

Wonderful RETREATS

Lucca Retreat

MAY 15 - 21, 2023

7 DAYS, 6 NIGHTS IN LOVELY APARTMENTS IN THE HISTORIC CENTER OF LUCCA, ITALY



Are you ready to discover the hidden gem of Tuscany? Lucca is often a day trip destination of folks staying in Florence but we get to call this charming town home for a whole week! There's so much hiding inside these city walls. The main feature of Lucca is its intact surrounding medieval walls. This rampart wall encircles the main historic center and is now a popular spot for bike riding, picnics or an evening *passaggiata*. Inside the walls you'll find 8 prominent churches, museums, the Anfiteatro, the birthplace of Puccini and even a tower with oak trees on top.

Right along the train route between the coast and Florence, Lucca is easy to get to even though it may seem off the beaten path. These bustling cobblestone streets are filled with bikes, food, shopping and more! Being able to walk right out of our apartment building and be in the center of lively Lucca is hard to resist. With antique shops, tree lined walls, picturesque streets and idyllic Tuscan charm, Lucca is the perfect inspiration for a week of exploring and creating.



CORTE DEL GALLO: Our two apartments are housed in a lovely historic building that dates back 7 centuries, right off the centrally located courtyard, Corte del Gallo. While it has the old world charms you expect of Tuscany, it has plenty of bright natural light and modern conveniences (an elevator, for one). You'll be close to everything while being protected from the city noise.

Just how close to everything? Exit our building and you'll be a 1-5 minute walk from small grocers, bakeries and cafes, the main Cathedral San Michele, over a dozen restaurants, excellent shopping, bike rentals and more! Locals commute across town on bikes as most of the streets are closed to outside car traffic. You'll have the convenience of a larger city to explore with a quiet apartment to escape to at the end of the day for a glass of wine with your new friends.



RETREAT COST:

- **\$2875 - Double Occupancy (cost per guest in a shared room)**
- **\$3175 - Single Occupancy**

INCLUDED:

- Lodging for 6 Nights in Lucca Historic Center in One of Our Two Apartments
- All Breakfasts
- Welcome Cocktails and Aperitivo Dinner
- 2 Group Dinners in Lucca
- Transportation for Day Trips
- Entry into the Orto Botanico, Guinigi Tower and Leaning Tower of Pisa
- 2 Day Trips: Barga and Pisa
- 1 Wine Tastings and 1 Cooking Class
- All Art Instruction
- A Handmade Art Journal, Tote Bag and Additional Surprises!

Early Bird Discounts and payments plans are available



ITINERARY*

DAY 1: Afternoon transfer from Train Station | Check in at apartments | Evening aperitivo feast and group stroll around the city...gelato, anyone?

DAY 2: Orientation and breakfast at apartments | Walking tour of town | Lunch and afternoon sketching around town or along walls | Group dinner in town

DAY 3: Day trip north of Lucca to Ponte della Maddalena and Barga for lunch | Afternoon Botanic Garden visit for sketching | Dinner in Lucca

DAY 4: Morning climb up the Guinigi Tower | Afternoon cooking class in the countryside outside Lucca

DAY 5: Pisa day trip via train | Climb Leaning Tower before lunch in Pisa | Return to Lucca for dinner

DAY 6: Morning exploration of the Antique Festival in Lucca | Afternoon wine tasting in the hills above Lucca | Group dinner in town

DAY 7: Check out of apartment | Transfer provided to train station if needed

**Itinerary is subject to change -- this is Italy after all*



NOT INCLUDED IN EITHER RETREAT:

Airfare is not included. We are happy to provide assistance recommending travel itineraries and will provide detailed train travel instructions to arrive at the retreats, as well. Travel from the airport to the destination city is also not included but we can help arrange for a private transfer if needed.

All art materials (brushes, watercolors, paper, etc) are not provided but we are happy to ship you our recommended travel sketching and watercolor supply kit along with your included sketchbook for a fee.

OTHER DETAILS:

Deposit: To hold your spot in the trip, a non-refundable deposit of **\$300** must be paid. If you need to cancel your retreat, your deposit can be transferred towards a future retreat. Please make checks payable to Wonderful Retreats. If you would like to use a credit card there is a 3.5% processing fee. Zelle is our preferred method of payment as it avoids processing fees.

Early Bird Discounts: Discount will apply to the remaining retreat fee after a \$300 deposit is received. Deposit must be paid before the end of the timeframe to receive that discount and bonuses.

- **Reservations made between October 1 - October 15, 2022** will receive a **\$275 discount**, and an original 8x10 sunflower watercolor painting
- **Reservations made between October 16 - November 15, 2022** will receive a **\$175 discount**, and original 8x10 sunflower watercolor painting
- **Reservations made between November 16 - December 15, 2022** will receive a **\$100 discount**.
- Bookings for **both consecutive weeks** will receive a **\$750 discount**, pending availability

Returning Guest Discounts: All returning guests that have attended a retreat hosted by Chelsea from 2016 onward will receive a **\$300 discount** until April 30, 2023. This is not in addition to an Early Bird Discount.

Shared Bed Discount: In the event we are out of double rooms but you and a friend, spouse, partner or family member wish to attend a retreat and are willing to share a Queen bed, both participants will receive an additional **\$100 discount**.

Payment Plans: The payment for the remainder of the trip can be scheduled in as many increments as needed, but is due in total by no later than 1 month before your retreat. For example, Lucca Single Rooms reserved between October 1-15, 2022, after the \$275 discount and \$300 deposit will be 6 payments of \$383.33 per month. Arrangements to suit your needs can be discussed.

Limited Space: 4-6 guests during our Lucca Retreat and 4 guests during our Villa Retreat.

Art Instruction: We will be instructing sketching and watercolor. All skill levels are welcome and can be accommodated. ***Participation is encouraged but completely optional.***

Travel Insurance: It is highly advised that you obtain private travel insurance if you have any concerns about canceling, as all fees and deposits are nonrefundable.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY AT [WANDERFULRETREATS.COM!](https://www.wonderfulretreats.com)



TESTIMONIALS:

“I had a fabulous time. Lucca was exactly what I needed... an escape. Chelsea was a fabulous host. We ate great food, drank wonderful wine and laughed our way through the week.

- T, Lucca Summer 2022

“Finally got to do BOTH retreats this past June. Wish I could say which of the two I like best, but they are both truly wonderful!! The villa out in the countryside is absolutely gorgeous and all the activities in that area were fantastic. The apartments in the center of Lucca are amazing and perfectly located, and once again, the activities for that week were fabulous.

Chelsea has thought of everything and yet is very flexible in terms of any changes her guests would like to make or anything a guest might need along the way. You can do as much or as little art as you would like and it's not remotely intimidating. The customized, handmade sketchbooks given to each guest are beautiful and a terrific way to journal the experience through art, with as much or as little assistance from Chelsea as you would like. The food everywhere we went was delicious, including all the meals that Chelsea prepared for us! Do yourself a favor and book for next year before she is sold out!”

- KC, Villa & Lucca Summer 2022

HAVE QUESTIONS?

EMAIL: wonderfulretreats@gmail.com CALL: (805) 403-1633

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Travel wonderfully!