

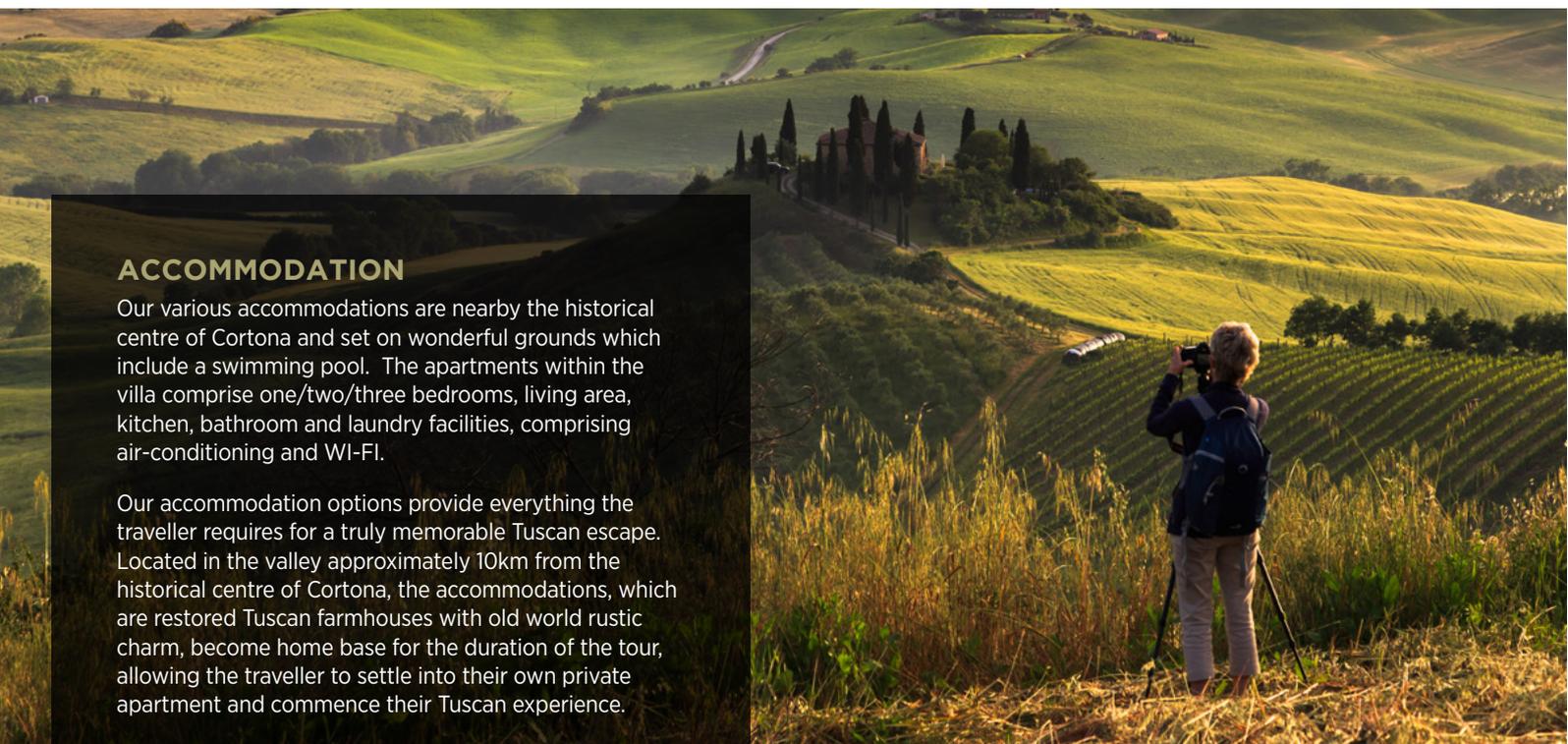


8 DAYS

PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

This tour is ideal for groups already travelling together.

Tour dates are available upon request.



ACCOMMODATION

Our various accommodations are nearby the historical centre of Cortona and set on wonderful grounds which include a swimming pool. The apartments within the villa comprise one/two/three bedrooms, living area, kitchen, bathroom and laundry facilities, comprising air-conditioning and WI-FI.

Our accommodation options provide everything the traveller requires for a truly memorable Tuscan escape. Located in the valley approximately 10km from the historical centre of Cortona, the accommodations, which are restored Tuscan farmhouses with old world rustic charm, become home base for the duration of the tour, allowing the traveller to settle into their own private apartment and commence their Tuscan experience.

GETTING THERE

The tour begins near the historical centre of Cortona. (100km south of Florence – 200 km north of Rome)

Arrival to Camucia-Cortona is easily accessible via train from either Rome (Roma Termini) or Florence (Firenze Santa Maria Novella) stations. Either of these two major cities are a good option for your arrival into Italy and then travel to our location.

