

Art and Culture in the Terre di Pisa

terredipisa.it



VISITTUSCANY

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“Terre di Pisa” was born as a tourism promotion and enhancement brand, wanted by the Pisa Chamber of Commerce to which public entities and private companies that have signed regulations regarding hospitality quality and typicality have joined in 2016.

With the birth in 2019 of the tourism sector including 26 municipalities in the province and led by the Municipality of Pisa, “Terre di Pisa” has become a tourist destination.

The Chamber of Commerce continues to enhance the policies of the area, working with the towns and implementing, together with the Municipality of Pisa, policies on the basis of a specific agreement.



- PISA MOUNT
- THE ERA VALLEY - PISAN HILLS
- TERRE DI PISA
- PISA AND SEABOARD
- THE CECINA VALLEY
- TUSCANY
- THE ARNO VALLEY
- MARITIME HILLS
- TOURIST AREA

How to get here



By Plane

Direct flights, low-cost included, from and to national and international destinations, departing and landing at the “Galileo Galilei” International Airport Info: www.pisa-airport.com.

The Pisa Mover shuttle connects the airport with the Pisa Centrale railway station.

There is an intermediate stop at the Aurelia and Via di Goletta parking lots.

Info and rates: <http://pisa-mover.com>



By Train

“Pisa Centrale” Train Station - connections with Florence, Genoa, Rome, and Milan.

The station is an obligatory stop for the main city bus lines.

Info: www.trenitalia.com



By Car

A11 Motorway, Pisa Nord exit

A11 Motorway + A12 Motorway, Pisa Centro exit.

Info: www.autostrade.it

SGC FI-PI-LI Highway from Florence or Livorno.

The historic center is a Limited Traffic Zone;

in the city, parking is subject to a fee (blue lines).

www.pisamo.it



By Tour Bus

Check point parking in Via Pietrasantina.

The transit of tourist buses in the city is prohibited.

www.pisamo.it/wp/bus-turistic

How to get around



By Bus

Urban (Pisa) and extra-urban service CTT Nord
Info: pisa.cttnord.it



By camper van

Equipped areas
www.camperonline.it/sosta-camper/aree-di-sosta
Discover the itineraries in the Terre di Pisa
or in Tuscany on:
www.terredipisa.it oppure www.visittuscany.com



By bike

Bike paths in Pisa, on the Pisan coast and
in the Terre di Pisa.
Info: www.fiabpisa.it
Discover the itineraries in the Terre di Pisa
or in Tuscany on: www.terredipisa.it
or www.visittuscany.com



By Vespa or motorbike

Drive along the scenic, safe and quiet roads
in the Terre di Pisa and Tuscany by motorbike
or Vespa moped.
Discover the itineraries on: www.terredipisa.it
or www.visittuscany.com

Art and culture



W

Why visit the Terre di Pisa? We could convince you with infinite reasons! First of all, the beauty of the monumental complex of Piazza Duomo

in Pisa, with the Cathedral boasting a gold ceiling, the largest Baptistery in the world, the Campo Santo (Cemetery) with its 2000 square meters of frescoes or the famous Leaning Tower. You can get lost in the medieval alleys of the city, among towers, churches and sumptuous Renaissance residences, or you lose your breath in front of a sunset on the Lungarno.

You can be fascinated by the waves of

the sea that break in the fishermen's "retoni" (wooden buildings) of Marina di Pisa, sipping a drink and looking towards the Apuan Alps, or you might abandon yourself to the colors of the sunflower fields on the Pisan hills, tasting a good DOC wine among the villas of Fauglia and Crespina, in the shadow of the castle of Lari or in the warm waters of the Terme di Casciana.

You can dream among the golden stones of Volterra, the Etruscan city, among its treasures, its views and then down towards the Valdera to discover stories of leaders and scientists, among the alleys of Peccioli and the views of Palaia. You can relive the stories of Frederick II in



San Miniato, from the top of its medieval tower, perhaps looking for the precious white truffle and - who knows? - you might go up the Arno to learn about the history of the tanneries, among the colors of the Santa Croce sull'Arno carnival.

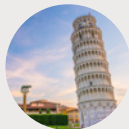
You might meet Leonardo da Vinci or Giosuè Carducci in the basement of Santa Maria a Monte or you can cheer your favorite horse at the Palio di Buti, in the shade of a large chestnut tree.

Art will call you back and you will be pleasantly "forced" to drive along the foothills, admiring the mastery of Brunelleschi through the mighty shape

of the fortress of Vicopisano, enjoy even a single moment of peace in the Calci Charterhouse, among sumptuous baroque experiences and curious collections of one of the largest Natural History Museums in the world.

You can certainly then return to Pisa to give a last farewell to Nicola Pisano, Simone Martini, Masaccio, Donatello, Raffaello, Artemisia Gentileschi. But we will not convince you with all this: rather, we will limit ourselves to making your holiday in the Terre di Pisa unforgettable with an invitation to come and visit us.

Pisa



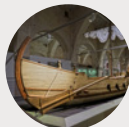
Piazza dei Miracoli (Cathedral, Baptistry, Monumental Cemetery, Leaning Tower, Cathedral Museum and Sinopie Museum)

Piazza Duomo
www.opapisa.it



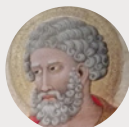
Medieval walls

+39 050 0987480
www.muradipisa.it



Museum of Ancient Ships

Arsenali Medicei - Lungarno Simonelli, 16 | +39 050 8057880
www.navidipisa.it



San Matteo National Museum

Piazza San Matteo in Soarta, 1 | +39 050 541865



Palazzo Blu

Lungarno Gambacorti, 9 | +39 050 2204650
www.palazzoblu.it



Botanical Garden and Museum

Via Luca Ghini 13 - Via Roma 56 | +39 050 2211310/18
www.ortomuseobot.sma.unipi.it



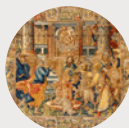
University of Pisa Museums Complex (Museum of Graphics, Egyptological Collections, Gipsoteque of ancient art, Museum of Computing Machinery, Museum of Physics Instruments, Museum of Human Anatomy, Museum of Pathology, Museum of Veterinary Anatomy)

Via Bonanno Pisano, 2/b | + 39 050 2210602
www.sma.unipi.it



Murales Keith Haring Tuttomondo

Piazzetta Keith Haring



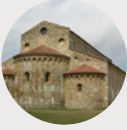
National Museum of Palazzo Reale

Lungarno Antonio Pacinotti, 46 | +39 050 926573

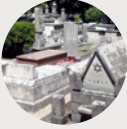
ATTRACTIONS



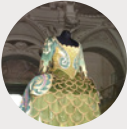
Church of Santa Maria della Spina
Lungarno Gambacorti



