

# Discover Lucca..

**Because Lucca is one of Italy's best keep secrets.** A tidy, picturesque medieval city, rich in history and charm, Lucca is encircled by four kilometers of thick Renaissance walls. Built to protect the tiny trading town (once known for its production of silk) from rivaling neighbors, the famed ramparts are topped by a double row of shade trees that form an elegant promenade around the city center. The walls are still massive and intact, but instead of for defense, the Lucchesi use them for riding bicycles, walking dogs, sunning, strolling, or just admiring the view. Within Lucca's walls, streets and alleyways wind through a maze of churches and palaces with



soft pastel facades that open here and there onto piazzas and wide boulevards lined with art nouveau shop fronts. Along the way are many reminders of the city's long history and

Roman origins. Lucca is one of those unique cities that offer visitors a chance to explore two thousand years of history simply by wandering its streets and sitting out for cappuccino and gelato in one of its squares.



**Because Lucca is a bit off the beaten tourist track.**

Quieter than Florence, Lucca is a graceful blend of old and new; people live in Lucca as they have lived for centuries, and medieval palazzi stand side by side with more modern family-run shops.

**Because Lucca is one of those rare places that seems to have it all.** Home to Puccini, with a rich tradition of music and theater, Lucca also has a reputation for excellent restaurants, both within the city and in the nearby hills, where the view is savored with the cuisine. Italy is a mecca for shoppers, and Lucca has its share of antiques and fancy international shops. But if it's a bargain you're after, Lucca is conveniently located near some of Italy's best shopping outlets. No wonder those who know about Lucca prefer to keep it a secret and to keep one of Italy's most beautiful cities to themselves.





**Because Lucca is perfectly situated for exploring Tuscany.** Located between Florence and Pisa and just twenty miles from the seacoast and the chic beaches of Viareggio and Forte dei Marmi, Lucca also serves as a base for exploring the hill towns of San Gimignano and Volterra, or the quarries of Carrara, known for the pure white marble used by Michelangelo. To

the north are the mountains of the wild Garfagnana, dotted with beautiful stone villages; and the spectacular Cinqueterre. Each area is criss-crossed with trails for hiking in breathtaking natural beauty. Frequent bus and train service links Lucca with Florence and other favorite sightseeing centers. Florence is 1 hour east, and it's an hour further to Siena. Montecatini Terme, Italy's premier spa, is 30 minutes by train. Pisa is 30 min. southwest.



**Because some the finest villas and gardens in Tuscany, tucked like jewels among the hills surrounding Lucca, are open to visitors.** Doorways also has a selection of elegant villas and charming farm houses near Lucca, set in a panoramic backdrop of pastoral valleys and red-roofed villages.



**Doorways, Ltd.**

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