

## SOUTHERN TUSCANY – TRAVEL INSTRUCTIONS FOR 5-DAY ROUTE

### TRAVEL TO ITALY

The recommended destination airports for this route are Pisa, Florence and Rome.

### TRAVEL TO THE FIRST HOTEL BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

**From Pisa Airport:** The journey to Siena is a relatively easy one. First you must get from the airport to Pisa Centrale station. **NB: Until December 2015 (when a new rail link will be completed) the public transport transfer between Pisa Airport and Pisa Centrale station is by 'PisaMover' bus only.** The bus takes 8 minutes, costs €1.30 and departs every 10 minutes from outside the terminal.

Train tickets can be bought at the far right hand end of the arrivals hall as you come out of baggage reclaim into the hall. You should be able to buy a combined PisaMover and train ticket to avoid queuing for a train ticket at Pisa Centrale.

You can also catch a taxi from the airport to Pisa Centrale station which can take as little as 5 minutes.

**From Pisa, there are 3 possible train routes to Buonconvento** and once you know your time of arrival at Pisa airport (where baggage reclaim is not *usually* too slow) we strongly recommend you consult the excellent [www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com) site to assess your most convenient train schedule. If you fill in your date of travel and starting/finishing points for the train journey, the site provides an extremely clear table of all departures between Pisa and Buonconvento that day, detailing the relevant routings and requisite train changes, with times, and giving overall journey time and price (which vary, according to the connections and train category used).

The most frequent train service is the routing: **P. Centrale - Empoli - Siena – Buonconvento.** This route is the most convenient if the train you catch from Pisa Airport is going on to Florence rather than terminating at Pisa Centrale. (If you will have to change trains at Pisa Centrale anyway, you may wish to consider the alternative routes detailed below if one of their services better suits your timings.)

Please note: the last train departing **Pisa Centrale** that will allow you to make the whole journey through to Buonconvento by train is at 17.54).

The other two connecting train services from Pisa Centrale to Buonconvento (of which you will find full details in the *trenitalia* timetables) use the following routes:

**Pisa – Grosseto – Buonconvento** - and -  
**Pisa – Montepescali – Buonconvento.**

The journey time from the airport to Buonconvento on Mon-Sat (across all routes) varies between 2.25 hours and 3.5 hours, depending on the connections and types of train used for each. Since there are fewer trains (and therefore slower connections) on Sundays, overall journey times are longer (2.75 hours – 4.75 hours). The Grosseto and Montepescali services tend to be a bit slower than the Empoli services, but do benefit from having only a single train-change after Pisa Centrale. The cost of the train ticket ranges from €11.30 to €28.60, depending on the trains used.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please remember to **validate** any train ticket you purchase in Italy **before you board the train** by stamping it in the yellow machine at the entrance to the platform; your ticket is not valid for travel unless you do this and you can be fined if you fail to do so.

**From Florence Airport:** There is an airport bus (every 30 mins, journey time 20 mins) to Florence SMN train station (or you could take a taxi). From here, some trains run direct to Siena, while those headed for Pisa will require you change at Empoli onto the Siena line (journey time up to 2 hrs, price approx. €9). From Siena continue to Buonconvento either by train or bus.

There are also buses running twice an hour Florence-Siena, cost €6.50, journey time 1hr 25 mins. The bus station in Florence is right next to the train station. Buy your ticket in the bus station (not available on the bus) and find a RAPIDA bus: avoid DIRETTA or ACCELERATA because they take longer. The following website carries a timetable:  
[www.sienaweb.it/territorio/trasporti/](http://www.sienaweb.it/territorio/trasporti/)

**From Rome Ciampino Airport:** Take a shuttle bus to Roma Termini station (regular service), then a train to Buonconvento (change at Grosseto): there are plenty of trains throughout the day, and the journey time is 3 hrs.

**From Rome Fiumicino airport:** If you are travelling from Fiumicino airport it's best to travel via Rome Trastevere station instead of going via Termini. This will save you 30 mins (though you can still go via Termini if you wish). If you are staying in central Rome before making your journey to Buonconvento, it may be more convenient to take the train from Trastevere station rather than travelling back to Termini. The train fare is approx. €14.

You can also take a direct coach from Rome Tiburtina (one stop away from Termini by metro). The relevant line is Rome – Siena, which stops off at Buonconvento before reaching Siena. Journey time is about 2.5 hrs and tickets cost approx €17. The company operating this coach service is SENA (timetables at [www.sena.it](http://www.sena.it)).

Exit from Stazione Tiburtina by exit Piazzale Tiburtina, go straight on under road flyover, look beyond the orange buses and then the Co.tra.it blue buses. For tickets and the coach stop you need to locate a square departure area close to a grey/glass panelled building. SENA signs not overly apparent.

You are allowed one medium suitcase per person in the hold (although they do take more if it is not busy). You should be prepared to put your own suitcase into the hold.

**Please note** that the sign indicating your arrival at Buonconvento train station is sometimes difficult to spot from the train and it is always best to ask someone!

## **FIRST HOTEL**

**Il Ghibellino:** From the train station in Buonconvento, cross the main road (Via Cassia) and continue straight on into Via Gramsci. At the 2nd stop sign, turn right. Hotel Ghibellino is after 80m on the right.

**Pieve a Salti:** The agriturismo lies a few kilometres up a country road outside Buonconvento and you will need to get a taxi to it. We recommend booking your taxi once you have a realistic ETA in Buonconvento, The office will be pleased to help you do this. If you are arriving on a Sunday or in the evening we recommend making your taxi booking a day or more in advance.

## **CAR PARKING**

You can leave your car in Buonconvento at the parking area along the main road or just in the square in front of the Hotel Ghibellino.

Alternatively, Il Chiostrino in Pienza can arrange for the mechanics' garage to look after your car – cost €12.60 per night.

## **BY TAXI**

We can book you a taxi to the first hotel. Please place your booking with the ATG office at least two weeks before departure. The cost of the taxi will be confirmed to you once the booking is secured.

A taxi from Florence airport holds 3-4 passengers (depending on luggage), takes 2 hrs and costs approx €180. A taxi from Pisa takes 2.5 hrs and costs €250. A taxi from Rome airport takes just over 2 hrs and costs €300-€350 (more for a minivan).

Payment of the taxi fare should be made locally, not to ATG. The driver will have your flight details and will be waiting in Arrivals with a sign showing your name or ATG.

- If you change your flight please notify us on 01865 315678 so we can contact the taxi company to reschedule the taxi for you.
- If, on the day of departure, your flight is cancelled or you miss or change it, please immediately contact the ATG emergency number 01865 315600 so we can contact the taxi company to reschedule or cancel the taxi for you.
- If your flight is delayed and you have arranged for the taxi to meet you at the destination airport, your taxi driver will wait for you.
- If you are delayed and you have arranged for a taxi to meet you at a non airport location (e.g. a train station) it is essential that you contact your Route Manager or call the ATG emergency line to notify us at the earliest possible moment, so we can contact the taxi company to re-schedule or cancel the taxi for you.
- Please note that failure to advise ATG that you cannot meet the taxi booked for you, may result in the taxi costs being passed back to you.