Church of San Piero a Grado
Via Vecchia di Marina, 5 | +39 050 960065
www.sanpieroagrado.it



Jewish cemetery and Synagogue
Via Carlo Cammeo, 2 / Via Palestro, 24 | +39 050 0987480
www.pisaebraica.it
www.coopculture.it/heritage.cfm?id=290



Cerratelli Foundation
Villa Roncioni
www.fondazionecerratelli.it

Bientina



Museum of Sacred Art Church of Santa Maria Assunta
P.zza V. Emanuele II, snc
www.terredipisa.it/attrazione/bientina-chiesa-santa-maria-assunta

Buti

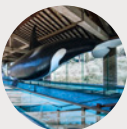


Villa Medicea
Via Annibali Marianini, 58 | +39 340 5366074
www.villamedicea.it

Calci

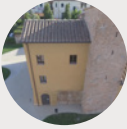


Monumental Charterhouse of Pisa
Via Roma, 79 | +39 050 938430
www.polomusealetoscana.beniculturali.it



Museum of natural history of the University of Pisa
Via Roma, 79 | +39 050 2212970 / 80
www.msn.unipi.it

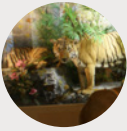
Calcinaia



Museum of Ceramics "L. Coccapani"

Via A. Saffi, 8 | +39 3319895351
www.facebook.com/museococcapani

Capannoli



Museum of Villa Baciocchi (Zoological museum, Archaeological Museum, and Park)

Via del Castello, 1/4 | +39 0587 607035
www.museivillabaciocchi.it

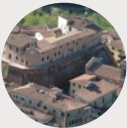
Cascina



Parish Romanesque Church of San Cassiano

Piazza San Casciano, 1 | +39 050 740703

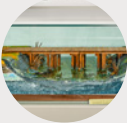
Casciana Terme Lari



The Castle of the Vicars - Lari

Via del Castello, 1 | +39 0587 687116
www.castellodilari.it

Castelfranco di Sotto



Archaeological museums

Via G. Galilei, 37 - Castelfranco di Sotto | +39 0571 487253
Via Martiri della Libertà, 22 - Orentano | +39 0583 238843
www.facebook.com/MuseoArcheologico.Orentano

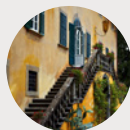
Chianni



Parish Church of San Donato

P.zza della Chiesa, 23 | +39 371 4966715
www.prolocochianni.it/chiese

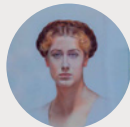
Crespina Lorenzana



"Carlo Pepi" House Museum

Via Montegrappa, 11 Crespina | + 39 335 5283547
www.carlopepi.wordpress.com

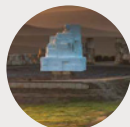
Fauglia



The Kiernek museum

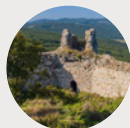
Via Chiostra I, 13 | +39 050 657328
www.terredipisa.it/attrazione/fauglia-museo-kienerk

Lajatico



Teatro del Silenzio

Via dell'Uccelliera, Lajatico | +39 334 7957670
www.teatrodelsilenzio.it



Rocca di Pietracassia

<https://www.terredipisa.it/attrazione/lajatico-rocca-di-pietracassia/>

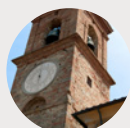
Montopoli in Val d'Arno



Guicciardini Museum

Via F. Guicciardini, 55 | +39 0571 449811
www.comune.montopoli.pi.it/turismo/museo-civico

Orciano Pisano



Church of San Michele

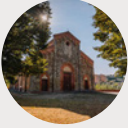
P.zza San Michele, 40

Palaia



Tempio di Minerva (Temple of Minerva)

Località Torricchio, Montefoscoli | +39 328 8325711
www.tempiodiminerva.com / www.cdbvalderatuscany.it



Parish Romanesque Church of San Martino

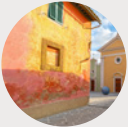
Via della Pieve | +39 0587 621437

Peccioli



Museum complex (Archaeological Museum, Palazzo Pretorio Museum, Saint Veranus Parish Church and Bell tower)

+39 0587 672158 | +39 0587 672877
www.fondarte.peccioli.net



Open air contemporary art gallery - Borgo di Ghizzano

+39 0587 672158
www.fondarte.peccioli.net

Ponsacco



Medici Villa in Camugliano

Via Camugliano, 44 | +39 0587 732390
www.camugliano.it

Pontedera



The Piaggio Museum

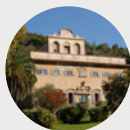
Viale R. Piaggio, 7 | +39 0587 27171
www.museopiaggio.it



PALP - Palazzo Pretorio

Piazza Curtatone e Montanara | +39 0587 468487 / +39 331 1542017
www.palp-pontedera.it

San Giuliano Terme



Villa di Corliano - The Corliano Villa

Via Statale Abetone, 50 | +39 050818193
www.villadicorliano.it

San Miniato



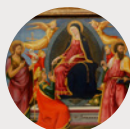
Torre di Federico - Frederick's Tower

Via di Rocca | +39 0571 42745
www.sanminiatopromozione.it/rocca-di-federico



Town Hall ("Sala delle Sette Virtù", Room of the Seven Virtues)

Via vittime del Duomo, 8 | +39 0571 418071
www.sanminiatopromozione.it/en/palazzo-comunale



Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art

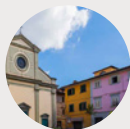
Piazza del Duomo, 2 | +39 0571 418071
www.sanminiatopromozione.it/museo-diocesano



Cathedral

Piazza del Duomo | +39 0571 418071
www.sanminiatopromozione.it/cattedrale

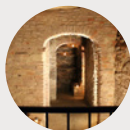
Santa Croce sull'Arno



Collegiate Church of San Lorenzo

Via Ciabattini

Santa Maria a Monte



Medieval cistern, underground galleries, and "La Rocca" archaeological area

Via Carducci, 32 / Via Rocca, 1 | +39 0587 261642 / +39 333 3495168
<https://www.terredipisa.it/en/attrazioni/?i=1&terr=santa-maria-a-monte>



