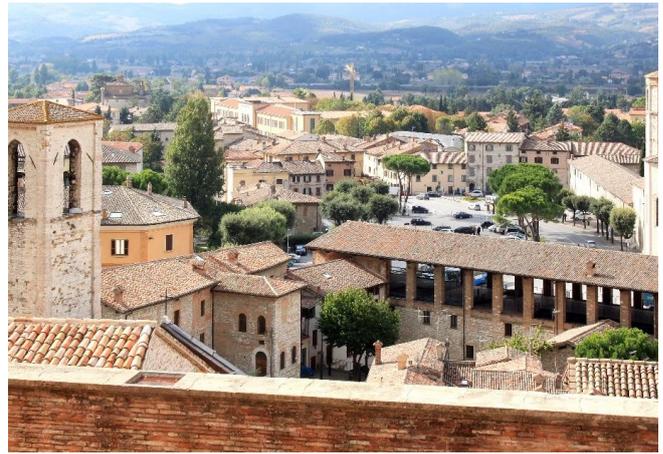


Tour  
Information



# Art and Architecture of Urbino & Gubbio





## Passports

Please ensure your 10 year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full three months beyond the duration of your visit. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel to Italy.

## Visas

British and EU passport holders are not required to have a visa.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

Italian Consulate-General: "Harp House", 83/86 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4BL.

Tel: (0)20 7936 5900. Fax: (0)20 7583 9425.

Email: [consolato.londra@esteri.it](mailto:consolato.londra@esteri.it) Website: [http://www.conslondra.esteri.it/Consolato\\_Londra](http://www.conslondra.esteri.it/Consolato_Londra)

Open Mon-Fri 0900-1200



## Tickets

Included with your detailed itinerary is an e-ticket, which shows your flight reference number. You will need to quote/show this reference number at the check-in desk and you will be issued with your boarding pass. Online check-in is not available.

Your Group Scheduled or Club Class ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



## Baggage allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With British Airways your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45 x 5 cm and a personal bag (handbag or computer case) no bigger than 45 x 36 x 20 cm.

Please contact the airline for further information.

<http://www.britishairways.com>

## Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

## Transfers

On arrival in Bologna, transfer to Urbino (approx. 2 hours) to Albergo San Domenico for a three-night stay.

## Departure Tax

The departure tax is included in the price of your flight tickets.

## Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. Please note that some airlines may charge for use of wheelchairs.



## Accommodation

### Albergo San Domenico

An old Renaissance convent, the four-star Albergo San Domenico is located opposite the Ducal Palace in a very central location on the main square of the town. Hotel facilities include a restaurant, library, courtyard and wellness centre. Rooms all have private bathroom with shower or bath, TV, telephone, wi-fi, safe, air-conditioning and hairdryer.

For more information please visit the hotel's website:

<http://www.viphotels.it/en/hotel/albergo-san-domenico-urbino/>



## Food

Italian food rivals French in the hearts and taste buds of many gastronomes and the regional cuisine, of which the locals are very proud, wonderfully reflects the climate and local produce. Delicious pizza, pasta and risotto dishes are present everywhere throughout Italy with provincial specialities and sauces.

The key element in the local cuisine is olive oil; it enhances both the authenticity and simplicity of every course.

Fresh egg pastas are among the leading dishes from simple tagliatelle to campofilone maccheronci and chitarrine.

Traditional menus include spaghetti in tuna sauce, green olives and tomatoes. Alternatively, soups are made with cereals or legumes sourced from the nearby mountains (think wheat, lentils and beans). The traditional second course is a mixed fry (*fritto misto all'ascolana*), featuring the renowned local olives, stuffed with meat, liver and tomatoes and then deep-fried. They can be served as an appetizer or as a snack.

The fritto can also include cream, zucchini, artichoke and lamb cutlets.

Olives are also used in the turkey *all'ascolana*, seasoned with aromatic herbs, juniper berries and liver.

Other local specialities include: *Ciauscolo*, a smoky pork sausage flavoured with fennel, garlic and *vino cotto*, a local non-alcoholic 'cooked wine' made from grape must with a unique sweet-and-sour flavour. Served spread on toast as an appetiser or a snack, thick slices or chunks of *ciauscolo* are also

used to enrich winter meat, bean stews or vegetable soups, *Vincisgrassi*, Le Marche's version of lasagne is a rich, baked pasta dish of epic proportions – 12 layers of soft, slippery pasta sheets are interspersed with veal ragu, chicken liver or lamb sweetbreads, truffles or wild mushrooms, and béchamel sauce, *Crema fritta*, 'fried cream' - a Marchigiana delicacy is *crema fritta* (literally, fried cream), which makes an unusual appearance in the local *fritto misto*. Cooked cream is set in the fridge overnight, then gently coated in egg and breadcrumbs and deep-fried on skewers.

