



VITA ITALIAN TOURS

Specialise in personally guided small group tours to Italy



HIGHLIGHTS OF LE MARCHE

UP TO
14
TRAVELLERS

8 DAYS | 7 NIGHTS | APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2024

Highlights of Le Marche provides an excellent opportunity to experience the life in Italy's best kept secret tourist destination: Le Marche Region, nestled between the Apennines and the Adriatic Sea.

In this tour we will visit fascinating hill towns vibrant with daily life surrounded by beautiful rolling hills. You will have the opportunity to leisurely wander through cobbled streets and magnificent town piazze. The relaxed itinerary will allow time to enjoy the life on the Adriatic.

The tour begins in the city of Pesaro, situated on the Adriatic Coast: a charming town nestled against a backdrop of hills dotted with ancient hill towns and castles. Encompassing the highlights of the Le Marche region, the traveller will discover delightful and quaint small medieval towns, each with their unique history and charm.

HIGHLIGHTS

PESARO

JESI

ASCOLI PICENO

SAN MARINO

URBINO



Pesaro





“Touring Le Marche with the Vitellone family was most enjoyable. Their personal touch and intimate knowledge of the region provided an unforgettable experience.” D & D Pearce (ACT).

DAY 1 PESARO (D) Your guide will meet the group at the hotel at 4:00pm. Introductions and a small talk on the tour will precede an afternoon walk devoted to exploring Pesaro and its treasures, which include the ancient centre with its Ducal Palace, Piazza Del Popolo, the house of Gioacchino Rossini, Pesaro’s famous composer and favourite son. We will also visit the now world-famous music school, founded by Rossini: The Rossini Conservatoire which hosts artists and musicians from all over the world. A visit to several important churches housing some fabulous artworks is included. Dinner will be at one of the oldest trattorie in the centre of the city which serves traditional Marchigiana cuisine.

DAY 2 PESARO/NOVILARA/GRADARA (BLD) Today, after breakfast the group will explore the surrounding hills of Pesaro which are dotted with medieval hamlets and Renaissance towns. We drive through the San Bartolo National Park perched high above the Adriatic stopping at Novilara, a medieval hill town with magnificent views of the countryside. Lunch is organised in a traditional trattoria famous for its local produce.

In the afternoon we visit Gradara: a medieval town dominated by its magnificent castle which overlooks the Adriatic Sea. The group will have a tour of the castle and the impressive walled town. Gradara was made famous by Italy’s famous poet, Dante from his works including “Inferno”, a literature piece dating from the 14th Century relaying the tragic love affair which occurred in this castle. Dinner in Gradara with the local special Piadina accompanied by a famous local wine.

DAY 3 PESARO/URBINO/URBANIA (BL) Today we explore the land once ruled by the medieval lords of Montefeltro. We visit Urbino, which after Florence, was one of the most important centres of the Italian Renaissance and also the birthplace of Raphael.

There will be a tour of the magnificent Ducal Palace which houses the Galleria Nazionale Delle Marche with its precious paintings by Piero Della Francesca, Tiziano, Paolo Uccello and Raphael. We then make our way to the historical city of Urbania which is famous for its Majolica ceramics and visit a number of local artisans’ workshops. Lunch will be at an award winning osteria which serves regional specialties the osteria is famous for and its special local wines. We then make our way back to Pesaro for a free evening.

DAY 4 PESARO/SAN MARINO/SAN LEO (BL) After Breakfast, we travel just over the Le Marche border for a day visit to the tiny Republic of San Marino which claims to be the oldest state and constitutional republic in the world. It is worth a visit for its history, pageantry and its magnificent hilltop setting, which offers excellent views of the surrounding countryside and the sea.

San Marino is jam packed with duty free shops and well worth shopping for leather goods, jewellery, watches and many other goods. In the afternoon, we will visit the nearby hill town of San Leo with its medieval castle perched above sheer cliffs. We will rest in the town square for lunch and taste the delicious formaggio di fossa: a cheese walled up in rock caves to mature for months. Free evening.

DAY 5 PESARO/JESI (BLD) Lunch at Vineyard Today we travel south to the city of Jesi, the capital of the famous vine-growing region of Verdicchio. Our lunch will be at a family-owned and run, award-winning winery, tasting local produce accompanied by Verdicchio wines. We will then make our way to the historical town of Jesi, where we will have a walking tour of the main highlights followed by a dinner at a local trattoria.