“Casa Carducci” Museum, “Beata Giuntini” Civic Museum and Clock Tower

Via Carducci 29 | +39 0587 261640 | +39 333 3495168

Terricciola



Camaldolese Abbey of Morrone

Via di Badia, 8 | +39 0587 658505

www.terredipisa.it/attrazione/terricciola-badia-di-morrone

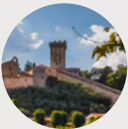
Vecchiano



Sanctuary of Santa Maria in Castello

Via del Santuario, 19 | +39 347 5252087

Vicopisano



Rocca del Brunelleschi and Clock Tower

Via del Pretorio | +39 050 796581

www.vicopisanoturismo.it



Parish Romanesque of Santa Maria

Via Moricotti, 2 | +39 050 799155

www.vicopisanoturismo.it

Montecatini Val di Cecina



The mining museum

Loc. La Miniera | +39 0588 31026

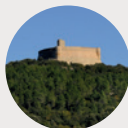
www.museodelleminieremontecatini.it

Pomarance



The Geothermal Museum of Larderello

Piazza Leopolda, Larderello | +39 0588 67724 / +39 0588 86099
www.museivaldicecina.it/it/museo_della_geotermia.php



The Sillana Fortress

Località San Dalmazio | +39 0588 62089 / +39 0588 86099
www.museivaldicecina.it/it/rocca_sillana.php

Volterra



Piazza dei Priori (Palazzo dei Priori)

Piazza dei Priori, 1 | +39 0588 860991
www.volterratur.it/poi/palazzo-dei-priori



The "Guarnacci" Etruscan Museum

Via Don Minzoni, 15 | +39 0588 86099
www.volterratur.it/poi/museo-etrusco-guarnacci



Art Gallery (Pinacoteca)

Via dei Sarti, 1 | +39 0588 86099
www.volterratur.it/poi/pinacoteca-e-museo-civico



The Roman Theatre

Piazza Caduti nei lager nazisti | +39 0588 86099
www.volterratur.it/poi/il-teatro-romano



Etruscan Acropolis Archaeological Area and "Porta dell'Arco"

Parco Archeologico 'E. Fiumi' / Via Porta all'Arco, 62-4 | +39 0588 86099
www.volterratur.it | www.volterratur.it/poi/la-porta-all-arco



The Medici Fortress and the Maschio Tower

Rampa di Castello, 4 | +39 348 940 8824
www.cooperativatorre.it/torre-del-maschio



Alabaster workshops

+39 0588 86099
www.volterratur.it/botteghe-e-sapere/ www.volterratur.it/alabastro-e-artigianato

Itineraries in Pisa



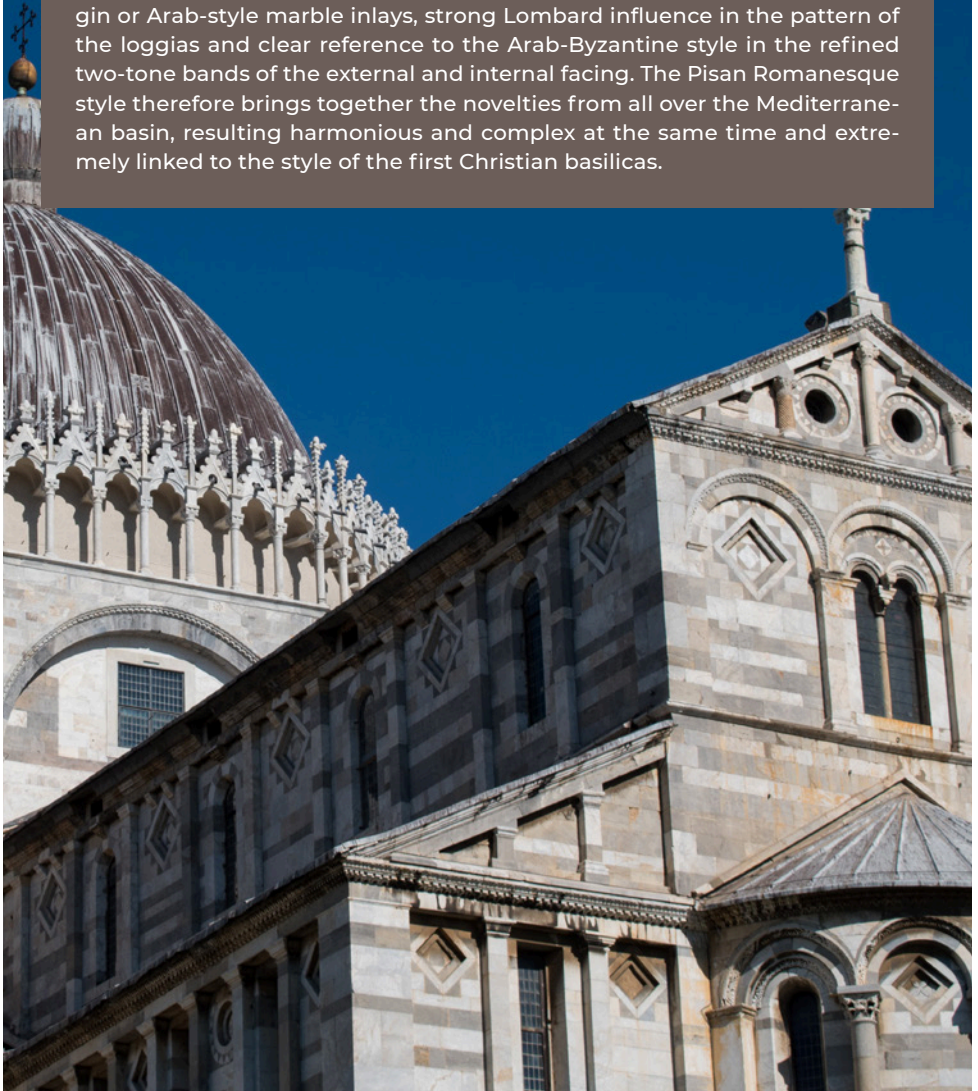
4000 years old, Pisa is a city characterized by an incredible historical and artistic heritage. You can still see traces of the Etruscan–Roman culture in the necropolis or in the archaeological areas such as the 1st-century baths known as “Bagno di Nerone”.

Much more evident, however, are the traces of the golden centuries of the Maritime Republic, which contributed to making the city a crossroads of different peoples and cultures that inevitably influenced the local style and artistic production. Piazza del Duomo is the symbol of this period.

