

Discover Marche Region



marche region

8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS – Marche Region

1 DAY: BOLOGNA – PESARO

Arrival in Bologna and departure to discover Marche Region and its first city of the itinerary: Pesaro, a noble seaside town on the Adriatic Sea. Accommodation at Excelsior Hotel, the first 5 stars Boutique Hotel in Marche. Dinner at 59 Restaurant, sea view restaurant, where it's possible to taste gourmet menu inspired by traditional Marche food and wine. Overnight.

2 DAY: PESARO – SAN BARTOLO PARK – FIORENZUOLA – GRADARA – PESARO

Breakfast. Guided walking tour of Pesaro to discover the city of Gioacchino Rossini composer and of Ceramics. The tour starts from Arnaldo Pomodoro Sphere and Villino Ruggeri, rare example of Art Nouveau style in Italy and continues in the heart of the city with the visit of Rossini House, in which lithographs, paintings, caricatures, manuscripts of the famous composer are exposed, the Cathedral with its mosaics (IV and VI sec), the Museum of ceramics, Rossini Conservatory and Theatre. We would like to inform you that every year during August month in Pesaro will take place the Rossini Opera Festival bringing internationally famous singers and musicians to the city. At the end of the visit, departure to one

of the most beautiful landscape on the Adriatic Sea. Driving along panoramic street, within San Bartolo Natural park, you'll reach Fiorenzuola di Focara, a little medieval hamlet nestle between the blue of the sea and the lush vegetation especially in spring when everywhere pervade the yellow and the fragrance of the brooms. Even though Fiorenzuola di Focara is a little village overlooking the sea, Dante Alighieri mentioned it in "Divina Commedia poem, Inferno cant". Lunch in a typical fisherman tavern to taste the famous "Brodetto" like a soup made with the Adriatic Sea fishes. In the afternoon departure to Gradara, the small medieval village, famous for the tragedy of the two lovers Paolo e Francesca that was commemorated by Dante Alighieri in his poem Divina Commedia. Guided visit of Gradara Castle and its walled village, representing one of the medieval structures better conserved in Italy and also one of the most imposing, with its long walls of over 800 meters and the high "mastio" dominating the wonderful valley where the castle rise up. Gradara is a fairy-tale place, where art and legend join together to tell us secrets and histories of the Middle Age, like the most famous of Paolo and Francesca's love, sung by poets of all times such as Dante, Petrarca, Boccaccio and

D'Annunzio. An itinerary that is even more magic and special when the evening comes and the "rocca" becomes a poetic, natural frame for all the lovers. At the end of the visit come back to Pesaro. Possibility of shopping in the boutique of the city centre. Dinner free. Overnight at hotel.

3 DAY: PESARO – URBINO – PESARO

Breakfast. Departure to Urbino, "Cradle of Renaissance" or "The Perfect City", a real treasure suspended on a hill. Guided walking tour of the historical centre, World Heritage of Unesco, characterized by its streets called "piole" that run up and down to the city, surrounded by architectural masterpieces. The visit begins from the historic centre, made up of a tight urban fabric with suggestive spaces which surrounded the ducal residence: the Rampa of Giorgio Martini (helical flight), Renaissance Square, the famous façade of "Torricini" from where you can enjoy a wonderful sight from the Fortress of Alborno. The center of town is dominated by the Ducal Palace: an out-and-out city inside the city, expression of the genius Duke Federico of Montefeltro, as well as birthplace of the Italian Renaissance and painters such as Raffaello Sanzio and Piero della Francesca. The itinerary inside the palace will focus on the

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explanation of the masterpieces of the National Gallery of Marche, passing through various places: the Court of Honour, the Duke's Apartment, Duke's Studio, the Duchess's Apartment, the Basements, ect. The neoclassical cathedral seems to be an extension of the Duke's Palace, from here in 10 minutes you are in the heart of the city, in Repubblica square, the meeting place of many students who attend the University Carlo Bo (one of the older in Italy). Lunch in a characteristic restaurant in S. Francesco square, to taste typical product like Crescia Sfogliata, Cappelletti or Casciotta of Urbino. From the square, going up to the hill you come to the Raphael house, where he was born. Son of the painter and writer Giovanni Santi, gave him the first painting techniques along with the ideals of the Renaissance, learned in the scholarly court of Montefeltro. The interior has been furnished from the Accademia Raffaello that has its headquarters here, including works of art by artists more or less known stands the famous "Madonna con il bambino" attributed to the young Raphael. The tour continues to Albornoz Fortress to take panoramic pictures to the unforgettable Urbino. Departure to Piero Guidi Outlet, famous brand all over the world for

its bags and clothes. Come back to Pesaro. Dinner not included. Overnight at hotel.

