LUCCA & THE ITALIAN RIVIERA
A VIBRANT JOURNEY in TUSCANY and LIGURIA

DEPARTURES
April 19 – 27, 2016
June 6 – 14, 2016

A select, small-group journey for people who don’t typically do group tours (only 10 travelers for a highly personal travel experience). Gather friends, families or couples for a private tour, or join a group of like-minded travelers on this lively and intimate journey in northern Tuscany and the Italian Riviera.

Spend 7 nights based in the engaging small Tuscan city of Lucca. Lucca is known for the massive Renaissance walls, le mura, that surround the city, topped by an elevated tree-lined park where locals and visitors bicycle, picnic, jog and stroll.

Gather a small group of friends, families or couples and book a private tour (minimum of 8 to book the tour privately), or join a group of like-minded travelers as we take moderate hikes along the coast; ascend in a rugged 4 x 4 into the magnificent marble quarries of Carrara; travel to the hills outside Lucca for wine tasting; listen to the music of Puccini (a native of Lucca) at an evening concert; drink in the dramatic coastline of the Italian Riviera and the verdant Lucchesi hills; take pleasure in delicious dinners; and ride bicycles around Lucca’s wide Renaissance walls.

This trip is designed to include easy to moderate outdoor excursions - recreational biking, hiking and walking. Distances/conditions for outdoor activities are described below for each day.

Please note that April 19/June 6 are departure days from home on an independent overnight flight.
HIGHLIGHTS

- **Savor locally produced wine** (rich from the soil fed by the surrounding sea and mountains) and lunch at a family-owned estate and winery in the hills above Lucca

- **Explore on foot the serene Ligurian Coast** with an amiable local guide; hike tranquil Palmaria Island and through colorful villages around the Bay of Poets, so called for the English Romantic poets, Byron and Shelley, who once lived here

- Attend an **evening concert**, featuring stirring arias by **Giacomo Puccini** (a native of Lucca) and other Italian composers

- Visit **historic Renaissance villas** in the countryside, still owned by the original noble families

- Board a rugged **Land Rover and ascend into the stunning marble quarries** high above Carrara

- **Cruise by bike** around Lucca’s wide Renaissance walls and join in with locals on the daily evening **passeggiata** (walk)

- **Travel worry-free** with a dedicated Tour Director and enjoy in-depth experiences with **inspired local guides**

To reserve your place, please visit www.beyonddoorwaystravel.com or call 505.992.1981
**ITINERARY**

Key: B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner

**DAYS 1 and 2**
**DEPART U.S. / LUCCA, ITALY**
Depart on an overnight flight from your home to Pisa, Italy. Arrive at the Pisa airport (PSA) and meet the Tour Director and fellow travelers for the 1/2 hour transfer to Lucca. Rest and refresh this afternoon after a long flight. Or meet for a leisurely walk around Lucca’s walls to acquaint yourself with this small city. This evening, we kick off our journey with sparkling prosecco and a welcome dinner. **San Luca Palace Hotel** (reception, D)

Today’s Activity Level: optional 2.5-mile walk around walls, flat, easy pace, 1+ hour

**DAY 3**
**LUCCA**
Today, we discover Lucca both on foot and by bicycle. On a walking tour with a local guide, we pass through Lucca’s charming neighborhoods, lively pedestrian shopping avenue Via Filungo, and take in the intimate parish churches and the grand Duomo di San Martino. We hop on bicycles for a ride atop the walls and - weather permitting – an optional ride outside the city. Lunch is on own. This evening, attend a 1-hour concert featuring arias by Lucca’s own Giacomo Puccini. Enjoy dinner at a lovely restaurant in Lucca. **San Luca Palace Hotel** (B,D)

Today’s Activity Level: 1/2 hour ride around the walls, paved and flat; then, optional 2-3 hour bike ride, moderate, generally flat with both paved and gravel sections. Short uphill section at start.

