



Villages of Tuscany

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of the village	MONTESCUDAIO
Province	PISA
Tourist information	Montescudaio Tourist Information Office Piazza Matteotti – 56040 Montescudaio (PI) Phone and WhatsApp: +39 352 268 0072 E-mail: gestionevisit@gmail.com

TESTED BY: [Handy Superabile Social Promotion Association](#) in 2026

Please note The following information refers to the date of verification shown at the bottom of each sheet. **The Association** is not responsible for any significant changes made by the property after the visit.

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DESCRIPTION

Montescudaio is a charming village of medieval origin nestled on the hills of the Val di Cecina, a short distance from the Etruscan Coast. The historic center, included among **"The most beautiful villages in Italy"**, retains an authentic atmosphere, with paved alleys, arched passages, stone houses and traces of ancient defensive structures.

The origins of the town date back to very remote times, as evidenced by the finds attributable to the Villanovan civilization. Even the name, probably derived from the Latin *Mons Scutorum*, i.e. "Mount of the Shields", recalls the strategic role played in the past by the town.

During the visit you will encounter the **Church of Santa Maria Assunta**, the **Oratory of the Santissima Annunziata**, the **Civic Tower** and Piazza Matteotti. Of particular interest is the **Belvedere**, from which the gaze sweeps over the hills, the coastal plain and, on clear days, up to the islands of the Tuscan Archipelago.

Montescudaio is also linked to the agricultural and food and wine traditions of the area, in particular to the production of extra virgin olive oil and the renowned **Montescudaio DOC wine**, celebrated through local events and initiatives.



Figures 1 Montescudaio – panoramic view.





HOW TO REACH MONTESCUDAIO

BY CAR	From the north Take the A12 Genoa–Livorno motorway towards Livorno and exit at Rosignano Marittimo. Continue on the SS1 Variante Aurelia towards Grosseto, take the Cecina Centro exit and follow the signs for Montescudaio, along the Provincial Road of the Three Municipalities. From the south Take the SS1 Variante Aurelia state road towards Livorno. Take the Cecina Centro exit and continue following the signs for Montescudaio along the Provincial Road of the Three Municipalities. From Cecina the village is about 12 km away.
BY PLANE	Florence "Amerigo Vespucci" Airport – about 115 km www.aeroporto.firenze.it Pisa "Galileo Galilei" Airport – about 60 km www.pisa-airport.com
Assistance service for people with disabilities	Complete assistance is ensured, on departure/arrival, thanks to the staff in charge who is available to accompany the passenger with disabilities, during the delivery of the luggage, up to the boarding gate, or for baggage claim
Embarkation/disembarkation of passengers with reduced mobility	with courtesy chair and ambulift/finger
Tactile paths for the blind and visually impaired	YES
Toilet room accessible with grab handles	YES
BY TRAIN	
Nearest station	Cecina railway station – about 11 km





Assistance service for people with disabilities	Yes, Barrier-free route on flat or with ramp up to platform 1 and with elevator up to platform 2,3,4,5 Visual and sound information systems Touch path from the station entrance to the platform: not present Raised platform for getting on/off trains arriving/departing at the platform: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Blue Hall Reference	Sale Blu of the Italian Railway Network (RFI) of Florence at the toll-free number 800906060 (from a landline) or at the national number 02323232 (from a landline or mobile)
In local toilet station accessible with grab bars	YES
BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TRANSPORT	
Nearest bus stop	"Montescudaio – Via Roma" stop , located in the town and served by line 110 Cecina–Montescudaio . Timetables and routes may vary depending on the time of year. Before departure, it is advisable to consult Autolinee Toscane – Line 110
Presence of adapted buses with ramp	To be checked in advance. Not all trips can be made with vehicles equipped with a platform or ramp. To find out about the accessibility of the ride and book any assistance, contact Autolinee Toscane: Toll Free: 800 14 24 24
Presence of taxis with adapted ramp	NO – there is no ordinary local taxi service with a vehicle equipped with a ramp.
Eventual notes	In the Cecina area, however, private transport services for people with disabilities are available upon reservation, carried out with vehicles equipped with a ramp or platform. It is necessary to agree in advance on availability, characteristics of the wheelchair, route and cost.

