

The city of Ferrara

- 1 Castello Estense
- 2 Cattedrale
- 3 Palazzo dei Diamanti
- 4 Certosa of Ferrara
- 5 MEIS - Museo Nazionale dell'Ebraismo Italiano e della Shoah
- 6 Piazza Ariostea
- 7 House of Ludovico Ariosto
- 8 Palazzo Paradiso
- 9 Palazzina Marfisa d'Este
- 10 Monastery Sant'Antonio in Polesine



WELCOME TO THE RINASCILento

Everything in Ferrara is perfectly adapted to a human scale. Symmetrical, harmonious, slow: in the city, you can still walk the spacious, straight streets designed with exceptional rationality. Squares and gardens alternate with perfect balance and majestic buildings frame every corner.

The site 'Ferrara, City of the Renaissance and its Po Delta' has been included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Such a prestigious recognition emphasises the uniqueness of the city and its territory (si può anche togliere). Ferrara is an extraordinary example of a city designed during the Renaissance through urban planning that makes it **the first modern ideal city**, rich in treasures preserved within the marvellous perimeter of its walls, where you can walk all along while being surrounded by greenery.

This is why we are certain that you will experience your **rinascilento** here: calm and tranquility are the hallmark of all things. You can enjoy the city on foot or by bicycle, like any good Ferrara local, one pedal stroke after the other to discover its great historical and artistic heritage. It takes a while to be amazed by all its marvels, so we recommend you stay at least a couple of days.

UNESCO's recognition extends to the Po Delta area, a planned cultural landscape in which the Delizie, residences of the Dukes of Este, exceptionally show the influence of Renaissance culture on the natural landscape. The Delta awaits you and it takes less than an hour's drive to get there. It is an enchanting treasure trove of biodiversity designed by water and also recognised as a **UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Reserve**.

There are so many things to see and experience in and around Ferrara. If you want to sort them out, contact us and we will help you organise your holiday.

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DELIZIE ESTENSI

Delizie Estensi are isolated in the countryside, they stand majestic among wheat and greenery and serve as custodians of precious memories. These are sumptuous **Renaissance residences of the Dukes of Este** and testify to the decentralisation of the Este government and the splendour of the historical period. There are ten of them between the city and its territory: from Palazzo Schifanoia, a mythical place of leisure, to Castello di Mesola, halfway between a fortress and a luxury residence.

- 1 Palazzo Schifanoia Ferrara
- 2 Delizia della Diamantina Vigarano Pieve
- 3 Delizia di Fossa d'Albero Fossa D'albero
- 4 Delizia di Zenzalino Copparo
- 5 Villa della Mensa Sabbioncello San Vittore
- 6 Palazzo Pio Tresigallo
- 7 Delizia di Belriguardo Voghiera
- 8 Delizia del Verginese Portomaggiore
- 9 Delizia di Benvignante Argenta
- 10 Castello di Mesola Mesola

ROCCA POSSENTE DI STELLATA

Its distinctive four-pointed star shape dates back to the 14th century, but its **mighty walls** allowed to control river navigation as early as the year 1000. Its brick walls were placed sideways to better resist enemy advances and weapons. You can still skirt the fortress as the **"Destra Po" cycling route** passes right next to it.

CENTO

The ancient and lonely Rocca of Cento, the city's arcades and its food and wine historically bring it closer to Bologna. But Cento is above all about the **Carnival**, a festive historical parade (records go back as far as 1600) and the first in the world to be **twinned with the Carnival of Rio de Janeiro**, the most famous in the world. Also not to be missed is the **Guercino Civic Art Gallery**, which houses the world's largest concentration of masterpieces by the Cento artist Giovanni Francesco Barbieri (known as "il Guercino"), one of the most illustrious painters of the Emilian school in the Baroque era, and his workshop.

ECOMUSEUM OF ARGENTA AND CAMPOTTO VALLEYS

Located within the Po Delta Park, it offers an evocative itinerary that winds its way through **museum centres** and a **nature section**: the Argenta Valleys Museum, the Campotto Oasis and the Land Reclamation Museum (Museo della Bonifica).

