

Tuscany Updates

April 9, 2022

Gratuities

In the tour booklet, we said that you needed to tip the driver and tour manager. You do not need to tip them. We include those gratuities.

Masks

Even if the USA drops the requirement to wear a mask aboard the airplane on April 18, Italy currently requires a mask in most indoor situations. Their rule says an “FFP2” mask, essentially the same as N95. On the day of departure, we will provide* one N95 mask to each traveler. If you think you will need a fresh one, you will need to buy extras.

Tests

Assuming the USA still requires a negative test to re-enter, on the day before our return, we will provide* each traveler an Antigen test around breakfast time (before heading out on the Rome sightseeing). If anyone tests “positive,” then it is recommended that you purchase a PCR test to see if its result is also positive. PCR is more accurate than Antigen. The local nurse we are hiring to administer the tests, our tour staff, or the hotel will help find a nearby PCR test option. If still positive, the tour staff will let me know so I can alert the travel insurance company to the likelihood of a claim being necessary for quarantine and help with getting an Italian doctor to fill out the claim form. The claim will be for extra airfare, hotel, and meals.

Boosters

As of April, under *Where Do You Come From* and *Validity of Certificates*, the Italian website** says, “The certification of vaccination is valid for nine months after completion of the vaccination cycle or administration of the booster dose.” So, nine months before flight arrival, April 23, 2022, is July 23, 2021. If yours was before that, let us know. You may be able to revalidate your vaccination certificate by taking a test two days before arrival or getting a booster.

Florence

We remind you that you can join the guided sightseeing tour even if you did not request an admission ticket to see the statue of David. A shared group-wide cost of \$200 (for the whole tour, not per person) will cost from \$10 to \$33 per person, depending on the number who go. You do not need to pre-book this tour, but it would be helpful to tell Anna that you plan to go to Florence with the group on April 29. The guide’s tip is included. If you do not go to Florence, you will have a free day in Montecatini, to go to the spa, take the funicular up to Montecatini Alto (7 euros, round trip), shop, etc.

*At no charge to you. **<https://www.italia.it/en/covid19>

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TRAVEL