

THE PEARLS OF THE TUSCAN ARCHIPELAGO

DISCOVERING THE WONDERFUL TUSCAN ISLANDS OF THE TYRRHENIAN SEA

1° DAY: ARRIVAL

Meeting with our assistant and boarding from Piombino to the Island of Elba. Landing in Portoferraio, charming capital of the island. Transfer in the Hotel near Portoferraio. Check-in and accommodation in the rooms. Dinner and overnight in Hotel.

2° DAY: FULL-DAY TOUR DISCOVERING THE ISLAND OF ELBA

Morning: After breakfast in Hotel, departure for an interesting full-day guided coach tour of the beautiful Island of Elba: according to legend, the origin of the island would be a precious gem lost from Venus, a chest that conceals a heart of crystal and precious stones, which has attracted the most ancient civilizations of the Mediterranean Sea. In the morning you'll visit the eastern part of the island, starting with the interesting *Villa of San Martino*, former summer residence of Emperor Napoleon. Then you'll reach the location called "*Le Grotte*", from which you'll enjoy a wonderful view of the Gulf of Portoferraio and where you'll be able to visit the remains of an ancient Roman Villa, and finally the charming village of *Porto Azzurro*, with its quaint old town, the Fortress of St. James, today a prison, and the "Piccola Miniera" ("The Small Mine"), an interesting laboratory for processing of minerals and precious stones with the faithful reconstruction of a mine on the island.

Free lunch. Possibility of having lunch in a restaurant in the old center of Porto Azzurro, tasting delicious seafood dishes (not included).

Afternoon: Your coach tour will continue in the afternoon with a visit to the island's west coast, with the following itinerary: *Procchio, Marciana Marina, Poggio, Marciana Alta, Sant'Andrea, Chiessi, Pomonte, Fetovaia, Cavoli and Marina di Campo*, with stops along the way to admire the beautiful natural scenery and take souvenir pictures. In Marina di Campo you'll be able to visit an interesting Aquarium that houses over 150 species of animals and marine organisms living in 50 tanks.

Tasting-dinner in a beautiful farm, sampling the typical Tuscan food accompanied by some excellent wines of Elba. Overnight in Hotel.

3° DAY: THE MAGIC ISLAND OF PIANOSA

After breakfast in Hotel, departure for Marina di Campo. Boarding the ship to the wonderful *Island of Pianosa*, part of the Tuscan Archipelago National Park since 1996. Former maximum-security penal colony, nowadays the island is a beautiful natural oasis: a pristine environment, a wonderful coastline, flora and fauna that no one bothers, the remains of a Roman villa of the II century AD, fifth-century Christian catacombs carved into the tuff, disused prison facilities built from 1870 to 1980, a nineteenth-century little port, a fascinating desert island that will remain so only for a short time. With the closure of the prison and the subsequent abandonment of agriculture and animal husbandry, the landscape took on its present: along the coastline, the vegetation is characterized by low scrub of juniper, rock rose and myrtle, while the inner part of the territory, divided by superb dry stone walls, shows remaining olive crops and expanses of land where weeds have replaced the grass crops.

Lunch in the only restaurant on the island. Possibility of a guided tour of the island (not included), or relax under the sun and swim on the beautiful beach close to the restaurant.

In the afternoon, departure and return to Marina di Campo. Opportunity to take a walk in Marina di Campo, one of the main tourist resort on the island. Free dinner. Possibility of having dinner in a restaurant in the center of Marina di Campo (not included). Overnight in hotel.

4° DAY: PORTOFERRARIO AND THE TUSCAN MAREMMA

Morning: breakfast and check-out from the Hotel. Morning dedicated to a guided tour of the historic center of *Portoferraio*. You'll be able to admire the Palazzina dei Mulini, beautiful winter residence of the Emperor Napoleon, the imposing and impregnable Medici Fortresses, built by the Duke Cosimo I de' Medici, the Chiesa della Misericordia, with a beautiful image of the Black Madonna, and the prestigious Terme di San Giovanni, with their important herbalist's shop, which produces special teas made from seaweed that is found only on the island of Elba.

Free lunch in the center of Portoferraio. Possibility of having lunch in a good restaurant, enjoying excellent seafood dishes (not included).

Afternoon: departure from Portoferraio and landing in Piombino after about an hour of navigation. Transfer to the country-hotel, placed in the beautiful country-side of the Tuscan Maremma, a land that from the Tyrrhenian Sea slopes up gentle hills to woody mountains, through ancient, unspoiled countryside, wonderful unspoilt landscapes, sandy beaches, wild coves, crystal clear sea and beautiful village to visit. Check-in in hotel and accommodation in the rooms. Hiking in the beautiful village of **Bolgheri**, true pearl of the famous Etruscan Coast. Tasting-dinner in a beautiful farm in Bolgheri, sampling typical Tuscan food accompanied by the excellent *Bolgheri Wine*. Overnight in hotel.

