

- 1 Annunziata (College of Architecture)
2 Archivio di Stato (State Archives)
3 Auditorium S. Agostino
4 Auditorium S. Francesco di Paola
5 Auditorium S. Leonardo
6 Battistero (Baptistry) di S. Giovanni
3 Biblioteca civica (Public Library) "G. Gabrielli"
7 Biblioteca e archivio diocesano (Diocesan Library and Archives)
8 Caffè Meletti
9 Campo Sgaricia (The Joust of the Quintana)
10 Cartiera Papale (Papal Paper Mill)
11 Cattedrale (Cathedral) di S. Emidio
12 Chiesa (Church) del Carmine
13 Chiesa (Church) dell'Immacolata Concezione
14 Chiesa (Church) di S. Agostino
15 Chiesa (Church) di S. Andrea apostolo
16 Chiesa (Church) di S. Angelo Magno
17 Chiesa (Church) di S. Croce
18 Chiesa (Church) del Ss. Crocifisso dell'Icona
19 Chiesa (Church) di S. Emidio alle Grotte
20 Chiesa (Church) di S. Francesco
21 Chiesa (Church) di S. Giacomo apostolo
22 Chiesa (Church) di S. Giuliano
23 Chiesa (Church) di S. Gregorio Magno
24 Chiesa (Church) di S. Ilario
25 Chiesa (Church) di S. Maria del Buon Consiglio
26 Chiesa (Church) di S. Maria della Carità
27 Chiesa (Church) di S. Maria delle Donne
28 Chiesa (Church) di S. Maria Interveneas
29 Chiesa (Church) dei Ss. Matteo e Antonio
30 Chiesa (Church) di S. Pietro in Castello
31 Chiesa (Church) di S. Pietro Martire
32 Chiesa (Church) di S. Salvatore di sotto
33 Chiesa (Church) di S. Serafino da Montegrano
34 Chiesa (Church) di S. Tommaso
35 Chiesa (Church) di S. Venanzio
36 Chiesa (Church) dei Ss. Vincenzo e Anastasio
9 Chiesa (Church) di S. Vittore
37 Chiostro (Cloister) di S. Domenico
38 Fonte di S. Emidio (Lavatoio di borgo Solesà)
Spring of St. Emidio (Washing wells)
39 Forte (Fortress) Malatesta
40 Fortezza (Fortress) Pia
3 Galleria d'Arte Contemporanea (Gallery of Contemporary Art)
34 Museo dell'Arte Ceramica (Ceramics Museum)
42 Museo Archeologico (Archeological Museum)
13 Museo-biblioteca (Museum-Library) "Marcucci"
7 Museo diocesano (Diocesan Museum)
10 Musei della Cartiera Papale (Papal Paper Mill Museums)
44 Palazzetto Bonaparte
45 Palazzo (Palace) dei Capitani
46 Palazzo (Palace) del Governo
47 Palazzo (Palace) dell'Arenco
7 Palazzo (Palace) dell'Episcopio
48 Palazzo (Palace) della Cassa di Risparmio
41 Palazzo (Palace) Malaspina
49 Palazzo (Palace) Merli
47 Pinacoteca civica (Municipal Art Gallery)
50 Ponte (Bridge) augusteo
39 Ponte (Bridge) di Cecco
51 Porta (Gateway) Gemina
51 Porta e mura medioevali (Medieval walls and gateway)
50 Porta (Gateway) Solesà
52 Porta (Gateway) Tuffila
53 Rrete li Mierghie (Rue delle Stelle)
1 Sostruzioni (Caves) dell'Annunziata
54 Teatro (Theater) Filarmonici
55 Teatro romano (Roman Theater)
56 Teatro (Theater) Ventidio Basso
57 Tempietto (Little Temple) di S. Emidio Rosso
58 Torre (Tower) Ercolani
49 Torri gemelle (Twin Towers)

place of interest



Tourist Information:

Centro Informazioni Turistiche

Piazza Arringo, 7
Tel./Fax
0736.298204
0736.298334

Ufficio Regionale IAT Informazione e Accoglienza Turistica

Piazza Arringo, 7
Tel. 0736.253045



Regione Marche
Assessorato al turismo



Comune di
Ascoli Piceno
Assessorato al turismo

Places of the Spirit



Above:
Lazzaro Giosaffatti: St. Emidio
baptizing Polisia (Cathedral).
Left: St. Emidio, protector against
earthquakes.
Below: Church of S.S. Vincenzo e
Anastasio.
S. Serafino and the Miracle of the
cabbages (1907).
Madonna della Pace (14th
century).

Saint Emidio

Native of Trier in Germany, he was the first Bishop of Ascoli. Martyred in 303 AD, St. Emidio is the Patron Saint of the city and his feast day is August 5th. He is invoked in all of Italy as protector against earthquakes.

Sights: Little Temple of *S. Emidio Rosso*, Spring of *S. Emidio*, washing wells at *Borgo Solesà*, Church of *S. Emidio alle Grotte*, Crypt of the Cathedral.

