



ACADEMY
TRAVEL

TAILORED
SMALL GROUP
JOURNEYS

LAZIO, UMBRIA & TUSCANY

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE ETRUSCANS

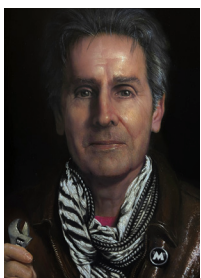
Civita di Bagnoregio

OVERVIEW

From the 9th to the 5th Century BCE the Etruscans were Italy's most advanced civilization, with a sophisticated urban culture rivalling that of Greece.

Masters of Central Italy, their culture had a profound impact on the neighbouring Romans, who assimilated elements of Etruscan art, architecture, religion and dress to the point where features such as the toga and aqueduct came to be regarded as quintessentially Roman. While our alphabet and numerical system also owe much to the Etruscans, their own language and identity were lost following their conquest by the Romans in the 3rd century BCE and much of our knowledge of their civilization is from secondary sources only.

Mysterious as their civilisation remains, there still are many fascinating archaeological sites where the Etruscan presence can be found. Inspired by D. H. Lawrence's collection of travel writings 'Etruscan Places', this 13-day tour, led by art historian Neil Moore, takes us from Rome up through the beautiful landscapes of Central Italy, following in the footsteps of the enigmatic Etruscans.



TOUR LEADER

Neil Moore is a Walkley Award-winning illustrator, artist and art historian who has lived in Umbria, Italy for over 30 years. Born in Oxford, Neil has an Honours degree in Fine Arts from the University of Sydney, where he also taught art history.

TOUR DATES

April 16-28, 2024

TOUR PRICE

\$11,240 per person, twin share
\$2,190 single supplement

TOUR DEPOSIT

A **\$1,000** non-refundable deposit is required per person to confirm your booking on tour.

GROUP SIZE

Maximum number of **16** in group

ITINERARY

Rome (2 Nights), Orvieto (4 Nights), Sovana (3 Nights), Cortona (3 Nights)

INCLUSIONS

12 nights' accommodation in centrally located 4-star hotels. All breakfasts, 3 lunches and 5 dinners. Services of an expert tour leader and an experienced tour manager throughout. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.



DETAILED ITINERARY

Start & Finish

The tour starts at 6.00pm on Tuesday 16 April, at the Hotel Cesari, Rome. The tour ends at 12.00pm on Sunday 28 April, at Rome Fiumicino Airport.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D.

Tuesday 16 April

Arrival

If you booked your air travel through Academy Travel, we will organise a transfer to our hotel. Please note that rooms may not be available until early afternoon. In the evening, meet your tour leader at the hotel bar for a welcome drink. Dinner follows in fine nearby restaurant. Overnight Rome (D)

Wednesday 17 April

Villa Giulia, Roman Forum and Capitoline Museum

Today we visit the Villa Giulia, built by Pope Julius III in the 16th century and now home to Italy's most comprehensive collection of Etruscan artefacts. Assembled in the years after Italian unification as an expression of newly found patriotism and pride, the superb collection includes the incomparable terracotta *Sarcofago degli Sposi*, found at the Necropolis near Cerveteri. After lunch we make our way to the city centre for a guided visit of the ancient forum including the Cloaca Maxima, Rome's earliest drainage system reputedly built by the Etruscan king Tarquinius Priscus and his grandson Tarquinius Superbus. The impressive collections in the Capitoline Museums are our final destination. Overnight Rome (B)

Thursday 18 April

Cerveteri and Sutri - to Orvieto

Cerveteri - ancient Caere - was the Etruscan city with whom the Romans were most friendly, and following the disastrous defeat by the Gauls in 390 BCE they seriously considered relocating there. This morning we drive to the site to explore its "Banditaccia" necropolis, a mini city of the dead with remarkable cylindrical tomb monuments, after which we pay a visit to the town's museum where amongst other notable artefacts are two exceptional ceramic works by the Athenian painter Euphronio, in 2015 forcibly returned to Italy from the Getty museum in Malibu and the Metropolitan museum of New York. After free time for lunch we proceed to Sutri, once the gateway to Etruria on the Via Cassia with its noteworthy rock-hewn amphitheatre. Overnight Orvieto (B, D)

Friday 19 April

Orvieto

The old town of Orvieto sits high on a volcanic outcrop offering spectacular views across the Umbrian plains. Roman sources suggest the ancient city was the meeting place for

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Etruscan Places

Follow in the footsteps of D. H. Lawrence's travel writings through the Etruscan villages of Cerveteri, Tarquinia, Vulci and Cortona as this lost civilisation vibrantly comes to life.