Upon arrival we will meet you at our local train station Camucia-Cortona and will transfer you, via vehicle to the villa, which is a short drive into the countryside.

Private vehicle transfers can be arranged from the Airports/Hotels and transfer you directly to the accommodation. Quote upon request.

CHECK IN / CHECK OUT

Check In is from 3:30pm Check Out is at 10am. As we are unable to store luggage, it is essential this be taken into consideration when making travel arrangements for arrival and departure days.

TOUR PRICE EXCLUDES airfares, travel insurance, entry fees to museums/galleries, lunches and meals not specifically listed, and all personal expenditure.

INCLUSIONS

- Accommodation for 8 nights' in a Tuscan villa
- Bi-Lingual Hosts for the duration of your tour
- Professional Photographer & assistant for duration of the tour
- Open forum at dinners with photographer
- 5 day tours to itinerary locations
- All breakfasts (continental), 5 Light lunches and all dinners (from an open menu) at a local trattoria or restaurant. Wine included with dinner.
- Welcome pack of local delicacies
- Complimentary bottle of wine
- All travel to and from tour locations as detailed on itinerary, via 8 seater vehicles
- Wine tasting at selected vineyards/ establishments
- Transfers to and from the local train station on your arrival and departure days

\$5,850AU p/p twin share
Single Occupancy \$300AU

\$4,695US p/p twin share
Single Occupancy \$300US

\$5,850CA p/p twin share
Single Occupancy \$300CA

Whether you are already a keen photographer, or simply would like to learn how to take more artistic photos of your once in a lifetime adventure, this all-inclusive tour is for you. Capture the Tuscan landscape with the help of a professional photographer and experience what the region offers alongside a Tuscan.

SAT / ARRIVAL

We transfer you from our local train station to your accommodation and allow you to settle in and familiarise yourself with your new surroundings which will be “home” for the next 8 days.

At our Welcome Dinner this evening the photographer & his assistant will give a presentation of the exciting week that lies ahead. This will include an analysis of the territory/locations we will visit during the week, basic concepts of photography, from technique to landscape photography and architecture and Photoshop. Welcome Dinner in Cortona.

SUN / SIENA, MONTERIGGIONI, CHIANTI

This morning we travel to Siena. A visit to the spectacular Piazza del Campo, where the famous bareback horse race is held. Visit to Il Duomo and The Mangia Tower or simply stroll the streets and enjoy the ambiance and the various delights Siena offers, from the little food stores which offer lots of tempting treats to the beautiful stores offering hand painted ceramics and leatherware.

After lunch, we will take a short drive to Monteriggioni, a medieval village built between 1213-1219 as a defensive fortification. We will spend some time exploring this small township.

Late afternoon we will head into the Chianti area where we will visit an organic winery, meet the wine makers and learn about the ageing & harvesting process. Dinner at the Vineyard.

MON / CORTONA

Today we will spend the day in the local Medieval township of Cortona, the setting for the movie and book ‘Under the Tuscan Sun’.

We will begin the day by visiting the Chiesa di Santa Margherita from where we will walk down into the township through all the back residential streets.

Over a cappuccino & brioche, true Italian style we will discuss the best places to photograph around the township of Cortona. You will then have some time to explore Cortona on your own before meeting again for lunch at a local Trattoria.

After lunch, we will spend some time taking landscapes shots around Cortona. Late afternoon we will return to the accommodation where you will have some time to relax by the pool prior to dinner.

Dinner will be at the Villa this evening, prepared by a local chef we enjoy local culinary delights while sharing in discussion of the day that has been.

TUE / VAL D’ORCIA - MONTEPULCIANO, MONTICCHIELLO & PIENZA

This morning we will travel to Montepulciano, this township is a true gem, great shopping, wonderful Trattorias, Cantinas and Sulumerias for wine and cheese tastings.

Pienza, a world heritage site, is the birth place of Pope Pius II, a small township situated not too far from Montepulciano famous also for the Pecorino cheese. Here we will spend the afternoon visiting & photographing the wonderful views surrounding the township as well as the many beautiful buildings & churches this town offers. Dinner in Pienza overlooking the Val D’Orcia.

WED / FREE DAY

You may choose to ‘stay in’ enjoy the pool and relax, spend the day with the Photographer’s assistant at a nearby location shooting, or choose from one of our many additional activities on offer. Dinner in Cortona.

THU / ORVIETO

This morning we travel to Orvieto in Umbria. Visit Il Duomo (Cathedral), Saint Patricks Well, dating back to 1537, 62 metres deep with double spiral staircase; a tour of the underground city/caves; wonderful shopping. We will spend most of the day here exploring this wonderful city. Dinner at Villa.

