



# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## Pre-Departure Itinerary

### Lucca in Tuscany

#### Getaway For Thanksgiving

**Saturday, November 21 – Saturday, November 28, 2009**

Stunning **Lucca** offers all you expect from Italy—great food, art and architecture—in an unspoiled setting, highlighted by a centuries-old fortified wall surrounding the city. This colorful jewel of Tuscany is still a well-kept secret and offers a pace of life that varies between slow and slower. You'll have to tear yourself away from Lucca's charms for an excursion to **Florence** and a day on the **Cinque Terre**. Visit the weekly local market in **Viareggio** and walk through **Piazza dei Miracoli** in Pisa, with its famous "**Leaning Tower**." And, although there won't be stuffed turkey on the menu, you'll experience an authentic "Paesana Feast" at your farewell dinner.

#### Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled Alitalia flights from Boston to Pisa via Rome
- Six nights' superior three-star accommodations at **Hotel Palazzo Alexander**
- Breakfast daily
- Welcome dinner with wine at a local restaurant
- Lunch in Pietrasanta
- Wine, olive tasting and dinner at Fattoria Il Poggio
- Round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers with assistance
- Services of a professional local Tour Manager

#### Rates

**\$1519** per person double occupancy

**\$1779** for single reservations

Triple accommodations may be available on request.

Add \$395 for current air taxes, fees, charges and surcharges. Passport required

#### Accommodations

##### **Hotel Palazzo Alexander**

Via S. Giustina, 48

55100 Lucca (LU), Italy

+39 0583 583610

Known today as the **Palazzo Alexander** the hotel encompasses four floors of rooms, all with modern, private bathrooms. In addition, all rooms contain such conveniences as satellite television, telephones, hairdryers and computer hook-ups. The décor of the residence reflects the noble Lucchese style with the use of antique wood floors in all the bedrooms and fine marble and other local stones in the bathrooms, lobby and common rooms. The entrance hall, breakfast room, bar and lobby are tastefully decorated with fine fixtures and upholstery in elegant pastel hues.

## DAILY ITINERARY

### Day 1: Overnight Flight

This evening depart on your Alitalia flight to Rome. Enjoy the in flight entertainment and dinner will be served as you cross the Atlantic.

### Day 2: Arrive Rome transfer to Pisa

Continental breakfast will be served before landing in Rome. Upon arrival, transfer to your connecting flight to Pisa. Once in Pisa retrieve your luggage and clear customs. You will be met by our local representative who will assist you during the transfer to the Hotel Palazzo Alexander. Check in and receive room assignments. This evening join your fellow travelers at a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (D)

### Days 3: Lucca

Breakfast will be served this morning before departing for your guided tour of Lucca the only medieval town in Italy still surrounded by its original 14th century walls. Lucca is a town filled with ancient Roman ruins, as well as great furniture, jewelry and antique shops. Enjoy a guided walking tour including admission to Palazzo Manzi. Your afternoon and evening are free to explore Lucca on your own. (B)

#### **Day 4: Florence**

Transfer by train this morning to Florence. Once in Florence you will enjoy a guided walking tour of the city of the Renaissance. You'll visit the Piazza del Duomo: the Cathedral with Brunelleschi's Dome, the Belltower by Giotto and the Baptistry with the Gate of Paradise, by Lorenzo Ghiberti. Continue along the elegant Via dei Calzaioli lined with many exclusive boutiques that lure to their window and we land in Piazza della Signoria. The square is dominated by the austere beauty of the Palazzo Vecchio. In front of the Palazzo Vecchio stands a copy of statue of David in the place where the original masterpiece by Michelangelo once stood. You have the afternoon on your own before boarding the train back to Lucca. (B)

#### **Day 5: Day of Leisure**

Enjoy breakfast and depart for the Cinque Terre. You will have the day on your own to discover the five little villages. Return to Lucca for overnight. (B)

#### **Day 6: Viareggio**

After breakfast depart the hotel for an excursion to Viareggio to visit the local market filled with traditional handicrafts. Continue on to the medieval town of Pietrasanta often called the City of Artists or Small Athens for its marble studios and monuments. Pietrasanta has an historic center with cafes, art exhibits and Duomo. You will enjoy an included lunch in Pietrasanta. In the afternoon you'll travel to Pisa and arrive in "Piazza dei Miracoli" (Square of Miracles) where you'll have time to admire the Baptistery, the Duomo and the Leaning Tower before returning to the hotel. (B)

#### **Day 7: Lucca**

Your day is free in Lucca for last minute shopping or independent sightseeing. In the late afternoon transfer by motorcoach to Fattoria il Poggio for wine and olive tasting followed by an authentic Paesana Feast. After dinner return to the hotel for overnight. (B,D)

#### **Day 8: Return to Boston**

Depart the hotel this morning for your private motor coach transfer to the Pisa Airport for your domestic flight to Rome. Once in Rome transfer to your trans Atlantic flight back to Boston. There will be meal service en route arriving in Boston in the mid afternoon. (B)

**Proof of Citizenship:** *US citizens require a passport with at least six months' validity for entry into Ireland. 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.