

# In the Path of the Etruscans ITALY

WITH DR. STEVEN TUCK



**FAR  
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL TRIPS

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# ITALY: IN THE PATH OF THE ETRUSCANS

with Dr. Steven Tuck



## Etruscan Museums of the Vatican and Rome, Orvieto and Cortona Hill Towns, Volterra's Etruscan Museum, and Florence

If you're interested in a history tour of Italy, you must begin with the Etruscans. Discover the depths of Italy's fascinating past through our immersive archaeology tour of Italy: In the Path of the Etruscans. This journey provides an intriguing glimpse into the ancient civilization of Etruria, which flourished from the 7th to the 3rd centuries BC and spread across what we now know as Tuscany and Umbria.

These early architects of history significantly shaped Rome's artistic and ritual practices; Etruscan kings even ruled Rome for a time. Engage in an enlightening historical trip to Italy, where we explore the vibrant culture of the Etruscans, a society heavily intertwined with the Greeks and Romans yet distinct in its striking contrasts. Their expansive trade networks, impressive, fortified cities, and exquisite artistry are a testament to a civilization that peaked during the 6th century BC, before their eventual conquest by the Romans in 264 BC. What's more, you'll get to explore this fascinating world in the company of a leading scholar of Etruscan history.

Begin in Rome, where we'll explore the National Etruscan Museum and the Gregorian Etruscan Museum nestled within the treasure trove that is the Vatican City Museums. From there, we journey north to two rarely visited UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Cerveteri, possessing the largest necropolis in the ancient Mediterranean, and Tarquinia, which boasts beautifully decorated and painted tombs.

Meander through the captivating town of Orvieto, perched dramatically atop an Italian hill. Descend into the historical Volumnus Hypogeum in Perugia, the tomb of a wealthy Etruscan noble family. Wander the medieval streets of Cortona and step into the Roman Amphitheater in Arezzo. Gaze at the fascinating displays in Volterra's Museo Etrusco Guarnacci and get lost in the bustling shops lining Florence's Ponte Vecchio.

Enjoy guidance from Professor Steven Tuck, renowned for his work with The Great Courses. Immerse yourself in a world that was, as you uncover the fascinating Etruscan history beneath present day Italy.



# Daily Itinerary

## Day 1

### Arrive in Rome, National Etruscan Museum

Arrive in Rome by mid-morning. After lunch on our own and some time to rest, visit the National Etruscan Museum. Housed in the Renaissance-era Villa Giulia, this museum contains the greatest Etruscan collection in all of Italy, including the famous Sarcophagus of the Spouses, an almost life-sized terracotta coffin from the late 6th century BC.

Conclude the day with a stop by the Mausoleum of Augustus, built in 28 BC. Inspired by Etruscan tomb design, it shows the influence of the Etruscans over time.

Our welcome dinner will be at an elegant local restaurant.

Overnight in the Doubletree by Hilton Rome Monti for two nights. (D)

## Day 2

### Vatican City Museums

The Gregorian Etruscan Museum is located within the Vatican City Museums. Numerous ceramics, bronzes, gold, and silver artifacts reflect the history of the Etruscans, from their origins in the 9th century BC, to the 1st century BC when the Etruscan cities were absorbed into the larger structure of the Roman state. Many of the items displayed here were found in the necropoleis (cemeteries) that we will visit during the trip, including those of Cerveteri and Chiusi.

After lunch on our own at the Vatican Museum café, we will have free time to visit the other museum collections before returning to the hotel. (B/D)

