

# Five extraordinary walking holidays

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How to hike Italy's secret paths, Chaucerian pilgrimages or the pristine beech forests of Japan



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Maria Shollenbarger FEBRUARY 13 2022

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## Walking safaris *all'italiana*



The village of Pentedattilo in Calabria, Italy

Rudston Steward is lucky enough to call an undiscovered part of Tuscany (yes, those do exist) home. When he put down roots two decades ago on the slopes of Monte Amiata, between the Val d'Orcia and Maremma, he set about learning its secret paths and forests, ruins and byways, on foot. In 2016 he was inspired to launch [Maremma Safari Club](#), a slow-travel, super-small scale walking-tour outfit (master Italy fixer Emily FitzRoy of [Bellini Travel](#) first turned me on to Steward a couple of years ago).

Steward has refined and expanded his offering, guiding both private and small-numbers walks up and down the Italian peninsula, from the Dolomites to the Aeolian island of Salina (a personal happy place of mine – and a banger of a tramping site, with its matching volcanic peaks and clifftop vistas of Sicily). In May, the Maremma Safari Club is taking its show deep into Calabria, the still-wild toe of Italy's boot, to explore the Aspromonte highlands. Walkers will find out-of-time villages such as Bova and Amendolea, wild oleander vales, and ancient Graecanic culture – via some adorable *agriturismi*, Ionian beaches and delicious *kilometro zero* picnics. 10-14 May, from €1,395 per person [maremmasafari.com](http://maremmasafari.com)

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Hiking the Amendolea fiumara, or riverbed



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