

A Valley to be fully discovered!

From Leonardo da Vinci to Pinocchio

Valdinievole is an area where you can find an extraordinary mix of ingredients such as SPA's, untouched natural environment and old mediaeval villages.

It is located right in the hearth of Tuscany among the Leonardo Da Vinci's birthplace and Collodi the place where the novel of Pinocchio was born and where today it is possible to visit the park of the puppet famous all over the world.



**For the 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo Da Vinci Cycle on the beautiful lanes and roads in the land of Leonardo Da Vinci and Pinocchio
Bike Experience in Tuscany: Cycling Routes of Taste and Well-being**

Duration of the stay: 5 days/ 4 nights

- 1st day -

Arrival at the Hotel in Montecatini Terme and accommodation. Meeting with your bike guide and briefing on the program for the week. Quick walking tour of the spa town that dates back to the second half of the 18th century, whose water sources are now part of spa locations. The theme that we are trying to focus on is mainly based on parks and Liberty style: you will visit the town hall, decorated by the painter and potter Galileo Chini, who is also popular because he was the scenographer of the works by the renowned musician Giacomo Puccini, the Tettuccio Spa building, where you can find the wonderful and unique works of art by the potter Basilio Cascella, finally you will have the pleasure to sip a tasteful cocktail at the historical café to go back in time. For the dinner you will take the "funicular" (little old train, which was established in 1898 to connect the top of the hill with the thermal area), a nice way to reach Montecatini Alto, historical center of the town, a unique and enchanting small mediaeval hamlet with narrow alleys and picturesque corners to discover and to eat in a typical restaurant. Back to the hotel and overnight stay.



- 2nd day -

From the vineyards in Montecarlo riding through the "Fiaba di Pinocchio" road



Breakfast at the Hotel, meeting with the guide and Transfer with train to Pescia, the town famous for its nurseries of flowers, olive and lemon trees. Our first step is Montecarlo, an amazing medieval village very well-preserved. This village is very famous for its wine and oil. We admire the landscape from the top of the hill and we visit Teatro dei Rassicurati which is one of the smallest theaters in Italy.

Second step is at Witches Oak a very old tree (around 600 years old) famous because is the place where Pinocchio was hung by murderers into Pinocchio book. On the branches of

this tree usually danced witches during sabba night in old time.

Our third step 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 brunch with typical products (cold cuts, cheese and local wine). Let's continue, leaving the village eastwards, taking a dirt road that leads back to the Valle towards the Collodi residential area, the



home town of the author of the story of Pinocchio. Visit of the Pinocchio's park and the Villa Garzoni, one of the most famous Garden in Italy (included the wonderful butterfly house). From the village center it starts the "Via della Fiaba", this flagging path leads us back to the start. The participants will come back to Montecatini by train.

Dinner and overnight stay in Hotel.

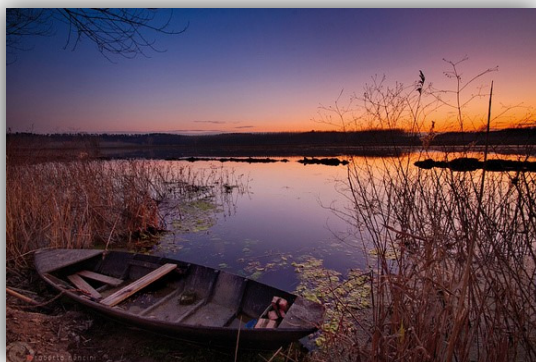
Full itinerary 29 km, medium difficulty (some of the roads have to be crossed by foot if you are not trained).