With the Medici, Pisa once again experienced a period of artistic and urban splendor, represented by Piazza dei Cavalieri and the sumptuous palaces of the Lungarno. The University has certainly been a driving force in the last millennium, and with the opening of the Scuola Normale in the 19th century, literary and scientific culture reached their peak. Today Pisa is a modern city but with an ancient face, with attractions capable of charming tourists from all over the world and museums of every type and for every taste.

THE PISAN ROMANESQUE

Pisan Romanesque is a style that can be found mainly in religious buildings. It established itself in the 11th century in the area of Pisa, Lucca, Pistoia and coastal Tuscany and later in the areas dominated by the maritime republic such as Corsica and Sardinia. There are buildings attributable to the same style in Calabria and Puglia. The Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta in Pisa represents the best example, bringing together the peculiarities that represent it: blind French arches decorated with lozenges of Armenian origin or Arab-style marble inlays, strong Lombard influence in the pattern of the loggias and clear reference to the Arab-Byzantine style in the refined two-tone bands of the external and internal facing. The Pisan Romanesque style therefore brings together the novelties from all over the Mediterranean basin, resulting harmonious and complex at the same time and extremely linked to the style of the first Christian basilicas.



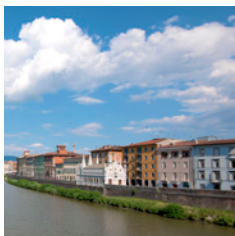


UNIVERSITY MUSEUM COMPLEX

Start your journey among the collections of the University of Pisa from the **Museum of Computing Instruments** and the **Museum of Physics Instruments**, with experiments and machines that have contributed to the birth of computer science and modern physics.

In Via Roma you will find the **Museum of Human Anatomy** with more than 3000 medical findings and anatomical models, and the **Museum of Anatomy and Pathological Histology**. A few steps away is the oldest **Botanical University Garden in Europe** which, in two hectares, houses a collection of native and non-native tree species, as well as the **Botanical Museum**.

In Via San Frediano you will find the **Egyptological Collections** with objects from Egypt and Nubia while in the church of San Paolo all'Orto you will discover the **Gipsoteque of Ancient Art (plastic cast gallery)**, among the first in Italy, the collection of the **Antiquarium of classical archeology** and the **Paethnological Collections**. Walking on Lungarno Galilei do not miss the **Museum of Graphics**, and finally on the Viale delle Piagge the **Veterinary Anatomical Museum**. The itinerary ends outside Pisa, at the **Charterhouse of Calci** with the **Natural History Museum**, one of the most evocative in the world.



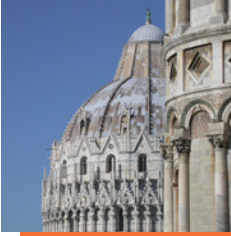
LUNGARNI MUSEUM COMPLEX

Begin the tour inside the Medici Arsenals where you will find the **Museum of Ancient Ships**, an exhibition of the incredible archaeological find that in 1998 gave Pisa the name of Pompei of the Sea.

In Lungarno Pacinotti visit the **National Museum of Palazzo Reale**, a Medici and Savoy residence which houses a rich collection of masterpieces by Bronzino, **Rosso Fiorentino**, **Raffaello**, and **Guido Reni** as well as an important collection of suits of armor from the Gioco del Ponte. Then comes the turn of the **San Matteo National Museum** where you can walk among the masterpieces of **Giunta Pisano**, **Simone Martini**, **Andrea Pisano**, **Masaccio** and **Donatello**. One of a kind is the collection of medieval ceramic basins.

Lungarno Galilei houses the **Museum of Graphics**, which includes drawings and engravings by **Fattori**, **Morandi**, **Bartolini** and other protagonists of the 20th century. In Lungarno Gambacorti visit **Palazzo Blu**, home to temporary exhibitions of international importance. The finely restored palace preserves works by **Benozzo Gozzoli**, **Orazio** and **Artemisia Gentileschi** as well as the **Macchiaioli**.

The thirteenth-century **Gothic Church of Santa Maria della Spina**, hosting temporary exhibitions, concludes the tour in the old town.



PIAZZA DEL DUOMO

Entering through the Porta Nuova of the medieval walls you will be dazzled by the treasures of Piazza del Duomo. The **Baptistry**, the largest in the world and known for a curious acoustic effect, preserves the medieval baptismal font and the **Pulpit by Nicola Pisano**.

The **Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta**, a masterpiece of Pisan Romanesque architecture, is a triumph of works of art from **Cimabue** to **Andrea del Sarto**, in addition to **Giovanni Pisano's Pergamum** and the legendary **lamp of Galileo Galilei**. The Campo Santo is a monumental cloister with Gothic lines, enriched by Roman sarcophagi, sepulchres, and medieval and Renaissance frescoes among which we recommend the cycle of the **Triumph of Death by Buffalmacco**.

The monumental preparatory drawings of the frescoes are instead kept in the **Sinopie Museum**, inside the **Old Hospital**. The symbol of the city is undoubtedly the **Bell Tower**, or the **Leaning Tower of Pisa**, famous for its slope, which has returned to its former glory after a long restoration that lasted 11 years. Finally, don't miss the **Museum of the Opera della Primaziale**, full of masterpieces by **Nicola and Giovanni Pisano**, **Andrea Pisano** and many others, among which we point out the iconic **Bronze Griffin**.



ITINERARY OF ROMANESQUE CITY CHURCHES

The tour begins with the church of **San Sisto**, a symbol of maritime conquests! Along Via Santa Maria there is the church of **San Nicola**, with a beautiful leaning bell tower. In Lungarno Sonnino, after a quick glance at the **Gothic Church of Santa Maria della Spina**, you will find **San Paolo a Ripa d'Arno**, a jewel of the Pisan Romanesque, with the nearby **Chapel of Sant'Agata**. Along the walls of Via Bixio is the **Church of Sant'Antonio**, hiding the **Tuttomondo mural by Keith Haring**. Take Corso Italia, where you will find **Santa Maria del Carmine** with its 14th-century cloister, and then Lungarno Gambacorti up to **Santa Cristina**, a Lombard church.

On the Lungarno Galilei you will find the **Church of Santo Sepolcro (Holy Sepulchre)**, founded with an octagonal plan by the Jerusalem knights, and the **Church of San Martino**, on the street of the same name. Cross the river to the **Church of Sant'Andrea**, now a theater and continue to the **Church of San Francesco**, with the hanging bell tower.

Along the walls stands the **Abbey of San Zeno** and a few steps away is the monumental **Church of Santa Caterina**, with its Gothic facade. And again you can find the church of **Santa Cecilia**, decorated with ceramic basins, the one of **San Paolo all'Orto**, and that of **San Pierino** where you can visit the crypt. The itinerary ends in Borgo Stretto, in front of the marbles of the church of **San Michele in Borgo**.



