

Self-Guided Walking in Cinque Terre

Trip Code: SGCT

Version:



WALK & TREK



SELF-GUIDED



LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Stay in Corniglia in the heart of the UNESCO villages
- Enjoy the villages from a new perspective on a boat trip to Monterosso
- Walk on the famous Cinque Terre coastal path and swim in the clear blue waters
- Explore Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore

AT A GLANCE

- Self-Guided
- 5 days walking & sightseeing
- Centre-based
- Daily departures available
- Join at Corniglia

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

Picture-perfect villages, fantastic food, crystal-clear seas and bustling harbours - the Cinque Terre really does have it all! Situated in the north-west of Italy, the five UNESCO villages of the Cinque Terre are nestled on the Ligurian Coast, sandwiched between the blue waters of the Ligurian Sea and the magnificent Apuan Alps. Staying in the pretty village of Corniglia right at the centre of the five villages - Vernazza, Monterosso, Corniglia, Manarola, and Riomaggiore - you will have the ultimate base for exploring the 'Five Earths', or 'Cinque Terre'. Utilising the trains and coastal paths which link these colourful villages you will feel like a local in no time. You will even have opportunity to enjoy a boat journey from Portovenere to Monterosso to see the villages from the sea for a different perspective - and from their most photographed angle.

Is this holiday for you?

This holiday is perfect for you if you love to explore on foot at your own pace. Specially designed for those wanting an active holiday balanced with flexibility, relaxation time, home comforts and fantastic food, this 7-day self-guided walking holiday includes a self-catering apartment allowing you to dine out on the many delicious Ligurian delicacies, or alternatively try your hand at making them yourself in your fully-equipped kitchen. The walks take you along famous coastal paths that provide a stunning backdrop for those with a head for heights. With walks of 3-4 hours in duration and average ascents of 400m on well-marked paths, this trip provides the perfect opportunity to explore the villages or take time to relax on the beach with a good book as well.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Self-guided information pack containing your map and route notes
- On-site welcome and assistance
- All train transfers for the hiking days included in the program
- Navigation App and GPX tracks available

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to and from Corniglia
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tourist taxes may apply and are usually around 1 Euro per person per night
- Meals
- Additional trains outside those listed in the program
- Local buses
- Cinque Terre National Park fees
- Boat ride from Portovenere to Monterosso
- Personal equipment
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

Important Notice

The five villages of the Cinque Terre are famed for their colourful cliffside buildings and the airy coastal paths that connect them. These fantastic balcony paths certainly are a highlight for those visiting the region. Due to their wild coastal nature, they are regularly monitored by the local park authority and may be closed for safety reasons or maintenance during/following wet weather and/or during exceptionally busy periods, to ensure that you remain safe and enjoy your time in this magnificent region.

We provide you with a selection of alternative routes should the paths be closed during your holiday, and it is always possible to opt to use the coastal train as an alternative way to experience the villages. For the most up-to-date information about the coastal paths please visit www.parconazionale5terre.it/Esentieri-outdoor.php.

Your Self-Guided Pack & Route Notes

Each self-guided holiday comes with comprehensive route notes and a map or pocket guidebook of the area you are exploring. The route notes contain information about the places you will visit and the local transport you might need, along with the detailed route notes for your daily walks or cycle rides. We even include some tips for the best places to stop for lunch.

You can expect to receive your Self-Guided Pack containing your route notes, a map or guidebook, and all your relevant documents, no later than 3 weeks before your holiday start-date. We will send your documents using a signed-for courier so that you can track your package and know that it is safely on its way to you. For bookings of more than 4 people we will send an additional Self-Guided Pack. If you do not need this additional pack please inform our Sales Team. Your pack will be sent to the lead booker, so please remind them to pack it before setting off.

Should your self-guided trip be part of a longer adventure requiring you to leave home more than three weeks before your holiday start-date, please inform our Sales Team so that we can make alternative delivery arrangements.

Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for most of our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, so please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking holiday for your family, a centre based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a days walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool or visiting museums is calling instead.

Please discuss this further with our sales team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

This trip starts and ends at your apartment in Corniglia. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis, allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. The nearest airport for this trip is Pisa Airport, with many departures from UK regional airports.

The rail network in this part of Italy is extremely good, and if you are flying into Pisa the train is the best way to get to your apartment. From Pisa airport you can take the regular shuttle to Pisa Centrale train station. The journey takes approximately 5-10 minutes. The train journey from Pisa Centrale to Corniglia takes approximately 1.5-2 hours, with one change at La Spezia Centrale. The train service is regular and tickets can be booked in advance at www.lefrecce.it. Corniglia town is located around 1km above Corniglia station. A shuttle runs every day until 8pm and can sometimes be very busy (cost: €1.50 per person per ride). After 8pm, or if the shuttle is full, you will need to walk to your accommodation with your luggage either for around 1km along the road, or up many steps - we do not recommend hard cases with wheels for this reason and suggest bringing something you can carry more easily if required. A hybrid wheel-able soft duffle bag with backpack straps would be ideal.

Food & Water

Water from the taps is perfectly drinkable on this holiday - please use this to fill your personal bottles for your daily activities. We do not encourage the purchase of single-use plastic bottles.