Parking

Public parking	paid parking in Piazza Gherardini , located near the historic center; free public parking adjacent to Piazza Gherardini , reachable from the side street currently not named on the digital maps. reserved public parking in via della Libertà
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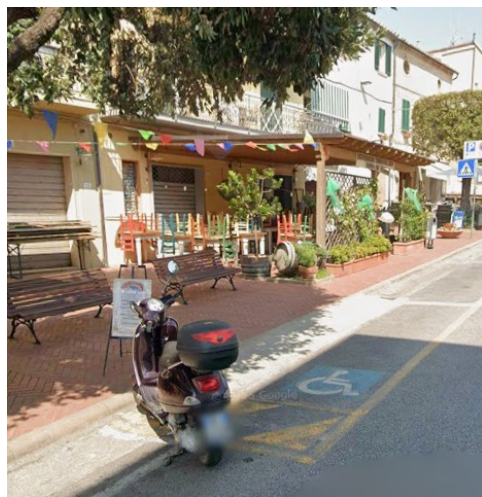
	reserved public parking in Piazza Matteotti free public parking on the Eberstadt Square
Public parking fund	asphalt
Parking space reserved for people with disabilities	n 1 Piazza Ghelardini car park n 1 parking lot in via della Libertà n 1 parking in Piazza Matteotti free public parking on Piazza Eberstadt with no reserved spaces



Figures 2 Parking in Piazza Ghelardini



Figures 3 Palazzo della Contessa and Parking in Via della Libertà



Figures 4 Parking in Piazza Matteotti



Figures 5 Parking Piazza Eberstadt





Route from the car park to the starting point

Distance from the car park to the starting point	About 10 m from the parking lot in Via della Libertà, 250 m from the P.za Ghelardini car park, 190 m from the parking lot in Piazza Matteotti, 100 m from the parking lot in P.za Eberstadt
Type of trail surface	Asphalt
There are indicators and tactile maps	NO

Description of the itinerary



Length	800 meters
Along the itinerary there are maps and tactile signs for the blind	NO

ROUTE FROM THE EBERTADT CAR PARK TO THE ORATORY OF S. MARIA ANNUNZIATA AND THE TOWN HALL

The itinerary starts from **Via della Libertà**, near **Piazza Eberstadt**, 90 meters away, and develops for about **800 meters** through the historic center of Montescudaio.

Proceeding along Via della Libertà you will first come to Palazzo **Marchionneschi**, on the right

The flooring, in Via della Libertà, is in self-locking blocks, laid in a herringbone pattern, with a compact and fairly regular bottom





Palazzo **Marchionneschi** is an elegant historic residence built between the late nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. The building retains architectural and decorative elements of the time, including rooms with cross vaults, historic floors, stately rooms and an internal garden. Recently restored respecting the original features, today it houses a private accommodation facility.

A few meters away, in Via della Madonna, 45, on the right is Palazzo **Ridolfi**, also known as **Palazzo Surbone**, it is one of the main historic buildings of Montescudaio. Located along Via della Libertà, it was the residence of the Ridolfi marquises, to whom the village was granted as a fief in the seventeenth century. In 1846 the palace hosted the Grand Duke **Leopold II of Tuscany**, who arrived in the town following the serious earthquake that had hit Montescudaio. The building is now a private property and can therefore be observed mainly from the outside.

On the left, a few meters away, there is a stall reserved for CUDE badge holders and to the side the **Palazzo della Contessa**, an imposing stately home built in **1752**, located in the historic center of Montescudaio and surrounded by a large garden. It belonged to Countess **Maria Antonietta Bacci** and later to the Guerrini family, and preserves frescoed rooms and eighteenth-century architectural features. In 2017 the building was reopened and the management entrusted to the newly formed cultural association "**Palazzo della Contessa**", in collaboration with the municipal administration, with the aim of hosting exhibitions, workshops, cultural initiatives and activities dedicated to local traditions. Before the visit, it is advisable to check that it is actually open to the public.

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

The building is accessible only via two steps 20/25 cm high.

Accessibility inside is very difficult due to the presence of stairs without a lift: it can be an uncomfortable stop for those with reduced mobility.

Continuing without differences in height you reach the **Sanctuary of the Santissima Annunziata**, formerly the Oratory of the Santissima Annunziata, of fifteenth-century origin, and the **Town Hall**, housed in a historic building in the village.

The **Sanctuary of the Santissima Annunziata**, located next to the Town Hall, is a religious building of fifteenth-century origin, modified several times over the centuries. The current appearance of the façade, characterized by stone columns and elements of neoclassical taste, dates back to the interventions carried out in the thirties of the twentieth century.

Inside there are two painted terracotta statues depicting the **Virgin of the Annunciation** and the **Announcing Angel**, which has long been the object of deep popular devotion.

In 2025 the oratory was officially recognized as a **Marian shrine**.

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

The Sanctuary is accessible only via two 25 cm high steps.





The **Town Hall of Montescudaio** is located in the historic **Palazzo Guerrini**, an elegant eighteenth-century building that belonged to one of the most important families in the village. The building retains the appearance of an ancient stately home and overlooks Piazza del Comune, next to the Sanctuary of the Santissima Annunziata. Today it houses the offices of the municipal administration.