4 DAY: PESARO - ANCONA - PARK OF CONERO MOUNT AND ITS HAMLETS

Breakfast. Departure to visit Ancona and its main remarkable monuments of the town: San Ciriaco Cathedral, the ruins of a roman amphitheatre, the Palace of the Elders, the Church of San Francesco alle Scale, the Church of San Domenico, the Teatro delle Muse, the Palazzo Ferretti, the Government Palace, the Romanesque church of Santa Maria della Piazza, the Loggia dei Mercanti and the Fountain of the Thirteen Spouts. Departure to Regional Park of Conero Mount, a natural preserved oasis of 5.800 hectares, where the blue of the sea, the green and yellow of the hills are protagonists. The Conero area is well-known for the production of wine, called Rosso Conero. Visit of an important winery, awarded several times for its wines production by prominent leaders such as Gambero Rosso, Veronelli, Slow Food. Guided tour to the vineyards and the cellars, where the grapes become wine, to relive along the way, the entire history lived for centuries from these places. Lunch in the winery agriturismo to taste a km "0" menu, using only their seasonal products or most

of them, combined with one or more wines for the different courses. After lunch the "Conero Tour" continues visiting different hamlets, Portonovo, Numana, Sirolo everyone with its peculiarities. After the visit, return to Ancona. Accommodation at Passetto Grand Hotel, a 4-star hotel overlooking the sea. Dinner in restaurant to taste the typical "Stoccafisso all'anconetana" (stockfish and Adriatic seafood). Overnight.

5 DAY: ANCONA - FRASASSI - FABRIANO - ANCONA

Breakfast. Departure to Frasassi for visiting the enchanting caves, one of the most beautiful stalactites and stalagmites complex in Europe. A walk of about 1h15 minutes brings you in a fabulous hidden world through different and unique halls. At the end of the visit departure to Fabriano, the paper city and birthplace of the famous painter Gentile da Fabriano. Guided visit of Paper Museum and at the major monuments: Palazzo del Podestà, Teatro Gentile, Portico dei Vasari, Oratorio della Carità. The typical product of Fabriano is "Salame": This noble cured meat, under protection of slow food organization, is made with the most prized cut of pork, the thigh, and was even mentioned in a letter signed by

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pesaro, colle san bartolo

Giuseppe Garibaldi himself. A few years earlier, Oreste Marcoaldi, an intellectual from the Marche, wrote, "The salame is a specialty of Fabriano, like "Mortadella" in Bologna and "Zamponi in Modena." Taste of this historical product in a local small shop with other typical area product. Come back to the hotel. Dinner not included. Overnight.

6 DAY: LORETO - RECANATI - MACERATA - ASCOLI PICENO

Breakfast. Tour to Loreto, one of the major pilgrimage destination in the world for the biggest Marian Shrine in Italy. After the visit of the Basilica, departure to Recanati, one of the most popular town in Marche Region, because the birthplace of Giacomo Leopardi, one of the most important Italian poets. A walking tour in Recanati means to live place, fragrance and traditions that inspired Leopardi poems. Lunch free. In the afternoon departure to Macerata, elegant and human scale city, named "city of lyric and culture" for its artistic and architectural masterpieces. The

Symbol of the city is the Sferisterio, a neoclassic building desired from the Macerata's nobles, for the game of "Pallone a bracciale" and at the same time an arena for bullfighting, hunting the bull, which was very popular in the State Papal States. Over the years Sferisterio lost its original sport use to become an arena for opera music. The Giuseppe Verdi's Aida was the first opera staged in 1921. In this wonderful location every year the summer lyric season with important operas like Aida, Traviata and Tosca takes place. Guided walking tour of the medieval town to admire the Cathedral, the beautiful baroque Lauro Rosso Theatre and Palazzo Brancorsini Buonaccorsi with coaches museum. After the visit, departure to Ascoli Piceno. Accommodation at 100 Torri Hotel, an authentic noble palace of 16th century, close to the main square of the town. Dinner at hotel restaurant become the object of appreciation from important Italian restaurant guides and recommended by prestigious magazines. Overnight.

7 DAY: ASCOLI PICENO - CUPRA MARITTIMA - SAN BENEDETTO

Breakfast. Guided visit of Ascoli Piceno and its fascinating centre entirely built with the ivory-white colour of the local travertine: from the aristocrat buildings to churches, squares and streets, private homes. Travertine stone is not easy to work, but the skilled artisans have managed it to create beautiful decorations for precious portals, rosettes and mullioned windows. The tour continues to an enchanting place, where the time seems to stand still. Cupra Marittima, a small village on the sea, hides within its countryside street, one of the most important wineries and bio farms in Italy. It produces only one wine, the prestigious Kurni, cultivated in the vineyards around the producer house. It's a pleasure to speak and listen with the producers about their philosophy. The pace of life is still rural and agricultural. The bread is baked in a wood oven, the work in the vineyard are carried out by