Etruscan Artifacts

Experience the immortal splendour of the Etruscans through Italy's most comprehensive collections of Etruscan artifacts in Rome's Villa Giulia, Orvieto's National Archaeological Museum and Cortona's Museum of the Etruscan Academy.

Etruscan Necropolises

Take a unique glimpse into Etruscan civilisation as we explore a number of UNESCO World-Heritage listed burial sites: the necropolis of Tarquinia; Cerveteri and its city-like plan; and Crocifisso del Tufo in Orvieto, known as the "city of the dead".

Etruscans Underground

Venture below the streets of Orvieto to discover an intricate web of 1200 caves where exciting traces of Etruscan antiquity are still visible, before exploring the Labyrinth of Porsenna in Chiusi that once supplied this important city of the Etruscan dodecapoli.

Italy's Mysterious Gardens

Wander with the monsters in Bomarzo's Sacro Bosco, built in the 16th century by Pier Francesco 'Vicino' Orsini, before visiting the wonderful Giardino dei Tarocchi at Capalbio, where the surrealist creations of Niki di Saint Phall emulate 'The Park of Monsters' in the modern day.

the Etruscan's principal religious festival, the Fanum Voltumnae. Our visit includes the Archaeological Museum which holds a fine collection of Etruscan artefacts. We also visit Orvieto's magnificent Duomo which elegantly balances Romanesque and Gothic elements and is considered one of the most beautiful cathedrals in Italy. After a break for lunch, we venture below the streets to discover a hidden network of hand-dug tunnels, some dating back to the Etruscan era. An astonishing maze of some 1200 caves and underground passages, the Etruscans once used this for pressing olive oil, sheltering animals, and firing pottery. The afternoon is free to stroll the cobbled lanes of this lovely town before we meet for dinner together in an excellent local restaurant. Overnight Orvieto (B, D)

Saturday 20 April

Bomarzo and Villa Lante

The well preserved Necropoli del Tufo site on the outskirts of Orvieto is our first destination today. Here the 4th-century BCE Etruscan family tombs, arranged along sepulchral "streets", bear a striking similarity to modern Italian funerary architecture. From here we head to Bomarzo where we visit the Sacro Bosco, an extraordinary park of stone monsters, commissioned in the late 16th century by Pier Francesco Orsini, Duke of Bomarzo. According to an inscription on an obelisk in the park, the apparently random choice of subject is designed "*sol per sfogare il Core*" (just to set the heart free). After lunch nearby we visit the Villa Lante, another exceptional 16th-century estate where perfectly proportioned and richly detailed gardens are complemented by a harmonious choreography of cascading water. Overnight Orvieto (B, L)

Sunday 21 April

Tarquinia and Tuscania

We depart for Tarquinia and Tuscania, overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea. Tarquinia was one of the wealthiest and most important Etruscan cities. We visit the ancient necropolis at Monterozzi, where vivid frescoes and carved sarcophagi bring the Etruscan daily world dramatically to life. We also view the archaeological collection in the Tarquinia Museum, which includes an exceptional pair of Etruscan high relief winged terracotta horses that once decorated the Ara della Regina temple. After lunch we continue on to the picturesque town of Tuscania, founded by the Etruscans in the 7th century BCE. Badly damaged by an earthquake in 1971, the town has been beautifully restored and we visit the town's key sites before returning to Orvieto. Overnight Orvieto (B)

Monday 22 April

Civita di Bagnoregio and Bolsena

Leaving Orvieto we make our way to Sovana via Lake Bolsena, an impressive crater lake formed over 600,000

years ago when a series of volcanic eruptions gave central west Italy its characteristic geomorphology. We stop at Civita di Bagnoregio, a beautiful village perched high on a slowly eroding hilltop, accessible only via footbridge from nearby Bagnoregio. We enjoy magnificent views across Lake Bolsena, before making our way to Bolsena itself. Here we have time for lunch and a visit to the Basilica of Santa Caterina, site of the 1263 Miracle of Bolsena which gave rise to the Catholic feast of Corpus Domini. Arriving in Sovana, we check in to our hotel and freshen up before a relaxed stroll followed by aperitivi in the town's piazza and dinner in a nearby restaurant. Overnight Sovana (B, D)