Romanesque Churches

The itinerary is composed of the Baptistry of *S. Giovanni* and of no less than sixteen Churches: *S. Salvatore di sotto*, *S. Vittore*, *S. Gregorio Magno*, *S. Angelo Magno*, *S. Venanzio*, *S. Giuliano*, *S. Croce*, *S. Andrea Apostolo*, *S. Maria delle Donne*, *S. Tommaso Apostolo*, *S. Giacomo Apostolo*, *S.S. Vincenzo e Anastasio*, *S. Maria Interveneas*, *S. Pietro in Castello*, *S. Ilario*, *S.S. Matteo e Antonio*.

The Franciscan Movement

Ascoli has been a chosen land of the Franciscan Movement. It is the native city of Nicholas IV, the first Pope of this Order (1288-1292), and cradle of the Observance with the figures of *S. Giacomo della Marca* and of *Beato Marco*.

Sights: Temple of *S. Francesco*, Capuchin Sanctuary of *S. Serafino da Montegrano*.

Marian Devotion

Along with St. Emidio, the *Madonna* is the Patron Saint of Ascoli and is venerated in many of the city's churches.

Sights: Church of the Conceptionist Nuns, Marian frescoes in the Romanesque churches, *Madonna delle Grazie* in the Cathedral, *Madonna della Pace* at the Church of *S. Agostino*.



Ventidio Basso Theater

Places of Culture

Historical Theaters and Auditoriums
Ventidio Basso Theater (1846), Filarmonici Theater (1832), *S. Francesco di Paola* Auditorium (1848), *S. Agostino* Auditorium, *S. Leonardo* Auditorium.

Museums, Archives and Libraries

Municipal Art Gallery (*Pinacoteca Civica*), "O. Licini" Gallery of Contemporary Art (*Galleria d'Arte Contemporanea*), Ceramics Museum (*Museo dell'Arte Ceramica*), Archeological Museum, Papal Paper Mill Museums (*Musei della Cartiera Papale*), Diocesan Museum, "Marcucci" Museum and Library, "G. Gabrielli" Municipal Library (*Biblioteca Civica*), Diocesan Library and Archives, State Archives.



Above:
Pellizza da Volpedo:
"A Romantic Stroll".
Oswaldo Licini: painting.
Roman bas-relief.
Left: Municipal Art
Gallery.
Herbarium of the
A. Orsini Museum.

Itineraries in the Vicinity



To the North

Mount Ascensione, the *calanchi* of the Ascensione, Castle of Montadamo, the villages of Polesio and Venagrande.

To the South

Castel Trosino, the Castellano Valley, Hermitage of *S. Marco*, National Park of Gran Sasso-Laga, Ski lifts of Mount Piselli, *Caciare della transumanza* (stone shepherds' refuges).

To the East

Villa Sgariglia di Campolungo (*via Salaria*), the hills of the Piceno with the artistic towns of Offida, Colli del Tronto, Castorano, Castignano, Ripatransone and Spinetoli, the Palm Riviera (*Riviera delle Palme*) at San Benedetto del Tronto.

To the West

Archeological Park of the Consolar Salarian Road, the Tree of Piccioni, Saltbed of Mozzano, National Park of the Sibillines, Arquata Fortress, Monteluco Castle, the travertine quarries at Acquasanta, the Church of *S. Maria in Lapide* at Montegalgo.



Above:
Ski lifts of Mount Piselli.
Castel Trosino.
Below:
The gentle hills of the Piceno.
The harbor of San Benedetto.
Arquata Fortress.
Mount Vetore.
Left:
The *calanchi* of the Ascensione.
Roman Milestone.



Local Handicrafts

Among the variety of artistic handicrafts produced in the historical center, a special mention is reserved for the many ceramics (*ceramica*) workshops. Here the quality of centuries-old traditional decorations is conserved alongside new proposals, fruit of the creativity of today's artisans.

Gastronomy

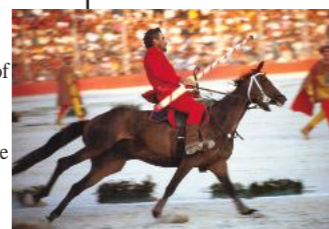
The chief product of Ascoli's gastronomic tradition is the "tender Ascolan" olive (*oliva tenera*), renowned even in Roman times. Stuffed with meat and then fried, it constitutes the principal element of the *fritto misto all'ascolana*. Other typical dishes are fried or boiled *ravioli* with variously flavored fillings. Among the wines one will enjoy the rich Rosso Piceno and the Anisetta Meletti is the local liqueur. In the countryside, one can savor the unique vineyard creations *mistrà* and *vino cotto*.

The Joust of the Quintana

The most important historical re-evocation in the entire region of the Marches, comprised of a court of almost 1,500 people in medieval costume, takes place the first Sunday of August - with a night-time exhibition in July. In the tournament, the cavaliers of the six historical quarters of the town - *Porta Maggiore*, *Piazzarola*, *Porta Romana*, *Porta Solesà*, *Porta Tuffila*, *S. Emidio* - contend the victory of the *Palio*, a much-desired banner.