**DAY 4**
**LUCCA / LUCCHESI HILLS**
If you wish, start the morning on your own with a walk along the walls, or grab your camera to photograph Lucca as the day begins. Mid-morning, we take a short ride in our private minibus into the hills outside the city to visit two of the area’s historic Renaissance villas, still owned by the original noble families. Later, we stop in at a family-owned winery for lunch and tasting of the lovingly crafted, small-batch wines that result from the rich sea and mountain-fed soil of this region. Return to the hotel in late afternoon. At your leisure, enjoy the traditional evening **passeggiata** (walk) along Lucca’s lively Via Filungo. Dinner is on own. **San Luca Palace Hotel** (B,L)

**DAY 5**
**PALMORIA ISLAND / PORTOVENERE**
Rise early for departure from Tuscany and our drive into the province of Liguria. The Ligurian coastline, also known as the Italian Riviera, is dotted with colorful fishing villages cascading down to the rocky shoreline. Travel to some of the lesser-known spots today. Embark on a 3-hour hike, with an amiable local guide, around Palmoria Island, home to only 30 inhabitants. From the island, look out over views on the Bay of Poets, so called for the English romantic poets, Byron and Shelley, who once lived here. Enjoy lunch together along the water’s edge before visiting the picturesque village of Portovenere and its cathedral hanging on a precipice at the edge of the Bay. Return to Lucca, where we have a light dinner together. **San Luca Palace Hotel** (B,L,D)

Today’s Activity Level: 3-hour hike, moderate; initial steep uphill section then relatively flat, mild downhill near end

**DAY 6**
**LUCCA / CARRARA**
Enjoy a morning at leisure. This afternoon, we head to Carrara, where we board rugged Land Rovers to travel upward into the stunningly white marble quarries. This other-worldly and rare experience takes us high into the mines, where we watch the miners at work as they man the heavy equipment that cuts and transports massive blocks of marble to the market each day. Later, we have dinner at a popular trattoria in Lucca. **San Luca Palace Hotel** (B,D)

**DAY 7**
**LERICI / TELLARO**
Venture back to Liguria and the Bay of Poets today as we hike from the colorful beach town of Lerici, into the terraced hillsides and quiet villages around the Bay. Return to Lucca in late afternoon and enjoy a casual dinner together. **San Luca Palace Hotel** (B,L,D)

Today’s Activity Level: 3-4 hour hike, moderate; several uphill sections; paved and dirt path sections; steep, uneven downhill for final 1/2 hour.
DAY 8
LUCCA
Spend the last day in Lucca meandering on your own, or join us for an optional 1/2 day excursion outside the city. This evening, share memories and highlights over our farewell dinner. San Luca Palace Hotel (B,D)

DAY 9
Depart for the Pisa airport (PSA) for return home. (B)

Travelers should be in good health, able to participate in - and enjoy - an active itinerary and be physically comfortable with 2-4 hours of walking/moderate hiking on several days. Cycling is recreational only and bikes are cruisers.

About our Hotel: The 4-star San Luca Palace is located in the heart of the walled city of Lucca in a restored 16th-century palazzo. The 26-room boutique property offers spacious accommodations with independent air-conditioning and heating systems, complimentary WiFi, minbar, safe, and LCD TV with satellite channels. The hotel's Puccini bar and outdoor patio provide pleasant places for afternoon tea or evening cocktails. A generous breakfast buffet is offered each morning including pastries, juices, cheeses, eggs, bacon, coffee and more. Most important, the management and staff at the San Luca Palace are local, gracious and welcoming.

Note: Itinerary subject to change.

DETAILS
$ 4,250 per person  SPECIAL SAVINGS! Book by May 15, 2015 for $3,995
$ 750 single supplement  a $255 discount off the regular per person rate!

Our groups are no more than 10 travelers for a highly personal travel experience.
Single accommodations are limited. Please email or call for availability before booking a single.

Includes accommodations as indicated in the itinerary; all meals as indicated in the itinerary (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner), including wine with lunches and dinners; one group airport transfer on both arrival and departure days; services of tour director throughout the tour; welcome reception; ground transportation during the tour; services of licensed guides; baggage handling while on tour; gratuities to guides, waiters, porters, hotel staff; tickets and entries to all events/venues indicated in the itinerary.

Does not include domestic or international airfare and related fees; trip, baggage, accident, cancellation or evacuation insurance; alcoholic beverages and meals other than those listed above; passport or visa expenses; medical expenses and immunizations; personal expenses such as room service, laundry, telephone calls; and any other items not specifically listed as included.

We recommend protecting yourself with travel insurance. Please visit our website for more details.

Deposit: $695 per person, upon booking  Balance Due: 90 days before trip departure

To reserve your place, please visit www.beyonddoorwaystravel.com or call 505.992.1981

Beyond Doorways Travel, LLC is a Verified Travel Consultant, Airlines Reporting Corporation (ARC)
1862 Camino de la Cruz Blanca  Santa Fe  New Mexico  87505  505.992.1981  www.beyonddoorwaystravel.com