5° DAY: MINI-CRUISE TO THE ISLANDS OF GIGLIO AND GIANNUTRI

After breakfast in hotel, departure for Castiglione della Pescaia. Boarding the ship “Ulysses” and departure for the pleasant mini-cruise discovering two wonderful jewels of the Tuscan Archipelago: the *islands of Giglio and Giannutri*, a real paradise for lovers of the sea and unspoiled landscapes. During navigation, you'll be able to admire the beautiful beaches of Marina di Grosseto, Principina and Marina di Alberese, then approaching the rocky coast of the Maremma Park until you reach the village of Talamone. After a brief stopover in the little port of Talamone and about an hour of navigation, you'll reach Giglio Porto, the port of the island, where you will make a stop of two hours. You'll be able to reach by local coach (not included) the medieval village of Giglio Castello, perched on a hill and surrounded by massive walls, take a stroll through the tiny streets of Giglio Porto, or bathe in a small creek not far from the port. Lunch on board, tasting good seafood dishes.

After lunch, continuation of the mini-cruise to the island of Giannutri, the most southern island of the Tuscan Archipelago, nicknamed “the island of seagulls” because of the presence of a large colony of Mediterranean gull. The boat will land you on the small beach of Cala Maestra, where you'll be able to swim in beautiful crystal clear waters. You'll be also able to admire the remains of a Roman villa of the second Century AD, built at the behest of the wealthy Roman family of Domizi Enoarbi, which controlled the whole area of Monte Argentario, including the nearby islands. During the return trip in the afternoon, you'll sail for a long stretch near the beautiful coastline of Monte Argentario, up to sight the fishing village of Porto Santo Stefano, with its impressive Spanish fort overlooking the sea, before reaching *Castiglione della Pescaia*. Free time for a walk in the quaint village of Castiglione della Pescaia, a jewel of Tuscan Maremma, a unique charming tourist place characterized by its impressive medieval castle dominating the sea village, where time is measured by the song of the seagulls welcoming the return of the fishing boats.

Free dinner in Castiglione della Pescaia. Possibility of having dinner in a good restaurant (not included). Overnight in Hotel.

6° DAY: THE WILD ISLAND OF CAPRAIA

Breakfast in Hotel. Departure for Livorno and boarding for a full-day excursion on the beautiful *Island of Capraia*, the third largest island of the Tuscan Archipelago. It's named the “wild” island as a result of a volcanic eruption that happened nine million years ago. Deep cliffs, rocks of beautiful colors and striking chromatic contrasts are visible. The island has got the only natural storage of sweet water existing among the Archipelago. Being one of the most famous “migratory fauna corridor” between Europe and Africa, it's a constrained area for stop and reproduction for a huge amount of different winged animals. Capraia has also a great quantity of endemism (both vegetal and animal). Being situated in the midst of the “Shrine of Cetaceans”, it's easy to meet here shoals of dolphins and whales. The Island is, in short, a small natural paradise, an unexpected oasis of wild and fascinating nature that absolutely deserves being visited. You'll be able to go hiking along the trails of the island, between history and nature: the fortress and towers to defend the island against the fearsome Saracen pirates, the traces of ancient cultivations, a wild and rugged landscape dominated by Mediterranean bush which open onto views of the cliffs where the horizon draws the contours of the nearby Corsica and of the other islands of the Tuscan Archipelago.

Free lunch. Possibility of having lunch in a restaurant on the island (not included).

In the afternoon return to *Livorno*. Dinner in a restaurant in Livorno, tasting the world-famous “cacciucco”, a fish stew consisting of several different types of fish and shellfish cooked in wine, tomatoes, and chili pepper. Similar fish stews are popular all the way up and down the Tyrrhenian Sea, but “cacciucco” is specific to the port city of Livorno.

Overnight in hotel.

7° DAY: DEPARTURE

Breakfast in hotel. End of our services.

WE'LL CREATE YOUR OWN PRICE!

All our tours have been designed and developed with the following basic features:

- 3 / 4 STARS HOTELS
- HALF BOARD, with the possibility of full board
- GUIDED TOURS AS PER PROGRAM
- TRANSFERS BY COACH or TRAIN

We can expand or decrease our offer according to some variables or specific requests: the period of stay (low, medium or high season), the number of participants, the ability to integrate the program with extras like cooking classes, entrances in museums not listed in the programs and so on.

Send us an email with your personal request and we'll respond within 24 hours with an ad hoc quote just for you! Customize and make your holidays in Tuscany special and unforgettable with the expertise and advise of *Tour in Tuscany!*

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