Part of the experience of any visit to Italy is the opportunity to taste the wonderful cuisine. Liguria is known for its simple flavours especially the world famous Pesto alla Genovese! The surrounding hills are dotted with pine trees which provide the all-important pine nuts used in Ligurian dishes. The region is known for its hearty and rustic country flavours with the warm Mediterranean air creating excellent conditions for olives, grapes, corn, herbs, garlic, potatoes, onions and artichokes. Seafood in the region is a highlight with many restaurants serving the days fresh catch, not to mention the delicious cones of fresh calamari which are served as a fast food snack in the villages. Yummy!

As in the whole of Italy, pasta is a constitution and pesto is on most menus, often served with fidelini a local pasta cut, long and thin or trenette a flat, thin pasta similar to linguine. Gnocchi also plentiful and is delicious. No meal in Italy is complete without a pleasant wine to wash it down and Italian wine is excellent! Italy is also famous for its aperitifs, from chilled prosecco to Campari, Vermouth and Cinzano all served over ice. Don't forget the zesty local Limoncello produced in the region which is particularly delicious over ice cream!

Accommodation

We have designed this trip on a self-catering basis to give you the opportunity to enjoy the many welcoming cafes and restaurants in Corniglia and along your walks. You will stay in a simple apartment in the heart of the characterful hilltop village of Corniglia. The apartments are situated in a converted town house and the owners, local wine producers from the village, look forward to welcoming you to your apartment and providing you with top tips for your stay.

Basing yourself in the middle of the five villages allows you to easily access the paths and villages and to truly submerge yourself in the Ligurian way of life. The apartments are equipped with all you need for a week's holiday, including WiFi for sharing those all-important holiday snaps with your friends and family at home. We can offer you three types of apartment, subject to availability, to suit your group size and requirements:

- A studio apartment perfect for individuals and couples.
- A studio Duplex apartment consisting of one separate bedroom and a living/kitchen area with a sofa bed, perfect for families or for up to 3 adults.
- We can arrange two studio apartments on the same floor for families of 4, or for a group of 4 adults travelling together.

Park Fees & Permits

Since 2001 the Cinque Terre National Park has charged walkers to use the paths in order to continue their maintenance and conservation. The pass known as the 'Cinque Terre Card' costs €7.50 for an adult ticket per day (€15 in peak season) and can be purchased at the Cinque Terre National Park's welcome centres. Alternatively you can purchase it online before you travel from <https://card.parconazionale5terre.it/>. As a guide, the current standard and peak season dates can be found here: <https://www.cinqueterre.eu.com/en/cinque-terre-card#cinque-terre-trekking-card-prices>.

The card states the user's full name and may be asked to be seen by an inspector along with your proof of identity.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Soft luggage with wheels AND backpack straps is useful for this holiday. If arriving by train please note that Corniglia town, where you are staying, is located around 1km above Corniglia station. A shuttle runs every day until 8pm and can sometimes be very busy (cost: €1.50 per person per ride). After 8pm, or if the shuttle is full, you will need to walk to your accommodation with your luggage either for around 1km along the road, or up many steps - we do not recommend hard cases with wheels for this reason and suggest bringing something you can carry more easily if required. A hybrid wheel-able soft duffel bag with backpack straps would be ideal.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

Severe Allergies

Please inform our KE Sales and support team of any severe allergies you may have before travel. We will always do our best to help but we are unable to guarantee an allergy free environment on our KE trips. We advise that you always carry your own treatment for the allergy with you such as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' if required. We also recommend that you discuss this with your accommodation on arrival so that they can better assist you.

Preparing for your Holiday

The advantage of a self-guided walking holiday is that you decide the pace however getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable your walks will be. The walks take you along the famous coastal paths which provide a stunning backdrop for those with a head for heights. You should be comfortable with walking 3 to 4 hours for consecutive days with some steep stepped ascents. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of daily walks in hilly countryside before your trip and its always a good idea to spend some time walking in the footwear you are going to use on this holiday.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- Liguria - Brandt Travel Guide
- Last Train to Liguria - Christine Dwyer Hickey
- 3 Day Guide to Cinque Terre - 3 Day Guides
- Extra Virgin Amongst the Olive Groves of Liguria - Annie Hawes

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

- Hiking boots with good grip soles
- Functional base layer
- T-shirts
- Hat
- Windproof jacket
- Fleece / extra layer
- Long/short hiking trousers
- Hiking socks
- Waterproof Jacket
- Waterproof Trousers
- Rucksack (approx. 20 l)
- Small first aid kit for your rucksack
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Camera (batteries/memory card)
- Mobile Phone
- Sun glasses
- Personal wash kit
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Walking poles
- Ear Plugs

Cotswold Outdoor

Many of the equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

Land Only Information

Please note our 'from price' listed is based on 4 persons in two studio apartments, however we can quote for any number of travellers, including solo travellers, contact our sales team for a quote.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this holiday part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights accommodation before or after your self-guided trip, ask our sales team to find out more about this.

Our sales team will be happy to provide you a quote for scheduled flights or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

We offer some transfers to your hotel from the nearest airports, please refer to the 'joining arrangements and transfers' for further details for this trip.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Experience this fantastic UNESCO World Heritage Site with complete flexibility. This centre-based holiday includes a self-catering apartment so that you can enjoy dining out and experience the fantastic food this region has to offer. Based in the heart of the villages allows you to choose how to explore, either on foot or taking the train between the five beautiful villages.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 21/11/2024 and the trip is subject to change