TRESIGALLO, THE METAPHYSICAL CITY

Utopian and ideal, Tresigallo is the city of dreams: designers and filmmakers include it in their itineraries because it is a **small marble jewel** suspended between Ferrara and the sea, a truly re-founding, **metaphysical**, ideal city of the 20th century.

OASIS OF CANNEVIÈ PORTICINO AND TORRE DELLA FINANZA

It is a **charming nature trail** that can be walked between strips of land connected to the water by small bridges. Equipped for **birdwatching** with huts and concealments for observing birdlife, it allows a dip into the past. A few kilometres from Pomposa Abbey stands **Torre della Finanza** (Finance Tower), built in the early 1700s for the armed defence of the port and the control of commercial traffic that took place at the mouth of Po di Volano.

VALLETTE OF OSTELLATO

A nature oasis amidst cultivated countryside that allows for a **slow walking or cycling experience**. If you have binoculars or a camera for **birdwatching** or a reel for **sport fishing**, the Vallette will not disappoint you.

COMACCHIO AND THE VALLEYS

Heir to the old Spina, Comacchio has very ancient origins and is still today an enchanting **lagoon town** thanks to its historical centre, which preserves the original appearance intact, and its most famous monuments such as the unmistakable Trepponti, the elegant Bellini Palace, the eighteenth-century Ospedale degli Infermi now housing the Ancient Delta Museum, the imposing Cathedral of San Cassiano, and the characteristic Manifattura dei Marinati, the **ancient factory used for cooking and marinating eels**. A visit to the Valleys is a must for nature lovers. It is a **unique landscape, a wetland of international importance**, home to rare and protected species of birds including pink flamingos. In the Valleys, **biodiversity** reigns supreme: you can travel through them by motorboat in search of the typical *casoni* or **by bicycle**, along a 55-km ring-route that traces their perimeter. Do not miss **Argine degli Angeli**, the new footbridge over the water that offers a unique view of the valleys.

CASTELLO DI MESOLA

With nine miles of walls, four towers and crenellated walls and, all around, a forest for hunting, Mesola Castle is one of the **Delizie Estensi**. The castle was used as a hunting lodge in the woods that surround it and still shows the **majesty of its design**, through the elegance of its rooms and **halls frescoed** with the symbols of the people who have marked its history.

ABBAZIA DI POMPOSA

It suddenly appears to the visitor with its soaring bell tower in the green plain and reveals **unexpected treasures of art and history**. The origin of the Abbey dates back to the 6th-7th centuries, when a Benedictine settlement was created in the former Insula Pomposia, a wooded island surrounded by two river branches and protected from the sea. After the year 1000, its heyday began and it became a **flourishing monastic centre** devoted to a life of prayer and work. Those who love ancient art should not miss the opportunity to admire in the basilica of St Mary **one of the most precious fresco cycles** in the entire province inspired by Giotto and the beautiful **mosaic floor** with inlays of precious marble.

GORINO AND ITS LIGHTHOUSE

The fishing village of yesteryear has remained unchanged, just as unchanged is the charm of the strips of sand (*scanni*) that draw the borders of Goro and are now a **Nature Reserve**. The most famous is the **Island of Love**, whose dunes are shaped by the wind and tides and **can only be reached by sea**. If you venture out, you will discover an unspoilt place and you will only be in the company of seabirds and... a lighthouse.



and the surrounding area



FERRARA
44°50'12.65"N
11°37'11.00"E



5 MINUTES OF HISTORY

THE ORIGINS

The first settlement was created around the 7th-8th centuries, on the banks of the ancient river Po. The name's origin and meaning are uncertain. Some believe it to be linked to a beautiful Trojan maiden (Madonna Frara), others to iron working (*ferrum* in Latin) for which Ferrara was renowned, and others associate it with spelt (*farro* in Italian), or an aquatic plant called Ferrara.

