

This is the itinerary for people who want to discover Siena and its surroundings.
Here are some tips for you.



A SIENA

Siena was one of the most developed towns of Europe in Medieval times and the inheritance of this important past is a well-preserved historical center. There is really so much to visit. The shell-shaped **Piazza del Campo** dominates the city centre and is the starting point of every visit. Twice a year (July 2 and August 16) Piazza del Campo hosts Siena's Palio Horse Race. Visit also the **Torre del Mangia** with its 102 metres built between 1325 and 1348, the Public Palace built between 1298-1310 in brickwork with white elements in marble, the Duomo or Cattedrale dell'Assunta and the Baptistry, the Sanctuary of **Saint Catherine of Siena**, the **Basilica of San Domenico**, the **Complex of Santa Maria della Scala** that is one of the oldest buildings originally used as a hospital in Europe, the Civic Museum or simply walk into the narrow **medieval streets**.

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B MONTERIGGIONI

The medieval, walled town of Monteriggioni was built **on a hill** by the Sienese in the thirteenth century in order to protect their front line from their historical rivals, the Florentines. Considered one of the **best-preserved medieval towns** in Italy, Monteriggioni boasts magnificent exterior walls with fourteen towers on square bases and buildings inside. You can enter through the Franca or **San Giovanni Door**. As you enter, you are already in the heart of the village. The main square is called Piazza Roma (Rome Square) and it features the **Church of Santa Maria Assunta**, in Romanesque and Gothic style. In Monteriggioni you can visit the museum with replicas of medieval and Renaissance arms and armatures and walk along the walls, where you can admire the beautiful surrounding **countryside** of Chianti and the Val d'Elsa. Visit the castle, and the museum.

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C SAN GIMIGNIANO

The appearance of the thirteenth and fourteenth-century Tuscany has remained intact here, so that walking the streets of the town seems like a **voyage back in time**. The entire town is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. San Gimignano must see places are Porta San Giovanni, located in the south side of San Gimignano, is an impressive door first finished in 1262. It's one of the most beautiful ancient doors of Italy. **Piazza della Cisterna**: you know you have arrived at this square when you see a big cistern that was built in 1287. **Piazza del Duomo** (Cathedral Square): in the heart of San Gimignano we can see not only the cathedral but also Palazzo del Podestà, Palazzo del Popolo, the Loggia and various medieval towers like Rognosa Tower, Chigi Tower, Grossa Tower and Salvucci Towers.

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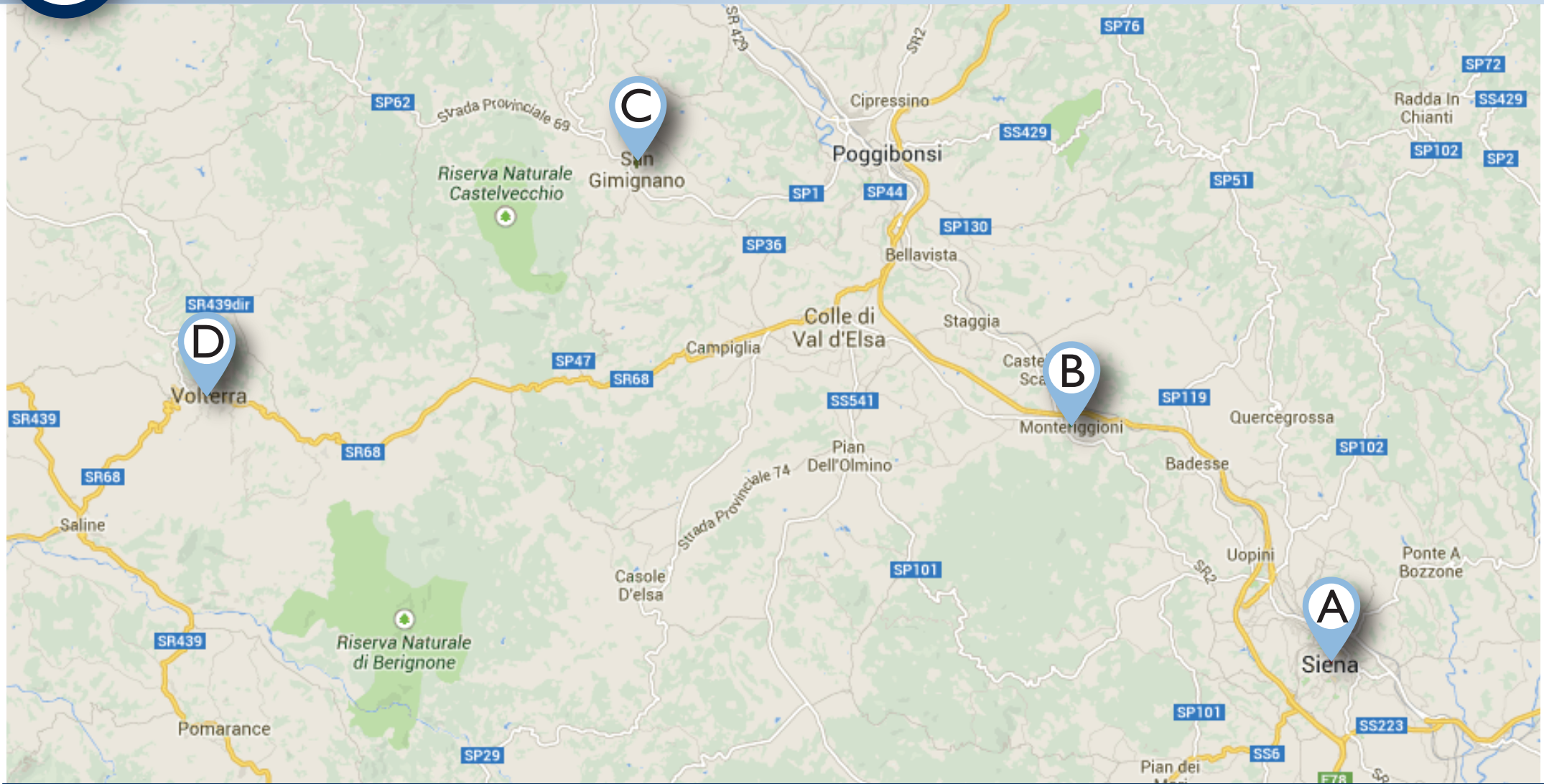
D VOLTERRA

Volterra is located in the east side of the province of Pisa, on the borderline of the province of Siena, and is situated on a hill 1770 feet above the sea level, between the valleys of Cecina and Dell'Era. Volterra's origins date back to the ancient Etruscans and the Etruscan walls are still visible, well preserved and surround the city centre. The heart of the medieval town is **Piazza dei Priori** with the wonderful Palazzo dei Priori, today the city hall. In the same square you'll find Palazzo Pretorio and the Tower of the Little Pig. Visit the Duomo or Cathedral, a **Romanesque building** of the XII century constructed on the site of a previous church. It has a Romanesque façade and an entrance that was added in the 13th century. The interior was modified in the late-16th century in the Renaissance style and it has a richly decorated ceiling and several chapels with frescoes or wood panels, as well as a 12th-century marble pulpit. The **Baptistry** of the Cathedral stands opposite to it in the same square. It is a 13th-century structure and has an octagonal base. Visit also the Roman Amphitheatre, the Pinacoteca (Art Gallery) in Palazzo Minucci-Solaini, the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, The Guarnacci Etruscan Museum. The Medicean Fortress, known as Maschio, is now a prison housing a restaurant.

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Siena and surrounding areas MAP



Notes...

AroundTuscany
