

Tuscany Region

Extended from Apennines to Tyrrhenian Sea in Central Italy, conserving the cultural diversity from Romans to the Renaissance period, Tuscany region is world-known for its picturesque ancient towns, vivid collection of art masterpieces, mesmerizing landscapes and architectural marvels. Tuscany makes a perfect choice for all distinct holiday tastes, offering one of the greatest art repositories in the world, distinguished varieties of wines and gourmet, beautiful beaches and coastal islands, rich green landscapes and towering mountains. The major provinces in the region are Florence, Livorno, Lucca, Pisa, Pistoia, Prato, Sienna, Arezzo, Grosseto and Massa Carrara, all of which radiate the essence of ancient traditions and boasts of ancient castles, defense systems and medieval villages.

World Heritage Sites

Tuscany is a delight for history enthusiasts, with its numerous ancient localities, prominent towns from the Renaissance, Romanesque era. The whole Tuscany region has been declared as World Heritage Site by UNESCO. It has been a cradle of art and culture in ancient times, with countless museums in the region, displaying the works of great artists from the Europe. Tuscany boasts of countless monuments such as **Duomo, Giotto's Bell Tower, Palazzo Vecchio, Santa Maria Novella** among many others.

Unique Cuisines

Italy is world-famous for its unique dishes with distinct flavors and Tuscany is no different from it. The rare culinary tradition of Tuscany is about the simplicity in cooking, use of fresh ingredients and native wines. The famous dishes are Cacciucco soup, bistecca fiorentina which is a grilled T-bone steak, guinea-fowl meat, Chestnut cake, Anise cake and Cantucci. Tuscany produces one of the finest wines in Europe, offering numerous top-quality varieties. The famous ones are Chianti, Vino Nobile Montepulciano, Brunello di Montalcino and Vin Santo.

Top Must See Sights in Tuscany Region

- **Florence** – Known as the Cradle of Renaissance, Florence is one of the pioneer destinations in adoption of Renaissance culture. The influence can be noted by the architectural and art heritage in the city and its museums. The major attractions in the city are **Florence's Cathedral, Piazza della Signoria and Ponte Vecchio**.
- **Pisa** – Located in Northern Tuscany, the city is world known for its fascinating Leaning Tower of Pisa and Piazza dei Miracoli. The Leaning Tower of Pisa attracts tourists from all over the world, spellbinding them into its mystical

architecture. The other major attractions in the city are Piazza dei Cavalieri, Borgo Stretto and Lugarno among numerous others.

- **Chianti** – Located near Florence, the countryside town of Chianti is famous for its beautiful landscapes, lined by olive trees and vineyards. The Chianti region has distinction for its exotic varieties of cuisines and locally fermented wines. It makes a perfect choice for those whose holidays revolve around relaxing in countryside, amidst nature and rejoicing beauty of life.
- **Siena** – Sienna is known for its charming cultural, historical and architectural heritage. The major attractions in the city are Piazza del Campo, Torre del Mangia which is 88m in height and the Cathedral which boasts of beautiful interiors with combination of white and black facade. The city also holds a horse race, Palio di Siena, twice each year, marking the celebration in seventeen city wards.
- **San Gimignano** – With its characteristic fourteen stone towers and narrow streets merging together to create a beautiful skyline, the hill town is often called Medieval Manhattan. The city also boasts of expansive countryside, lined with Orchard trees and vineyards, which are known for its Vernaccia wine. The other major attractions are Piazza del Duomo, Palazzo del Popolo and Torre Grossa which has collection of masterpieces of renowned artists.
- **Monteriggioni** – One of the best preserved towns from Medieval Italy, Monteriggioni is known for its ten meter high fortified walls and towers, which were built for protection. The town also has a museum, housing vivid collection of Renaissance, Romanesque and Gothic art collection.
- **Val d'orcia** – Located on South of Siena, extending to Monte Amiata, Val d'orcia is a picturesque town in Tuscany region, boasting of exciting landscapes, vineyards among hills. It has been included in UNESCO World heritage site, for its distinct uniqueness among different villages and towns.
- **Volterra** – Located on hills in Tuscany region, Volterra is famous among tourists for its medieval and Renaissance heritage from Roman era. The major

attractions in the town are Roman theatre, Palazzo dei Priori, Palazzo Pretorio and Romanesque Cathedral, known for its architectural beauty.

- **Lucca** – Located in foothills and behind well preserved 16th century walls, the picturesque town of Lucca is famous among tourists as “City of 100 Churches”. The fascinating Roman Amphitheatre, amazing Guinigi tower and beautiful San Martino Cathedral, makes it perfect destination for history buffs.
- **Arezzo** – Arezzo is one of the ancient towns in Tuscany region, having well preserved cultural and historical heritage, dating back medieval period. The major attractions in the town are Piazza Grande, Palazzo delle Logge designed by Vasari, historical Basilica of San Francesco and Cappella Bacci. The museums in Arezzo boasts of unique art collection from Medieval and modern era, made by renowned artists of Europe.

How to reach Tuscany Region

The nearest international airport is in Milan and Rome, which are about 3 hours’ drive away. The neighboring regions of Florence and Pisa also operate flights across major destinations in Europe. Tuscany has good rail connectivity to other cities in the country and the major rail destinations in the region are Florence, Pisa, and Grosseto.

Best time to visit Tuscany Region

The best time to visit Tuscany region is during spring, April-May and during autumn, September-October when the weather is warm and the crowd is less. Autumn marks the start of harvesting season in the region, hosting numerous festivals such as Tuscan Cultural Week, Festival of Wine and New Oil.

Travel Tips

Following things are needed to keep in mind, when you are visiting Tuscany Region

- Do try to explore cities on foot
- Do stay in beautiful countryside, among vineyards and hills
- Do try native Italian cuisines and local wines
- Do visit museums and attend festivals, to learn about the cultural traditions
- Do greet local people; it is considered as a heart-warming gesture