THE HOUSE OF ESTE

Between the 13th and 16th centuries, the city was ruled by the Este family. Such a period was characterised by great cultural flourishing and is considered to be Ferrara's golden age. The Este family was involved in the countless wars of the Renaissance and was infamous for its conspiracies and plots. Despite this - and perhaps precisely because of these power games - the Este family succeeded in transforming the city into one of the most beautiful cities of the Renaissance. The Castello Estense, Palazzo Schifanoia, the famous Walls and Palazzo dei Diamanti are some examples of their legacy.



BETWEEN THE TWO WARS

After the end of papal rule, Ferrara became part of the Kingdom of Italy in 1860. During the Second World War, its large Jewish community, already present since the 13th century and protected by the Este rule, was largely subjected to nazi deportations or abandoned the city.



FERRARA TODAY

Today Ferrara is a small city, very popular among the many tourists who come to discover its quiet streets or for a cycling adventure. Its past glory still shines through in every brick and stone, making it a unique place to visit. With its misty atmosphere and striking moated castle, it still boasts the metaphysical charm that has fascinated so many artists over the centuries.



EATING LIKE A FERRARA LOCAL

Delicious typical dishes, PDO and PGI products. It is all here!

CAPLÀZ (PGI cappellaccio): This is neither tortellino (it is much bigger!) nor cappelletto (we are in Emilia!). Cappellaccio from Ferrara is a type of pasta stuffed with tasty violet pumpkin baked in the oven, some grated parmesan cheese, breadcrumbs and a sprinkle of nutmeg. Typically served with meat sauce, but also with butter and sage they taste so good.



CIUPÈTA (PGI coppia ferrarese): bread with the classic cross shape, made from two rolls of dough (*grustin*) that are joined in the centre to form a soft heart (*mulinott*). Originating perhaps as a tribute to Lucrezia Borgia's curls, coppia ferrarese is delicious with a slice of *Zia ferrarese* (our typical salami) or just to kill time before lunch.



SALAMA (PGI salama da sugo): the queen of Ferrara's cuisine. This is a sausage for strong palates, of ancient origin, made from minced pork with red wine, salt, black pepper and other spices. It is cured for at least 6 months. After a long cooking time, you can taste it with plenty of mashed potatoes. If you do not taste it, you commit a deadly sin!

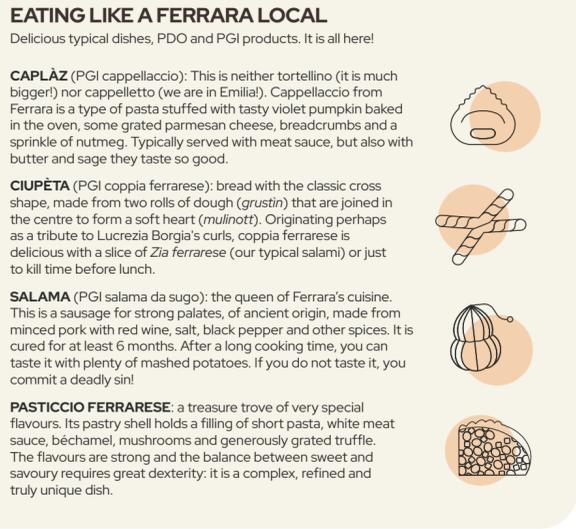


PASTICCIO FERRARESE: a treasure trove of very special flavours. Its pastry shell holds a filling of short pasta, white meat sauce, béchamel, mushrooms and generously grated truffle. The flavours are strong and the balance between sweet and savoury requires great dexterity; it is a complex, refined and truly unique dish.



THE DEVOLUTION

1598 was a disastrous year for the Este family. As a matter of fact, it lost the city and Ferrara became part of the Papal State (this transition is called Devolution). In the early 17th century, Pope Paul V had a huge star-shaped fortress built, whose dismantling started in 1859.