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

The Town Hall is accessible via a step of varying height from 4 to 8 cm

Two-leaf door, with a total useful width of more than 90 centimetres.



Figures 6 Ridolfi Palace



Figures 7 Ridolfi Palaces and Marchionneschi Palace from left



Figures 8 Palace of the Countess



Figures 9 Palazzo della Contessa and car stall





Figures 10 Sanctuary of the Santissima Annunziata



Figures 11 Sanctuary of the Santissima Annunziata



ROUTE FROM THE TOWN HALL TO THE CIVIC TOWER AND THE CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA ASSUNTA

From the Town Hall, continue on Via della Madonna for 70 meters, with a maximum gradient of 2%, and turn right into Via del Castello.

After 17 meters, with a slope of 6%, turn left and continue, mainly flat or with small differences in height, on Via del Castello for 100 meters, until you reach the **Civic Tower**.





The pavement, in Via del Castello, is still in self-locking blocks, laid in a herringbone pattern, with a compact and fairly regular bottom and a variable but still moderate slope.

Along Via del Castello there is the large **mural "The source of life"**, a work dedicated to the women of Montescudaio. A female figure symbolically pours the water of life on a fantastic landscape, animated by waves, rocks, flowering trees and butterflies, images that evoke nature, rebirth and the continuous renewal of life.

The **Civic Tower**, also known as **Torre della Guardiola**, stands in the highest part of the historic center and in ancient times marked the entrance to the castle of Montescudaio. Characterized by a simple and massive structure, it represents one of the main testimonies of the ancient defensive system of the village. Today it houses the **CeDiAS – Documentation Center of Archaeology and History**, dedicated to the knowledge and enhancement of the history of Montescudaio and the Lower Val di Cecina.

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

The **CeDiAS – Documentation Centre of Archaeology and History** is located on the ramp leading to the Church of S. Maria Assunta and is accessible via a step of varying height from 3 to 8 cm
Swing door, with a total usable width of more than 80 centimetres.

Continue along a wide ramp, uphill, 30 meters long, with a gradient of 8%, reaching the highest part of Montescudaio, where the **abbey church of Santa Maria Assunta is located**

Located in the highest part of Montescudaio, the church dominates the village with its façade preceded by a wide staircase. The current building was built between 1854 and 1857, after the earthquake of 1846 had destroyed the previous church. The interior, in the shape of a Latin cross with an apse, preserves an eighteenth-century painted marble statue depicting San Francesco di Paola and a seventeenth-century canvas of the Annunciation, attributed to the Venetian school. The visit can continue towards the nearby panoramic terrace, overlooking the Val di Cecina and the coast.

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

The **main entrance** to the church can be reached from the parking lot via a staircase with 10 steps in addition to 5 steps on the front door.

People with reduced mobility can use the **side entrance**, at the end of the ramp, accessible via a threshold with a small difference in height





Figure 12 from Via della Madonna to Via del Castello



Figure 13 Mural "The Source of Life" in Via del Castello



Figure 13 Civic Tower



Figure 14 Civic Tower

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Figure 16 CeDiAS Entrance



Figure 15 Façade in front of the Civic Tower with decorative inserts in stone and exposed brick.



Figure 18 path on the left towards the side entrance Church of S. Maria Assunta



Figure 19 main entrance Church of S. Maria Assunta





Regione Toscana



Figures 16 side entrance Church of S. Maria Assunta



Figures 17 side entrance Church of S. Maria Assunta



Figures 18 Church of S. Maria Assunta





ROUTE FROM THE CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA ASSUNTA TO THE PANORAMIC TERRACE AND THE POGGIARELLO DISTRICT

From the Church of Santa Maria Assunta, cross a 30-metre-long downhill ramp with a gradient of 13% and reach the **Castle's panoramic terrace**. From this point it is possible to admire a wide panorama of the Val di Cecina, the hills, the coast and, on clear days, the islands of the Tuscan Archipelago. From the panoramic terrace of the Castle, after 50 meters, on the flat, turn right towards Via del Poggiarello, following a sufficiently wide pedestrian path, bordered in some sections by stone walls and flanked by trees.

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

The flooring is mainly made up of brick elements arranged in a herringbone pattern and has some small differences in height and transverse connections, which require attention during wheelchair passage.

Continuing along the route you reach the **Poggiarello multipurpose room**, located in a panoramic position and used for meetings, cultural initiatives, exhibitions and activities open to the community.

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

Near the building there is a paved ramp that from the path taken allows you to overcome the difference in height and reach the entrance.

Access to the room is flat through a double-leaf door, with a useful passage width of more than 90 centimeters. The interior is large, has a regular brick floor and is free of significant differences in height, allowing movement and room for manoeuvre even for people in wheelchairs.

The route continues through the parking lot of the **multipurpose room**, and then **enters the suggestive and characteristic Poggiarello district**.

