



Camping Valle Gaia,
56040 Casale-Marittimo, Italy

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GPS co-ordinates

Latitude: 43.3003

Longitude: 10.5814



Campsite Information

Camping Valle Gaia, Cecina

This is a small, family run site on the beautiful Tuscan coast. The site is perfect for day trips to Florence, which is around two hours' drive to the north east. Pisa and its leaning tower are a short drive to the north and Rome is around two and a half hours' to the south. It is an ideal coastal location from which to explore the many historical centres nearby.

Arriving at Camping Valle Gaia

On arrival go to the Canvas reception, your Canvas couriers will be here to meet you between 16.00 and 20.00. Your couriers require one passport to complete the campsite's registration form.

Early/Late Arrivals

Please note if you arrive before 16.00, your accommodation may not be ready. If you arrive between 20.00 and 22.00, you will find directions to your courier and/or accommodation at the Canvas reception. Arrivals after 22.00 cannot be admitted onto the campsite, you have full responsibility for finding alternative off-site accommodation. A Canvas courier will be available on site from 09.00 the following day. Please telephone your couriers if you know that you are going to be late.

Reception

Reception is open daily from 08.00 until 13.00 and 16.30 until 19.00 all season.

Barrier

The barrier is closed between 23.00 and 07.00 and for siesta between 13.00 and 15.00. Should you wish to use your car at these times, please park outside the barrier.

Safety Deposit Boxes

These are available to rent in reception free of charge. Large enough to hold money and passport etc.

Telephone

There are two coin and card-operated phones on site and phone cards are on sale at the campsite reception.

Web/Email Access

There is internet access available on the campsite from 08.30 to 12.30 and 15.00 to 18.30. Please ask for the key at the campsite reception where you will be asked to provide passports or photo id. The cost is €1 for 15 minutes.

Shopping

The on-site shop has a delicatessen counter and sells a wide range of groceries, fresh bread, fresh meat and wine as well as camping equipment and beach toys. The opening hours are 09.00 to 12.00 and 16.30 to 19.30 all season. It is advised that you order bread here in advance, especially in high season.

Washing and Toilet Facilities

Washing machines (tokens are sold at reception at €3.50 each) free iron and board hire, free hot showers, baby bath and standard toilets.

Post

There is a post box just outside the main campsite gates and stamps are on sale in the shop.

Eating and Drinking

Bar: The large Pavilion Cafe, just outside the campsite, has a terrace overlooking the swimming pool. It is open from 11.00 to 23.00 in high season (closed between 17.00 and 19.00 in low season). In low season it opens slightly later at 14.00. The bar also has satellite TV. As well as drinks, a small selection of



snacks and ice creams are available. The small pool-side bar opens during pool hours.

Pizzeria: As well as pizza, the menu includes salads, pasta, burgers and hot dogs etc. In low season it is open 18.30-23.00, and in high season from 09.00-10.00 and from 18.30 to 23.00. The pizzeria has a lovely setting, perfect for dining al fresco.

Restaurant: The Robin Hood Restaurant is open year round from 12.00 to 14.00 and 19.30 to 22.00. Originally an old Tuscan farmhouse, the restaurant is rustic and has a varied menu including Tuscan specialities such as wild boar and venison sausages. The special 'Tuscan Night' on Mondays is very popular and you are advised to book in advance.

Takeaway: Food is available to take away from the Robin Hood restaurant but you should provide your own dishes. The pizzeria also offers a takeaway service. Open during restaurant and pizzeria times.

Entertainment

Live music is provided fortnightly in the bar during high season and the children's club, for five year olds and over, meets twice a day, six times a week in June, July and August.

The site also organises cultural evenings and sports competitions during high season. Excursions to places such as Rome, Pisa, Florence and Elba can be booked on site and the site organises two Tuscan walks per season.

Tuscan evenings are available every Monday in the restaurant. Advance booking is advised.

Recreation

Swimming: There are two supervised swimming pools, both with children's pools. Please note that the smaller pool next to the apartment complex is reserved for residents of the apartments in high season.

The terraces surrounding the pools are equipped with sun loungers, reclining chairs and parasols, making perfect locations for a spot of sunbathing.

The second swimming pool (onsite) is open between 1 June and 31 August, from 08.00 until 19.00 (between 10.00 and 18.00 in low season).

Tennis: Court hire and racket hire can be booked at reception, available throughout the season. Price €6 per hour.

Cycling: Bikes can be hired on site all season and rates vary. Prices start at €15 per day, please ask your courier for further details.