FIVE ILLUSTRIOUS PERSONALITIES



LUCREZIA BORGIA

Lucrezia Borgia (1480-1519) was a skilled politician and an active patron of the arts. She still has an undeserved obscure fame, coming from the 'black legend' of the Borgias, and embodies the radiant image of a delicate blond maiden painted by Pinturicchio on a wall of the Borgia flat in Rome.



LUDOVICO ARIOSTO

Ludovico Ariosto (1474-1533) was one of the most important Italian poets, working in Ferrara at the court of the Dukes of Este. His masterpiece is *Orlando Furioso*, probably the most famous, imaginative and compelling chivalric poem of the 16th century.



GIOVANNI BOLDINI

Giovanni Boldini (1842-1931) was one of the leading Italian painters of the late 19th century. He was known for his worldly life. His bourgeois acquaintances granted him a reputation as a talented portraitist; elegance, dynamism and psychological characterisation were his signature style.

NOT TO BE MISSED

Events



VULANDRA

For more than 40 years, a myriad of flying works of art from all over the world have been meeting in the sky above the **Urban Park**: this is **Vulandra**, the colourful kite festival. It is impossible not to look at the sky.



FERRARA'S PALIO

If you suddenly hear trumpets blowing and drums rolling then you are in the middle of a Palio parade! Ferrara's **one is among the oldest historical Palios in the world**. You will find themed events throughout the year but in May you will fully breathe in its magic. Do not miss the Magnifico Corteo and the races in piazza Ariostea!



BY BICYCLE

It is time to jump in the saddle: how about a picturesque bike ride to the sea at night with **Bike Night**? Do you prefer the sun and the riverside routes of **Gran Fondo del Po**, to be experienced in one breath? Or maybe you are into historic cycle racing: join us for **La Furiosa** on your vintage bike!



ENGINES

Ferrara nurtures a great love for engine roars! From events dedicated to historic motor racing - such as the classic **1000 Miglia, Gran Premio Nuvolari** and the characteristic **Valli e Nebbie** - to gatherings like the now traditional **Vespe** rally! As they pass by, your jaw will drop for sure!



MUSIC AND FESTIVAL

Music resonates in the city all year round - even **Bruce Springsteen** came here! From the indie genre of **Ferrara Sotto le Stelle** to the jazz one of **Jazz Club**, via pop and rock with **Ferrara Summer Festival**, we are sure you will find the right sound for you! Every place vibrates with different notes: the Darsena of San Paolo, the Renaissance towers and the wide city squares. It is no coincidence that the first buskers festival in Italy was born here. We look forward to seeing you in August to discover the magic of **Ferrara Buskers Festival**!



EXHIBITIONS

Palazzo dei Diamanti is famous for its diamond-shaped ashlars and houses **one of the most important exhibition spaces in Italy** where renowned exhibitions of ancient, modern and contemporary art are held.



MUNICIPAL THEATRE SEASONS

The five tiers of boxes and gallery and the majestic stalls of Teatro Comunale Claudio Abbado host national and international **prose, dance and opera** seasons every year.



INTERNAZIONALE IN FERRARA

Every year, for one whole weekend, the city is transformed into the world's largest newsroom where debates, presentations, events take place, including workshops about current affairs, economics, politics and society with the **greatest writers of contemporary journalism**. Hundreds of guests from all over the world and a thousand food for thought: you can almost breathe ideas!



FERRARA FOOD FESTIVAL

When the **excellence of Ferrara's food and wine** is put on display, then it is **Ferrara Food Festival's** time! Tastings, cooking shows and performances to discover the delicacies that have made Ferrara and its Emilia cuisine famous.



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Can you feel the holiday magic filling the air? Ferrara becomes an enchanted land: spending Christmas and New Year's Eve within the Este Walls means immersing yourself in an experience that will amaze young and old alike. **Christmas markets**, games and workshops for the little ones and thousands of lights for a magical atmosphere. And then, one of the best New Year's Eve events: the famous and unique **fire at the Castello Estense**, the kaleidoscopic feast of music and fireworks that welcomes the New Year with an awe-inspiring spectacle.

