

Bike Across Italy

Pedaling Coast to Coast through Italy's Cultural Soul



Overview

This coast-to-coast tour passes through four of Italy's most beautiful regions: Le Marche, Umbria, Lazio and Tuscany, each known for its charming hilltowns, lush landscapes and unique cuisines. We begin in Fano, a small resort town on the Adriatic Coast, just north of Ancona. We then pedal inland to Urbino, a thriving cultural center whose fairy tale skyline is visible for miles. In the evening, the main piazza is often filled with townspeople, university students, artists, and musicians from around the world. From Urbino, we cycle along rivers, which have carved deep ravines through the lush mountains. We stop at the spectacular Grotte di Frasassi, Italy's largest known caves. We then enter the gentle landscape of Umbria, which has inspired poets and painters from Dante to Raphael. The peaceful rhythm of this region envelops us in Assisi, the birthplace of St Francis, where friars stroll the narrow streets and birds cast playful shadows on the pink stone. Our relaxing and convenient base in Spello allows us to experience Assisi's art, surrounding woods, wildflowers, and mystical spirit.

We pedal south through Umbrian meadows to the Etruscan settlement of Todi and on to Orvieto, a delightful city atop a volcanic plateau known for its magnificent cathedral and crisp white wine. From Orvieto, we cycle along the Lago di Bolsena and cross the border to Tuscany, the ancient Etruscan heartland, to reach the wonderful village of Sovana. From Sovana, we cycle through La Maremma, a vast area of uncultivated land, one of Italy's best-kept secrets and home to wild boar, deer and rare migrating birds. We wind through fields of poppies, wild broom, and orchids to Italy's picturesque Costa D'Argento (Silver Coast). We conclude our journey across Italy on the Monte Argentario promontory, known for its captivating beauty and excellent seafood.

Trip Snapshot

Highlights

- ◆ Medieval hill towns, castles, and ancient abbeys
- ◆ Visit to underground Etruscan tunnels
- ◆ Wander through Italy's largest cave
- ◆ Distinctive wines and cuisine from four regions
- ◆ Historical routes detailing threads of Italy's past from east to west
- ◆ Walking tours with local guides of Fano, Assisi, Urbino and Orvieto

What's Included

- ◆ Bike rental equipped with odometer, map case, handlebar and seat bags and bike pump.
- ◆ Ciclismo jersey and water bottle
- ◆ All accommodations and all breakfasts
- ◆ 8 Dinners & 2 Lunches
- ◆ 1 Wine Tasting
- ◆ An Evening Music
- ◆ Walking tours of Fano, Assisi and underground Orvieto
- ◆ Visit to Palazzo Ducale in Urbino
- ◆ Cooking demonstration
- ◆ Visit to Frasassi grottoes
- ◆ Shuttle to train station on last day of tour

2012 Dates

- ◆ April 11 – April 21
- ◆ April 25 – May 5
- ◆ May 11 – May 21
- ◆ May 26 – June 5
- ◆ June 9 – June 19
- ◆ July 7 – July 17
- ◆ July 21 – July 31
- ◆ August 25 – September 4
- ◆ September 8 – September 18
- ◆ September 22 – October 2
- ◆ October 6 – October 16

Tour Length

- ◆ 11 Days / 10 Nights

Tour Level

- ◆ Intermediate

Summary of Daily Distances

- ◆ Day 1: 10 miles
- ◆ Day 2: 33/40 miles
- ◆ Day 3: 48/55 miles
- ◆ Day 4: 33/40 miles
- ◆ Day 5: 43 miles
- ◆ Day 6: 21 mile optional ride
- ◆ Day 7: 44/50 miles
- ◆ Day 8: 21/49 miles
- ◆ Day 9: 46/71 miles
- ◆ Day 10: 51/60 miles
- ◆ Day 11: Arrivederci!

- ◆ Optional extra loops available daily

Price

- ◆ \$4,895 - \$5,195
- ◆ Single Supplement: \$850



Daily Itinerary

Day 1

Fano

Ride: 10 miles

Terrain: Rolling warm-up

Highlights

At 12 pm we meet in the lobby of our hotel for introductions, a light lunch and a quick spin into the hills along the coast.

Accommodations

Hotel Elizabeth Due (Fano 1 Night) This charming modern hotel faces the sea in picturesque Fano. Every room features a balcony, air-conditioning, and free wireless Internet. The restaurant "Il Galeone" has a sea view terrace, and offers a menu of local a la carte seafood. www.hotelelizabethdue.it

Arriving early? If you plan to spend an additional night or two at the same hotel, let us make the reservation for you! Just give us a call (800-866-7314).