Aqua aerobics: Aqua aerobics is available in high season, free of charge.

There are also facilities for football, basketball, table tennis, boules and a children's playground, as well as a games room with table football and arcade games.

Rules and Regulations

- Silence and no driving on site between 23.00 and 07.00.
- Siesta must be observed between 13.00 and 15.00.
- No car washing on site.
- No BBQs on site except in designated areas.
- 10km/h speed limit on site.

Local Information

Beaches

The closest beach to site is a ten minute drive away at Cecina Mare. The beach is pebbly and shelves quite steeply. One of the best beaches in the region is just north of Vada, 15km from site. Here you will find a long white sandy beach with good facilities - a small bar, showers and toilets. Sun loungers and parasols are available for hire. Please see the Local Information Folder in the Canvas reception for some more suggestions of good beaches close to the campsite.

Shopping

Supermarkets: There is a large branch of Co-op at the centro commerciale in Cecina, open Monday to Saturday, 08.00 - 20.00. Penny Market, also nearby, is smaller but cheaper, please see your couriers for directions and opening times.

Souvenirs: There is a good selection of shops in Cecina. Further afield, head to Pisa and Livorno.

Local Markets

Monday: Rosignano Solvay, Castagneto Carducci and Suvereto.

Tuesday: Cecina.

Wednesday: Siena, Pisa, Massa Marittima, Marina di Bibbona and Lucca.

Thursday: Castiglioncello, Donoratico, San Gimignano, Pomarance and Bibbona.

Friday: Livorno, Vada and Follonica.

Saturday: Pisa, Lucca, Volterra and Castiglione della Pescaia.

Sunday: Marina de Cecina.

The market on Piazza del Mercato Centrale in the San Lorenzo area of Florence is the place to go for cut-price leather goods, clothing and jewellery as well as fresh produce. It is held daily except Sunday. Livorno also holds a market every day of the week except Sunday.

Facilities

Petrol: The nearest filling station is in Casale Marittimo, open 08.00 - 12.30 and 16.00 - 19.30. There is a 24 hour Shell garage located in Cecina.

Chemist: A chemist can be found in Casale Marittimo, open 08.30 - 13.00, and also at the Co-op supermarket.

Bank: There are several banks with cash dispensers located in Cecina town centre, two of which are in Piazza della Chiesa. There is a cash dispenser on site.

Post Office: There are post offices in Casale Marittimo and Cecina.

Tourist Information: Associazione Turistico has an office on Piazza del Popolo in Casale Marittimo and there is another tourist information office at 14b Via Pascoli in Cecina.



Internet access: There is internet access available on site. The nearest off site access is in Cecina, in either the library or next to the inner entrance of the large Co op. Please ask your couriers for up to date opening hours, prices and directions.

Distances

Bibbona: 4km (2 miles)

Cecina: 5km (3 miles)

San Vincenzo: 24km (14 miles)

Livorno: 35km (21 miles)

Local Transport

Florence and Pisa are both easily accessible by train from Cecina. The bus station is also located in Cecina, but please note that no buses pass the campsite.

Doctor

Dr. Panetta will visit the campsite upon request. Please ask reception to contact him.

Dentist

Marco Dr. Parrini Studio Dentistico
57023 Cecina (LI) - 9, v. Savona
Tel: 0586 684517

Emergency Services

There is a three digit phone number for emergency services:

Police 112

Fire 115

Ambulance 118

Highway Rescue 116

Eating and Drinking

You may like to try these restaurants and bars which have been recommended by Canvas customers and couriers in previous years:

Le Volte, Casale Marittimo. Enjoy stunning views across the valley from the terrace of this friendly, inexpensive restaurant. Pizzas, pasta dishes and freshly-made soups are all available.

Il Delfino, between Cecina and Vada, this restaurant specialises in seafood dishes and has an attractive waterfront setting.

L'Erbe Voglio, Casale Marittimo. Highly recommended for its excellent service and beautifully cooked and presented food. Tuscan and international dishes and good fish and meat dishes are included on the menu.

Angie's Pub, Florence. This little restaurant on Via dei Neri, just east of the Palazzo Vecchio, is very popular with the Fiorentini and virtually unknown to tourists. The menu offers a huge selection of 'panini' and 'focaccia' as well as Italian style burgers.

Il Beccafico, Casale Marittimo. A small and simple restaurant with a good choice of salads and pizzas, at reasonable prices.

Il Vecchio Frantoio, Casale Marittimo. A bar/creperie, good for a quick snack.