- 3rd day -

To the discovery of the Marsh Land of Fucecchio

Breakfast at the Hotel, meeting with the guide and with your bike, riding to the marshy area of “Padule di Fucecchio”. You continue through uncongested roads and a small stretch of white road which lead straight to the marsh land. The Marsh Land of Fucecchio is the widest marsh land in Italy and one of the latest marshlands in Europe, perfect habitat for numerous and various local fauna. With its 1800 hectares, the land covers an area that goes from Pistoia to Florence. A real natural jewel: a large area rich of local flora and fauna of great interest, from the royal fern to various types of water lilies, from the herons (among which the wonderful squacco herons) that nest in colonies, to cranes and black storks for a total number of more than 200 types of birds, don’t forget that this is the Leonardo Da Vinci’s landscape that he painted in his paintings . At the arrival in the Marshland we leave for a moment the bike and we take a traditional boat (barchino) for a tour of the channel of Padule. These boats were used until a



century ago in order to carry goods from the Arno river to Valdinievole. After this boat tour we stop for a brunch of typical food and keep visiting Padule di Fucecchio by bike to reach Grotta Giusti Spa in Monsummano Terme



www.grottagiustispa.com/it/spa-toscana/1-0.html to have a steam bath in the cave. Divided into three distinct areas called Heaven, Purgatory and Hell, the cave offers visitors a chance to experience a unique environment with temperatures ranging from 28° to 34° C, and natural steam with healing and therapeutic properties. The

interiors of the cave are decorated with stalactite and stalagmite formations, and feature several underground labyrinths with spacious caverns where you can relax in total peace and quiet. After the cave, bath in the thermal pool (the biggest thermal pool in Tuscany). Back to the Hotel by bike. Dinner and overnight stay in Hotel.

Full itinerary 22 km medium difficulty (some of the roads have to be crossed by foot if you are not trained).



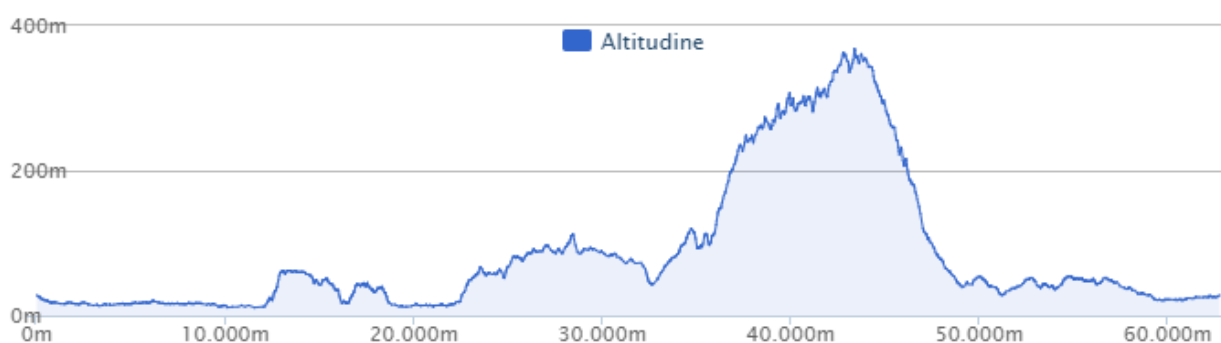
4th day - The Genius of Leonardo

Breakfast at the hotel, meeting with the guide and departure by bike to the village of Vinci, the home town of the great Leonardo, you ride through olive groves and vineyards. In 2019 there will be the 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo Da Vinci and in this occasion the participants could have the opportunity to visit the unique exhibition "Leonardo a Vinci. All' origine del genio". You can visit the museum, where it is possible to admire the prototypes of the main inventions by Leonardo and this particular exhibition. then tour of the village. Once finished, back on your bike towards the house where Leonardo was born in Anchiano. After visiting the house, lunch with oil and wine tasting at a local farm holiday. Then a bit of relax before heading towards Montecatini Terme, passing through the hill of San Baronto, Lamporecchio and Monsummano. Before reaching Monsummano, it is possible to visit the unique village of Montevettolini, located in a picture postcard landscape, Arrival in Montecatini. Time to relax and enjoy a bath in the thermal pool of the Terme Redi in Montecatini followed by a relaxing body massage. Dinner and overnight stay



Tot.50km long, mt. 600 ascent, medium difficulty (some of the roads have to be crossed by foot if you are not trained).

