. That said, you could also stop beforehand at Villa Lante, famous for its Renaissance gardens and fountains. Anyway, once in Bomarzo, we recommend visiting the Palazzo Orsini, the medieval castle, the cathedral and the churches of Santa Maria della Valle and Sant'Anselmo. One of the most peculiar sights is the Sacred Wood of Bomarzo and its monsters park. It was designed in the 16th century by Vicino Orsini and offers a tour around almost forty points of interest that will whisk you off into a surreal world, brimming with mythological sculptures and fantastic stone giants. And make sure you take a photo of its famous leaning house! Once you've visited this quirky outdoor museum, head back to the car for a thirty-minute drive to Narni. Of Roman origin, this town was the inspiration of C.S.Lewis for his "Chronicles of Narnia". Narni offers magnificent walks between towers and historic gateways. Make sure you visit the Cathedral of San Giovenale and the Church of Santa Maria in Pensole. Another attraction is the truly imposing Ponte d'Augusto, a Roman bridge over the River Nera, whose relics will be overwhelmed by the greatness that it had. Then back on the road for twenty minutes over to the Cascata delle Marmore. This is a stunning man-made waterfall of three sections, rising up to 165 metres. The River Velino, in its fall, creates an impressive natural scenery. You can go hiking in its surroundings. After this oneness with nature, drive for just over an hour to Todi, a picturesque town built on the crest of a hill. It boasts walls from the Etruscan, Roman and medieval periods. You'll love the amazing views of the surrounding valley. Sights include the stately Piazza del Popolo, where you can admire fascinating medieval palaces such as the Palazzo dei Priori, the Palazzo del Capitano or the Palazzo del Popolo. We recommend visiting the Church of San Fortunato and admiring its splendid portico, as well as the Cathedral, with its iconic rosette window and decorated choir chairs. The final part of today's drive will take you to Perugia, some forty minutes away. With a cosmopolitan university atmosphere, Perugia boasts a stunning medieval quarter straddling the top of a hill. Soak up the city life on the Corso Vannucci and the Piazza IV Novembre. Overnight stay in Perugia.

DAY 5 · PERUGIA - ASSISI - CHIUSI - AREZZO - SIENA

We suggest you spend a morning to get to know Perugia, one of the twelve city-states that made up the federation known as Etruria (7th and 6th centuries BC). This city, the capital of Umbria, will surprise you with its medieval buildings, its magnificent art collections and its economic and academic might. In Perugia, we suggest wandering through Piazza IV Novembre, which houses the city's most iconic buildings, including the Palazzo dei Priori (home to its famous National Gallery with paintings by Piero della Francesca, Fra Angelico, Botticelli and Fiorenzo de Lorenzo), the Fontana Maggiore and the Cathedral. Take a leisurely stroll along the picturesque Via Maestà delle Volte and photograph its buildings and medieval alleyways. If you have time, pay a visit to the Church of San Pietro and the National Archaeological Museum, where you can marvel at the rich local heritage that includes funeral urns, sarcophagi, Etruscan brooches, etc. And make sure you try the famous chocolate "baci" (kisses)! Then back on the road. If you want, you can visit the spiritual medieval city of Assisi, just forty minutes away. This was the birthplace of St. Francis and the Basilica di San Francesco is a must-see. At the other end of the historic quarter is the Basilica di Santa Chiara, the resting place of St. Francis, who founded the Order of St. Clare. The next logical stop is Chiusi. This small town boasts an outstanding architectural and archaeological heritage, as well as some stunning views. The Etruscan necropolis is located next to the Etruscan National Museum, which showcases findings from the Iron Age to the Villanovan Period. You can also visit the Cathedral of San Secondiano. Depending on the time, you can drive straight to Siena or stop off in Arezzo, one of the main towns in the Etruscan League. You can start off your tour at the Medici Fortress, which commands a wonderful view over the town. Then take a leisurely stroll around the Piazza Grande, which is dotted with medieval buildings and beautiful temples, such as the Church of Santa Maria delle Pieve, and palaces, such as the Palazzo della Fraternità. Finally, if you have time, pop into the Statale d'Arte Medievale e Moderna, a museum exhibiting some wonderful gold and silver objects, sculptures and paintings. Afterwards, head for Siena, located just over an hour's drive from Arezzo. Legend has it that the sons of Remus founded the city, which is another jewel in the Italian crown. Historical rival of Florence and with deeply-rooted traditions, this city is famous for its medieval charm, its historic horse race known as the "Palio" and its vibrant spirit, which is reflected in its interesting culinary and entertainment offerings. Overnight stay in Siena.

● DAY 6 · SIENA - CHIANTI VALLEY - SIENA

This city of medieval charm contrasts with Renaissance Florence, making this new leg of the journey the perfect chance to learn even more about the different cultural idiosyncrasies that Tuscany beholds. We have a full day here to discover its magic. It is convenient to start with the maze of narrow streets emanating from the Piazza del Campo, the heart of a historic city and a true masterpiece of medieval town planning. The piazza is home to must-visits such as the Torre del Mangia and the Palazzo Pubblico, current venue of the Civic Museum. You can't leave the city without visiting the Opera della Metropolitana di Siena and the historic Duomo, one of the main cathedrals in Italy. Overnight stay in Siena.

