

Weekend Travel Tips

Picking a Location For Your Free Weekend: It is best to pick your destination based on where the field trip is located. (Example: If you want to go to Venice, it is easier to get to it from Florence than Rome since Florence is closer to Venice.) You can also choose to stay in Montepulciano for your free weekends or travel to towns close by for a day trip.

Trains: For your weekend travel, you will most likely be taking the trains to your destinations. Trains are the most important mode of transportation to and from Montepulciano. Italian trains are mostly reliable, on time, and easy to figure out. Again, Chiusi-Chiacciano Terme is the best train station to use for Montepulciano. To book train tickets, we highly suggest the **Trenitalia** website/phone application (<https://www.trenitalia.com/>). (There is an alternative service, but it is used less.)

There are three main types of trains: Regionale Veloce, Intercity, and the Freccia trains (rossa, bianca, argento).

- **Regionale Veloce (R or RV):** These trains are generally the slowest, the least expensive, primarily traveling within a region (Tuscany, Umbria) or between neighboring regions (Lazio, Umbria, station or at Pro Loco do not have to be validated.
- **Freccia (Frecciarossa or FR and Frecciaargento FA):** These trains are the fastest and often the most direct between major cities. They are also the most expensive. Like Intercity Trains, these trains have assigned cars and seating and thus do not need to be validated.

Purchasing a Train Ticket: If you purchase a train ticket at the train station, through the Trenitalia app, or online, you will do the following: <https://www.trenitalia.com/en.html>. Do this as you are making your destination. Know the main train of your destination.

- Select the date and the time when you would like to depart. Important note: the Italian train system uses "military time," 1:00– 24:00. Hit enter, and you will be given a variety of options from which to choose.
- When choosing a ticket, you want to look for how many transfers there are as well as how close together those transfers are. (You do not want them too close in case the train, especially the regionale, is late.)
- Make < Trenitalia App: This is a free app that can be downloaded from your app store.
- Online: You can go to www.Trenitalia.it

Boarding the Train:

- When you arrive at the train station, look for the large schedule board that says, "Partenze," meaning "departures."
- The board will generally have seven items: the type of train (Frecciarossa or FR, Intercity or IC, Regionale or R/RV), the number of the train, the final destination of the train (which may not be