DAY 6 JESI/LORETO/RECANATI/ASCOLI PICENO (BD)

Today we leave the beautiful town of Jesi and in air conditioned comfort travel to see the spectacular towns of Loreto and Recanati before proceeding to our destination of Ascoli Piceno. Our first stop is a beautiful hill town second only to Assisi and Rome as a place of religious pilgrimage. The town and its magnificent cathedral is a showcase of ingenious architecture and houses works by some of the greatest artists. After lunch we visit the city of Recanati which was the birthplace of Giacomo Leopardi, Italy's greatest romantic poet. Also, the world-renowned tenor Beniamino Gigli who had his home in Recanati.

We visit the museum in Villa Colloredo-Melson on the outskirts of town which houses the greatest art treasures of Recanati and a room with four of Lorenzo Lotto's finest pictures. We then make our way to Ascoli Piceno where we will check into the hotel. Dinner will be in a traditional local restaurant.

DAY 7 ASCOLI PICENO (BD) Today we will explore the town of Ascoli Piceno visiting the historical centre. We visit two of the most significant town squares: Piazza del Popolo, with its travertine pavement and 13th century Palazzo as well as Piazza Arringo. These two squares are considered some of the most renowned and beautiful in all of Italy. The Civic Picture Gallery, decorated with Murano glass chandeliers and housing paintings by Titian and Crivelli, is an important place to visit together with the Cathedral of St Emidio with some spectacular mosaics. Dinner will be in a traditional restaurant.

DAY 8 ASCOLI/FERMO/PESARO (BL) We leave Ascoli after breakfast and will make our way to Pesaro where the tour ends. On the way to Pesaro, we visit Fermo, situated on the Sabulo Hill where you can see spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. The Duomo, dating back to the 1200's, showcases a number of Gothic architectural features in the façade and its Campanile. In Fermo, we will see remnants of a Roman Amphitheatre and battlement walls dating from Medieval Times.

Fermo and surrounding towns produce some of the most famous handmade shoes with such brands as Hogan, Tods and Nero Giardini as well as many others. Lunch will be in a traditional local restaurant. After lunch we make our way to Pesaro where the tour will end at around 4:00pm.

TOUR DEPARTURES

08 April 2024	17 June 2024
22 April 2024	01 July 2024
06 May 2024	15 July 2024
18 May 2024	02 September 2024
03 June 2024	16 September 2024

"An amazing week with Mario - without your knowledge, expertise and personality, it would not have been so memorable, enjoyable or easy." A & J Downs (NSW).



Gradara



Port of Pesaro



Ascoli Piceno



“You took us to places we would never have visited or known about. Really enjoyed tasting the local foods and wine.” J & B Hetherington (VIC).

PRICE: \$4,762

DEPARTURES: APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2024

The cost of the tour, land content only, is **AUD \$4,762 per person** in twin share accommodation. A **deposit of AUD \$500** is required to reserve a place on the tour which is non-refundable unless the tour is cancelled. The full balance is due 90 days before departure. Single supplements are available at an additional cost of **AUD \$720**. The tour is costed on a minimum of 6 people travelling on the tour with a maximum number of 14 people.

We recommend that you carefully read the Terms & Conditions applying to a Vita Italian Tour. Please refer to the Booking Page of our website vitaitaliantours.com.au/terms-conditions

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

INCLUSIONS:

- All land travel in air-conditioned mini buses.
- Accommodation for 8 days/7 nights in 4-Star hotels in Pesaro, Jesi, Ascoli Piceno.
- 7 Breakfasts.
- 4 Dinners.
- 5 Lunches (Meals include special lunches and dinners in traditional local restaurants and trattorie as detailed in the itinerary).
- Regional wines and mineral water served with meals.
- Admission to all galleries, museums and historical sites included in the itinerary.
- Personally guided tours of all the towns mentioned in the itinerary.
- The services of the tour leader throughout the tour.

EXCLUSIONS:

- Airfares.
- Travel insurance (it is compulsory for every traveller to have taken out a travel insurance policy in order to partake on a Vita Italian Tours). If you require, we can assist in organising a policy for you.
- Admission fees to places other than those specifically itemised in the itinerary.
- Meals on tour except when specifically mentioned in the itinerary.
- Drinks outside normal mealtimes or additional wine and other drinks in restaurants such as Tea & Coffee.
- Personal transport costs, phone calls and other personal needs.
- Accommodation Tax.

Physical expectations: We do not place age limitations on the tour and welcome anyone with a moderate level of physical fitness. Please keep in mind that it is mountainous country, so you can expect it to be very hilly and in some parts the gradients can be quite steep. It is not a hiking tour; however, some walking is required. You should expect to stroll leisurely for up to two hours with many breaks for sightseeing, coffee and a taste of the local produce.

The program appears to be full; however, it is mixed with long restful lunches and leisure time for your enjoyment and comfort. ***If you need to, you can always take time off from the organised program.***