Duration: from 5 to 6 hours.



5th day -

Breakfast in Hotel and back home

Participation quotes:

€. 650,00 (minimum of 6 participants)

€. 590,00 (minimum of 10 participants)

€. 565,00 (minimum of 15 participants)

Not included city tax that in this moment is €1,00 per night per person

The quote doesn't include the rental of the bike but if you want we can rent it for you , the rate per day per bike is €. 30,00 included the delivery and the collection of the bike (we need to know in advance the weight and height of every participant) . On request we can book also E-Bike, obviously the rate will be higher.



PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- accommodation in hotel 3 stars with bed and breakfast treatment for the 1st night and half board for the 3nights
- Bike Guide during the bike excursions

DAY 1

- Briefing with a bike guide and then a tour of Montecatini and Terme
- Italian aperitif at the historical Café of Terme Tettuccio
- Funicular Round Trip Ticket for Montecatini Alto
- Dinner in a typical restaurant



DAY 2

Round trip Ticket Train Montecatini – Pescia

Visit of Montecarlo di Lucca (visit of Teatro Rassicurati), San Gennaro (visit of the Pieve di S. Gennaro) and Tour of Via della Fiaba. Entrance ticket for Pinocchio's Park and Villa Garzoni

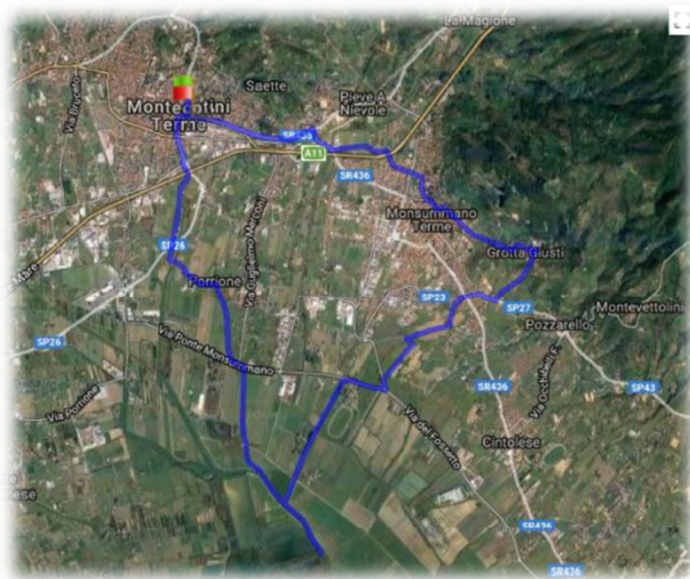
Brunch in a typical Osteria

DAY 3

Excursion in small typical boats with the possibility to see the local fauna (birdwatching)

Brunch in Padule

Wellness treatment in Grotta Giusti spa



DAY 4

Visit of Vinci

Entrance in Leonardo's Museum included the special Exhibition "'Leonardo a Vinci. All'origine del genio"

Light lunch in a typical farmhouse

Thermal treatments at the Terme di Montecatini

For reservations and information please contact:

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LEONARDO 2019

*Celebrations for the 500th anniversary
of the death of Leonardo da Vinci
(1519 - 2019)*

LEONARDO IN VINCI. AT THE ORIGINS OF THE GENIUS

15 April – 15 October 2019

Vinci, Museo Leonardiano

The Exhibition

In Vinci, the Leonardo site par excellence, the exhibition **Leonardo in Vinci. At the Origins of the Genius** is centered on Leonardo's biographical connection to his hometown and on the suggestions that his homeland offered toward his itinerary as an artist, technician, and scientist. In this perspective, some documents from the Archivio di Stato di Firenze (Florence State Archives) are presented, fundamental for the reconstruction of the earliest events in the life of the Master, along with the first drawing known to have been executed by Leonardo, the *Landscape*, dated 5 August 1473, conserved at the Gabinetto dei Disegni e delle Stampe of the Gallerie degli Uffizi in Florence.