GIORGIO BASSANI

Giorgio Bassani (1916-2000), writer and poet. He moved to Rome in 1943 but always maintained strong ties with the city. His entire literary work has made Ferrara famous throughout the world, including the famous novel *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*.



BUY LIKE A LOCAL

MICHELANGELO ANTONIONI

Michelangelo Antonioni (1912-2007) was one of the greatest post-war filmmakers, a witness to the transition from one era to the next and an interpreter of the crisis of modernity. His sharp look at modern man's existential malaise won him a lifetime achievement Oscar in 1995.



Ferrara is not easily forgotten, but if you want to help your memory by buying a **souvenir**, why not choose a **local slow food product**, a graffito pottery or a nice history book? We advise you to treat yourself and enter one of the many **historic workshops**: these are craft shops, stores or taverns that bear witness to the area's manufacturing and entrepreneurial tradition, a real local gem!



GET ON THE BIGA

We people from Ferrara mostly ride bicycles: it is our **favourite means of transport** because the city is perfectly suited for two wheelers. By bicycle, which we call *biga* here, you can for example reach the brand new **Darsena** and embark on the **Nena** for a trip along the river. You can also tour the entire **city walls**, always in the saddle: start from **Porta Paola**, where you will find the Wall Documentation Centre, the first stop of the augmented reality tour.



LIVELY SOUND!

Ferrara is a quiet city, but we know how to party! The city streets fill with voices in the evenings: pop into via **Carlo Mayr** and piazza **Verdi**, or opt for one of the venues in the centre in piazza **Municipale**, via **Adelardi** or **San Romano**, and in the summer do not miss the new **Darsena**. You might even happen upon the oldest tavern in the world, you will recognise it by the sign saying it has been there... since 1435! If you are in the mood for shopping instead, don't miss the streets and squares of the historic centre!



TAKE A LEAP INTO THE GREEN

Ferrara is rich in green spaces, even in the heart of its historical centre. The little ones will love running and playing in the quiet **Massari Park**, a stone's throw from the Botanical Garden and Palazzo dei Diamanti, which has its own green space to discover. A few steps away you will find the lush **piazza Ariostea**, an unmissable stop especially when the sun is shining. From there, you can easily reach the so-called **Campagna dentro le Mura**: four hectares of fields, vegetable gardens and gardens to be discovered on foot or by bicycle, being perfect for taking a deep breath. Not to be missed is **Pareschi Park**, near Prospettiva di corso Giovecca. In autumn, drop by to see the foliage of the centenary Ginkgo in the inner garden of **Ariostea Library**, or come and discover Ferrara's private gardens during the **Interno Verde festival**!

Just outside the centre, many other spaces await for you to enjoy a break surrounded by greenery. Between the Northern part of the Walls and the Po River, the gigantic **Bassani Urban Park** welcomes you. With its cycle paths and footpaths, it is the perfect place for picnics and peaceful walks. Your itinerary must surely comprise the enchanting new **Darsena**, where you can see beautiful sunsets on the water's edge. Do not forget to go to the new **Coletta Park** and **Giordano Bruno Park**. They are close to the station and feature playgrounds. These are the perfect place for a break just outside the buzz of the centre.

AND WHAT IF THERE IS FOG IN THE CITY?

In autumn and winter, Ferrara can appear shrouded in fog sometimes, which gives it a timeless city charm. If its majesty the fog has decided to accompany your stay, do not worry! You can literally immerse yourself in a magical atmosphere by walking along the **Walls** with the fog lending them an aura of mystery. Walking along the **Walls** in the mist is one of the most Ferrara-like experiences there is. Alternatively, you can hop up into a **historic workshop or tavern**: small craft businesses and warm taverns are places where time has stood still and a foggy day is the perfect excuse to go in and discover all their magic. Finally, if there is fog, you might just decide to... **get lost!**

Ferrara is a city on a human scale, so why do not you discover it by walking among cobblestones and vaults without a destination, letting yourself be carried away by the suggestions that the fog unveils in front of you step by step? You will be amazed!



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Monday - Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Sunday and holidays from 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
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