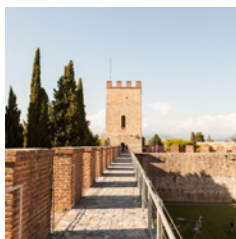
ITINERARY ON THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MEDICI

Start from the oldest Medici palace, **Palazzo Spinola** in Lungarno Mediceo, purchased by Cosimo the Elder. Cross the Giardino Scotto, a **former Medici fortress** and along Via San Martino stop at **Palazzo Fiumi e Fossi**, attributed to Michelangelo, then continue to Ponte di Mezzo, where you will find the **Logge dei Banchi**, seat of the silk counter. Cross the river and enter Borgo Stretto and, from **Piazza delle**

Vettovaglie, head to the **Sapienza**, commissioned by Cosimo I and seat of the historic University of Pisa.

In Lungarno Pacinotti you will find the **Royal Palace**, or Grand Ducal Palace, which is now a museum. In Via Santa Maria there is **Palazzo Quaratesi**, commissioned by Ferdinando I, and a little further on you can enter Piazza dei Cavalieri, designed by Giorgio Vasari on behalf of Cosimo I.

The Palazzo del Collegio Ferdinando, founded by the Grand Duke to help less well-off students, is very close to the **Piazza del Duomo**. We recommend you to enter the Cathedral to admire the beautiful golden ceiling and the precious **apse tribune** – all commissioned by the Medici! At the end, enjoy a visit to the **Medici Arsenals**, now the seat of the **Museum of Ancient Ships of Pisa**.



A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF PISA FROM THE TOP OF THE WALLS

The medieval walls of Pisa are the longest in Italy. Built in 1154, they extend for 7 km, of which about 5km are preserved and 3km can be walked at high altitude.

We recommend to start the trail from the **Torre di Legno**, in Piazza del Rosso and walking from east to west.

Walking at a height of 11 meters you can admire stretches of the city that have remained hidden for centuries and enjoy an unusual view of churches and glimpses of the historic center: the **ancient convent of San Silvestro** the **Calcesana gate**, gardens and old foundries, the **port of gondolas**, the **Medici aqueduct**, the large **Gothic windows of the church of San Francesco**, the **former Marzotto textile factory**, the **Abbey of San Zeno** and the **Parlascio bastion** built by **Filippo Brunelleschi**.

Once you arrive at the **Bagni di Nerone**, a 1st century spa structure, a short stretch awaits you with a view of elegant hanging gardens before reaching Piazza del Duomo: from this altitude the “miracles” of white stone will appear even more fascinating.

Before going down, take a look at the **Jewish Cemetery**, the oldest still active in Europe.

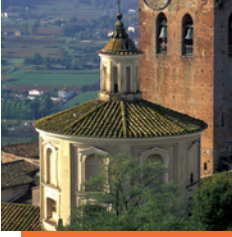
Itineraries in San Miniato



Of Etruscan and Lombard origins, bordered by the ancient Via Francigena, San Miniato became an obligatory stop in the Middle Ages for pilgrims from northern Europe to Rome. This important spiritual role has left tangible evidence in architecture and sacred art, jealously guarded and enriched over the centuries.

For a long time the city was defined “San Miniato al Tedesco” (German in Style) due to the strong link with the Germanic emperors of the Holy Roman Empire, who chose it as an imperial outpost in Tuscany, being in a strategic position that allowed to control the main communication routes of the area: the road that connected Pisa and Florence and the nearby courses of the Rivers Arno and Elsa.

In the past, the city and its area have witnessed the passage of great personalities (emperors, artists and writers) and have been the backdrop for important events (seat of a Council, an imperial Diet and the birth of the Tuscan League) that have marked European history from the Middle Ages to the modern age.



A RELIGIOUS ITINERARY

The rich and historic churches of San Miniato dot the entire city center: the 13th-century church of **San Francesco**, with works from the school of Masolino and Curradi; the **Cathedral**, with the original medieval ceramic basins on the façade and the Baroque interior; the 18th-century church of the **Santissimo Crocifisso**, built to house a miraculous 10th-century crucifix; the church of San Domenico with medieval and 18th-century frescoes, an Annunciation by Giovanni della Robbia and the Deposition by Poppi; the adjoining **Via Angelica**, one of the most evocative places in the city (three chapels rich in fresco decorations between the 14th and 18th centuries); the **church of the Santissima Annunziata**, with its curious central plan; the 14th-century monastery of **Santa Chiara**, with works of great prestige by **Cigoli**, **Deodato Orlandi** and **Jacopo da Empoli** as well as liturgical furnishings.

The **Diocesan Museum** is an essential step to understand the history of the city through sacred art and the **Museum of the Archconfraternity of Mercy** preserves sacred vestments, devotional objects and precious reliquaries as well as a rare wooden deposition from the 13th century.



WALKING AROUND SAN MINIATO

The old town of San Miniato offers noble palaces, scenic squares and sudden panoramic views, preserving the medieval layout enriched by Renaissance palaces. Particularly noteworthy are the austere **Palazzo Grifoni** and the prestigious **Palazzo Roffia**.

The Town Hall preserves the **Loretino Chapel**, with 15th-century frescoes and a 16th-century wooden altar, as well as the frescoed “**Hall of the Seven Virtues**” and the **neo-Gothic Council Hall**.

Not far is **Piazza Bonaparte** with the palace of the same name, evidence of the city’s bond with one of the most important characters in European history.

Nearby, in the headquarters of the **Accademia degli Euteleti**, the funerary mask of **Napoleon** is displayed. Emperor Frederick the Second left a strong mark on the city, with impressive fortifications and the **Torre Federiciana**, the symbol of San Miniato: climb to the top to enjoy a breathtaking view of the town and the surroundings.

The opportunity to learn more about the more recent history of the city is offered by the interactive exhibition of the **MuMe**, Museum of Memory, with a visual and documentary itinerary to retrace the episodes that directly affected San Miniato during the Second World War.

THE MUSEUM COMPLEX

The range of museums in San Miniato is very varied and suitable for all types of visitors, from families with children to art and archeology enthusiasts. Among these is the Torre di Federico II, the Town Hall with the evocative Loretino Oratory, the archaeological area of San Genesio, the Museum of Writing and the MuMe, Museum of Memory. Other museums in the city are the Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art, the evocative Via Angelica, the Museum of the Archconfraternity of Mercy, the Museum of the Conservatory of Saint Clare, and the Accademia degli Euteleti.