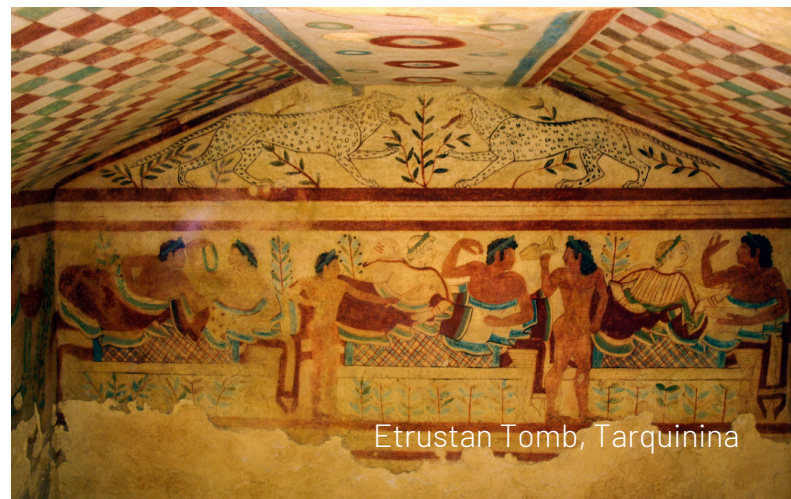
## Day 3

### Cerveteri, Tarquinia

Depart Rome and travel northwest to Cerveteri and the Necropoli della Banditaccia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Dating back to the 9th century BC, this is the largest necropolis from the ancient Mediterranean world. Commonly referred to as the 'city of the dead,' it is organized in a city-like plan. Here, streets, small squares, and neighborhoods provide archaeologists with valuable evidence as to how the Etruscans approached urban planning and residential architecture.

Move on to Tarquinia to enter the Necropoli Monterozzi, also a UNESCO World Heritage site. Over 6,000 tombs have been dug into the rock, some dating back to the 7th century BC. As we wander among the tombs, we will note that many of their interiors are adorned with stunning frescoes depicting Etruscan daily life, demonstrating the wealth and power of this all-but-vanished culture.

After visiting the site and its museum, we will transfer to Viterbo and overnight for one night at Hotel Terme dei Papi, a small boutique hotel and spa. (B/L/D)



Etruscan Tomb, Tarquinia



# Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

## Day 4

### Orvieto in Umbria

Our destination today is the delightful mountain town of Orvieto in Umbria, known as Velzna in Etruscan. It was one of the most important towns of Etruria from the 9th to 3rd century BC. In the area below Orvieto's cliff face, archaeologists and historians have discovered what they believe to be Fanum Voltumnae, the ancient sanctuary thought to be the center of Etruscan religion and worship.

If available, we will meet privately with an archaeologist working at the Campo della Fiera excavations. Continue on to the Crocifisso del Tufo necropolis, where another collection of chamber tombs is laid out in a street grid pattern. Back in the town of Orvieto, we visit both the Claudio Faina Museum and the National Archaeological Museum to view the collections of grave goods and pottery found during the excavations of the surrounding area.

We conclude the day with a stop at the Cattedrale di Santa Maria Assunta, whose façade in the Tuscan Gothic style presents an imposing rose window, glittering mosaics, and enormous bronze doors.

Overnight for one night at the Hotel Palazzo Piccolomini, an elegant boutique hotel that was once a luxurious palazzo, set in the historic district of Orvieto. (B/L/D)

Orvieto



Painted Urn

## Day 5

### Chiusi's Necropolis and National Etruscan Museum

A one-hour drive takes us to Chiusi in Tuscany. Between the 7th and 5th centuries BC, this was one of the most important towns in the Etruscan Dodecapolis, a confederation of twelve cities. Today will be spent exploring the town's ancient remains. Our first stop will be the Poggio Renzo Necropolis, where its most famous tombs are named for the depictions of their wall paintings. Chiusi's National Etruscan Museum is one of the most important repositories of artifacts in Italy, and we will visit this before our lunch in town. This afternoon, enjoy a guided tour of La Città Sotterranea, an epigraphic museum with a collection of almost 300 urns and 200 grave tiles with inscriptions.

Time permitting, we will stop at the tomb of Lars Porsenna, the Etruscan king known for his war against Rome. Here, we can also witness the vast labyrinth of tunnels that winds beneath the town and was once an Etruscan aqueduct.

Transfer in the late afternoon to Perugia and overnight for two nights in Perugia at the 5-star Brufani Palace, built in 1884. This elegant hotel has had many illustrious guests, including the Queen Mother and Prince Albert of Monaco. (B/L/D)



## Day 6

### Perugia and Umbria's Archaeology Museum

Perugia, the capital city of Umbria, was another of the twelve confederate cities of Etruria. Between the 6th and 3rd centuries BC, Perugia was enclosed by massive fortification walls that still stand today. There were originally seven gates into the city, and the six that remain contain remnants of Etruscan monumental architecture.

