

## Travel to Tuscany FAQ's

### Travel

- Can we all fly together on the same flight? What if I'm coming from another state?  
We will try to meet between 10 a.m. and 2 pm on September 28 and October 5 in the Rome airport. You can fly in earlier, leave later, or find a flight that lands/leaves around those times.
- Will I need a passport?  
Valid longer than 6 months from travel dates. Please double check your expiry date!
- Do I need a Visa? No
- Global entry (for return to US). Not required but nice to have. Read this article for more info: <https://www.understandphotography.com/?s=global+entry>

### Insurance

- What about medical insurance? Look into your insurance
- Travel Insurance: We strongly recommend travel insurance.
- [www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com) or [www.squaremouth.com](http://www.squaremouth.com). Compares plans.  
Airline may offer it as well but it may be just for the airfare.

### Safety

- Is it safe? Watch out for Pickpockets, especially in Rome.

### Money

- It's best to convert a little money before we go; perhaps \$200-400.  
It's fairly easy to convert money in Italy but it would be nice not to have to.
- You can get cash via ATMs with a debit or credit card. Be sure you know your PIN number for your credit card.
- We suggest bringing about \$100 per day in euros.
- What is the exchange rate? As of July 13:  
1 EUR = 1.13 USD
- Credit cards are widely accepted.
- Be sure you have no foreign transaction fee on your credit card.
- Also, remember to notify your credit card company that you will be traveling. It's a good idea to check what the card will cover while you are there. (Trip insurance, anything else?)

## Tips

- While tips are (almost) always appreciated, leaving 18-25% after the fact would be far too much. A good rule of thumb in a typical restaurant is about 1 euro per person. Alternatively, you can round up the bill, let's say from 75 to 80 euro.
- Tipping in Italy for Taxis? Nope. It's not done. No. Get your change, or round up 10-50 cents if it makes the change easier.
- What about tipping your tour guide or your porter who carried your bag up 4 flights of stairs when the elevator stopped working? You may want to tip a minimum of €5 in this case.

See this site for more info:

<https://anamericaninrome.com>

## About Tuscany

- Can I drink the tap water? Yes.
- Are fruits and vegetables safe to eat? Yes.

## Weather

- **September** is usually one of the most pleasant months of the year to be in **Tuscany**. It is still warm, with summer-like **weather**, but not hot. ... Air-conditioning is not necessary anymore, because **temperatures** rarely go above 77°F and the humidity is low because of the cool **September** breeze.

## What to bring

- Comfortable Shoes – 2 pair
- Clothing – layers. It can be hot, warm and cold in the same day. Safari clothing – nylon pants that convert to shorts, hiking boots, tennis shoes, tank top and light shirt to wear over it or UV protection shirts.
- Hat to keep the sun off your face.
- Sunscreen
- Your personal medications

## Electricity

- You'll need an adapter/converter for your phone, camera batteries and laptop. \_
- Try this one for multiple ports: <https://amzn.to/2Myz9N9>

## Cellular networks

The airport will have a cell phone shop if you want to get a sim card for during your stay in Italy.

Check with your cell phone provider before you go to find out if you can opt for an international plan.

Your cell phone will work all over the country but it's VERY expensive if you don't have an international plan.

Look into international plans. Tmobile and Google Fi have good plans.

Or just stay unplugged and enjoy the time away!

## What do I need to bring as far photography equipment?

- DSLR or equivalent
- Back up camera. If you don't want to bring two DSLRs, a superzoom camera is a good option
- 200 to 400 mm lens. If you are going to buy a new lens, we recommend the Sigma 150-600mm Contemporary lens for Nikon or Canon users. It's affordable and not as heavy as most lenses that size. Here is the link to the Canon Contemporary version: <https://amzn.to/2le4aJ0>. Sport has better weather stripping. Also available for Nikon: <https://amzn.to/2jL3DxK>
- Circular Polarizing Lens for each lens (maybe not for your longest lens - debatable).
- Walking around lens for the city. This could be your superzoom camera, or a lens about 18-55mm for a crop sensor camera or 24-105mm for a full frame.  
The Sony RX10 is a popular superzoom: <https://amzn.to/31kqAsK>
- Tripod – steady for night photography
- Shutter Release Cable – we strongly suggest a cable, not a wireless.
  
- Laptop or tablet for editing photos.  
Please keep in mind the internet is sketchy and not always available.

## Do you provide any photography equipment?

- Speedlight, triggers for OCF (Off Camera Flash) and reflector

## What NOT to bring

- Too much stuff!
  
- You are responsible for carrying your own bags and equipment. This is not a strenuous trip, but we will be walking quite a bit.

## Understand Photography's

### Ladies Tuscany Tour

September 28-October 5, 2019

Workshop includes:

- Landscape photography
- Cityscapes
- Street photography
- Sunrise & sunset photography
- Photoshop and Lightroom Lessons
- Night photography (weather permitting)
- and more!

It's a small group; 7 ladies with hotels, transportation and many meals included.

Two Photography Instructors – Peggy Farren and Stefano Caporali.

Stefano lives in Tuscany.

We stay in separate rooms at an adorable agriturismo.

Airfare, visa, gratuities and some meals are extra.

\$3995 per person

Accommodations - Palazzo Conti

Sharing a room – no

What level of photographer do I need to be? All levels welcome.

### **Education**

What will we learn?

At each stop, Peggy and Stefano will teach techniques and best settings for the occasion.

- HDR
- Slow Shutter
- Panorama
- Composition for high impact images
- Zoom blur
- Panning
- Night Photography
- Streaking lights

**Education** – Editing in Photoshop, Photoshop Elements and Lightroom.

### **How strenuous is this workshop?**

You must be in good general health.

We will do quite a bit of walking, although not at a strenuous pace.

You must carry your own gear.

How many people will be attending?

Seven participants plus photography guides.

### **Expenses**

What's included?

7 nights accommodations

All transportation in Italy including van

All Breakfasts, 5 lunches, 4 dinners

Photography Instruction

### **What will I have to pay extra for?**

Airfare

4 dinners

alcoholic beverages

Tips

Money exchange

Any gifts you purchase

Travel Insurance

[www.UnderstandPhotography.com](http://www.UnderstandPhotography.com)

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