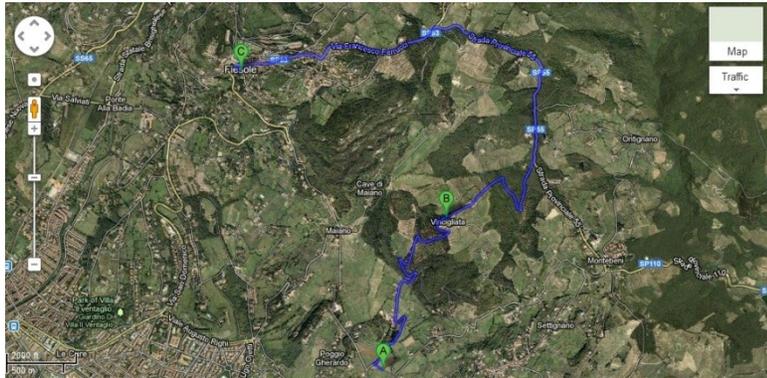


## florence for free

free walks and work-arounds for rich italian adventures

# the castle hike



**Distance:** 8 km (about 5 miles)

**Time:** Approximately 2 hours

**Cost:** \$0

**Directions to base of hike:** Take bus #10 from Piazza San Marco. The bus will pick up in front of the church. The front of the bus should say "10 Settignano." After about 20 minutes on the bus you will come to a small one-lane road with stone walls on either side. When you come out of the walls and the road widens you will see shops to your right and the countryside to your left. Get off here at PONTE MENSOLA 01. The stop before is COVERCIANO and the stop after is D ANNUNZIO 15.

### Route:

- When you get off the bus cross the street and head to your right. You will pass a Tabacchi and a small trattoria on your left. Just after you will be crossing over a small creek. Turn left just after you cross the creek (second left).
- To your left notice the Cyprus-lined path that leads to the picturesque San **Martino a Mensola** church.
- In about 50 meters the road forks. Veer left on **Via di Vincigliata** and look up to the top of the hill to see the medieval destination that awaits! Wind up the path in about ten minutes you will reach the **Villa I Tatti**.
- Within about 20-30 minutes of passing the Villa I Tatti you will reach the summit of the hill and the **Castello di Vincigliata**.
- Continue along the Via Vincigliata to pass through a small row of old houses and the quaint country church.
- Shortly you will see a fork in the road. At this point if you fork right and continue on Via Vincigliata you can go explore the **Castel di Poggio** for a 20 - 30 minute detour. If you are in a time crunch however, fork left.
- For the next 45 minutes or so, you can coast along the road without having to worry about taking turns or directions. Just follow the lovely road!
- The straightaway (albeit windy, but you get the point) will come to an end at Strada Provinciale 53 (Via Francesco Ferrucci). Turn left and follow the road and the signs all the way into the hilltop town of Fiesole.
- In the main square go to the bus stop and hop on. Any bus you get on will take you back to Piazza San Marco in Florence, where you started. Remember to buy a ticket in either the Tabacchi in the main square or from the bus driver.