Tarabaralla, Cecina. A pleasant restaurant with outdoor seating. Good food is served here (try a delicious antipasto) at reasonable prices.

La Piazzetta, Strada. A warm welcome and homely atmosphere makes this reasonably priced restaurant a special place to eat. Specialises in home cooked, local dishes.

Marconi, Cecina. A modern, family-friendly pizzeria that also serves salads and pasta dishes.

Il Matterello, Casale Marittimo. Located close to the campsite, this is the perfect place for a special meal. Specialising in freshly cooked Tuscan dishes, the restaurant has a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Out and About

The city of Florence is a 'must see' during your holiday. Parking in Florence is difficult and expensive but there is a regular train service from Cecina. Take a two-hour boat trip from Livorno to the unspoilt National Park of Capraia Island; explore this beautiful island on its footpaths and country lanes. This takes some planning and once on the island, it's not easy to get around. San Gimignano is a medieval Tuscan village, one of the prettiest in Italy, climb the Torre Grossa for spectacular views of the area.

Nearby

The town of Radda in Chianti has retained its charm despite the tourist influx. It is handy for many of Chianti's beauty spots and the staff in the tourist office on Piazza Ferrucci are very helpful. They have plenty of information on things to do and see, including tours to local wineries where you can try the local wines before enjoying a traditional lunch. Cecina is the nearest large town to the site and has a large pedestrianised area and some good bars and restaurants. Of particular interest are the remains of a Roman villa and an archeological museum.

Activities

The water park at Cecina Mare, Acqua Village, is great for a family day out with slides, a wave pool and trampolines, located just seven kilometres from site. One of the best places to walk in the area is at Monte Amiata (east of Piombino) an extinct and craterless volcano. There are clearly marked paths through the forests which are rich in wildlife and there are great views from the summit.

Regional Information

Tuscany

The landscape of Tuscany is a delightful combination of hills, fields, olive groves, vineyards and medieval hill towns sloping down to fine, sandy beaches bordering the Mediterranean. Along the coast there are beautiful pine, holly, and cork trees.

There is plenty of choice if you are looking for an active holiday. Soak up the scenic countryside on horse-back, or cycle along the many paths around the region. On the coast there is a wide range of water sports and anglers can fish in the clean rivers.

Eating and Drinking – Regional Specialities

Tuscan dishes are prepared simply, using ingredients from the surrounding countryside. Wonderful herbs, tarragon, sage, rosemary, thyme, basil and garlic, are often used in the preparation of meals. Extra virgin olive oil is used in all the sauces and dressings for meat, fish and vegetables. The red wines of Tuscany are famous, Chianti is the best known.

Things to do and see

*A • admission charge is payable for these attractions.

Family Fun

Acqua Village • A water park with slides, wave pool, trampolines and games room. In Cecina Mare. (*A.)

Giardino Zoologico • A well-kept zoo with a wide range of species, set in lovely surroundings on the western edge of Pistoia. (Open daily *A.)

Magical Mondo del Cavallino Matto • Amusement park with water rides, bumper cars etc. In Marina di Castagneto Donoratico (20km south of Cecina). (*A.)

Parco di Pinocchio • A theme park for a fun day out with no strings attached! A statue of Pinocchio is the centrepiece of a garden containing scenes from this children's classic. In Collodi, 15km east of Lucca. (*A.)

Grotto del Vento • The impressive 'Cave of the Wind', has stalactites and stalagmites. Wear warm clothing as the subterranean depths are icy cold. Near Forno Volasco, 9km south-west of Barga. (*A.)

Places to Visit

Florence • Since early in the 19th century, Florence has been celebrated as the most beautiful city in Italy. Situated on the banks of the Arno, the "cradle of the Renaissance" is so full of wonderful buildings, paintings, sculptures, palaces and shops, that it is almost impossible to single out particular places to visit. See the information folder in the Canvas reception for more information.

Rome • Rome was built on seven hills and, according to legend, founded by Romulus in 753 BC. A large modern metropolis, and heart of Roman Catholicism headed by the Pope, Rome has a plethora of early Christian, medieval and renaissance monuments, and museums. Hand in hand with its ancient past, Rome also offers some of the best fashion in the world, the most inviting restaurants and some incredible contemporary art and design.

Carrara • An ancient city known for its marble quarries since Roman times. The quarries achieved their widest recognition through Michelangelo, who greatly prized the marble from Carrara. To visit the quarries take the road to Colonnata where you will see signs saying Cave di Marmo, indicating a quarry. The Accademia di Belle Arti, housed in the 16th century Palazzo Malaspina, has a fine collection of Roman marble statues. The Museo del Marmo



illustrates the history of marble production and use. (Open daily *A).

Monte Amiata • An extinct, craterless volcano in the south of Tuscany. This is excellent walking country with clearly marked paths through chestnut and oak forests and has a rich variety of wildlife. There are magnificent views from the summit.

Casale Marittimo • Lying on an inland hill, Casale Marittimo offers superb views of the surrounding countryside, the coast and on clear days the islands of Elba, Capraia and Gorgona can be seen.

Elba • The largest island off Tuscany is still unspoilt with turquoise waters, pristine beaches, palm trees and sun-bleached houses. Especially the south and west coast offer many unspoilt beaches and coves. Visit the dramatic Capo Bianco beach near Portoferraio. Napoléon spent his famous exile here from 1814 to 1815, those interested in history should not miss the Palazzina Napoléonica de Mulini in Portoferraio, and the Villa San Martino near Procchio (*A). You can reach Elba by ferry from Piombino departing approximately every hour in summer.

Bolgheri • Famous for the wine produced from its grapes, and renowned for the avenue of cypress trees that line the entrance, this tiny town is well worth a visit. As you enter through the single doorway on foot, you feel like you have stepped back in history. The atmosphere is peaceful and the historical centre has kept its original structure. Life is centred around the village green.

Lucca • Once a Roman settlement, this historic town is surrounded by enormous tree-lined walls built in the early 16th century. The town centre is traffic-free and an inviting place to stroll. For a good view over the town follow the path along the top of the ramparts. On the southern side of town, the Duomo San Martino (cathedral) houses some precious works of art. If you are a music lover, visit the Casa di Puccini containing memorabilia from the famous composer's life (*A). From 7th until 30th July Lucca holds its summer concerts. Each concert starts at 21.30, ticket prices range from €30 - €40, depending on the artist. You can buy tickets in Lucca, or online (www.summer-festival.com).

Abbazia di Monte Oliveto Maggiore • A Benedictine abbey in a spectacular pine forest setting, 35km southeast of Siena. (Open daily).

Volterra • Situated high on a plateau of Tuscan hills, the largest of the Etruscan settlements lies at the heart of a mining region. Today the town is famous for its alabaster, a white stone found in the mines. Have lunch in the cobbled old town and enjoy the fantastic views over the Tuscan landscape.

rato • Still encircled by medieval walls, Prato has been the main textile centre of Italy since the Middle Ages. It has enjoyed great wealth, reflected in its fine buildings and art collections. The medieval town centre is pedestrianised and full of lovely shops and cafés. The Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci is one of Italy's best museums of contemporary art. (*A). The Palazzo Pretoria houses the Galleria Comunale, containing art from the 14th-18th centuries (*A).

San Gimignano • This is one of the most attractive little towns in Tuscany. It commands wonderful views over the surrounding countryside. Known as "Medieval Manhattan" with its skyline of towers, San Gimignano is visible from afar. At the heart of the town is the Piazza Cisterna surrounded by tall towers and with a beautiful fountain in the centre. The adjacent Piazza del Duomo contains the town's most important medieval building. The Palazzo del Popolo now houses the Museo Civico, with a large collection of paintings (*A).

Siena • A beautiful walled city with narrow streets and a rich artistic heritage. Built on six hills, the centre of the city is almost entirely medieval in plan and appearance. At its heart lies the charming Il Campo, a sloping semi-circular piazza lined with cafés and restaurants. On 2 July and 16 August every year the Palio, a bareback horse race, is held here. Dating from the 14th century, the races are preceded by parades in medieval costume - a memorable sight.

Vinci • A small town on the southern slopes of Montalbano, hometown of the famous Renaissance artist and scientist Leonardo. You can visit the house where he was born (*A) and the Museo da Vinci, housed in a 13th century castle, which exhibits machines and instruments designed by Leonardo and a number of his drawings and sketches (Open daily *A).

Pisa • The Leaning Tower of Pisa is one of the most instantly recognisable buildings in the world. The construction of this medieval bell tower began in 1173, but work was halted due to subsidence. For the next two centuries architects tried to correct the tilt. In the 14th century the angle was finally accepted and the tower completed (*A).

Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained within this guide, to the best of our knowledge, is both helpful and correct at time of going to press (March 2010). Canvas Holidays cannot accept responsibility for inaccuracies contained herein.