

January itinerary

Between Pesaro and Urbino

Urbino - Ducal Palace



View of the hills

PESARO • In a characteristic position between two hills with a straight drop down to the sea, Pesaro is a charming town where industry, artisans, tourism and culture find the right mix. It is the birth city of the composer Rossini and it hosts the Rossini Opera Festival every year as well as boasting a rich theatre season. The Ducal Palace, which now hosts the Prefecture offices, is a site to visit. It was built by Alessandro Sforza during the second half of the fifteenth century. The Cathedral, which was recently restored, was built in the Romanic-gothic era over the remains of a late Roman building. Pesaro also has an extensive antique tile tradition which is also evidenced by the rich collection in the Civic Museums in Pesaro. This is also a seaside resort area that is suited to people of all ages.

URBINO • The maximum splendour of the city dates back to the Renaissance period, when the territory was dominated by the dukes of Montefeltro. They built the famous Ducal Palace (1465) the monumental symbol of Urbino and the

This area in the Marche region conserves a rich testimony to Medieval and Renaissance times and it also has a great deal to offer visitors from a natural point of view as well: from the Apennine environment all the way to the Adriatic coast. Passing by the soft hilly slopes, it is possible to take panoramic excursions on foot or cultural trips through sites, towns and museums that are no less worthy than ones in more famous regions, such as nearby Tuscany. The territory is distinguished for its family-style welcome and genuine cuisine. Enthusiasts can still discover the ancient traditions of farm culture here.

Pesaro, Rossini theatre



HOW TO ARRIVE

From the airport Ancona-Falconara Marittima, take provincial road SP33, then turn left on provincial road SP34 and continue on until reaching the A14 autostrada highway junction and take a right. Take the A14 autostrada highway heading towards Bologna and continue until reaching the exit for Fano. At this point take the SS73 bis superstrada expressway that crosses Fano and then continue on the SS16 Adriatica superstrada expressway until you reach Pesaro.





Pesaro, seafront



Pesaro, Ducal Palace



Urbania, Ducal "Barco"



Gradara, castle

WHERE TO DINE

RISTORANTE LO SCUDIERO, Via Baldassini 2, Pesaro, 0721 64107
RISTORANTE LA VECCHIA FORNARINA, Via Mazzini 14, Urbino, 0722 320007
RISTORANTE BIG BEN, Corso Vittorio Emanuele 61, Urbania, 0722 319795
RISTORANTE LA BOTTE, Piazza V Novembre 11, Gradara, 0541 964404

WHERE TO STAY

HOTEL AMBASSADOR, Viale Trieste 291, Pesaro, 0721 34246
HOTEL PRESIDENT'S, Lungomare Sauro 33, Pesaro, 0721 32976-30229
AGRITURISMO FOSSO DEL LUPO, Via Monte Tomba 10, suburb Scotaneto, Urbino, 0722 340233
HOTEL RAFFAELLO, Vicolo S. Margherita 40, Urbino, 0722 4784-4896

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prototype for unfortified princely dwellings. Today the National Gallery of the Marche region is located inside the Palace and it contains the most important museum collection in the region with works by Raphael, Piero della Francesca, Paolo Uccello, Luca Signorelli, Luca della Robbia and other artists of the era. Near the Ducal Palace, is the Cathedral which is in neoclassic style today because it was rebuilt by the architect Valadier at the end of the eighteenth century after having been destroyed by an earthquake.

Urbino was a city of art and culture over the centuries and it is not an accident that it was the homeland of the two great artists Raphael and Bramante and that still today it has a very active cultural life and it is home to an important University.

URBANIA • Famous for producing ceramics, Urbania has the singular record for having changed its name at least three times. The current name derives from Pope Urban VIII who elevated it to the level of a diocese and a city in 1636. Before that it was called Casteldurante, in memory of its founder Guglielmo Durante, who rebuilt it from the foundations after the destruction of the pre-existing centre of Castel delle Ripe.

The interesting characteristic of Urbania consists in its urban conformation: surrounded by walls and protected by the Metauro River, it presents a very regular organizational system with long and straight roads that are similar to designs from Roman times. Among the prestigious buildings we find the Ducal Palace, the Diocese of Pesaro Palace and the Cathedral. Do not miss the Chiesa dei Morti (Church of the Dead) with the Cemetery of the Mummies annex behind the church. The church is a tourist destination due to the odd phenomenon of natural mummification which took place due to a special mould that dried the cadavers. One kilometre outside Urbania, the majestic "Barco" can be found, which served as the summer residence and hunting grounds for the dukes of Urbino.

THE EVENT OF THE MONTH: THE BEFANA FESTIVAL IN URBANIA

The Befana festival takes place from January 2 to 6 when the whole town transforms to welcome dozens of "befana" witches to entertain adults and children with many different initiatives: first of all the "Casa della Befana" is opened with creative labs, acrobatic descent from the highest tower in the city and other shows in the squares and in the theatre with music, markets, food stands, wine tasting, fireworks and above all, parades of many "befana" witches along the main roads.

There are many reasons for this event. The most important is without a doubt the rediscovery of the folkloristic, traditional and pedagogical aspect of this witch from childhood memory. Today the Befana Festival, in the memory of old popular traditions, is strongly rooted in the people living in this corner of the Marche region.

GRADARA • The town of Gradara, at the border between the Marche and Romagna regions, is tied to the tragic story of Dante Alighieri's Paolo and Francesca immortalized in the Divine Comedy. It was in the Castle of Gradara, which was owned by the Malatesta family, that the two young unfortunates fell in love, but they were killed by her husband, who discovered them together. A visit to the castle and the historic museum, a stroll along the crenulated wall and down the town lanes are very inspiring and give the feeling of having taken a true step back in time.

Avis Point

Ancona:
Falconara Airport, 071 52222
Via G. Bruno 1, 071 44241

Pesaro:
Viale Verdi 80, 0721 34549

AVIS

We try
harder.