

This is the itinerary for people who want to discover Arezzo, Cortona and the surrounding areas including the Valtiberina. Here are some info and tips for you.

A AREZZO

Arezzo is rich in art and dates to Etruscan times. The **medieval city centre** was heavily destroyed during World War II, but a lot of monuments and pieces of art luckily remain to this day. The historic centre can be reached on foot: stroll up the pedestrian street called **Corso Italia** towards the main square, **Piazza Grande**. Piazza Grande shows different styles, from medieval towers to the Renaissance Loggiato Vasariano, from the Gothic-Renaissance Palazzo della Fraternita dei Laici to **Palazzo delle Logge** designed by Vasari. Every first weekend of the month, Piazza Grande hosts the famous antiques fair and it is also the location of the Joust of the Saracens, a medieval tournament held on the third Sunday in June and the first Sunday in September. The square was also the set of the movie *Life is beautiful* by Roberto Benigni. The **Basilica of San Francesco** (13th-14th century), with the astonishing **Cappella Bacci** (Bacci chapel) with the frescoes of Piero della Francesca depicting the Legend of the True Cross and dating to the second part of the 15th century is a must. In Arezzo there is also a cathedral named after Saint Donatus, which dominates the city from the hill-top. The Gothic cathedral had an unfinished façade, which was added in the 20th century. Visit the **Museum of Medieval and Modern Art** and **Vasari's House**. The Romanesque church of Santa Maria della Pieve is situated between Piazza Grande and Corso Italia, and is documented since 1008.

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B CORTONA

Francis Mayes' *"Under the Tuscan Sun"* was set here. Visitors should begin their tour of the town in **Piazza della Repubblica** and **Piazza Signorelli**. Until the thirteenth century these two squares were in fact one space and also the site of an ancient **Etruscan - Roman forum**. Both are framed by public and private medieval buildings. The **Palazzo Comunale** (Town Hall) sits at the southern part of the square called Piazza della Repubblica. Opposite is the fourteenth century Palazzo del Capitano Popolo. Walk around Via Nazionale and see also Palazzo Casali, visit the **Museo dell'Accademia Etrusca**, Fra Angelico's panels in the **Museo Diocesano**, The **Church of Santa Maria Nuova**, built by **Giorgio Vasari** and piazza Garibaldi where you can see **Lake Trasimeno** in Umbria.

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C CASTIGLION FIORENTINO

Castiglion Fiorentino is a well-known medieval town situated between Arezzo and Cortona and is documented as a **fortified hamlet** dating back to the 10th -11th. Numerous architectural structures such as the massive town walls and the impressive fortified complex of the **Cassero** highlight

the town's past strategic importance. Today, in the light of recent archaeological discoveries, Castiglion Fiorentino has also achieved distinction as an important Etruscan centre in the Valdichiana. Visit the **Church of Sant'Angelo** al Cassero (which crypt is characterised by large, square blocks belonging to the Etruscan wall circle of the 4th century BC), Piazzale del Cassero with the excavation of the Etruscan temple, the Castel with an Etruscan Gate, the Casseretto, Palazzo Pretorio and the **Museo Civico Archeologico**.

D SANSEPOLCRO

Sansepolcro is the main town in the **Valtiberina area**, situated at the foot of the Apennines. Between 1300 and 1500, Sansepolcro experienced an age of maximum splendor. The town's historical center bears witness to centuries of commerce, art and culture. The center is encircled by walls, featuring gunners by **Bernardo Buontalenti**; it is located near the prestigious Fortezza di Giuliano da San Gallo. Visitors to the town are sure to appreciate its Medieval palaces, Renaissance towers and frescoed churches. Here you can visit the town's Civic Museum, containing masterpieces by **Piero della Francesca** such as *"The Resurrection"* and the *"Triptych of Mercy"* as well as many other museums such as the Aboca museum and the museum of ancient stained glass.

Visit the **cathedral and the churches** of Santa Marta, Santa Maria delle Grazie, San Francesco, San Rocco and Sant'Antonio Abate. Sansepolcro is famous for its **"Palio della Balestra"** and its Flag-games.

