



The Hidden Treasures of LE MARCHE

A REGIONAL DISCOVERY TOUR OCTOBER 5TH - 14TH 2023

Le Marche, an undiscovered jewel, is one of the twenty regions of Italy. It is situated roughly halfway down the east coast of the country, bound to the west by the Apennine Mountains, and to the east by the Adriatic Sea.

Its neighbors to the north and west (Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany, and Umbria) enjoy a booming tourist industry, while Marche sits in rural tranquility, happily devoid of the convoys of tourist coaches clogging up the countryside. Marche has managed to retain its agricultural and rural nature through to this new millennium—no mean feat in this modern age. And therein lies the beauty and charm of the region.

It has not always been so. In Renaissance times, the city of Urbino rivaled Florence in its artistic and cultural reputation (Raphael came from Urbino). Pesaro was the birthplace of Rossini and the Holy Roman Emperor, Frederick II, was born in Jesi.

A highlight of the tour for many will be the visits to three gorgeous renaissance villas, complete with their spectacular gardens.

Marche is the perfect destination for those who want to experience Italy, away from the tourist throngs. It is also where Fiona Bennett, long-time Discover Europe tour guide, has chosen to make her home for the last 25 years! Needless to say, it is she who will be leading this adventure in her adopted home.

Join Fiona this Fall, for a regional discovery of *le Marche*.



URBINO



THE MARCHE

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED)	\$ 4490
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 790

*Airfares are available from many U.S. cities.
Please call for details.*

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

HOTELS:	8 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, including all hotel taxes and service charges
COACHING:	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
MEALS:	Breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 6 dinners, 1 cooking class
GUIDES:	Discover Europe's local tour guide, Fiona Bennett throughout, local guides in Urbino, and Ascoli Piceno
BAGGAGE:	Porterage of one large suitcase per person
ENTRANCES:	Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.*

DISCOVER EUROPE LTD.
122 Island Street
Keene, NH 03431
USA



info@discovereuropeltd.com
www.discovereuropeltd.com
(toll free) 866-563-7077
(fax) 603-563-7137



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5TH - Departure from your chosen US gateway. (Lufthansa - or United Airlines - via Munich, to Ancona, Italy is the preferred routing). **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6TH - Upon your arrival, you will be met for a transfer to our hotel in the center of the Roman town of Fano, just 30 minutes from Ancona Airport. After checking in, this afternoon we will have a chance to unpack, rest up from the journey, and begin exploring your new surroundings. This evening we will gather for a reception and dinner at the hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: FANO**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH - A short drive along the Adriatic Coast this morning brings us to the spectacular Renaissance gardens of the Villa Imperiale, with its famous hanging gardens, just outside the city. The villa itself is a private residence but it may be possible to see some of the fabulous frescoed rooms of the interior. We'll have free time for lunch in the centre of Pesaro, birthplace of the musician, Rossini, before returning to Fano. Fano was the end point of the ancient Roman Road, the Via Flaminia and was the largest Roman settlement on the Adriatic and was founded by Julius Caesar himself. A walking tour of the attractive center will show us the Arch of the Emperor Augustus, the church of San Francesco and the Malatesta Palace, after which you can explore around the beautiful main square, the Piazza XX Settembre at your leisure. There will also be time to shop and have a relaxing early evening aperitivo whilst watching the busy Italian street life. This evening we take a short stroll to a local restaurant for dinner to try the superb sea food. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: FANO**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8TH - Today we set off towards the mountain village of Acqualagna, famous for both its white and black truffles to take part in a national Truffle Festival. We meet up with our Truffle hunter who will take us off to the woods to discover that elusive and mysterious fungus. We'll visit a family run factory and have an opportunity to sample the different products! After a delicious truffle lunch, we continue on to the incredible city of Urbino: a Renaissance town, a World Heritage site since 1998, and the birthplace of one of the world's most famous painters and architects, Raphael. We'll visit the Palazzo Ducale, the former residence of Duke Federico da Montefeltro, which houses the National Gallery of the Marche. The gallery was established in 1912 and was considered one of the most precious art collections in Italy at the time. Among the important artworks on show here are the Madonna di Senigallia by Piero della Francesca and La Muta, by Raphael. If there is time we will visit the house where Raphael was born. We return to Fano for a free evening. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: FANO**



TRUFFLE HUNT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9TH - Leaving Fano, we drive south to Jesi, a well-preserved medieval town and the birthplace of Frederick II, Holy Roman Emperor. After visiting the marvelous art gallery housed in the Palazzo Pianetti with its famous rococo ceilings, there will be time to wander through the twisting medieval alleyways and to find lunch. After lunch we will visit a mozzarella and cheese farm, owned by the Marquesa Trionfi Honorati, where we can watch the cheeses being made - and taste them too! The local Verdicchio area is famous for its much-prized wines, so we will of course take an opportunity to visit a wine Cantina for a wine tasting. We'll continue to our hotel in Fabriano, near the mountains and famous for its paper making industry, much beloved by artists. Dinner at the hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: FABRIANO**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH - This morning we head up into the mountains, where the Frasassi Caves are hidden in a deep gorge. Discovered in 1979 by a speleological and geological research team, they consist of a series of vast caverns with magnificent stalactites and stalagmites forming the largest complex of caves anywhere in Europe, all beautifully lit to create an enchanting atmosphere. We'll have lunch at a local restaurant very close to the Caves where there's a chance to try delicious local wild boar, as well as truffles and porcini mushrooms. In the afternoon we drive back to Fabriano, to the Paper Museum to find out about original paper making traditions in the working museum as well as the invention of the watermark. You can purchase souvenirs or pieces of hand produced Fabriano paper in the museum shop before we return to our hotel. The evening is free to sample a nearby local restaurant. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: FABRIANO**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH - After breakfast, we drive south to Ascoli Piceno, famed for its delicious stuffed olives, among other things. En route, we stop to visit the Chiaravalle Abbey of Fiastra, one of the best-preserved Cistercian abbeys in Italy, famed also for its labyrinthine wine cellars and its marvelous "vin cotto," similar to a rich port. Free time for lunch and a chance to buy products made by the monks from the little shop. If time permits we will drop into the famous Cantina Terre di Serrapadrona which makes a unique wine from an ancient vine found only in this area. This evening we arrive at our hotel in Ascoli Piceno. Dinner is included. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ASCOLI PICENO**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12TH - We start our walking tour by visiting Piazza del Popolo, considered to be the most elegant square in the Marche. Here we see the 13th-century Palazzo del Popolo, the church of Saint Francis, and the famous Art Deco café, Meletti where you can try café corretto, coffee with aniseed liqueur. Next we visit the cathedral in Piazza Aringa with its famous Carlo Crivelli triptych. The afternoon is free. This evening will be devoted to a cooking class - and then consuming the product of our labours! **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ASCOLI PICENO**



VILLA SGARIGLIA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13TH - On our last day we have been invited to visit a private villa with charming and original gardens. The Villa Sgariglia overlooking the Adriatic sea was built in 1793. The owner will show us around his property and invite us inside. Part of the Villa is still used by the family and the furnishings inside are original. This could also be our chance to dip our toes into the Adriatic. This afternoon will be free for last minute shopping or to explore any museums not yet visited, or have cappuccino in the central square and watch the world go by. Our farewell dinner will be in the hotel **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ASCOLI PICENO**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH - Morning transfer back to Ancona Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**