

Tuscany

Tuesday May 6-Monday May 12, 2025



Overview

By the end of this tour, hopefully, you will feel the way we do about Italy in general, Tuscany in particular and, even more specifically, Lucca!!



In our philosophy, loosely following Pirkei Avot, a good tour stands on three "pillars": "monuments", "culture" and "activities". (If there's a Jewish story, that's the fourth pillar.) Tuscany has them all – in spades!!

And each tour must tell a story – and we have so many stories about our Tuscan experiences!

Just as any first tour would include the local "Statue of Liberty" or "Big Ben", Tuscany too has its must-sees. If you've visited them before, you can wander off on your own, but for everyone else, these are the "monuments" on our guided tours.

Pisa's tower leans more than most people expect it to. But there's more to Pisa than just the tower, and the Jewish story, a one minute walk from the tower, is barely known.

Florence is a real WOW!! Everyone appreciates the grandeur, the beauty and the aesthetics of every street. There are gorgeous shops, the shul, fascinating museums, street furniture like the copy statue of David outside the Uffizi (which 99% of people prefer to admire there, rather than stand in line for hours and then get rushed past the original in the Galleria dell'Accademia, but you can.... if you want).



Siena too is a gorgeous city, whose unique horseshoe-shape main "square", the Campo, featured in the Bond film Quantum of Solace. (A previous Naomi tour saw it being filmed). Siena is known for its music and its art, its elegant shopping street and again a Jewish story!! The shul is two minutes' walk from Siena's iconic

centre. Why? You'll find out..

San Gimignano is about 40 minutes' drive from Siena. It's the Manhattan of Tuscany, once boasting about 70 enormous towers built as a show of their owner's prosperity. The few that remain offer unrivalled views of the famous Tuscany rolling hills. Nestled in those hills is one of Tuscany's two kosher wineries, Terra di Seta.



“Culture”: You may not be an aficionado of opera, but an hour of Puccini arias presented in historic **Lucca**, Puccini’s birthplace and inspiration, is special.



Before the concert, you’ll take a walk, or ride a bicycle, on the famous city walls.

Then, come down for a cup of fresh ground coffee and kosher gelato (or combine the two in an “affogato”).

Dinner is waiting for you after the concert back in our villa.

Other visits and fun activities will round out the day..... the day that you too will very likely fall in love with the city of Lucca and understand why were never ready to leave.

Wine is everywhere, including on our dinner table every evening, together with delicious local olive oil used in nearly every dish.

Olive oil is also served “neat” on the table for dipping bread. Why? You’ll learn why and enjoy.

The cuisine is authentic Tuscan, prepared by our local chef who’s become quite an expert in adapting Tuscan cuisine to our Kosher needs.



Cycling and shopping in local markets bridge the “culture” and “activities” categories.

On Wednesday, **Forte dei Marmi** hosts a wonderful morning market for clothes, textiles, ceramics and a myriad of other GENUINE made-in-Italy products is just one alternative.

A walk on the beach, people-watching from your table in a smart coffee shop, haute couture shopping and cycling are other ways to spend that morning.

From FdM we invariably head to the Cinque Terre, one of the world's most famous hikes.

Oh the views, the views!! At every turn they just get better. You won't stop oohing and aahing. The Creator as artist....

Access to the trail is by train and we then hike a short segment of about

two hours. If you're not in hiking mode, you can take a boat ride and meet up for a beer at the village of Vernazza at the end of our hike.



Basic Itinerary (the order of visits might change)

Tuesday May 6: Arrival Day: Rome - Pitigliano – Villa Controni, Lucca
Best to come into Rome the day/night before and stay at the airport Hilton.

Please see **IMPORTANT SUGGESTION** below

Pitigliano is always our first stop and gets you into the vibe of the tour. We'll keep it as a surprise, but it's secondary name is "la Piccola Gerusalemme"

Wednesday May 7: Forte dei Marmi and the Cinque Terre

Thursday May 8: Siena and San Gimignano

Friday May 9: Lucca and environs (including fun ATV tour option)

Shabbat, May 10: Shabbat

Shabbat on a Naomi tour is always a little different: we push the envelope and try to include as much of a local experience as Hilchot Shabbat will allow....



Sunday, May 11: Florence all day

Option: to start the day (very early) with a balloon ride over the rolling Chianti hills. If you'd like to visit the Uffizi, best to pre-book tickets for 15.00 after lunch

Monday, May 12: Departure day

After breakfast, we'll take you to Pisa airport or train station for the start of your home-bound journey. Alternatively, you can take a taxi to Florence airport or station. Depending on where you are coming from and where you are going to, we are happy to advise you on the best way to travel.

If you're continuing to Puglia – details to follow

We are always pleased to help you arrange flights and insurance. If you wish to spend time before or after the trip eg in Venice or Rome we are happy to help make the arrangements for hotels, guides and food.

FAQ

Kashrut: a mashgiach tmidi will be present; we use Glatt meat, regular approved milk and milk products, but chalav yisrael observers can be accommodated if we are notified at time of booking.

Meals: full buffet breakfast, light lunch on the move, elegant served dinner healthy snacks available, all drinks and wine included

Tefillot: 3 times a day; Sefer Torah

PRICE from \$7750 pp

(even more DLX rooms available; single supplements \$2500 if required)

not included in the prices shown

- Flights: **NOTE:** the tour starts in Rome (FCO) and ends in Lucca / Pisa (PSA) You can return home from PSA, FLR, FCO -Rome or MXP- Milan)
- optional activities, eg ATV, balloon ride over Chianti
- Upgrades: deluxe rooms (DLX), and single occupancy are available at an additional price (see booking form).
- Travel insurance: stuff happens!!!! All clients should be aware that while all efforts are made to avoid any problems before, during or after your trip, Naomi carries no insurance for your health or luggage. While using the services only of registered suppliers, we recommend that you purchase fully comprehensive travel insurance **INCLUDING CANCELLATION COVER** as Naomi cannot be held liable for any mishaps during your stay.
- tips: we recommend \$350 per person for drivers, chefs, waiters and chambermaids: we will collect and distribute for you.

IMPORTANT SUGGESTION

YES: There are flights arriving early Tuesday morning **BUT:**

- (a) if you are late, the tour will still leave on time at 09.30 (we're famous for our strict adherence to the times given so that everyone's time is maximized); and...
- (b) you'll start off tired – better to get a good night's sleep

SO: We strongly recommend that you come to Rome a day or two day before the tour and stay on Monday night at the Hilton Hotel inside Rome's Fiumicino airport. We can organize Rome tours for you and there are several kosher restaurants.

This will help you recover from the journey and avoid any risk of your missing the start of the tour.

If you wish, we can book this night for you and there will be a kosher breakfast

+972 52 3860551

(9am-9pm Israel time only please!!)

www.naomitours.com

info@naomitours.com