Our walking tour will take us to several important sites in Perugia. We will enter the Volumnus Hypogeum, the 3rd century BC underground tomb of the wealthy Volumnus family of Etruscan nobility. It has the characteristic layout of an Etruscan-Roman home with an atrium and seven rooms and is one of the most important monuments from this ancient time. Heads of Medusa, the mythological Gorgon with coiling poisonous snakes instead of hair, are displayed throughout the hypogeum. We will go into the Sorbello Well that once supplied water to the entire city. An extraordinary feat of hydraulic engineering, the Etruscans sank a shaft more than 115 feet through bedrock. The upper section was constructed of stone and roofed with the aid of two massive trusses of travertine which still protect the cistern more than 2,000 years later.

Umbria's Archaeology Museum is housed in the former Dominican convent of San Domenic. The most notable artifact of the Etruscan collection is the Cippo di Perugia, a boundary stone that contains the longest Etruscan inscription ever found. The Cathedral of Saint Lorenzo was constructed over a period of 150 years, and the exterior was never completed. The interior is late Gothic with three aisles divided by octagonal pillars over crossbow vaulting, and the Chapel of San Bernardino contains Federico Barocci's exquisite Deposition, painted in 1567-69.

Dinner is on our own. (B/L)

## Day 7

### Cortona and Palazzo Pretorio

On our drive through the beautiful Tuscan countryside, the dazzling medieval hill town of Cortona will appear high on a mountaintop. It was made famous in recent decades as the setting for Frances Mayes' novel *Under the Tuscan Sun*. The medieval walls surrounding the town's historic center contain imposing remnants of fortifications built by the Etruscans.

As we walk through the medieval streets, stop to visit the Etruscan Academy Museum, or Museo dell'Accademia Etrusca, to view fascinating finds from nearby excavations housed within the Palazzo Pretorio. Just outside of the walls of Cortona and down the slope of the hillside is the 16th century Santa Maria Nuova Church, built to house a miraculous image of the virgin, and at the foot of the hill are found beautiful Etruscan tombs and burial mounds, now incorporated into the archaeological park of Cortona.

Overnight for two nights at the Hotel San Luca. (B/L/D)



Palazzo Pretorio, Cortona



# Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

## Day 8

### Petrarch's Arezzo

Arezzo was once one of the Etruscan Dodecapolis. Our all-day walking tour will give us views of the city's most celebrated sites. Dominating the city is the Duomo or Cathedral di San Donato. We will also visit the Medici Fortress, in the form of a star with five points, and the church of Santa Maria della Pieve, with its striking façade.

After we admire the church's Romanesque exterior, our stroll along the Corso Italia takes us through the Piazza Grande. This medieval square is framed by several landmark buildings representing the rich past of Arezzo. These include medieval structures, such as the crenelated Torre Faggiolana and later monuments, notably the 16th century Loggiato Vasariano, designed by Giorgio Vasari.

Located just off Corso Italia is the Casa del Petrarca. Built in the 14th century, this is traditionally held to be Francesco Petrarca's birthplace. It is now a museum and the headquarters of the Petrarca Academy of Letters, Arts, and Sciences in Arezzo.

We will admire the Basilica di San Francesco, whose Capella Bacci showcases Piero della Francesca's fresco of the Legend of the True Cross, one of Italian art's greatest works. We will also enter the 13th-century Palazzo del Capitano del Popolo, restored in the 1960s by Ivan Bruschi, a wealthy antique dealer. Now a museum, it houses his collection, including art from Etruscan, Greek, Roman, medieval, and Renaissance periods.

The Roman Amphitheater is a skeleton of a once important entertainment center that held 13,000 attendees. The archaeological museum behind it houses an impressive collection of Etruscan and Roman ceramics and glassware.

Dinner is on our own. (B/L)

Piazza Grande, Arezzo



## Day 9

### Etruscan town of Volterra

Volterra is the very picture of a Tuscan hill town. Originally an Etruscan settlement, its fortification walls enclose the Parco Archeologico Enrico Fiumi. This park contains two Etruscan temples, as well as an intriguing 1st-century basin that the Romans built to collect rainwater and distribute it to citizens who lived in lower-lying areas.

