

Cycling Pinocchio Road to Witches Oak

Valdinievole is an area where you can find an extraordinary mix of ingredients such as spas, untouched natural environment and old mediaeval villages. It is located right in the hearth of Tuscany among the cities of Pistoia and Lucca and it has been a melting pot of culture, exchanges and meetings. Thanks to the lay of the land, Tuscany is the most suitable Italian region for cycling tourism being it rich of biking paths and cycling itineraries.

This morning, we will depart Montecatini Terme for Pescia by train. Pescia is famous for its nurseries of flowers, olive and lemon trees. Upon arrival, begin the bike tour from the Train Station where the bikes will be waiting. Our first stop is Montecarlo, an amazing well-preserved medieval village famous for its wine and oil. We will admire the landscape from the top of a hill and visit Teatro dei Rassicurati one of the smallest theaters in Italy. Our second stop will be at Witches Oak, a very old tree (around 600 years old) famous because is the place where Pinocchio was hung by his assassins. It is said that on the branches of this tree witches would dance during sabba night in old times. Our third stop is in San Gennaro Village just in front of the Church of San Gennaro, a Romanesque church very suggestive and famous for a sculpture made by Leonardo da Vinci; probably the only statue made by Leonardo himself. Once we reach San Gennaro, we stop in a nice tavern to have a lunch with typical products (cold cuts, cheese and local wine). Afterward, we depart the village eastwards, taking a dirt road that leads back to the Valle towards the Collodi residential area, the hometown of the author of the story of Pinocchio. From the village center it starts the “Via della Fiaba”, this flagging path leads us back to the start, where you will leave your bikes and go back with the train to Montecatini Terme at about 5pm.

- Take a quick train ride from Montecatini Terme to the small town of Pescia
- Cycle on the beautiful lanes and roads in the land of Pinocchio
- Pass through the vineyards to reach Montecarlo, an amazing medieval village

Schedule:

08:15: Depart from Teatro Verdi in Montecatini Terme and depart on foot to the train station for the town of Pescia

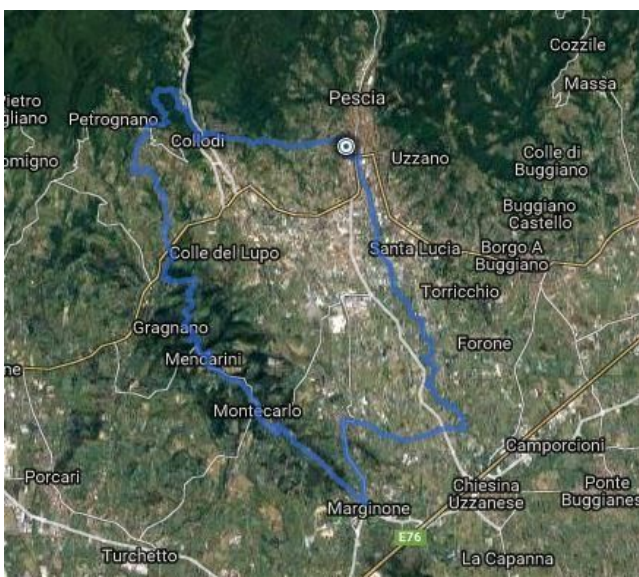
09:30: Arrive to Pescia and begin cycling

13:00: Enjoy lunch at a local tavern in San Gennaro Village

17:00: Transfer back to Montecatini Terme

17:30: Arrive to Montecatini Terme

Map of Itinerary:



Difficulty: (2) Easy active (i.e., Beginner level, physical activity; ~2-4 hours activity/day)

- Length: 29 kms/18 miles total
- Some of the roads have to be crossed by foot if you are not trained



Inclusions:

- English speaking tour leader/guide
- Ticket Train Montecatini – Pescia and come back
- Bike Guide, Mountain Bike and helmet,
- Visit of Montecarlo di Lucca (entrance ticket to the Teatro Rassicurati), San Gennaro (entrance to the Pieve di S. Gennaro) and Tour of Via della Fiaba
- Brunch in a typical Osteria in San Gennaro

Not Included:

- Gratuities (guide/driver)
- Personal items such as souvenirs
- Anything not explicitly included in the tour

What to Wear/What to Bring:

- T-shirt
- Comfortable athletic pants or shorts
- Biking shoes or tennis shoes
- Hat or cap
- Sunblock with high SPF
- Camera
- Light windproof jacket or sweater
- Polarized Sunglasses
- In addition, we highly recommend bringing a small backpack to carry your water bottle, sunscreen, snacks, etc.

Cost:

- 96,00 € per person

Group Size: 10 - 20

Contact Information:

pam@montecatinipromozione.com