Of great suggestiveness within the biographical section is the display of Leonardo's great-grandfather's notary register. On the last page of this book, Leonardo's grandfather Antonio da Vinci recorded, after the notation of his own sons' birth, the event of the birth of Leonardo, his first grandson, along with the land registry references of the da Vinci family pertinent to the artist's infancy and early childhood. In the section dedicated to the youthful drawing of the 1473 *Landscape*, identified as a representation of the Valdarnievole and of a part of the Valdarno Inferiore, we see a record of the suggestions offered to the young Leonardo by his homeland. The image, in fact, constitutes a veritable "palimpsest" of all of Leonardo's future work, in that it is already possible to glimpse therein his profound interest in nature, his fascination for water and its swirling movements, his researches in the fields of geology and cartography. In this context, the drawing can be read from several points of view, from the historical-artistic to the historical-geographic, highlighting the thematic elements present in relation to Leonardo's successive scientific, technical, and engineering inquiries.

The itinerary includes multimedia presentations and reconstructions of projects by Leonardo relating to the territory around Vinci and the Valdarno Inferiore. Set up in the Castello dei Conti Guidi, one of the Museo Leonardiano's three sites, the exhibition is thus integrated with the portion of the Museum's collection of machines and models relating to studies on water, hydraulic engineering, and cartographic representation of the Valdarno Inferiore.

Inauguration

15 April 2019 - Vinci, Biblioteca Leonardiana **Museo Leonardiano di Vinci** Piazza dei Guidi, 50059 Vinci (FI), tel +39 0571 933251 www.museoleonardiano.it **The Leonardian Celebrations**

The exhibition is part of the review of *Leonardian Celebrations*, a calendar of events and initiatives dedicated each year by the city of Vinci to its most renowned citizen, Leonardo da Vinci, between the anniversaries of his birth and death (15 April 1452 – 2 May 1519).

Opening the review is the *Lettura Vinciana*, the historic conference held annually by an internationally renowned Leonardo scholar.

The lands of Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo da Vinci's presence in the territory of the Union of Municipalities Empolese Valdelsa (including the municipalities of Vinci, Empoli, Castelfiorentino, Cerreto Guidi, Certaldo, Fucecchio, Gambassi, Limite e Capraia, Montaione, Montelupo Fiorentino) is felt even today, and it stands at the basis of the tourist itinerary that traces its path starting from his hometown, Vinci.

For the 500th anniversary of Leonardo's death, in 2019 the municipalities of the area are collaborating on a project known as "Leonardo 2019", which will include initiatives of cultural interest and relating to showcasing the entire territory, distributed into macro-areas: *Museums and places of cultural interest; School and training; Innovation and business.*

One of the main elements of the project is the theme of landscape, expressed in various manners, in accordance with particular research paths: from the famous *Landscape* drawing created by Leonardo in



1473, which will be on display in the Museo Leonardiano in Vinci, to Leonardo's studies on the Arno and the

Valdelsa territory, and further on, to an itinerary touching on the places frequented by the master from Vinci.

It was in these lands, in fact, that Leonardo carried out his first geo-paleontological observations, laid the foundations for his studies on waters, carried forward the hydraulic projects that resulted in his cartographic representations of the Valdarno, and, at the same time, certainly, found inspiration for his drawings and celebrated paintings.

The showcasing of the Leonardo-Empolese Valdelsa landscape relationship will therefore be represented through the realization of exhibitions in various museums of the territory, as well as by the organization of initiatives of an informative nature and the drafting of an attractive calendar of events. For more information on the territory: www.toscananelcuore.it