



# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## *Pre-Departure Itinerary*

## ***The Cinque Terre***

## ***An Italian Treasure***

***Saturday, May 15 – Friday, May 21, 2010***

Stretched along eleven miles of rugged coastline on the Italian Riviera are five villages that form the wildly charming area known as The Cinque Terre. We love it here, but don't take our word for it—"It's almost unfair how much intense beauty, great cuisine and amazing aromas are jam-packed into such a compact space."

NYTimes.com. Each unique town has its own appeal: Monterosso has the most famous beach and an ancient castle; head to Corniglia for the best views of the other villages; Vernazza juts out over the water with crashing waves below; Riomaggiore is blindingly-picturesque with crumbling pastel-colored houses while Manarola is an authentic fishing village. A boat excursion will help you get acquainted with these cliffside charmers and you'll have a free day to return to your favorite(s). You'll visit Piazza dei Miracoli in Pisa, followed by lunch and a wine-tasting before heading to medieval, fortified Lucca for a walking tour. Enjoy a train ride to Santa Margherita Ligure for a short tour before heading to exclusive Portofino where you have some time on your own.

### **Includes**

- Round-trip, regularly scheduled Alitalia Airlines flights from Boston to Pisa, via Rome
- Five night's three-star accommodations: Hotel Cinque Terre, Monterosso
- Breakfast daily
- Round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers with assistance
- Services of professional local Tour Manager

### **Rates**

**\$1,679 per person double occupancy**

**\$1,969 for single reservations**

Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Add \$365 for current air taxes, fees, charges and surcharges. Passport required.

### **Accommodations**

Hotel Cinque Terre  
Via IV Novembre  
Monterosso, Italy

The Hotel Cinque Terre is situated on one of the most beautiful bays of the Riviera Ligure, a few steps from a beautiful sandy beach. There are 54 comfortable rooms with sea views or private gardens all equipped with private bathrooms, telephone and satellite TV. The hotel has spacious lounge, bar, game room and two large private gardens.

### **Features:**

Guided boat excursion to some of the villages, full-day excursion to Pisa and Lucca, excursion to Santa Margherita Ligure and Portofino, lunch and wine tasting in Monterosso and Montecarlo Il Poggio; travel extensions are possible.

## **DAILY ITINERARY**

### **Saturday May 15: Overnight flight from Boston**

Late afternoon/early evening Alitalia flight from Boston to Pisa, via Rome. Dinner will be served on board.

### **Sunday May 16: Arrive Pisa - transfer to Monterosso in The Cinque Terre**

Continental breakfast will be served before landing in Rome, Clear immigration and proceed to your connecting/domestic flight to Pisa. Retrieve your luggage, clear customs and meet our local representative who will assist you with the transfer to the Hotel Cinque Terre in Monterosso. Rest of the day is at leisure.

### **Mon May 17: Cinque Terre Excursion by boat**

Today your local tour guide takes you to the Monterosso shore where you will board a sightseeing boat for the short journey to experience some of the villages of the Cinque Terre. You will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant with wine. Late afternoon return to Monterosso for leisure evening and overnight. **(B,L)**

**Tue May 18: Lucca and Pisa**

Today after breakfast depart for a full day excursion to Pisa and Lucca.. First stop is the most important artistic center of Pisa "Piazza dei Miracoli". In 1987, it became part of the UNESCO and is characterized by four monuments that form the center of the religious life of the town: the Cathedral, the Baptistery, the Cemetery and the famous Leaning Tower. You will have free time to admire the area. Continue on to the restaurant Il Poggio for a wine tasting followed by lunch. In the afternoon you will head to one of Italy's finest mediaeval treasures -- the town of Lucca. You will have a walking tour of the walled town and discover that the center is relatively unspoiled and liberally sprinkled with palazzi, towers and almost countless, splendid churches. Return in the late afternoon to Monterosso. **(B,L)**

**Wed May 19: Santa Margherita Ligure and Portofino**

Travel by train to Santa Margherita where a local guide will provide an orientation tour of this wonderfully old fashioned kind of Riviera resort town. Continue on by minibus to Portofino a charming fishing village that has become a boutique stop-off point for the yachting set. Although it fills up with daytrippers, this prettily-painted harbour settlement still exudes an air of tranquility. You will enjoy a short guided tour and free time to explore on your own. Afterwards return to Santa Margherita by minibus and return by train to Monterosso for an evening at leisure. **(B)**

**Thu May 20: Day free in Monterosso**

After enjoying a leisurely breakfast, the day is yours to spend any way you wish. Maybe you would enjoy relaxing on the beach or continue exploring the villages of the Cinque Terre. Whatever you decide it will be a day to remember spent on the Italian coast. **(B)**

**Fri May 21: Return flight to Boston**

After breakfast, transfer, to Pisa airport flight back to Boston via Rome **(B)**

**Proof of Citizenship:** *US citizens require a passport with at least six months' validity for entry into Italy. Passports are the responsibility of the traveler.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.