

Horse Riding Weekend Break in Italy



Highlights

The setting for this weekend break in Italy is the heart of the Tuscan countryside. Beginners and experienced riders alike will head out on guided treks into the glorious Tuscan countryside where ancient castles, thermal pools, and Chianti vineyards dot the landscape. And if you are with a non-riding partner, fear not, there is plenty to keep them occupied while you take to the saddle.

Tuscany, in central Italy, has something for everyone. Art and architecture lovers will be bowled over by Florence, Siena and San Gimignano, just three of the many jewels to Tuscany's crown. The region is predominantly known for its Chianti grape and the sun-drenched rolling hills in the countryside are dotted with vineyards. Based in the heart of Tuscany, the tiny village of Iano is located in the south of the Montaigne region. Surrounded by olive groves and woodland, this spectacular countryside is a far cry from the hustle and bustle of the busier cities, yet within spitting distance of both Siena & Florence for that dose of culture.

In the peak season, the area is busy with tourists and holiday makers making the most of the sun. However, outside of the summer months, this region is still a beautiful place to enjoy. Consider visiting during the spring or autumn, when there are fewer people and you will feel like you have the place to yourself!

Whether you're a beginner or an experienced rider you are welcome on this trip. Beginners will be given a lesson before riding and will be accompanied by a guide to help. You will then be able to head off on horseback to enjoy the scenic Tuscan countryside and ride through a patchwork landscape of beautiful Chianti vineyards, discover natural thermal pools – perfect for a quick dip, and seek out San Vivaldo – a Franciscan monastery that dates back to the 16th century. And, with two heated thermal springs set in olive groves, a swimming pool, and mountain bikes to ride, there's also plenty to entertain you back at base, too. What's more, non-riders can head out to visit nearby Florence – it's only about 40 minutes away on the train.

Is it for me?

If you're not sure you could handle a whole week in the saddle, then this long-weekend break is the perfect chance to test your stamina. What's more, if you're travelling with someone who doesn't want to ride, they can come too and explore the countryside by foot – they'll pay less for the privilege, too. In terms of horse-riding, if you're a complete beginner, you'll be given a 45-minute lesson at the start to get you into the swing of things, and as well as that, there are different options to choose from depending on your skill level. So, all in all, it's a pretty flexible break, and good for a mixture of abilities.

Accommodation

You'll be staying in holiday apartments that have been recently renovated in a traditional Tuscan style, on a farm in the heart of the Tuscan countryside. Outside, there's a swimming pool, a tennis court, and eight mountain bikes for guests to share. Inside, meanwhile, rooms are light and airy, with beamed ceilings, terracotta floor tiles, and rustic-style furniture.

In terms of food, all meals are included, so you needn't worry about a thing. Food is fresh and typically Italian. For

Prices from

337 GBP (4 days) per person

Why book with Tourdust?

- ✓ The Best Local Operators
We handpick the best local operators
- ✓ Local Price Guarantee
Pay what you would locally with our Best Price Guarantee
- ✓ Secure Online Payments
Safe and easy online booking
- ✓ ABTA Bonding for your protection
We even throw in complimentary Supplier Failure Cover


ABTA No. L7477

lunch, for instance, you can expect things like fresh Tuscan paninis and picnic fare.

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive at the estate. Before dinner, you'll have the chance to meet other guests and be briefed about your next few days of activities and events.

Day 2

Enjoy a full day's ride to San Vivaldo, an ancient Franciscan Monastery granted UNESCO status. You'll ride through San Leonardo's mineral rich red-and-yellow terrain, enjoy a long picnic/or restaurant lunch at San Vivaldo, and then head back to base via the abandoned castle of Vignale and le Capanne.

Day 3

Ride to Castelfalfi castle, a stunning, fully intact, Medieval castle overlooking vineyards and sunflower fields. Later on, explore the woods of Iano, and have lunch at Castelfalfi. In the afternoon, you'll ride through vineyards, silver olive groves, abandoned farmsteads, and wild forest trails.

Day 4

After a typical Tuscan breakfast, you'll be taken to either the train station or airport to make your way home.

NB. If you're not quite ready to go home, you can add an extra night to your trip and ride to the Volterrean hills (full-day ride) for only 150 Euros, or Pietrina Sanctuary (half-day ride) for 105 Euros.

Details

Getting there

Pisa is the closest airport – about 40 minutes away by car. Transfers can be arranged – for 35 Euros per person, or alternatively you can get the train to the meeting point – Castelfiorentino station.

Price includes

Three nights' / four days' full board accommodation with breakfast, lunch and dinner. Two full days' horse riding, either with lessons and trail for novices, or full days' trail riding for experienced riders.

Price details

Price quoted above is based on a rider for low season. For non-riders during low season the price is 250EUR per person, high season riders cost 500EUR and non-riders 350EUR.

Single supplement of 20EUR per night

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed