

## **A Walk to Radda (and a bus ride home)**

About 3-3.5 hrs walking time. Bus leaves Radda around 3.00pm, so fits well for a full morning, with plenty of time for lunch before returning. That said, emergency Mars bars all round might not be bad idea.

1. Leave the Borgo and walk uphill to the junction.
2. Turn right and follow the road right up to Vertine.
3. With Vertine on your left, turn right and follow the tarmac road up past the cemetery on right.
4. Shortly, tarmac turns to 'white road'; press on to junction and turn left towards St Donato (you will see the winery on the corner on your left)
5. Follow the track until you reach the St Donato apartment complex on your right. (page 209 Of Chianti Heart of Tuscany for a bit of history on St Donato)
6. Opposite the iron gates, take the track to your left, staying straight on (slight uphill gradient) when the track soon splits.
7. Stick on this track against all distractions. (There are several tracks off, particularly to left, to various holiday cottages etc)
8. Eventually you begin to lose height with the track swinging gradually to your left.
9. It drops down to the rear of Villa Vistarenni (Chianti heart of Tuscany, page 210). Unfortunately from this approach you do not get a view like the photo. Instead, you pass first a small water tower to your left, then some holiday cottages, opening up to the work yard – offices to your left, and parking and a tennis court to your right.
10. Walk through the complex to the vehicle entrance/access and turn sharp right to follow the road down a tree lined avenue (the small brook to your right will probably be flowing in winter).
11. Follow the road down to a hairpin bend at the bottom, then gradually gain height on the other side of the valley, eventually up to the main road at the top.
12. Cross the road to the concrete track opposite and walk steeply uphill. Just after the top another track coverges. Keep straight on on the main track.
13. At a second track junction (from left), the main track goes off to the right. Follow this as it swings left following the ridge, glimpses of Radda to your right.
14. Keep on until you see a wooden cross/shrine on stone base under trees to your left. Shortly after this take the small track to your left.
15. This is a much narrower, stoney track, and goes steeply down to the back of a large villa.
16. Pass the villa on your right. At the front of the villa, turn right to pass in front of the villa complex and tack the track down that swings round the field sloping away in front of you, meeting a main track at the bottom.
17. Turn left into the main track, follow it as it turns right to cross a small bridge and starts to climb quite steeply upwards with the Santa Maria Convent ahead left.

18. Turn left, to effectively go around the back of the Convent (Cypress trees) and follow it to the tarmac road. You are in 'lower' Radda.
19. Turn left into the tarmac road, which begins to swing right and climbs uphill. Pass the car park and a new restaurant (probably closed) with great views on your right. Road rises now even steeper to the main road at the top, and the town proper.
20. Bus stop for home is on the main road a hundred metres or so on your left.
21. Bar Dante (on main road beyond bus stop) is nearly always open for a pasta lunch and a glass of vino.
22. Pedestrian area of Radda well worth a wander, with great views from the road below the town walls. Another bar with snacks nearly always open is in the pedestrian area to rear of Bar Dante, on left as you walk through.