The **Poggiarello** is one of the most evocative and characteristic corners of Montescudaio. Located in the upper part of the village, near the panoramic terrace and the ancient area of the Castle, it is crossed by pedestrian paths paved in brick, partly shaded by tall cypresses and bordered by stone walls.

The neighborhood retains a quiet and cozy atmosphere, enriched by the facades of the houses, the views of the countryside and the view that, on clear days, extends towards the coast.

The combination of architecture, vegetation and landscape makes this area particularly pleasant to visit.

From the Multipurpose Hall, after walking 30 meters, admiring the Poggiarello district, you enter Via della Madonna, near the Church of S. Maria Assunta, near the starting point of our itinerary





Figures 19 Panoramic terrace of the Castle



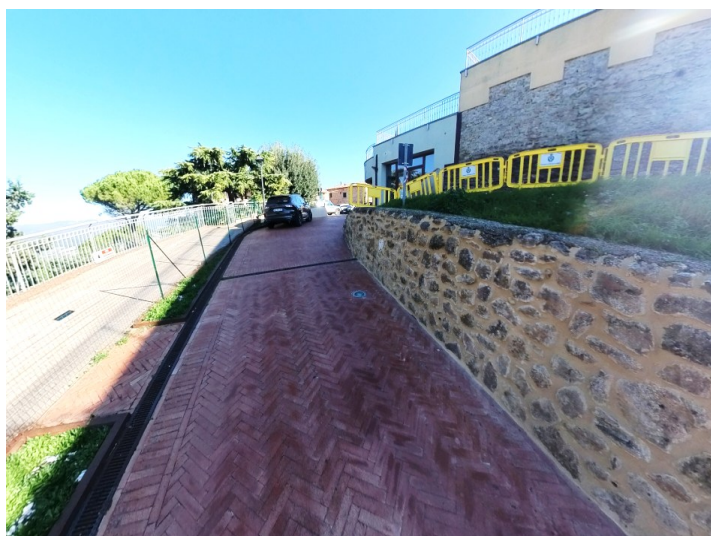


Figure 24 towards the Poggiarello multipurpose room



Figure 25 Multipurpose room of the Poggiarello





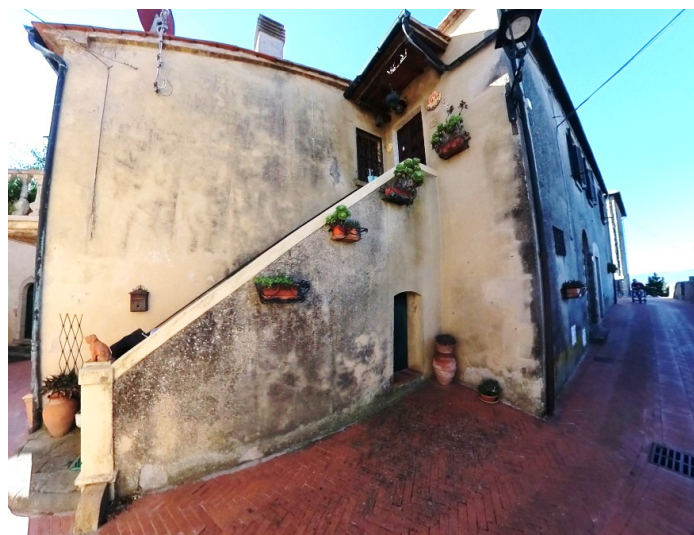
Figures 20 Poggiarello multipurpose room



Figures 21 Poggiarello multipurpose room



Figures 22 Poggiarello district



Figures 23 Poggiarello district





Figures 24 from the Poggiarello district to Via della Madonna



Figures 25 from the Poggiarello district to Via della Madonna





Communal toilets

There is an accessible toilet	At the time of the inspection, there are no accessible and regularly usable public toilets in the historic center. For information on the possible opening of the services present at the municipal buildings, contact the Municipality of Montescudaio: 0586 651611 .
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HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

Hospitals near the property	Cecina Hospital Via Montanara 52/B, Cecina (LI) 12 km away equipped with First Aid, sampling point, CUP, specialist services Tel. 0586 614111. (LI). S.Maria Maddalena Hospital Borgo San Lazzerò 5, Volterra (PI) 34 km away - Tel. 0588 91911.34 km Ospedali Riuniti di Livorno – Viale Alfieri 36, Livorno at 48 km There is a PASS service to facilitate the health paths of the people with disabilities. Tel. 0586 223111.
Other healthcare facilities	Municipal Pharmacy of Montescudaio – Via della Libertà 27. Tel. 0586 650031 CUP, sampling point and territorial services of the Cecina Hospital – Via Montanara 52/B, Cecina 12 km away

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