Other itineraries



In the photo above is the **Teatro del Silenzio**, a wonderful natural amphitheater among the hills around Lajatico. A unique place that remains silent for most of the year, broken only by the music and voice of **Andrea Bocelli**, who returns to his hometown in the summer for a concert with other international artists.

Since 2006, the Theater has seen artists such as Laura Pausini, Roberto Bolle, Plácido Domingo, José Carreras, Gianna Nannini, Zubin Mehta, Carla Fracci perform on its stage.

After dismantling the set, designed each year by a different artist, the theater falls asleep again, waiting to be awakened the following summer.



PECCIOLI: THE MUSEUMS

Despite its small size, this old village in the Era valley has been able to enhance its historical and artistic heritage by becoming an interesting, technologically advanced, and quality Museum Center.

Walking through the tangle of alleys and paths that characterize the historic center of the medieval castle, you will find a rich and heterogeneous range of museums, **monuments and multimedia installations**. The **Palazzo Pretorio Museum** houses two collections of Russian icons (about 200 works) which are periodically expanded. The Palace is also home to the important **Collection of Engravings and Lithographs**. The **Archaeological Museum**, inside an evocative network of tunnels, originally underground tombs, displays finds from the Etruscan, Roman and medieval periods from the surrounding area.

The **Parish Church of San Verano** houses a small but valuable **Museum of Sacred Art** and the adjoining bell tower offers a magnificent panoramic view. There is no shortage of attractions for children either such as the **Prehistoric Park**, about three hectares of greenery and 22 life-size reproductions of dinosaurs, and the **PeccioloAvventura**, an artificial structure in the historic center with the splendid scenery of the Valdera hills featuring games, climbing, and a suspension bridge.



PECCIOLI: CONTEMPORARY ART

Contemporary art takes to the streets and invades the town, interacting with the daily life of the market and street parties with **permanent installations** created by many artists: Corsini, Xhafa, Nagasawa, Fortuyn/O'Brien, De Leonardis, Bartolini, Cavenago, Carrino, Rivola, Restano, Dubosarsky e Vinogradov.

On the facade of the Church of the Carmine, a light installation projects silhouettes that describe a landscape through symbols of natural elements. At the nearby **Centro Polivalente**, an algorithm analyzes the mood trends of Twitter users, a color is associated with each mood and every 15 minutes the color of the lights in the center changes as people's moods do. Along the **Belvedere**, rectangular panels of various sizes feature the inhabitants gazing towards the future.

The **Engravings and Lithographs Collection** in Palazzo Pretorio offers a collection of works ranging from informal to figurative, to Metaphysics: engravings, lithographs, woodcuts and serigraphs with works by Viviani, Greco, Paris, Baj, Carrà, Guerricchio, Guttuso, Possenti, Manzù, Fattori, Goya, Marino Marini, Mirò, De Chirico, Dalí, Vangi and Vittorini.



VICOPISSANO

Well protected by the slopes of the Monte Pisano, Vicopisano still shows its medieval heart thanks to its elevated position. The itinerary begins with the **Parish Romanesque Church of Santa Maria** in Pisan Romanesque style and a rare 13th-century wooden deposition inside.

Vicopisano is characterized by numerous medieval towers and tower houses still in excellent condition: we recommend entering the city walls by the **Twin Towers**, where the market gate stood and is today the town hall. Going up towards the Fortress you will enjoy a beautiful view of the valley and of Monte Pisano, characterized by vast olive groves, and you will reach **Palazzo Pretorio** which was the seat of the Pisan bishopric power. Today the palace can be visited together with the **Fortress** complex called “Rocca”, rebuilt by Filippo Brunelleschi.

A curious staircase will take you to the **Torre del Soccorso** and further on to the **Torre delle Quattro Porte** (Four Gates Tower). Taking via Lante you will find the **Clock Tower**, equipped with a public clock documented from the 16th century, the **Malanima tower house** with beautiful terracotta decorations, and finally the **Piazza della Vecchia Posta**, a perfectly preserved medieval corner.



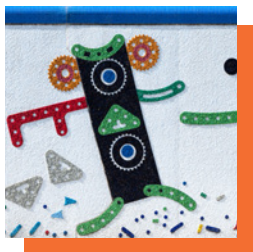
CALCI

In the heart of so-called Graziosa Valley, Calci offers important attractions framed by the Arno plain and by Monte Pisano. Start the tour from the **Parish Church of Sant'Ermolao**, in Pisan Romanesque style, and its monolithic immersion baptismal font.

With a short and pleasant walk among gardens and olive groves, you can reach the majestic Calci Charterhouse, which today is partly the seat of the Natural History Museum and partly the **Monumental Charterhouse**.

Here you can visit the place where the Carthusian monks lived until the early 1970s, embellished with furnishings and frescoes worthy of a palace. The **Natural History Museum** of the University of Pisa preserves a heritage of enormous historical and scientific value with mineralogical, zoological and paleontological collections. Of particular interest is the large **cetacean gallery**, one of the most important in Europe and the largest freshwater **aquarium** in Italy.

All around Calci, the hamlets of Montemagno, Tre Colli and Nicosia rise among streams, along which old mills and oil mills are still visible, giving the opportunity for fascinating walks and hikes.

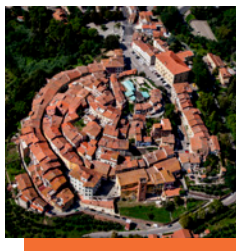


PONTERERA

Ponterera has always been known as the city of motors and **Piaggio**. Indeed, here you will find both the industrial plant and the Museum dedicated to the Vespa which also hosts an extraordinary exhibition of models of the Group's brands: **Aprilia**, **Gilera** and **Moto Guzzi**.

Over time, however, the city has also become a **center of contemporary art**, a sort of open-air museum thanks to the permanent installations placed on street roundabouts, parks and squares, such as the "author's benches" in Piazza Garibaldi. Important international contemporary artists have worked here (including Pietro Cascella, Nado Canuti, Giò Pomodoro) combining art and communication in a generally inanimate type of urban furniture, transforming it into the town's protagonist.

On the wall that runs along the railway, you can find "**The wall of Baj**" (2006), one of the largest contemporary mosaics in Italy and the latest work by the artist, founder of the "Nuclear Movement".