Day 2

Urbino

Ride: 33/40 miles

Terrain: Flat and rolling to Fossombrone, great climb to Urbino

Highlights

From Fano we ride into fields and family farm plots. The "low" road rolls through tiny villages with views of gorgeous foothills and distant mountains. The panoramic "high" road offers views for miles! The town of Fossombrone is worth a stop and stroll. From here the road begins to twist up and through a river valley. We will be climbing for the last 6 miles to reach Urbino.

Accommodations

San Domenico (Urbino 1 night) An ancient religious complex in the main public square of Urbino. The 15-century rooms of the convent have been transformed into comfortable and quiet rooms. www.viphotels.it

Day 3

Genga

Ride: 48/55 miles

Terrain: One long gradual climb

Highlights

Today we set out for the roughly hewn Le Marche region. Oddly patched with farmland and forests, it seems rather surreal. Le Marche was once a very poor region: now many small industries thrive throughout the region. As if in response to their rugged, harsh surroundings, the Marchegiani are industrious, very private people. Many of our guests consider this the toughest ride, so pace yourself and take many short rest stops. The ride ends in a spectacular gorge that is visible for miles, the Gola Rossa, that winds through a wonderful mountain farmland, where underground rivers have carved the immense Grotto di Frassasi beneath a gorgeous mountain. The extra loop to the monastery of Fonte Avellana offers a spectacular, challenging climb.

Accommodations

Hotel Le Grotte (Genga 1 night) This hotel was designed with great care and the comfort of the customer in mind, featuring also a spa where you can relax and enjoy a massage. The brand new building is tastefully furnished, and the hotel is surrounded by a garden with a great outdoor swimming pool. www.hotellegrotte.it

Day 4

Gubbio

Ride: 33/40 miles

Highlights

This morning we will visit the very fascinating Grotte di Frasassi, the largest grottoes in Europe. Following our visit we ride through a beautiful river valley, then we climb up to one of the gentlest pass of the Apennines and our arrival in the well-preserved medieval Gubbio comes after an incredible descent.

Terrain: Rolling hills

Accommodations

Bosone Palace (Gubbio, 1 night) Charming, elegant 13- century palazzo in center of town. The Bosone family aristocratic title goes back to the time of Dante. Breakfast room has beautiful frescoed ceiling. www.mencarelligroup.com

Day 5

Spello

Ride: 43 miles

Terrain: Hilly

Highlights

We descend from Gubbio to view it from the front, perched along the hillside. Stop at the Roman Amphitheater for a great photo op! A couple of wake-up hills and fun downhill through the lush landscape to work up an appetite for lunch then a rolling stretch with a final ascent to reach Spello's town centre.

Accommodations

Palazzo Bocci (Spello 2 nights) It comes as no surprise that a palace as beautiful as the Palazzo Bocci lies hidden in the side streets of this superb little town. Like something Visconti might have dreamed up, with its salons with arched ceilings and wall covered with panoramic murals and frescos. The successive restorations in the 18th and 19th centuries have given it its current look— a rich, "upper class" décor which has survived thanks to modern facilities carefully integrated into the décor. www.palazzobocci.com

Day 6

Spello Rest Day

Ride: 21 miles (optional)

Highlights

Today, there is an optional morning ride, or you may take time on your own to explore Assisi & Spello. A shuttle will take the group to Assisi for our walking tour with a local guide. Assisi's sights include the Roman gates of Spello, the Church of S. Rufino, the Church of Santa Chiara, the Temple of Minerva and the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi.

Day 7

Todi

Ride: 44/50 miles

Terrain: Three great climbs: Montefalco, after Bastardo and the final ascent to Todi

Highlights

Flat and rolling, riding through farmland, brings us all the way to Bevagna from where we climb to Montefalco through olive groves and vineyards. After lunch, we drop down along a tiny road with magnificent views on both sides. After Bastardo we begin to climb again through vineyards and sunflower and wheat fields. The approach to Todi is spectacular - a memorable descent towards this medieval hill town's soaring steeple. Its inspiring setting merits a climb at the end of the day.