Table service is common in most restaurants and bars. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, and no further tipping is required.

Strong Italian espresso coffee is served after the meal and will be black, in small cups, unless a *cappuccino* is requested.

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## Drink

The world's largest wine producer, Italy is home to some of the oldest viticulture regions. The wines are named according to their grape variety or after their village or area of origin.

Piceno wines have gained a reputation throughout Italy for their quality. The most popular are Rosso Piceno, Rosso Piceno Superiore and the Bianco Falerio dei Colli Ascolani.

Apéritifs such as *Campari* and *Punt e Mes* are excellent appetisers, while Italian liqueurs include *Grappa*, *Stregga*, *Galliano*, *Amaretto*, *Sambuca* and *Limoncello*.

### Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

**Breakfast** – daily

**Dinner** – is included on 2 evenings in the hotel.



## Destination

Le Marche and Urbino are two of Italy's most beautiful regions, yet remain largely unknown in the UK. Here you will find superb ecclesiastical and ducal architecture, extensive art collections and a wonderfully "simpatico" ambience that one only gets in Italy. Join Clare Ford-Wille to discover the art and architecture of these splendid Renaissance gems.

### Places of interest included in the tour:

#### Urbino

Designated as a World Heritage Site, Urbino is the birthplace of two great artists, Bramante and Raphael, and it is home to one of the oldest and most important universities in Europe, founded in 1506. For the second half of the 15th century its windy hill was the setting for one of the most illustrious courts in Europe. Duke Federico da Montefeltro gathered around him the greatest painters, poets and scholars of his day and housed them in one of Italy's most beautiful Renaissance palaces, a palace that still stands as an eloquent memorial to this quintessential Renaissance man. The Palazzo Ducale is a splendid late XV century residence, one of Italy's most beautiful Renaissance palaces, defined as "a city in the form of a palace", by humanist Baldesar.

For more information about Urbino:

[www.comune.urbino.ps.it](http://www.comune.urbino.ps.it)

#### Gubbio

The town of Gubbio climbs its way up the steep slopes of Monte Ingino, its Gothic splendour backed by the mighty Apennine Mountains. A powerful town in the early Middle Ages, Gubbio may appear austere due to the dark grey stone of its architecture, but its past is both turbulent and fascinating. Although most of the architecture is 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century, you'll find *Roman remains*, a 12<sup>th</sup> century *Duomo* and the magnificent ancient *Umbrian Etruscan Tables* in the *Palazzo dei Consoli*. Take care around the *Fontana dei Matti* – it is said that anyone walking around it three times will end up mad!

For more information about Gubbio:

<http://www.comune.gubbio.pg.it/pagine/tourism-in-gubbio>

#### Pesaro

The capital of the Marche's *Pesaro e Urbino* province, this appealing city is in turn an attractive seaside resort, a thriving fishing port and an important manufacturing centre. At the heart of the city lies the wide main square, Piazza del Popolo. Sipping a cool drink from one of the smart bars flanking the *piazza*, admire the sea-horses and tritons that decorate the sparkling fountain in the centre. Then let your eyes wander over the Palazzo Ducale that vies for your attention with the imperious post office building. The clean-lined Renaissance palace, recently restored, was built in the middle of the 15th century by the ruling Sforza family. Leaving the square towards the sea along Via Rossini you'll find on your right the modest house where Italy's great opera composer Gioachino Rossini was born in 1792; it is now a small shrine to the composer.

Further down via Rossini stands the town's *Cattedrale*; step inside to see the remarkable mosaic floor uncovered in 2000. The beautiful early Christian work dates from the 6th century and can be admired through glass panels set in the suspended modern floor. This vast work of art belongs to the same period as the magnificent Byzantine mosaics at Ravenna. In some points you can also glimpse an even earlier and deeper mosaic floor dating from as early as the 4th century.

## Your lecturer / Guide

Clare Ford-Wille Clare has lectured in most areas of art history for over thirty-five years. She still teaches at the University of London, where she obtained her degree at Birkbeck, but also lectures regularly for Morley College, the City Literary Institute, the Victoria and Albert Museum and NADFAS societies throughout Britain, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Every year since 1978 Clare has led art study tours to places of artistic importance throughout Europe and the USA, including Amsterdam, Padova, Vicenza, Ravenna and Bologna.