Tuesday 23 April

Vie Etrusche and Pitigliano

Heading to the Parco Archeologico Città del Tufo near Sovana today we follow in the footsteps of the Etruscans along the "Vie Etrusche", a fascinating network of ancient pathways cut up to 20 metres deep into the tufa stone, winding through the forest. The area is also the site of an Etruscan necropolis and we visit the impressive temple shaped "Tomb of Hildebrand", named for Pope Gregory VII, born Hildebrand of Sovana. From here we make our way to Pitigliano where there is free time for lunch. The town's Jewish population was established as early as the 16th century and our visit includes a tour of the synagogue and subterranean Jewish ritual baths. Overnight Sovana (B)

Wednesday 24 April

Vulci and Giardino dei Tarocchi

The ancient remains of Etruscan Vulci now lie in a picturesque natural park, and this morning we have a guided visit of the site, the associated museum and the extraordinary Necropoli dell'Osteria. After lunch together at the nearby Casale dell'Osteria, we move town and century to the wonderful Giardino dei Tarocchi at Capalbio. Here the surrealist creations of French-American artist Niki di Saint Phalle, inspired by Gaudi's Parc Guell and based on exotic tarot imagery, can be seen as a 20th-century version of the Sacro Bosco we've seen in Bomarzo. We return to the hotel in the late afternoon. Overnight Sovana (B, L)

Thursday 25 April

Chiusi

We leave Sovana today and make our way to Cortona via Chiusi through what was the inland region of ancient Etruria. Chiusi is built on the site of ancient Clusium, home to the fabled Etruscan hero Lars Porsenna who harried Rome in the early days of the Republic. According to Pliny the Elder, Porsenna was buried in the Labyrinth, a

HOTELS

Throughout the tour we stay in 4-star hotels. Where possible we have selected hotels that preserve the history and traditions of the region.

Rome, Hotel Cesari

(2 nights)

www.9-hotel-cesari-rome.it

Orvieto, Hotel Palazzo Piccolomini

(4 nights)

www.palazzopiccolomini.it

Sovana, Hotel Sovana

(3 nights)

www.sovanahotel.com

Cortona, Villa Marsili

(3 nights)

www.villamarsili.net

WEATHER

This tour take place in Spring. It will most likely be cool and mild throughout the trip with daily maximum temperature around 20-23°C during the day, dropping to 10-12°C degrees at night. There is of course some chance of grey skies and rain. We recommend bringing a jacket and an umbrella.

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

Grade Two

This tour is physically demanding. To participate on this tour, you should be able to:

- keep up with the group at all times
- walk for 5-7 kilometres over the day at a moderate pace
- stand and slow walk for up to 90 minutes galleries and museums
- negotiate walking over uneven ground on dirt tracks
- walk up and down steps and slopes
- get on and off a coach with steps unassisted
- move your luggage unassisted

series of tunnels under the centre of Chiusi.

After a break for lunch, our visit takes us through the tunnels and to the National Archaeological Museum which holds a fine collection of Etruscan, Roman and Lombard artefacts. In the afternoon we continue on to Cortona, perched high on the mountainside overlooking Lake Trasimeno. Dinner tonight is in a local restaurant. Overnight Cortona (B, D)

Friday 26 April

Cortona

We explore our picture postcard base of Cortona this morning. Surrounded by stone walls and offering views across the surrounding valley, the city dates back to Etruscan and Roman times and the Etruscan Academy Museum has an excellent collection of artefacts found locally. We also visit the Diocesan Museum whose prestigious collection includes works by Fra Angelico as well as Luca Signorelli, who was born and spent much of his life in Cortona. After a break for lunch, we return to our hotel and spend some free time enjoying Cortona. Overnight Cortona (B)

Saturday 27 April

Perugia

A modern city with an ancient heart, Perugia is the capital city of Umbria and was one of the most important of the inland Etruscan centres. The Etruscan Arch, one of two surviving city gates embedded into massive city walls, is still in use today 2,000 years after it was raised. The gates bring us into the heart of the city where we visit the 3rd-century BCE Etruscan well, and admire the beautiful fresco cycle by the town's favourite son, great Renaissance painter Perugino (assisted by the young Raphael) in the Collegio del Cambio. After lunch there is time to stroll the city walls before we return to Cortona. Tonight, we enjoy farewell drinks in the piazza before a celebratory dinner in a fine local restaurant. Overnight Cortona (B, D)

Sunday 28 April

Departure

This morning we transfer by coach from Cortona to Rome Fiumicino Airport where the tour officially ends in time for international flights. (B)



ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

For further information or to secure a place, please contact **Sharon Williams** on 9235 0023 (Sydney) or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email:

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