Accommodations

Bramante (Todi 1 night) A beautifully restored stone villa just outside of town. Modern furnishings, great view, hammocks, nice sitting room, pool, tennis, a pleasant stopover in an ideal position. www.hotelbramante.it

Day 8

Orvieto

Ride: 21/49 miles

Terrain: Rolling with two climbs

Highlights

Despite the long uphill, today's ride is straight forward, short, and not too tough if you take the hill at your own pace. After descending from Todi we climb for 7 miles along an incredible road. Sunflower fields, vineyards, wheat fields and bright yellow broom line our route. Gracious old stone farmhouses offer shade. The grade is fairly gentle all the way up. We will have lunch in Orvieto and then tour underground Etruscan ruins. Make sure to look out in the distance to check out the awesome view.

Accommodations

Hotel Maitani (Orvieto 1 night) Each room is unique and decorated with antiques. There is a beautiful terrace overlooking via Maitani and a slice of the magnificent Duomo. Serene, 10 meters from the main piazza of Orvieto. www.hotelmaitani.com

Day 9

Sovana

Ride: 46/71 miles

Terrain: Rolling hills with several climbs

Highlights

We descend from Orvieto and then enjoy a gentle climb out of this immense volcanic basin as we head towards the charming village of Civita and then onto Bolsena. Lunch followed by a swim at Bolsena will leave you refreshed for the climb ahead. The climb to Gradoli and beyond is tough but a fantastic ride along a ridge is our reward. We are in three regions today: Umbria, briefly Lazio and finally Tuscany. This entire region is very rich in Etruscan history.

Accommodations

Sovana Resort (Sovana 1 night) Elegant and intimate with both interiors and exteriors decorated to the finest details, and beautifully embellished furniture which ranges from ancient antiques to permanent exhibitions of modern art. www.hotelsovana.com

Day 10

Porto Ercole

Ride: 51/60 miles

Terrain: Two shorter climbs & rolling hills between

Highlights

Today's regular road and extra loop split right at the start of the ride.; the main loop heads to Pitigliano and then climbs out of it to reach Manciano, whereas the longer ride heads to Saturnia, Italy's oldest city. The two rejoin for a rewarding downhill to the Mediterranean coast. The Longer loop provides two more climbs to S. Martino sul Fiora and Montemerano. The last stretch of the grand finale is through the "Tombolo di Feniglia", a shady forest that connects the Argentario peninsula to mainland Italy.

Accommodations

Don Pedro (Porto Ercole 1 night) This hotel has gorgeous view of the marina, a beach only half a mile away, the food is fabulous, and the hotel is filled with antiques. Plus, the staff is fun and charming! www.hoteldonpedro.it

Day 11

Arrivederci!

Highlights

Around 9am, we will shuttle you to Orbetello to catch trains to other destinations in Italy. Or, why not spend a few nights on the Costa di Argento exploring footpaths or relaxing on the beach? Buon Viaggio!

Arriving and Departing: Bike Across Italy

Getting to Fano

On **Day 1** we meet at **12pm** at our hotel in Fano. The town of Fano is located on the Adriatic Coast 100 mi southeast of Bologna and about 220 mi north of Rome.

Depending on your preference (e.g. we recommend Rome if you are willing to fly in and out of the same city) you can choose different destinations for your flight connections (see suggestions below). At the end of the tour Rome is the most convenient airport to fly back to U.S.A.

Fly to Rome (airport code FCO), Bologna (BLQ) or Ancona (AOI)

Rome: From Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport take a train to Rome's Termini station (30 min). From Roma Termini, take a train east to Fano (4.5 hrs - you need to change train in Falconara Marittima) and then reach the hotel by taxi in 10 min.

Bologna: From G. Marconi airport in Bologna take a taxi (10 min) or the local shuttle to Bologna's train station and then a direct train to Fano (2 hr) from where you can reach the hotel in 10 min. by taxi.

Ancona: From the small airport of Falconara near Ancona it's about a 35-minute taxi ride to the hotel in Fano. At the airport you can also catch a 50-minute train from the Castelferretti train station (in front of the airport terminal) to Fano and then a taxi to the hotel (change train in Falconara Marittima).

Arriving early? If you plan to spend an additional night or two at the same hotel, let us make the reservation for you! Just give us a call (800-866-7314).

Departing from Porto Ercole

The tour ends in Porto Ercole the morning of Day 11. We arrange one group shuttle, around 9 am, to Orbetello Scalo train station (15 min). There are frequent direct trains to Rome (1.5 hr) and Pisa (2.5 hr). Trains to Florence go via Pisa (3.5 hr). You may also choose to rent a car in Grosseto. The most convenient international flight connections are out of Rome.

** Do not arrange for a flight in the morning of the last day of the trip as connections are tight but better to schedule a flight after 1pm

For up-to-date train schedules, visit: www.trenitalia.com

Helpful Hints for Planning Your Trip

Be sure to visit the Travel Planning page on our website for lots of helpful tips: www.ciclismoclassico.com/about_the_trips/travel_planning.