FRI / LAKE TRASIMENO

This morning we head to Lago Trasimeno where we will set up our cameras in time to get some stunning photographs of the sunrise. After which we will have a picnic breakfast by the Lake.

A short drive back to Cortona late morning we will visit Le Celle & the Fortress ‘Girifalco’ at the top of Cortona. From there we will head back down into the township for some lunch.

After lunch, there will be the option to spend the rest of the afternoon in the township with the photographer or head back to the accommodation for some relaxation before heading back into Cortona for dinner.

SAT / FREE DAY

You may choose to ‘stay in’ enjoy the pool and relax, spend the day with the Photographers assistant at a nearby location shooting, or choose from one of our many additional activities on offer. Dinner will be at the Villa where we will have a presentation of the weeks’ photos prior to dinner.

SUN / DEPARTURE

After a leisurely breakfast, we transfer you to our local train station for your onward travels. Checkout is at 10am.

“Our expectations were high after our previous tour, so meeting our expectations is an excellent result.”

PETER & SHIRLEY – AUSTRALIA

Frequently Asked Questions

Should I bring my laptop with me?

Your laptop is essentially the modern day 'dark room'. We highly recommend bringing your laptop with you, not only to download your photos at the end of the day but also so we can teach you post production techniques and tricks you may not have previously known about. In saying this we are also able to rent laptops for the duration of your time with us. Additional cost will apply. Should you prefer not to bring/rent a laptop you can submit your daily photos to the photographer and they can upload on their computer for review.

Is there a specific type of camera I should bring?

We suggest that you bring a DSLR camera or mirrorless camera.

What other equipment would you suggest I bring?

We recommend that everybody has a camera, tripod & computer with them.

Do you rent camera equipment?

We can arrange rental of various camera equipment, such as cameras, tripods, lenses & laptops. Please let us know at the time of booking which type of equipment you require. Additional cost will apply.

I purchased a new camera before this trip, will you show me how to use it?

We can certainly assist you in learning about your camera and what it can do, however we do recommend that you have a basic understanding of it before you travel. Make sure you bring your manual along with you and we will assist you along the way if you have any issues.

How big are the groups?

Our groups are maximum of 10 people. This allows the photographer and his assistant to provide exclusive attention to each individual.

What if the weather is bad and we can't shoot outside?

Generally, the Spring/Summer in Tuscany is quite stable, however this being said should the weather not permit us to shoot outside we will move to a local indoor location. Remember that inclement weather is not always a bad thing as it can make for characteristic photos.

Do I need travel insurance?

We highly recommend travel insurance and all who book with Tours of Tuscany require proof of travel insurance. You are required to purchase your own travel insurance to cover cancellation coverage, airline tickets, trip delay, lost luggage or any potential medical expenses.

Is there any free time?

We have scheduled tour free days within our respective itineraries and there is also the opportunity of spending time on your own on any of the scheduled day tours.

Is there air-conditioning in the apartments?

Yes, all apartments are air conditioned.

What can I do on a Tour Free Day?

You can choose from a variety of additional activities that we have on offer, these range from cheese making, cooking classes, horse riding, Vespa/cycling tours and many more. Booking prior to the tour is recommended. Alternatively you can visit another township via train or spend the day in Cortona.

Is there access to Wi-Fi?

There is Wi-Fi at all of the accommodations. However please remember that some of these places are in the countryside and although the Internet generally works quite well, it may not be the speed to which you are accustomed.

Can I make changes to my itinerary before or during the trip?

Itineraries are provided in order to ensure all our guests have the utmost travelling experience and we therefore do not amend itineraries once your tour has commenced.

How are the meals provided?

Within your apartment you will find all necessary items to make either a continental or cooked breakfast at your leisure prior to leaving for the day. Lunches are generally at a Caffe or restaurant where you choose one course from the menu, this is generally a light lunch.

All dinners are at a local restaurant or Trattoria. Dinner is 2 courses chosen from an a-la-carte menu. Local wine is included with dinner.

What will the food be like?

The food is typically Italian; all the meals provided are from a-la-carte menus which have ample varied selection.

What if I'm vegetarian or require a particular diet?

You are able to choose from an a-la-carte menu for all meals and the selection is varied and caters well for vegetarians.

What is the dress code?

Comfortable clothing and walking shoes for daily tours and smart casual for dinners.

What happens if I need to cancel?

Please see our terms and conditions.

Is the accommodation in walking distance to the town centre?

The accommodation is approximately 10 km from Camucia-Cortona.

Are there laundry facilities? Yes

Is Tours of Tuscany insured?

Tours of Tuscany is an Australian company registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and carries Public Liability insurance & Professional Indemnity insurance.