SANTA MARIA A MONTE

The small fortified village of Santa Maria a Monte, which attracted Leonardo Da Vinci's attention due to its layout, developed around an ancient parish church, no longer existing, on which the Florentine fortress was built.

The town is characterized by **four city walls** which give it a curious spiral appearance. From piazza della Vittoria, take via Carducci and you will immediately find the **birthplace of Vincenzo Galilei** and **once home of the Nobel prize poet Giosué Carducci**.

Inside the **town library** you can visit a perfectly preserved **medieval cistern**. Here is another feature of the country, the underground city: there are hundreds of meters of **underground medieval tunnels**, some of which can be visited upon request.

Visit the **Church of San Giovanni** and go up via dell'Orologio passing the **Palazzo del Podestà**, which displays the ancient coats of arms of the captains who worked here, and the **medieval Clock Tower** which houses a small **Museum of peasant civilization**.

You will come to the **Tower of Castruccio Castracani**, a 14th-century leader, and finally to the archaeological area of **the Fortress**. A nice **Town Museum** will show you the history and traditions of Santa maria a Monte



PALAIA

Among the gullies of the Valdera area stands the village of Palaia, of Etruscan origin. From the main street, enter the small church of Sant'Andrea, a rich collection of medieval sculpture where you will find works by Andrea and Luca della Robbia, Francesco di Valdambriano and a Crucifix attributed to Andrea Pisano.

Just outside the town is the **Parish Church of San Martino** which, with its mighty late-Romanesque architecture and thanks to its millenary history, is the symbolic monument of the town. Going up to the ruins of the Fortress, the highest point of Palaia and once the site of the old medieval keep of the castle, you will enjoy one of the most beautiful views of the area.

The town is an excellent starting point for landscape excursions on the Colline Pisane Wine Trail, to visit the ghost hamlets of **Villa Saletta** and **Toiano**.

Not far away you can find **Montefoscoli**, with an interesting and complete **Museum of Peasant Civilization** inside the home of the Vaccà Berlinghieri, a family who built the **Temple of Minerva Medica**, an intriguing place full of mystery which tells stories halfway between science and esotericism, mythology and freemasonry.



VILLAS AT THE FOOT OF MONTE PISANO

The itinerary moves at the foot of Monte Pisano, near the thermal resort of San Giuliano Terme, where you can find the **Medici Villa dell'Ammiraglio** and the **Villa Del Lupo**.

Move towards Pugnano to find **Villa Poschi**, now a relais and restaurant, and **Villa Roncioni**, which houses the Cerratelli foundation of historical and stage clothes.

In Molina di Quosa you will find **Villa Le Molina Alliata**, a luxurious relais with 10 hectares of garden and a picturesque waterfall, and **Villa Annamaria dei Lanfranchi** with a beautiful 18th-century botanical garden. After passing the majestic **Villa Alta di Rigoli**, you will find yourself in the greenery of the English park of **Villa di Corliano**, one of the most beautiful historic homes in Tuscany. In San Giuliano Terme stands the **Thermal Villa** commissioned by the Habsburg-Lorraine grand dukes, part of the thermal system of Bagni di Pisa.

Starting from Asciano to Calci you will find the 18th-century **Villa Raggi Scerni**, **Villa Tadini Buoninsegni**, built by Lorenzo the Magnificent, and the medieval **Villa Scorzi**. The trip ends with the historic **Villa Medicea** di Buti which preserves a beautiful terraced Italian garden and, inside, elegant 18th-century frescoes.



TOWERS, FORTRESSES AND CASTLES

A peculiarity of the Tuscan character is the parochialism (*campanilismo*) deriving from the competition of the very powerful city-states and the proud Free Towns. The traces of this are still evident through the fortifications scattered in the area, evidence of bloody power struggles, dominations and violent revolts, rivalries, feuds and bloody battles. In Pisa you can find the **Sangallo Fortress** and the medieval defensive walls. Watchtowers and the **Rocca di Ripafratta** are visible along Monte Pisano. Vicopisano is a magnificent example of medieval (13 towers) and Renaissance military architecture. Santa Maria a Monte has 4 walls and San Miniato is dominated by the Tower of Frederick II. In Lari you can visit the Castello dei Vicari. The **Rocca di Pietracassia**, between Lajatico and Orciatico, is one of the rare examples of late Lombard architecture in Tuscany. Volterra is still surrounded by medieval walls and retains part of the cyclopean Etruscan walls while inside the **Medici Fortress** you can visit the **Torre del Maschio**. A pleasant hike immersed in nature will lead you to **Rocca Sillana**, near Pomarance, isolated on an imperious hill and surrounded by dense bush.

THE PISAN ROMANESQUE IN THE TERRE DI PISA

The stylistic influence of the Cathedral of Pisa, which blends together Byzantine, Arab-Norman and Lombard elements, is present in many churches in the area such as the **Badia (Abbey) of San Savino** (8th century) in Montione, the **parish church of Santa Giulia** (11th century) in Caprona and the **parish church of Saint John and Sant'Ermolao** (11th century) in Calci, the **Church of Santa Maria a Cascina** (8th-11th century), the **parish church of Sant'Ippolito e Cassiano** (10th century) in San Casciano, the **parish church of Santa Maria** (10th century) and that of **San Giacomo in Lupeta** (12th century) in Vicopisano, the **parish church of San Verano** (11th century) in Peccioli, and the **Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta** (11th century) and the **church of San Michele Arcangelo** (12th century) in Volterra.





AN UNDERGROUND EXPERIENCE IN THE TERRE DI PISA

There is a whole underground world to discover: mines, tunnels, and cisterns. You can start from the Larderello **Geothermal Museum** where a virtual descent to the center of the Earth awaits you. It will also be possible to see the demonstration opening of a fumarole directly from the extraction well.

In **Montecatini Val di Cecina**, on the other hand, you can visit a part of the former **copper mine of Caporciano**, which gave its name to Montedison, the largest in Europe in the 19th century. You will see the buildings dedicated to extraction, washing, tunnels and the extraction shaft.

In **Santa Maria a Monte** you will discover an underground city made of communicating tunnels, dug directly into the tuff, used since the Middle Ages as escape routes or deposits, and later as air-raid shelters during the Second World War.

Inside the castle of **Lari** you will go down to **hell**, i.e. medieval galleries used as gloomy prisons. Finally in **Pisa** you can descend into the basement of the 16th-century **Bastione Sangallo** to discover the ancient medieval gate of San Marco and the destroyed fortress of Filippo Brunelleschi.



