

It was the Italians who perfected 'Il dolce far niente' – the sweet art of idleness – in Liguria. Portovenere, Portofino, and Le Cinque Terre glisten like pearls on a string, beckoning visitors with their allure. Liguria's terrain invites walking, affording stunning views of the sea and villages dotting the coast of the 'Golfo dei Poeti', as the bay is named for the famous poets who were inspired by the region. You'll see romantic Portofino, elegant Santa Margherita, and picturesque Portovenere, with its colorful houses dating from the 12th century. And, of course, you will amble through the dramatic coastal scenery of Le Cinque Terre. Every step promises the most lovely settings for your leisurely walk!

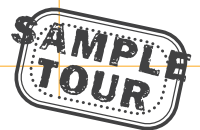
WALK WITH THE POETS

A Walking Tour through Portofino and Le Cinque Terre



OVERNIGHTS: 9-DAY ITINERARY

Santa Margherita Ligure – 3 nights
Portovenere – 4 nights



Day 01

Depart for Italy.

Day 02

Genova
Santa Margherita Ligure

Upon arrival in Genova, you will transfer by private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach to nearby Santa Margherita Ligure for check-in at your hotel. At this evening's welcome dinner featuring typical Ligurian cuisine, you will **meet your walking guide who will remain with you throughout the entire program**. Over a relaxed dinner, you will have a chance to learn more about this week's planned walks.

Day 03

Santa Margherita Ligure
Portofino

Depart the hotel for your guided walk, which leads to the romantic and quintessential seaside town of Portofino, one of the most photographed areas of Italy. **Today's walk will pass through the hills and forests overlooking the blue Mediterranean and will afford you the opportunity for**



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PICTURE THIS



Leisurely paced-walking tour of Italy's most beautiful regions (Liguria)

Escorted by a specially licensed trekking guide

Special welcome and farewell dinners

Superior accommodations in glamorous Santa Margherita and Portovenere

Visit romantic Portofino and breathtaking Cinque Terre



RECOMMENDED TIPS

WHO SHOULD YOU TARGET:

Appropriate for most age groups, pace is flexible, Best for upscale groups of couples, families, trekking groups

BEST TIME TO TRAVEL:

April through October

Day 04

Santa Margherita
Portofino
San Fruttuoso
Camogli
Santa Marherita

stunning panoramic views of this paradise. An optional afternoon walk is planned to the Church of Saint George, perched high above the village.

Depart by private motorcoach to nearby Portofino where you will enjoy a **delightful guided walk through the National Park of Portofino, filled with Mediterranean pine trees.** Then you are on to the isolated village of San Fruttuoso where you will have a chance to visit the famous Benedictine Abbey of San Fruttuoso, dating back to the 10th century. There, you may enjoy a swim in the secluded inlet or just relax in the sun. Next, board a private boat and enjoy a brief ride to Chamomile, a charming and characteristic fishing village. Here you will walk through ramshackle streets, flanked by tall, narrow houses, painted in brilliant hues of yellow, pink, and red.

Day 05

Santa Margherita Ligure
Portovenere

After a relaxed morning, we drive to Portovenere, which overlooks the breathtaking Bay of Poets and is aptly named for the literary luminaries who were inspired by its natural beauty. Portovenere offers spectacular views of both the sea and the mountains. **This afternoon's walk will lead to the Church of San Pietro**, a 13th century Gothic building with a stunning black and white striped façade, which has been a visible landmark for sailors at sea.

Day 06

Portovenere
Le Cinque Terre
Portovenere

After a filling breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a leisurely boat trip along the coast of the Cinque Terre and eventually disembark in Monterosso al Mare, the first of the five tiny fishing village which comprise the Cinque Terre. As no automobiles are permitted in these villages, they are simply linked by train, boat, or a seaside footpath. Your walking guide **will lead you along this breathtaking path, overlooking the shimmering blue sea and flanked by spectacular terracing vineyards.** During this walk, you will stop at each of the villages so that you may explore the sights. Today's walk is highlighted by the 'Via del Amore' (the Road of Love) which connects Manarola to the Riomaggiore, the last of the five villages.

Day 07

Extension of Day 06

As the walk planned for day six consists of approximately seven miles over moderate to slightly 'challenging' terrain and will take a good eight hours, you may want to consider dividing the Cinque Terre portion of this itinerary into two separate days.

Day 08

Portovenere

Considering that you have walked many a mile during the past few days, your last day in this enchanting and romantic paradise should be left at your leisure. **This evening, enjoy a special farewell dinner arranged at one of the area's best seafood restaurants.**

Day 09

Depart for USA.