

# What's New? Trips

## Tuscan Classics from Pieve a Castello

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**Tuscan Art and Landscape** – with over 60% of the greatest works of art in the western world within 35 miles, we look at some of the most influential in context.

**Tuscan Legacy** – we look at evidence that 'The roots of western civilisation can be found between Florence and Rome in the origins of the Roman Empire, the Roman Church and the Renaissance!'

**Medieval Traveller** – explore Tuscany from the best preserved overnight stopping place on the medieval 'Main Road to Rome'.

**Birdsong and Music** – walking, listening to and identifying birdsong with composer and ornithologist Peter Cowdrey, culminating in a concert by 'The Conference of Birds'.

## Flores The Azores

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Tennyson's poem 'The Revenge', about an encounter (in 1674) between a single British ship and an entire Spanish fleet, will be familiar to many from their school days.

*'At Flores in the Azores Sir Richard Grenville lay...  
...And the sun went down, and the stars came out far over the summer sea,  
But never a moment ceased the fight of the one and the fifty-three...'*

Whilst the reality of the 'Revenge' saga is less romantic, the island itself is not.

Flores, one of the most remote and beautiful of these mid-Atlantic islands, is a delight... and we now stay there on our Azores trip.

## Sintra & the Portuguese Coast

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Byron described it as 'glorious Eden'. William Beckford (1794) wrote that 'To see the world and leave out Sintra is to go blind about', and, somewhat less romantically, UNESCO recognises the area as having World Heritage status.

Sintra, to the north west of Lisbon, offers varied and spectacular walking: dramatic coastal scenery; pristine beaches pounded by Atlantic surf; the Serra de Sintra with its unique microclimates and vegetation; the vineyards of Colares, growing in the sand dunes, that produce some of Portugal's finest red wines; and, not least, the town of Sintra itself with its elegant palaces, romantic gardens and medieval streets.

## Via Francigena PAGE 38



To celebrate ATG's 30 years of walking from Siena, through central Italy, to Rome, the route has been extended to start in San Gimignano with its famous towers. This now provides over 200 miles of walking along ancient historic paths, followed by millions of travellers through the ages.

## Alsace Restaurants PAGE 22



After much research, and client feedback, the selection of restaurants on this quintessential gastronomic walking trip has been refined to include a 'show-case' of the region's cuisine, from robust country cooking to exotic Michelin star *haute cuisine*.

## Way to Assisi PAGE 60



A revised itinerary for 2010 allows time to explore the hill town of Todi with its fine *piazza*, churches and old streets, and to stay in Montefalco 'the balcony of Umbria' – with more time too, enjoying the meadows (carpeted with flowers in spring) and views of the Monte Martani.

## Paths to Urbino PAGE 50



Several new hotels in the little-visited area of Montefeltro have transformed this route. We now stay at a delightful converted canonry and a *palazzo* in the small town of Sant'Angelo in Vado, from where we walk on to Urbino.

## Tuscan Trail PAGE 52



Back by popular demand, ATG's 'benchmark' trip is now better than ever! Archetypal Tuscany with walled medieval hill towns, cypress trees, olive groves, forests carpeted with flowers, spectacular views, superb art and architecture, and excellent food and wine.

## The Gargano Peninsula PAGE 66



Clients on our 2009 'Best of Puglia' trip found walking in the Gargano infinitely preferable to sightseeing in Lecce, Trulli, and Castel del Monte, and wanted to spend the whole trip exploring the Peninsula, its flower-covered meadows, beaches, panoramic views and historic sites.

# What's New? Policies

**ATG is continually aware of the needs of single travellers**

## **NO Single Room Supplements**

We also offer single travellers 'Double rooms For Single occupancy' (DFS) at nominal rates. These rooms may, occasionally, be smaller than 'superior' double rooms, but are larger and usually better located than single rooms.

There is nothing we can do about single rooms being generally small and not located in the best parts of hotels, or about the limited number of single rooms available. What we have done, however, is re-negotiate hotel rates so that we no longer have to charge a supplement for single room occupancy.

**The departure of all ATG Escorted trips is now guaranteed**

## **All ATG Escorted departures GUARANTEED**

This enables you to book (cheaper) flights early and plan ahead with certainty.

Guaranteeing the departure of all published ATG trips has involved a radical re-organisation of how the ATG office functions – which should also lead to a higher level of service.

**Join the list for some excellent short-notice offers**

## **Late Availability List**

If you can travel at relatively short notice there are many excellent 'bargains' on our 'Late Availability List' – promotions, flights, events and incentives. The list provides a way for those looking for bargains to take advantage of opportunities worldwide. With many suppliers offering last-minute deals on the internet, ATG will pro-actively identify these and pass them on to clients.

To get on the list, please email us at [a-list@atg-oxford.com](mailto:a-list@atg-oxford.com) to see what's available. We will also send you up-dates.

## *Thank you for your feedback*

**Walk as much or as little as you like**

## **Easier walks**

Stay at a unique historic complex, set in tranquil countryside, with 200 miles of excellent walking, and easy access to many world class sites. There aren't many such places on the planet – and ATG owns one of the best!

Located between Florence (35 mins) and Siena (15 mins) Pieve a Castello, once a renowned overnight stopping place on the early Medieval 'Road to Rome' is now the perfect place from which to explore Tuscany's rich heritage: art; landscape; history; and nature. See pages 72–81.

**A new programme to be launched for 2010**

## **MORE walks in Britain**

With a range of activities, including many more walks in Britain, this programme is specifically designed to support the ATG Trust and its Sustainable Development projects in areas visited worldwide.

## *We listened and we acted!*

**ATG presentations are characteristically succinct!**

## **Trip information**

The spectrum of high quality interests in ATG itineraries make a 'lecture tour' style impractical (most of each day would involve being talked at!), and trip dossiers (encyclopaedic in scope) equally impractical – and superfluous. The ATG Trip Leader is there to inform and entertain with a series of succinct presentations. If you want to know more, please just ask.

To give you access to additional information from books in print to weather reports, ATG now provides you with relevant electronic/internet links – constantly up-dated and paper-free – so it doesn't degrade the environment!