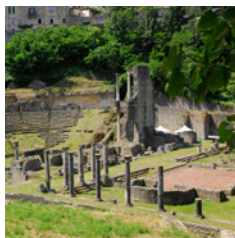
Itineraries in Volterra



Ancient and powerful Etruscan town, dominating a territory that extended from the coast to today's Siena and Florence, Volterra also played an important role in the Roman period. Traces of this glorious past dot the city with artifacts and buildings that allow you to discover fascinating itineraries.

After the collapse of the Roman Empire and centuries of decline, it returned to control a very large territory and to play a strategic role in Tuscany. From the 12th century a radical reconstruction of the city began, which would lead to the erection, in solid local stone, of new and imposing religious buildings, of the massive walls and defensive structures and of the Palazzo dei Priori, a proud symbol of the rediscovered economic and political power that would allow Volterra to compete, even militarily, with the neighboring Siena, Pisa and Florence.

Even today, the urban center maintains almost intact the fabric and structures of this flourishing period that will gain the city D'Annunzio's name of "city of wind and stone" for its fierce austerity.



VELATRHI AND VOLATERRAE: THE ETRUSCAN AND ROMAN CITY

The ancient vestiges of the city are scattered throughout the historic center: the ancient **Etruscan Acropolis** with the foundations of temples, streets, sacred wells and a large Roman cistern; the **Porta all'Arco**, a very rare testimony of Etruscan military architecture; the **archaeological excavations of Vallebuona** with the remains of a Roman theater and the adjacent baths.

A visit to the **Guarnacci Museum** is a must: here, in addition to a spectacular display of terracotta and alabaster urns, refined artifacts in bucchero, bronze and gold, you can admire the **urn of the Spouses and the Shadow of the Evening**, whose mysterious charm inspired many sculptors.

Moving from one stop to another on this itinerary, you can discover other small surprising treasures: precious fragments of Etruscan urns used as a filler for a wall, capitals, Roman cisterns, remains of walls and ancient roads. An interesting excursion will lead you to the discovery of one of the numerous Etruscan **necropoli** of Volterra, to experience the sensation of entering a parallel dimension by descending inside two underground tombs. Last but not least, a few years ago, the **Roman amphitheater**, one of the most important archaeological finds of our century, was brought back to light.



A FREE CITY: MEDIEVAL VOLTERRA

Enclosed within the intact 13th-century walls, real treasures of medieval art and architecture are preserved. The power of the Bishops of Volterra is represented in Piazza San Giovanni by the **Baptistry and the Cathedral** which houses beautiful paintings and a wonderful 13th-century polychrome wooden deposition.

The adjacent Piazza dei Priori features the symbols of the power of the Free Town on the Palazzo del Podestà, the Torre del Porcellino and the oldest municipal building in Tuscany: the **Palazzo dei Priori**.

The nearby **Incrociata Buomparenti** is an excellent example of the typical medieval housing structure: the **tower house**. Two incredibly rich collections offer the opportunity to reconstruct the history of the city through works of the highest value: the **Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art** and the **Art Gallery (Pinacoteca)** where you can admire the Deposition from the Cross by Rosso Fiorentino.

The visit to the **Maschio Tower** inside the Medici Fortress, commissioned by Lorenzo the Magnificent, concludes this itinerary with an unmissable view of the tower houses of the center of Volterra and the fascinating view of the surrounding countryside.

Events

Pisa



Pisan New Year

Date: 25 March

Place: Old town

Info: www.turismo.pisa.it

The Pisan Calendar, in use in Pisa and other areas of Tuscany until the mid-18th century, started the year on March 25 (feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary), anticipating the start of the year by nine months and seven days compared to the traditional calendar. The Pisan Calendar was abolished in 1749 by decree of the Grand Duke Francesco Stefano di Lorena, who ordered that the new year in Tuscany begin on January 1st. The beginning of the Pisan Year is marked by a sundial. In the Cathedral, a ray of sunlight would enter from a window called Aurea, hitting an area close to the main altar at exactly noon. Over time, this sundial has failed due to heavy modifications in the 17th century. The solar mechanism was later restored between the 19th and 20th centuries, using a different window and targeting an egg-shaped shelf placed on the pillar next to where Giovanni Pisano's pulpit was reassembled in 1926. The event is preceded by a historical procession of the Maritime Republic and by the banners of the Pisan municipalities and celebrated with a very short religious ceremony that ends exactly at noon.



June in Pisa

Date: 1-30 June

Place: Old town

Info: www.turismo.pisa.it

"June in Pisa" brings together a series of historical and cultural events and initiatives to rediscover the city's history. The most significant events are: the Regatta among the Ancient Maritime Republics, which takes place every four years on the first Sunday of the month; the Candlelight Parade dedicated to the Patron Saint, San Ranieri, with the magic of the flames on the River Arno (June 16); the Palio di San Ranieri which takes place between the four historic districts of Pisa on the day dedicated to San Ranieri, on 17 June; the vigil of the Gioco del Ponte which takes place on the Friday before the Battaglia del Carrello with gastronomic, cultural and historical initiatives; and finally the Gioco del Ponte, which is fought on the Ponte di Mezzo, on the evening of the last Saturday in June. Every year "June in Pisa" is enriched with new initiatives in the historical-artistic field (extraordinary openings of museums, monuments and exhibitions) and in the literary one (book launches and public readings of pieces in prose or vernacular) to experience Pisa in all its nuances.

Other events

**Palio of Buti**

Date: first Sunday after January 17

Place: Buti

Info: www.paliodibuti.eu**The “Processione delle Paniere”**

Date: Easter Monday

Place: Santa Maria a Monte

Info: www.facebook.com/ComunedisantaMariaaMonte**Historic Regatta of Santa Ubaldesca**

Date: fifth Sunday of May or first Sunday of June, according to the calendar

Place: Calcinaia

Info: www.sagradellanozza.it/la-regata-storica-di-calcinaia**Fuochi di San Giovanni - St. John's feast**

Date: 23 June

Place: San Miniato

Info: www.sanminiato-promozione.it/en/fuochi-di-san-giovanni**Medieval Week, AD 1398**

Date: second and third week of August

Place: Volterra

Info: www.volterra1398.it**Vicopisano's Medieval Feast**

Date: first weekend of September

Place: Vicopisano

Info: www.festamedievalevicopisano.it**“Disfida con l'Arco” (Archery challenge)**

Date: third Sunday of September

Place: Montopoli in Val d'Arno

Info: www.facebook.com/prolocomontopoli

Tuscany



www.terredipisa.it
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(seasonal)
Piazza Belvedere
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