

Wonders of Italy

History, culture, cuisine and the myth of engines

Bologna, Modena, Ravenna, Ferrara and Padua

Programme

Day 1 - Arrival in Bologna

Arrival at the Bologna airport and transfer to hotel. Settling in booked hotel rooms. Dinner and bed.

Day 2 - Bologna

Breakfast and meeting with the guide to visit the old city of Bologna on foot. Bologna is the "Dotta" and the "Grassa". The first nickname refers to Study that is more than nine centuries old. The second refers to the agricultural wealth, the sumptuousness of the cuisine and a countryside of mysterious rationalisation, bounty, cordiality and the heartiness of human nature.

The day will be dedicated to visiting the Town Hall Palace, Neptune's Fountain, King Enzo's Palace, The Palace of the Podesta, the Basilica of St. Petronius (inside), the ancient University, St. Dominic Church, the small gastronomic market, the two towers, the Jewish ghetto and the theatre of St. Cecilia. Lunch in free time. Dinner in restaurant and back to hotel room.



Day 3 - Bologna/Modena/Bologna

Km 50 + 50

Breakfast and full day excursion to Modena by coach accompanied by guide. **Modena** is the ideal city to be admired for its architectural treasures, UNESCO heritage. Perfect host thanks to its good food and cultural life. It is fascinating for that mixture of innovation and tradition that characterize it. The visitor can let himself be tempted at table by the taste of the traditional balsamic vinegar and typical products. The visitor can stroll along the small streets in the centre or in Piazza Grande. The visitor can remain mesmerized by the mystic beauty of the Cathedral or fascinated by the modern products from the Modena genius such as the Ferrari, Maserati, Pagani and Stanguellini cars. In the old centre it is possible to admire the Romanic cathedral with the bell tower, symbol of the city, known as the "Ghirlandina", the Piazza Grande and the Acetaria Comunale. (vinegery).



Lunch in free time. Visit to the Enzo Ferrari Museum in the afternoon, considered the

beating heart of the myth connected to the Ferrari car.
Return to hotel in Bologna, dinner in restaurant and bed.

Day 4 - Bologna/Ravenna/Bologna

km 81 + 81

Breakfast and full day excursion to **Ravenna** by coach accompanied by guide. Ravenna is a city full of art and culture. It is the city of mosaics, an ancient city, three times elected as capital first of the West Roman Empire, then of the Goth Kingdom under Theodoric and finally of the Byzantine Empire in Europe. The magnificence of that period has left a great inheritance of monuments: eight buildings have been declared as Unesco World Heritage.

The city conserves Dante Aleghieri's bones and keeps his memory alive with important events. Amongst the most important monuments we find the Basilica of San Vitale, started in 526, the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia with its splendid mosaics and S.Apollinare Nuovo. Lunch in free time. Return to Bologna late afternoon, followed by dinner in a restaurant and bed.



Day 5 - Bologna/Ferrara

km 45

Breakfast and departure for **Ferrara** by coach. Ferrara is a wonderful city of art, to be enjoyed while walking along the streets, discovering its character of a magnificent Renaissance capital in each corner and linking its glorious past to the reasons of its present.

The Este family governed it for three centuries and gave it its actual aspect conserving even now a unique urban plan that harmoniously blends the Middle Ages and the Renaissance creating the first modern European city. For this characteristic, it has been renowned Unesco World Heritage. Meeting up with guide and panoramic tour with particular reference to the surrounding city walls that cover a circumference of **9 km**. During the walking tour through the old city centre we can admire the Estense Castle, the Ducal Palace, the Cathedral and the main square.

Lunch in free time. The afternoon will be dedicated to visiting Casa Romei (inside) and the Palazzina di Marfisa d'Este (inside). Transfer to hotel, dinner in restaurant and bed.



Day 6 - Ferrara/Comacchio/Pomposa/Ferrara

km 65 + 65

Breakfast and full day dedicated to the guided tour by coach to visit Comacchio and the Abbey of Pomposa.

Comacchio, 'the little Venice', is a lagoon city that enchants. It is friendly and genuine, with a vitality that finds lymph with respect to its history and the environment that surrounds it. Visit the old city centre and the Manufacture of the Marinates, where the eel is prepared.

Lunch in free time. In the afternoon, visiting the Pomposa Abbey, Romanic and Byzantine work of art, that can be seen from a distance because of its high bell tower. Return to Ferrara, dinner in restaurant and bed.



Day 7 - Ferrara/Padua/Ferrara

km 70 + 70

Breakfast and full day dedicated to the guided coach tour to visit **Padua**. It is a tour among the magnificent ancient palaces, in the spirituality that is perceived in its churches - among all the Basilicas of St. Antony, St. Justine, the Cathedral with its Romanic Baptistry - among the daily flooding of citizens in the markets in Piazza delle Erbe and Piazza della Frutta, among the awesome Prato della Valle and under the millenary porticos. Padua is also the city of science that develops between the ancient walls of the university seat of Palazzo del Bo and along the avenues of the first European University Botanic vegetable garden. During the walk through the old town centre, it is also possible to admire the historical Cafè Pedrocchi, opened in 1831. Lunch in free time.



We will visit Villa Contarini in the afternoon, one of the splendid Venetian Villas on the Brenta river. This is found on the ruins of the ancient castle from the year 1000. Return to Ferrara by coach after the tour. Dinner in restaurant and bed.

Day 8 - Ferrara/Bologna airport

Breakfast and transfer to Bologna airport.

End of our services.