



## Volterra

Three thousand years of history. This is Volterra, an ancient sedimentation of civilisation.

Its land is full of minerals; salt and its precious alabaster made it rich; the **Etruscans** founded it; here, the **Romans** built what is now one of the best-preserved theatres in Italy. The **Middle Ages** left the legacy of the town's power with its tower houses, mighty walls, the **Palazzo Pretorio** and the majestic **Palazzo dei Priori** buildings. It was conquered by Florence and the **Medici** family endowed it with a mighty fortress. The Renaissance dotted it with noble palaces and together with the unification of Italy came the roads and a psychiatric hospital.

Volterra, this city of earth that rises up from the land, is well worth a stop, even just for a stroll in its historical centre.

If you have time and want to discover more, you can't miss the **Etruscan Museum**: here you will find the famous **Evening Shadow**, a small anthropomorphic sculpture considered one of the world's most important archaeological finds. In Palazzo Minucci-Solaini, the Pinacoteca di Volterra gallery holds some true masterpieces, including the renowned *Deposition* by **Rosso Fiorentino** and the altarpiece of Christ in Glory by Domenico Ghirlandaio. If you're fascinated by Volterra's **alabaster**, regarded as Europe's finest, you should visit the **Ecomuseum** or get lost in the Medieval city's streets, searching for the last alabaster carvers.

You can reach Volterra by car: it is about **29 km from Gambassi Terme**, following the Via Volterrana through one of Tuscany's most captivating landscapes.