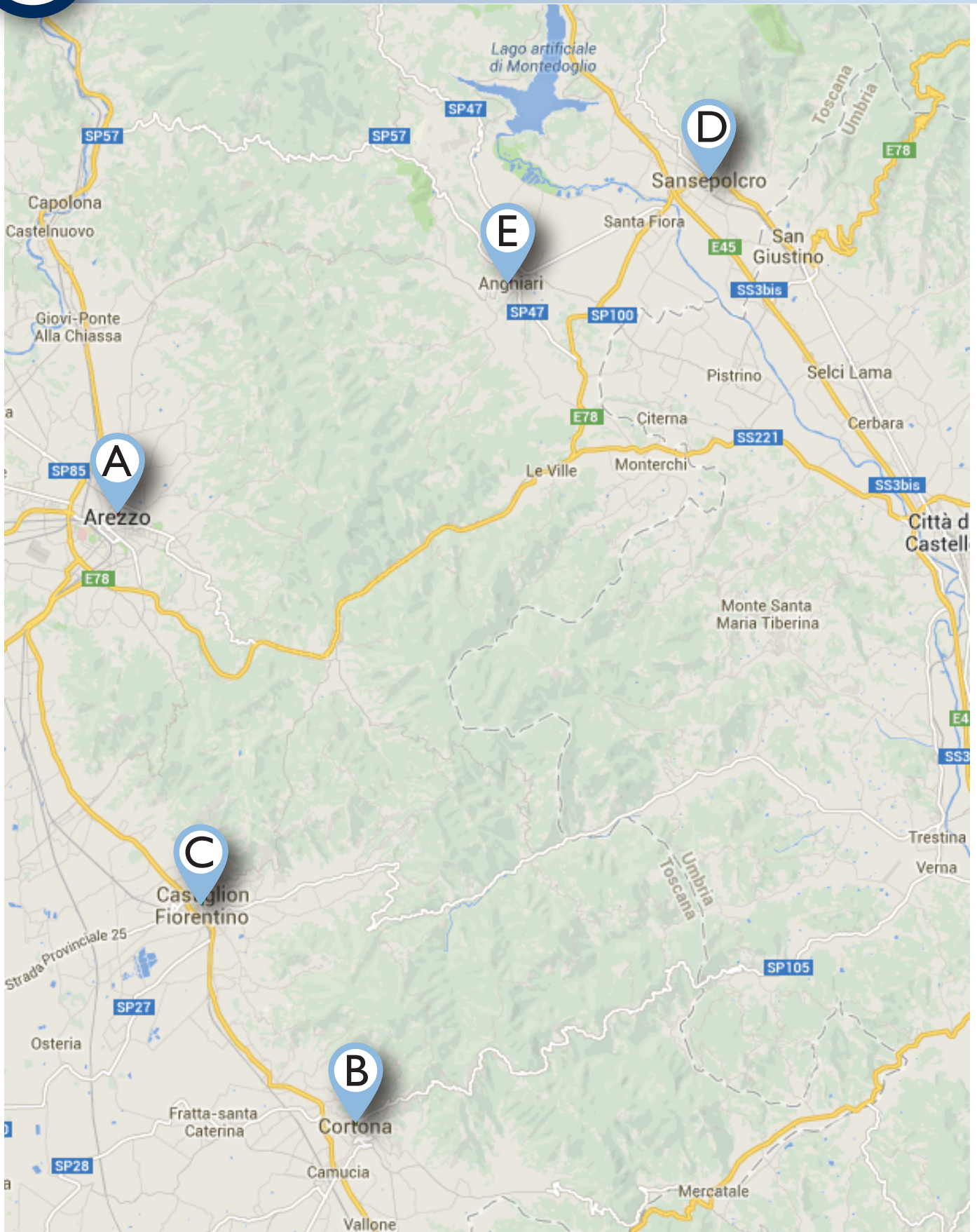
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E ANGHILIARI

The origins of the city of Anghiari date back to the eleventh century when the monks of the Camaldolese order, largely responsible for the economic and artistic development of the area, came together to give shape to the town. **The walls** surrounding the town, whose construction date to the mid twelfth century, remain for the most part intact. There are three entrance gates to the city situated along the walls: Sant'Angelo, San Martino and Fiorentina. Visit the **fortress town** and the surrounding nature reserve (on foot or horse-back or by mountain bike). The town itself is a jewel: take a stroll in the **medieval streets** and discover the abbeys, monasteries and small churches, which offer a variety of itineraries for discovering the spiritual side of the town. The two principal museums of the town are **Palazzo Marzocco** and **Palazzo Taglieschi**. An interesting visit outside the city walls is the Corsi Palace, located just beyond the Girolamo Maggi Gallery. It was built during 1777 and 1794 by Benedetto Corsi. The Public Library and Archives, the votive chapel and the Theater are part of the larger complex of the **Corsi Palace**.



Arezzo and surrounding areas MAP



Notes...

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