Please note that Ciclismo Classico does not recommend the purchase of non-refundable airline tickets. Please be sure to check with your Tour Consultant before making any reservations.

Need a place to stay before or after your tour? We recommend these hotels:

Rome

Top-Rated Reasonable

Hotel Albergo Del Senato

Overlooking the Pantheon, this antique building has been thoroughly renovated with modern amenities such as air conditioning and internet access. Just a short walk from the historic public square of Piazza Navona, the Trevi Fountain, and the renowned Spanish Steps makes it ideal for site seeing. See www.albergodelsenato.it

Hotel Santa Prisca

This hotel is simple and charming, which can be a welcome relief in busy Rome. Located near public transportation in Testaccio, it is easy to explore other parts of the city. See www.hotelsantaprisca.it

Luxury

Hotel Splendide Royal

Former 19th Century Palace converted into an elegant and spacious luxury hotel. See www.splendideroyal.com

Convenient to Transportation

Hotel Nord Nuova Roma

Beautifully renovated 1935 period building located near the famous Massimo D'Angelio Restaurant. Conveniently located near the Termini train and bus stations. See www.romehotelnord.it

Boscolo Hotels (the Exedra)

This luxurious hotel is centrally located near the Trevi Fountain, Santa Maria Maggiore, and renowned Spanish Steps, but still just a short walk to Rome Termini. See www.boscolohotels.com

Florence

Top-Rated Reasonable

Davanzati Hotel

Located next to the Museum of Palazzo Davanzati in Florence's Historical Center, this hotel exemplifies the city's ancient beauty with the integration of modern amenities. See www.hoteldavanzati.it

Luxury

Savoy Hotel

The Savoy Hotel is the epitome of luxury. Elegance, excellent cuisine, and immaculate service ensure guests maximum comfort. Ideally located near Florence's shopping district, the Ponte Vecchio, and the Uffizi Gallery. See www.hotelsavoy.it

Convenient to Transportation

Grand Hotel Minerva Firenze

Located in Piazza Santa Maria Novella, within walking distance of the historic center and the main train station. Amenities and conveniences include free internet, a roof solarium, and pool. See www.grandhotelminerva.com

The Universo Hotel

A newly-renovated hotel with a modern design, the Universo is just a few steps from Stazione Santa Maria Novella and has 24-hour concierge services. See www.hoteluniversoflorence.com

Milan

Top-Rated Reasonable

Hotel Berna

Hotel Berna is well known for its accommodating staff and comfortable rooms. Free wi-fi and proximity to public transportation ensure optimum convenience. See www.hotelberna.com

Luxury

Park Hyatt Milan

Exceptional service combined with authentic, Italian luster, immaculate amenities, relaxing spa and convenient location characterize this contemporary hotel. See milan.park.hyatt.com

Convenient to Transportation

UNA Hotel

Located just a short walk from the Milano Centrale train station, this hotel also offers easy access to the rest of the city on foot or by public transportation. See www.unahotels.it

Hotel Atlantic

Conveniently located just steps from the main train station and also bus connections to both major airports. See www.atlantichotel.it

Insurance, Terms and Conditions

Insurance

Ciclismo Classico will not assume responsibility or liability for any loss or damage of personal effects or for any injury or loss during the duration of the tour. Therefore, we highly recommend that you obtain travel insurance. We will be happy to assist you in purchasing travel insurance through Travel Guard at any time prior to your final payment to Ciclismo Classico. Please ask a Trip Consultant for more details.

Cancellations and Refunds

All requests for refunds must be submitted in writing as soon as possible to Ciclismo Classico. Exceptions to our cancellation policy cannot be made for any reason, including weather or personal emergencies. There is no refund for unexpectedly leaving a trip early or arriving late. We strongly recommend travel insurance. Cancellation fees are determined as follows:

Days before departure	Cancellation fee
91+	\$150 administrative fee
61-90	Loss of the \$500 deposit
45-60	50% of trip price
30-44	100% of trip price; you may apply 35% of payment to a future trip departing within one calendar year of cancellation date
15-29	100% of trip price; you may apply 15% of your payment to a future trip departing within one calendar year of cancellation date
0-14	100% of trip price

Alterations to the Tour Itinerary

We are proud to bring you the highest standard of quality on our tours. Sometimes this means modifications may be made to this itinerary. Naturally, we will notify you of any changes that may affect your arrival, departure or lodging.