We will also visit the Guarnacci Etruscan Museum, housing thousands of funeral urns and many unique bronze sculptures and terracotta pieces. Recent archaeological work has uncovered a large Roman theater thought to date to the 1st century AD.

After lunch, we transfer to Florence, one of the most beautiful cities in all of Italy and the heart of the Italian Renaissance. By foot, we will explore the historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, including the Ponte Vecchio and the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral (the Duomo).

Overnight for two nights at the Grand Hotel Baglioni, a charming 4-star hotel located in the heart of the historic city. (B/L/D)



## Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

### Days 10

#### National Archaeological Museum of Florence

The National Archaeological Museum of Florence is housed in the Palazzo della Crocetta. This stunning palace was built in 1620 for Princess Maria Maddalena de' Medici, sister of Cosimo II de' Medici. The Etruscan collection includes some of the most valuable and unique pieces found throughout Italy. Highlights are the Chimera of Arezzo, the bronze statue known as the Arringatore, and the famous François Vase, a Greek terracotta vessel of the 6th century BC discovered in an Etruscan tomb. Continue to the 14th century Palazzo Davanzanti, which was created by joining together several tower-houses. It represents the transition between the closed, vertical structure of the medieval tower-house and the more spacious Renaissance palazzo arranged around a central courtyard.

Lunch and the afternoon are on our own to explore the cultural and architectural gems of Florence before our farewell dinner at an elegant local restaurant. (B/D)

### Day 11

#### Depart Italy

Transfer to the airport for our early morning flights from back home. (B)

PLEASE NOTE: This is a sample itinerary that is typical of our trip offerings. In general, you can expect a very similar program, though days may be swapped depending on availability, opening hours, and other affecting factors.

### Pre and Post Trip Extensions

Far Horizons offers pre or post extensions for many of our trips. We can also arrange extra nights at the arrival and departure hotel should you wish to arrive early or depart later. Please contact us for details.

## Why Take This Tour?

**Led by award-winning  
Steven L. Tuck,  
a lecturer for  
The Great Courses**

**Four UNESCO World  
Heritage Sites:  
Rome, Cerveteri,  
Tarquinia, and Florence**

**Private tour of the  
hypogeum of Clepsina  
at Cerveteri with  
archaeologists  
(normally closed  
to the public)**

**Private tour at Volterra  
and its museum with  
archaeological staff**

**Limited to a maximum  
of 14 participants**



Ponte Vecchio, Florence





# Tour Information

## Pricing

For current pricing, please visit [farhorizons.com](http://farhorizons.com) and navigate to our trip page.

## Inclusions

### Price based on double occupancy and includes:

- Internal flights during the trip (if applicable/unless otherwise noted)
- The accompaniment of your scholar throughout the entire trip
- Local English-speaking guide
- Hotel accommodations (3 or 4 stars; or best available based in the area)
- Ground transportation
- Airport transfers for arrivals and departures
- Most meals as noted in the itinerary
- Entry fees to all included sites and museums
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, and restaurant and hotel staff
- Coordination for any private presentations or tours

*Trip prices are based on a minimum number of participants. If this minimum number is not met, trip prices are subject to change. Should the prices need to change, Far Horizons will reach out to registered guests to discuss directly.*

## Single Supplement

Should a roommate be requested and one not be available, the single supplement will be charged.

## Exclusions

- International round trip airfare
- A separate donation check of \$150.00 per person to a designated donation project
- Passport or visa fees
- Required vaccines or tests
- Airport or departure taxes
- Alcoholic drinks, beverages or food not included on set menus
- Excess baggage charges
- Personal tips and hotel incidental expenses
- Laundry or other items of a personal nature

## Donation Checks

As a tour company that benefits from the cultural and natural riches of our destinations, we have a policy of donating to the scientific and cultural sites and projects which we visit. This has created a bond between Far Horizons and the academic and local communities that has helped us establish an extensive list of lecturers and contacts in each of our destinations. We ask that each participant donate to the noteworthy project we designate. The donation amount is \$150.00 per person. Note that the donation is required as part of your registration for the trip and that it is non-refundable.

## Exchange Rate Fluctuations

Prices are based on currency exchange rates keeping below a projected level. While it is unlikely, if the exchange rates should change substantially, Far Horizons reserves the right to charge an additional amount to the trip cost.

