

There are three tours planned. The price is based on 50 participants and includes VAT, English speaking guide as outlined below.

(1) URBINO - € 50 per person, Monday, June 28, 2010:

Depart from the hotel in Ancona at 9:00 a.m. to Urbino (historical capital of the Montefeltro Duchy and hometown of the great Renaissance painter *Raphael* Sanzio). Arrival and tour of the city. Other than the works of Raphael, one can admire and enjoy works by other well-known artists such as Piero della Francesca & Tiziano, and the masterful “Ducal Palace” with its mythic “façade of little towers.” Lunch is on your own (we recommend trying the typical “Crescia alle erbe locali”). Arrive in Ancona at about 6:00 p.m.

ANCONA and LORETO - € 50 per person, Tuesday, June 29, 2010:

Depart from the hotel in Ancona at 9:00 a.m. for a half-day visit of the city of Ancona. Ancona founded by the Greeks of Syracuse in the 5th Century B. C. In ‘*ANKON*’ one can see the “Loggia dei Mercanti” from the 15th century, the “Mole di Vanvitelli” (also known as the ‘Lazzaretto’), Trajan’s Arch from 115 A. D. (one of the best preserved arches from the Roman Period in Italy), as well as modern paintings by Tiziano, Lorenzo Lotto, and Carlo Crivelli. Lunch is on your own and we recommend local seafood such as the famous ‘moscioli’ (muscles and oysters) accompanied by a nice, local, white wine. Continue in the afternoon with an excursion to Loreto for a visit to the “Holy House” where, according to the legend, the house of the Virgin Mary that was removed from the Holy Land in Jerusalem was transported through the air by a host of angels. One will also see the Basilica that was designed in 1468 by Bramante, Sansovino, and Sangallo, the most well-known Renaissance architects. Arrive in Ancona at about 6:00 p.m.

ASSISI, PERUGIA, and GUBBIO - € 55 per person Wednesday, June 30 and Thursday, July 1, 2010:

Depart from the hotel in Ancona at 8:00 a.m. for Umbria, a region defined as the “Green Heart of Italy” and one of the few places on earth that presents a global preservation of the relationship between settlement and territory, between man and nature. It is also an area with a rich presence of various expressions of art and culture. In fact, it was because of this combination that brought about the sublime events of the lives of Francis and Clair of Assisi, who serve as the nerve center of an unparalleled spirituality. The tour begins late morning upon arrival in Assisi. **Assisi is designated by UNESCO as the World Heritage Site.** We point out right away the absolute ‘must see’ things, such as the frescoes of Cimabue, Giotto, Pietro Lorenzetti, and Simone Martini, the great Sienese masters. This Medieval town is the hometown of St. Francis, known as the “CITY OF PEACE”. The tour will begin from the Piazza del Comune in the center of Assisi, which is dominated by the columns of the “Temple of Minerva”, and then continue to the “Cathedral of St. Clair.” Next comes the “Cathedral of St. Francis”, built between the 12th and 13th century, that presents an austere Roman façade. From the Cathedral, the Maria delle Rose Street leads to the “Rocca Maggiore”. In this area, one can find “l’Oratorio dei Pellegrini” (The Oratory of the Pilgrims), which served as a refuge or a stopping point for travelers in the 15th century, “l’Eremo delle Carceri” (St. Francis’ Hermitage), and the “Basilica di Santa Maria degli Angeli” (Cathedral of St. Mary of the Angels). Lunch is on your own where one can try the very popular, regional salami products. The day continues with a visit to the center of nearby Perugia, capital of the

Umbria Region, which is located around the street called *Corso Vannucci*, named after the famous painter called *il Perugino*. Here one can see the “Fontana Maggiore”, the “Cattedrale di San Lorenzo”, where St. Bernadine of Siena preached and it also houses the Madonna’s wedding ring. There is also the “Palazzo dei Priori”, seat of the city council and one of the most elegant and historical places in Perugia. On the way back to Ancona, a visit to Gubbio that competes with Assisi for the title of “Most Characteristic Umbrian Town.” This town’s charm is due to its torturous, narrow streets and the forested, Appenine hills that surround it. To be seen are the “Palazzo del Bargello”, the “Fontana dei Matti” (Fountain of the Crazy Ones), and the “Porta del Morto” (Arch of the Dead) with its macabre, gothic legends. Arrive in Ancona at about 7:00 p.m.