

Ancona

Places worth seeing

Ancona is the capital of Le Marche. It was founded by the Greek Dorians on the mountainous peninsula of Conero in the 4th century BC. Ancona's reputation as a port dates back to the Roman days. Since 839, when the city was destroyed by the Saracens, many villages and cities in Le Marche have been built on hill tops. Although there are plenty of sights left, Ancona suffered immensely from both world wars. The environment is particularly beautiful. Monte Conero is a regional scenic area with lovely old fisherman's villages such as Portonovo, Sirolo and Numana close by. The beaches are situated in picturesque bays, very different from the rest of the long flat Adriatic coastline.

Duomo di San Ciriaco and the Museo Diocesano

Piazzale del Duomo

The Duomo of Ancona is situated at the highest point of Ancona. It is devoted to the 2nd century Judas Cyriacus, the city's patron saint. The cathedral has Roman, Gothic and Byzantine influences. The church portal is made of white and pink brickwork. Although the present church was built in the 12th century, its crypt was built on 6th century basilica with mosaic and fresco's. The archiepiscopal museum left of the church entrance has collection of 400 paintings, sculptures and old manuscripts. In the vicinity of the cathedral lie the remains of an old Roman amphitheatre which once could hold 8,000 visitors.

Pinacoteca Fransesca Podesti and Galleria di Arte Moderne

Palazzo Bosdari, Via Pizzecolli 17

Wonderful collection of late medieval paintings with as its highlight one of Titian's First paintings: Madonna with child, from 1520. The painting also shows the holy Franciscus, Sint Blaise and Luigi Gozzi, the sponsor of the painting. The back of the painting shows some Titian sketches. Other famous paintings are the Madonna with kind and holy John of Adrea del Sarto as well as the portrait of Fransesco Arsilli of Sebastiano del Pombo. The top floor of the museum houses the modern art collection.

Museo Archeologico Nazionale della Marche

Palazzo Ferretti, Via Gabriele Ferretti 6

The largest archaeological museum in Le Marche, is housed in a beautiful palazzo with splendid three-dimensional ceilings. The museum holds a large collection of Roman tools and utensils providing a good picture of daily life around our era. On the second floor, between the prehistoric remains, the skeleton of a young bear can be found.

Museo della Citta di Ancona and Fontana Calamo

Piazza del Plebiscito

On this special square in the heart of the city with the 1738 statue of pope Clemens XII in the middle, the Museo della Citta among others is situated. One of the main items of this historical city museum is a 1774 scale-model of the city. But there is more to see on this square, like the of San Domenico church with a Christ carrying the cross Titian of 1558. Just south of the square, at the Piazza Roma, is the Fontana Calamo, a 16th century fountain with the 13 spouting masks, called Le Tredici Cannelle by the inhabitants.

Arce de Traiano

In the vicinity of the port lies the Arce de Traiano which was established in 115 AC in the honour of the Roman emperor Trajanus. All that is left of the old triumphal arch is the middle section.

Il Campo degli Ebrei

The old Jewish cemetery is situated on a hill above the city centre and was used from 1428 till 1863. This still place represents Ancona as home town for 3,000 Jews. During the renovation over 1,000 gravestones were found.

Restaurants

- *Boccon Divino*, Via Matteotti 13, tel 071 57269. Close to the Piazza del Plebiscito provides excellent outdoor gastronomy in the summer. Local and special fish specialities. Menu € 32-41. Mastercard, Visa and Diners accepted. According to Michelin 2009 it is a very pleasant place (2 forks). Closed for 3 weeks in August, Saturday lunch time and Sundays.
- *La Moretta*, Piazza Plebiscito 52, tel 071 202317. Family restaurant with a terrace situated in a lovely square. Local cuisine with fish and meat menus. Two Michelin forks. Menu € 27-41. Mastercard, Visa, American Express and Diners accepted. Closed from 13-18 August and Sundays.
- *Passetto*, Piazza 4 Novembre 1, tel 071 33214. Restaurant with terrace and splendid view over the surrounding landscape and the sea. 3 forks for its setting by Michelin 2009. Classical cuisine. Menu € 38-69. Mastercard, Visa, American Express and Diners accepted. Closed from 5 up to and including 25 August, Sunday nights and Mondays.
- *Sale Grosso*, Via Marconi 3, tel 071 2075279. Modern style fish restaurant with creative food and local ingredients. Menu € 32-42. Mastercard and Visa accepted. One Michelin fork. Closed from 23 June up to and including 15 July and Wednesdays.
- *Sot' Ajarchi*, Via Marconi 93, tel 071 202 441. Excellent fish-of-the-day menu served in an informal atmosphere. One Michelin fork. Menu € 33-66. Mastercard, Visa, American Express and Diners accepted. Closed in August and Sundays.

How to get there

Ancona is located at about 100 kilometres of Sopra e Sotto. To get there it will take you about 1 hour and 15 minutes by car.