● DAY 7 · SIENA - MONTERIGGIONI - SAN GIMIGNANO - VOLTERRA - SIENA

After strolling through the elegant streets of Siena, head north to discover another pocket-sized medieval gem: Monteriggioni, a star-shaped walled citadel that seems to have stood still in time. Its entirely walled profile and fourteen fortified towers recall its past as the northern border of Siena. After approaching the town, you'll have to park the car and walk up to the centre, perched atop a hillock. Onward journey to San Gimignano, with its skyline of towers that earned it the nickname of "the New York of the Middle Ages" clearly visible from the road and surrounded by a fertile landscape. Considered one of the best examples of a medieval city, its stunning historical quarter is a World Heritage Site. And today's final stop will be in the small town of Volterra, an Etruscan, Roman, medieval and Renaissance treasure that looks over the entire valley of Cecina from a hilltop. This city definitely has character, as it was the last one to fall under Roman rule. The Museo Etrusco Guarnacci and the archaeological zone are must-visits in order to understand its important legacy. Volterra is also famous for the Palazzo dei Priori, the Pinacoteca, the Duomo and its white alabaster statues. (Note: You can visit an underground Etruscan city below the medieval quarter. Not included). The last stretch of the road, dotted with beautiful panoramic views of the Chianti valley, will take you back to Siena. Overnight stay in Siena.

● DAY 8 · SIENA - FLORENCE

Today's destination is Florence, located about seventy kilometres away. You'll have an intense day to decipher its artistic genius, unravel its impetuous humanistic spirit, and visit its most iconic landmarks, museums and streets. (Note: If you want to explore the city at a more leisurely pace, you can always extend your stay here). Donatello, Masaccio, Botticelli, Michelangelo, Leonardo, Raphael and Dante are just some of the illustrious names forever linked to this city. You'll soon discover their legacy. Are you ready? The Duomo neighbourhood is an excellent starting point. Here you can admire the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, located in the very heart of the city, and discover its bell-tower, the baptistery and the famous Gates of Paradise. Around the Duomo are a wealth of beautiful piazzas, churches, palaces and museums. It's definitely worth popping into the neighbourhoods of San Lorenzo and San Marco, in Medici territory, and visiting the Gallery dell'Accademia, home to Michelangelo's world-famous David. From there we can head to the Piazza della Repubblica and stroll along the palace-lined streets up to the Santa Maria Novella area. Nothing better than enjoying a few hours in this seductive Renaissance city to round off our trip. At night, a final look at the silhouette of the domes and towers of Florence Cathedral lit up against the pitch black sky. An unforgettable image. Overnight stay in Florence.

● DAY 9 · FLORENCE - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

✓ Return flight.

✓ Stay in selected hotel in Viterbo.

✓ Selected meal plan in Viterbo.

✓ Stay in selected hotel in Perugia.

✓ Selected meal plan in Perugia.

✓ Stay in selected hotel in Siena.

✓ Selected meal plan in Siena.

✓ Stay in selected hotel in Florence.

✓ Selected meal plan in Florence.

✓ Rent-a-car. ✓ Amount of the supplement for collection and return of the vehicle in a different office.

Your trip doesn't include

✗ Accommodation taxes in Florence direct payment in facility.

✗ Possible toll charges.

✗ Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Rome



Viterbo



Tuscania



Tarquinia



Cerveteri Rome



Bracciano



Sutri Viterbo



Bolsena Viterbo



Pitigliano



Sovana



Orvieto



Bagnoregio



Bomarzo



Narni





Todi



Perugia



Chiusi



Arezzo



Siena



San Gimignano



Volterra



Florence



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- Parking in central Florence. The best way to enjoy Florence's historic centre is to park your car and explore the old town by foot. Please note that car parks in the city centre are usually more expensive. Depending on your hotel's location, here are some recommendations. There is a public car park in Piazzale Michelangelo, very close to the centre. It is usually filled early in the day due to its location. Another option is to leave your car in one of the car parks outside the city centre and take public transport, such as the tram or bus. For example, you could

park in the Villa Costanza car park off the A1 motorway and, from there, take tram # 1 to the city centre. Near the centre, you'll find parking in Via del Sansavino and Via del Gelsomino. Another option is to go to the car park in Firenze Impruneta (formerly called Firenze Certosa), and from there take bus 37 to central Florence in 20 minutes. For more information, please check the official website of the municipality of Florence: <http://mobilita.comune.fi.it/muoversi/muoversi/parcheggi.html>. In the Firenze Parcheggio Sp section you'll find a list of car parks managed by the Firenze Parcheggio Spa public agency.

- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.