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frasassi caves

all the family, with the necessary calm. The plants of Montepulciano are treated with the utmost respect, avoiding strenuous work in the field and also the simplest treatments are minimized. The plant system is as similar as possible to that which was applied 60 years ago in the area. The mad rush of the wine market is not interested to producers. What is real is the wild beauty of the landscape, the images of small clusters that change colour. For this reasons Kurni wine has a limited production, only 6.000 bottle per season but well appreciated by the wine guides and press with the assignments of different awards along the last years (The Excellent Italian wine 2011 by L'Espresso guide, 3 glasses from Gambero Rosso guide etc). Lunch in the winery agritourism (Gambero Rosso restaurant selected) with a "Bio-Menu" based only on products directly cultivated and breed in the farm. Afternoon dedicated to shopping at the popular Coltorti boutique outlet in San Benedetto. Return to Ascoli Piceno and dinner in a typical restaurant to taste the

famous fried foods (meat-filled olives, cream and vegetables. After dinner we suggest you a stop at Caffè Meletti, historical caffè in the main square of Ascoli Piceno to taste the "Anisetta Meletti", a distillate of aniseed and other aromatic herbs from the area of Ascoli Piceno. It is produced according to the original recipe made by Silvio Meletti in 1870. It is a sweet strong drink and a glass of it is a sign of good taste. It is served with coffee, ice and water too and it is very good to make cakes and cocktails. Overnight.

8 DAY: ASCOLI PICENO – ROME

Breakfast. Departure to Rome. On the way, it's necessary and worthy a stop in Abruzzo, in the small village of Santo Stefano di Sassanio to enjoy the silence and the atmosphere of old times. The village of Santo Stefano di Sessanio is perhaps the most fascinating of all of man's achievements in the entire Parco Nazionale del Gran Sasso e dei Monti della Laga. It is built entirely out of white limestone, which has become dulled with time. All

the houses are covered with clay tiles, providing a harmonious overall view to those gazing down on it from the top of the Medici tower. Walking tour of the hamlet with the possibility to buy Santo Stefano typical products: lentils (organic growned legume) or other regional specialties like Pecorino d'Abruzzo (cheese), Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo, Verdicchio, Pecorino (wines) and saffron (spice). In the afternoon, departure to Rome. Arrivederci!

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ancona, mount conero

HIGHLIGHTS DAY BY DAY

DAY	Accommodation
1° - 4°	Excelsior Hotel, 5 stars or Hotel Nautilus, 4 stars in Pesaro or similar
4° - 6°	Seepport Hotel, 4 stars or NH Ancona, 4 stars in Ancona or similar
7° - 8°	Hotel Villa Pigna, 4 stars in Ascoli Piceno or similar
1° - 8°	Accommodation in standard room in bed & breakfast
DAY	Services/Excursions/Experiences/Meals as follow
1° BOLOGNA - PESARO	Dinner at hotel restaurant in Pesaro
2° PESARO - SAN BARTOLO PRAK - GRADARA - PESARO	Guided walking tour of Pesaro; guided walking tour of Gradara Castle
3° PESARO - URBINO - PESARO	Full day guided walking tour of Urbino
4° PESARO - ANCONA - PARK OF CONERO MOUNTS	Cellar visit with wine tasting in Conero area; Dinner at restaurant in Ancona
5° ANCONA - FRASASSI - FABRIANO - ANCONA	Guided visit of Frasassi Caves; Salami tasting in Fabriano
6° LORETO - RECANATI - MACERATA - ASCOLI PICENO	Dinner at hotel restaurant in Ascoli Piceno
7° ASCOLI PICENO - CUPRA MARITTIMA - SAN BENEDETTO	Guided visit of Ascoli Piceno; lunch in a winery agritourism in Cupra Marittima
1° - 8°	Car rental (cat E) - Pick up and drop off at airport, unlimited mileage, CDW, THW & taxes

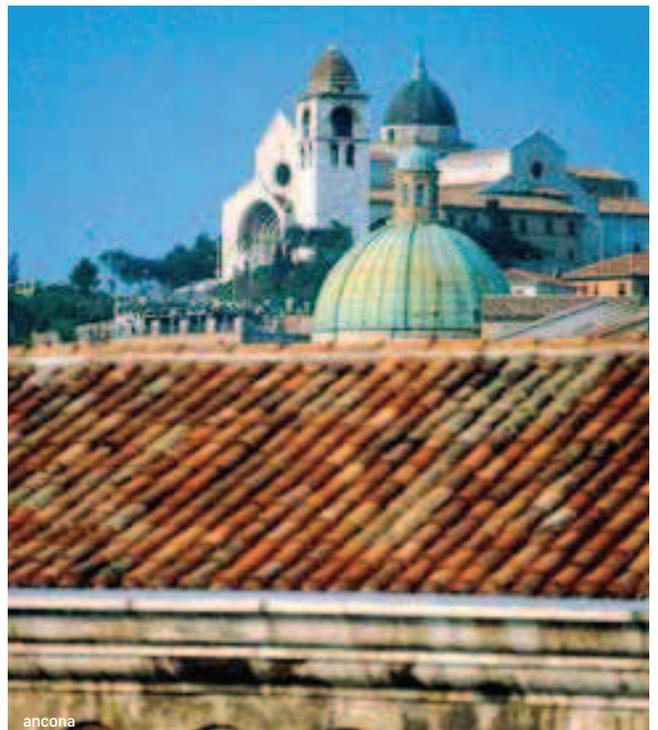
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loreto



san bartolo hill, fiorenzuola di focara



ancona