## Registration

A deposit of \$1000 per person is required along with your registration & health forms, which will be linked in the email confirmation you receive once you pay your deposit on our booking platform. Final payment is due 120 days before departure. Prior to departure, you will be sent a reading list and a tour bulletin containing travel information.





# Tour Information *(cont'd)*

## Cancellation

Cancellations received in writing at least 120 days before departure will receive a refund less a \$500 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received less than 120 days before the departure date will not receive a refund. If for any reason you are unable to complete the trip, Far Horizons will not reimburse any fees. Upon registering for the tour, the purchase of travel protection with both trip cancellation and emergency evacuation is strongly advised. Links to recommended insurance policies will be included in the email you receive confirming receipt of your deposit.

## Expectations During Travel

Our trips are designed for flexible, energetic people who like to be active, have a spirit of adventure and a positive attitude. We have designed this trip to be as comfortable as possible, while also aiming to visit some remote or unique sites that other companies do not attempt to include in their itineraries. There may be days where we have very long drives and the conditions of the roads may vary. Hotels and transportation in some remote areas may not be up to western standards. There may be times when no bellhops are available; please pack with the understanding that you need to be able to handle your own luggage at times. Sometimes we may be walking over uneven trails for a mile or more; hiking boots are strongly recommended. Not every meal will be haute cuisine and several lunches may be picnics or box lunches. By maintaining a flexible attitude we will soon be captivated by the beauty of the natural scenery, the hospitality of the local people, and the fascinating sites we will see. Your flexibility and patience will be appreciated.

## Air Ticketing

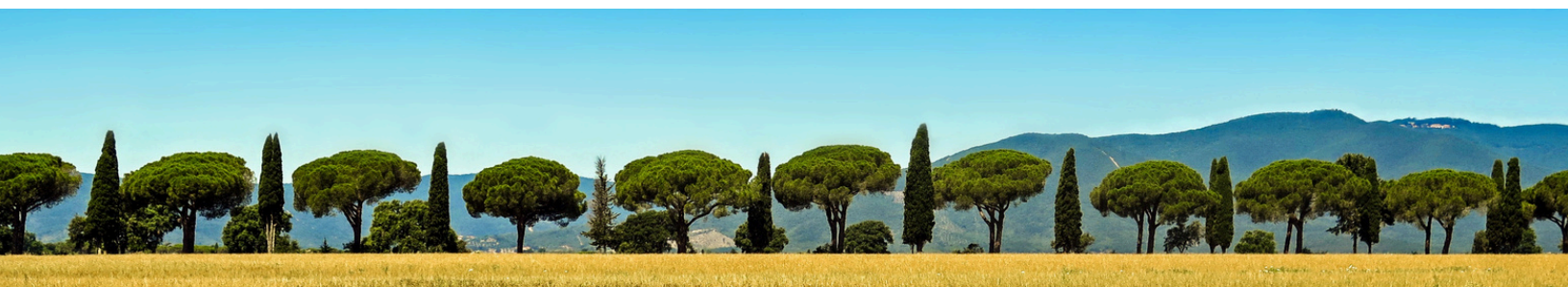
International round trip flights are not included in the cost of the trip. If Far Horizons must change the trip dates or cancel the trip for any reason, Far Horizons is not responsible for any air ticket you may have purchased. Please send your complete air schedule as soon as you have it. NOTE: Please contact Far Horizons if you would like for us to handle your air ticketing.

## Private Tours and Talks

The private tours of archaeological sites and talks by specialists are scheduled in advance and include a donation to each. Specialists working at these sites are excited about showing their work to interested enthusiasts. However, please be aware that there may be times when the director or a member of the staff may not be on site when our groups arrive due to other commitments.

## Walking and Standing

Far Horizons expects all participants to be physically active and able to walk and climb independently throughout the full touring days. This includes walking over uneven terrain (uphill and downhill) for 2 miles or more at each site. You should expect to be on your feet for much of each day, averaging as much as 5 miles of walking per day. **As such, each participant should be able to walk unaided at a pace of 3 miles per hour for at least an hour at a time, and to stand unsupported for at least 60 minutes.** Bearing this in mind, we suggest that, if you have not already done so, you begin walking several miles every day, ideally including stairs and hills. If you have questions about your ability to keep up with the group or the strenuous nature of this trip, please contact the Far Horizons staff.





## Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you consider purchasing travel insurance. Should illness or an unforeseen event force you to cancel your travel plans after your final payment or during your trip, it would be doubly unfortunate to incur a significant financial loss. Trip cancellation protection will enable you to be reimbursed for the loss of your payment if you are unable to travel for any of the covered reasons in the "Outline of Coverage" section, or should you have an accident or suffer from any medical conditions during the trip.

Far Horizons offers customized protection plans through Travel Insured International (a Crum & Forster Company) with the following benefits:

- Trip Cancellation and Trip Interruption for covered reasons
- Trip Delay
- Baggage Loss and Baggage Delay
- Emergency Medical Expenses and Emergency Medical Evacuation
- 24-Hour Accidental Death & Dismemberment
- 24-Hour Travel Assistance & Concierge Services
- Option to upgrade to 'Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR)

We recommend reviewing the language in detail so you are aware of specific parameters; Depending on the policy, to waive the Pre-Existing Medical Condition Exclusion or to upgrade to CFAR coverage, the plan must be purchased within 14 to 21 days of the initial trip deposit, full trip cost must be insured, and traveler is medically fit at time of plan purchase. Otherwise, coverage may be purchased at any time prior to departure.

To obtain a personalized quote and/or purchase a plan through Far Horizons/Travel Insured International, simply click [HERE](#). For specific questions regarding the Worldwide Protector Plan, please contact Travel Insured International's Customer Care Center at 1-800-243-3174 or by email at [customercare@travelinsured.com](mailto:customercare@travelinsured.com), and refer to Far Horizons' account number: 54070.

## Itinerary Changes

Changes in our itinerary, accommodations, and transportation schedules may occur while traveling. While we are committed to keeping as close to the published details as possible, sometimes it is simply not possible. Weather events, government affairs, or other factors out of our control sometimes come into play. A good book to read as well as patience, flexible attitude, and a sense of humor are essential.



Etruscan tomb, Tarquinia





Meet Your Study Leader...

**Dr. Steven Tuck**

**Steven L. Tuck is a highly regarded Professor in History and Classics at Miami University. After earning his B.A. in History and Classics at Indiana University, he received his Ph.D. in Classical Art and Archaeology from the University of Michigan.**

Dr. Tuck is continually recognized as an excellent educator by Miami University, earning the Outstanding Professor Award three years in a row only to be recognized in 2013 with their highest honor for innovative and effective undergraduate teaching: the E. Phillips Knox award.

He has published widely in international journals on both Greek and Roman art, social and political history, and archaeology. Dr. Tuck's most recent monograph "A History of Roman Art" was published in 2021 through Wiley Publishing. He has a book, "Escape from Pompeii", forthcoming from Oxford University Press on the fate of survivors of the eruption of Vesuvius. Dr. Tuck teaches the 24-part series The Mysterious Etruscans with The Great Courses, which makes him an ideal leader for this unique journey.

Florence Duomo







What People Are Saying About...

# Dr. Steven Tuck

**"I truly feel that he had empathy for each one of us and our interests. Made us feel part of an adventure with him."**

- EMILIA CHAFFEE



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We believe the most meaningful souvenirs are invisible. Our expertly guided explorations of ancient sites catalyze deeper understandings of human ingenuity and cultural complexity, creating moments of clarity that forever change how you see past civilizations and contemporary society.

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We architect each trip as a masterwork of scholarly travel, balancing intellectual depth with comfort and discovery. Our itineraries reflect research, planning, and refinement to ensure every moment offers something meaningful for the curious mind that standard tours simply cannot deliver.

## ✦ **LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE: Countless Returning Travelers**

Our 40+ years of archaeological exploration and support for preservation have fostered a deeply personal relationship with our guests, resulting in an exceptionally high return rate that speaks to our individualized attention, and the lasting connections we create with each member of our travel family.





# THE PATH OF THE ETRUSCANS ITALY

WITH DR. STEVEN TUCK

Email with Questions

[journeys@farhorizons.com](mailto:journeys@farhorizons.com)

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