These are the second set of tours that Clare has led for Travel Editions (the first to great acclaim) and we are lucky to include her as a valued member of our team.

### Clare will deliver two lectures during your trip:

*'The Patronage of Federico di Montefeltro, Duke of Urbino'*

*'Art and Architecture of Gubbio and Pesaro'*

## Reading Suggestions

### Henry James, *Italian Hours*.

Published at the end of his life, Henry James portrays his love of Italy through this series of essays, written over nearly four decades.

### Paul Hoffman, *Umbria: Italy's Timeless Heart*.

A guide to this landlocked region's art, architecture and history – the story of a province frozen in time.

### Maria Grazia Perni: *Federico da Montefeltro & Sigismondo Malatesta The Eagle and the Elephant*.

An interdisciplinary study of two Renaissance princes, this book discusses the feud between Federico da Montefeltro and Sigismondo Pandolfo Malatesta.

### Marcello Simonetta: *The Montefalco Conspiracy*.

Narrative history unravelling a Popish plot to unseat the Medici brothers.

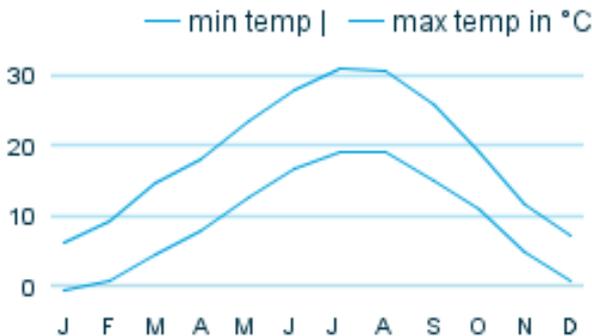
## Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.



## The Basics

**Climate** – The weather in Le Marche and Umbria at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but evenings can be quite cool and there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.



**Time** – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

**Language** – Italian

**Religion** – Roman Catholic

**National holidays** – New Year's day (01 Jan); Epiphany (06 Jan); Easter Monday; Liberation day (25 Apr); Labour Day (01 May); Republic day (02 Jun); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' day (01 Nov); Immaculate conception (08 Dec); Christmas day (25 Dec); St Stephens day (26 Dec).

**Currency** – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

**Banks** – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

**Credit cards** – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

**Electricity** – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

**Drinking water** – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

**Shops & Museums** – Department stores are open 0830-1930 Monday to Saturday. Most shops are closed between 1230-1530. Please note that some museums close on Mondays.

Although very common in tourist towns in Italy, please note that street vendors selling all kinds of designer knockoffs are illegal and could land you with a hefty fine. Care should also be taken when buying antiques since Italy is renowned for skilled imitators.

**Clothes & Shoes** – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good flat/grip walking shoes are recommended.

**Camera** – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

**Bath plugs** – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

**Telephones/mobiles** – You should be able to use your mobile phone in France, depending on your operator and contract.

**Tipping** – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



## Health

### Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

**Keep receipts for insurance claims.**



### Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

**Keep receipts for insurance claims.**

### General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

### Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

### Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



## Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

### European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The EHIC replaced the old E111 in 2006. Valid in all EEA countries, the card lets you get state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover you for treatment that is needed to allow you to continue your stay until your planned return. It also covers the treatment of pre-existing medical conditions.

Please note that the EHIC **is not** an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover any private medical healthcare or costs such as being flown back to the UK, or lost or stolen property. Therefore, it is important to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy. It is also important to note that each country's healthcare system is slightly different, so the EHIC might not cover everything that would be generally free on the NHS.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For more information about the EHIC please visit:

<https://www.ehic.org.uk>



## Emergencies

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 20 7431 8201 or

00 44 7899 796542 or

00 44 7831 133079 or

00 44 1235 850720

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate Rome

Via XX Settembre 80/a

00187 Rome

Italy

Tel: +39 (0)6 4220 2431

Fax: +39 (0)6 4220 2334

Email: [Italy.consulate@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Italy.consulate@fco.gov.uk)

British Honorary Consul, Cagliari

Open Mon-Fri 0900-1200 and 1400-1500. Phone lines open 0900-1700. Outside these hours a consular Emergency Service is in operation and can be contacted on +44 (0) 207 008 1500

Travel Editions

3 Young's Buildings, London EC1V 9DB

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: [info@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:info@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

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