



Southern Tuscany

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Best Places to Eat

- Grantosco (p247)
- Il Pellicano (p250)
- Il Tufo Allegro (p244)
- La Tana del Brillo Parlante (p240)

Best Places to Stay

- La Fattoria di Tatti (p237)
- Le Camere del Ceccottino (p243)
- Montebelli Agriturismo & Country Hotel (p241)
- Pieve di Caminino (p241)

Why Go?

Diversity reigns supreme in southern Tuscany. Here, it's possible to travel from sandy beaches to snow-capped mountains in the space of a few hours, passing marshy coastal plains teeming with wildlife, vine-covered slopes and dramatically sited hill towns along the way. Matched to these landscapes are activities of every description – visitors can swim, walk, horse ride, mountain-bike ride and bird-watch to their hearts' content, spending days in the fresh air and nights relaxing in atmospheric *agriturismi* (accommodation on working farms or wine estates).

But there's more to the region than the great outdoors. Locals are fiercely proud of the ancient customs of the Maremma, as the region is commonly called, and history resonates in every town. There's a wealth of Etruscan archaeological sites and medieval and Renaissance settlements with historic streets, churches and museums that are sure to keep you busy.

Road Distances

Massa Marittima	38			
Grosseto	52	48		
Pitigliano	129	120	75	
Parco Regionale della Maremma	28	67	20	56
Vetulonia				
Massa Marittima				
Grosseto				
Pitigliano				

Getting Around

You'll need a car to explore this pocket of Tuscany thoroughly – veer off the S1 autostrada and explore secondary roads whenever possible. Train travel won't get you far – the *Freciabianna* stops in Grosseto on its Rome–Genoa trip and *regionale* (slow regional) trains servicing that route also stop in Orbatello-Monte Argentario, but the only other rail link is between Siena and Grosseto. Bus travel is worse, with limited routes and infrequent services.

THREE PERFECT DAYS

Day 1: Città del Tufo

Though the Etruscans have left their mark on towns, cities and landscapes throughout this region, the southeast corner is a particularly rich repository of their heritage. Make your way to picturesque Pitigliano, where you should have lunch, and then explore the neighbouring settlements of Sorano and Sovana to see Etruscan necropolises, visit archaeological museums and explore a network of mysterious *vie cave* (sunken roads). If there's any time left in your day, consider a brief stop at the Società Agricola Terenzi to sample its award-winning Morellino di Scansano.

Day 2: Parco Regionale della Maremma

Head to this regional park to walk, bicycle, canoe or horse-ride through the wild natural scenery. While here, enjoy a farm experience at Agenzia Regionale Agricola di Alberese, where the famous *butteri* (Maremmese cowboys) ride the range. At the end of the day, consider visiting the quirky Giardino dei Tarocchi, a sculpture garden near Capalbio.

Day 3: Massa Marittima

Not many tourists make it to this medieval hill town crowning the Colline Metallifere (metal-producing hills) at the top end of the region, but that's their loss. Spend the morning wandering the narrow streets and hand-some piazzas of the historic centre (be sure to visit the *duomo*) before moving on to explore the geologically fascinating sites around Monterotondo Marittimo, or the Etruscan-era settlement at Vetulonia.

DON'T MISS

Don't miss this region's famed Etruscan sights, the most impressive of which are the Museo Civico Archeologico 'Isidoro Falchi' and Scavi di Città, both in Vetulonia, the Parco Archeologico 'Città del Tufo' near Sovana and the Archaeological Site at Roselle, near Grosseto.

Best Walks

- ➔ **Pitigliano to Sovana** (p242) Incorporating sections of *vie cave*.
- ➔ **Le Biancane, Monterotondo Marittimo** (p240) Through a strange geothermal landscape.
- ➔ **Parco Regionale della Maremma** (p248) Explore beaches, wetlands, forests and a ruined 12th-century tower.

Best Festivals

- ➔ Torciata di San Giuseppe (p242), Pitigliano
- ➔ Balestro del Girifalco (p236), Massa Marittima

Resources

- ➔ **Maremma Tourism** (www.turismoimaremma.it)
- ➔ **Parco degli Etruschi** (www.parcodelglietruschi.it)

Advance Planning

- ➔ For summer travel, reserve accommodation near the coast well in advance.
- ➔ Book ahead for boat or bike tours of the Riserva Naturale Provinciale Diaccia Botrona, farm experiences at the Agenzia Regionale Agricola di Alberese or tours in the Parco Regionale della Maremma.