The Carnival

The extraordinary scenography of the People's Square done up as an open-air ballroom, is the setting of Ascoli's Carnival. The protagonists are the citizens of Ascoli who, spontaneously donning bizarre and unusual costumes often inspired by *Commedia dell'Arte*, joyously act out amusing scenes that use wit and irony, making a parody of the vicissitudes of life.



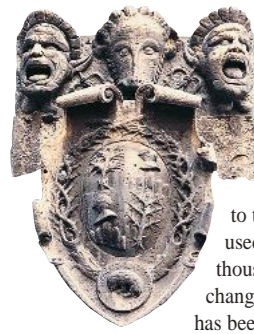
Typical products and folklore



CITTÀ D'ARTE



PICENO



The Travertine City

The incredibly harmonious and compact appearance of Ascoli's historical center is due in large part to the use of travertine stone, which from the very origins of the city, has been the principal material used in construction: from simple dwellings to patrician ones, to churches, to the pavement of the squares, this stone - used without interruption for two thousand years, encompassing ever-changing styles and the march of history - has been an epitome of the urban landscape of the city, rendering Ascoli unique and particular.

A Voyage into History

The Capital of the Piceno Civilization

The Piceno people began to differentiate themselves from the other Italic populations during the Iron Age (9th century BC), occupying the area of the Middle Adriatic until the conclusion of the Roman expansionist invasion which ended, after a lengthy siege in 89 AD, with the capitulation of Ascoli.

Sights: The Picenian walls of the Roman Gateway, objects conserved in the Archeological Museum.

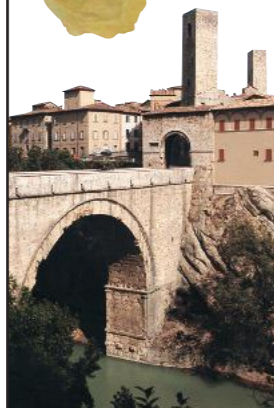
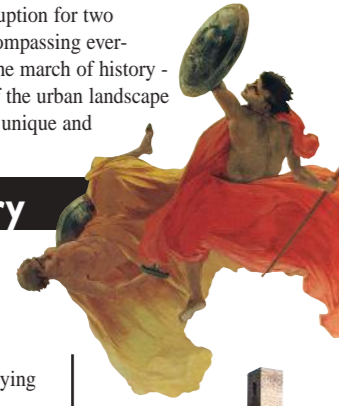
Asculum Romana

Following the bellicose events, Asculum became part of the V Regio of the Empire. The Salarian Road was modernized with important infrastructures and the city was enriched by a great number of monumental constructions.

Sights: Gemina Gateway, ruins of the Roman Theater, Augustan Bridge, Cecco's Bridge, the caves of *Annunziata*, former temples at *S. Gregorio Magno* and *S. Venanzio*, objects conserved in the Archeological Museum, ruins of the Consolar Salarian Road.

The Longobards

Following the siege in 587 AD, the city became part of the *Ducato di Spoleto*. In 1893 a vast necropolis complete with funerary objects was discovered at Castel Trosino, leaving a precious testimony of the early Middle Ages.



Above:
The Social War between Ascoli and Rome (Domenico Ferri, 1895).
Augustan Bridge (end of the 1st century BC)
Left:
Double mask mosaic.
Below:
Gold Longobard clasp.



A Voyage into History

The One Hundred Towers

In medieval times Ascoli possessed two hundred patrician towers, that is, before King Frederic II ordered the destruction of ninety of them. Nowadays one can retrace around fifty, even if many of them have been redimensioned and englobed into the adjacent dwellings and two have been transformed into bell towers.

Sights: Itinerary of the *Via delle Torri* (with the Twin Towers), *Via dei Soderini* (with Ercolani Tower), *Rua delle Stelle* (*Rrete li mierghie*), Ventidio Basso Square.

Defenses

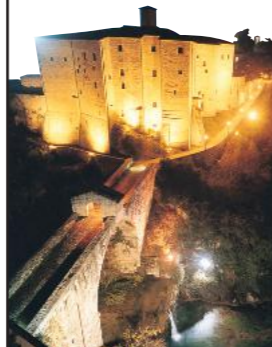
Besides the natural protection represented by the deep beds of the Tronto and Castellano Rivers, since the Roman epoch a complex system of walls, fortresses and gateways was devised, providing the defense of the city over the course of the centuries.

Sights: Western Wall with the medieval gateway, the circular tower and Pia Fortress, Malatesta Fortress, Tufilla Bridge and Solestà Bridge.

Humanism and the Travertine that Speaks

Ascoli enjoyed an extremely vital cultural phase in second half of the 1400's, generating intellectuals such as Enoch d'Ascoli, Cola Pizzuti and Antonio Bonfini, active in European courts. In this context, the custom of engraving mottos on the architraves of the entranceways was adopted. Over one hundred of these maxims, written in Latin or in the vernacular and inspired by culture, religious sentiment or popular wisdom are still visible.

Sights: Entranceway inscriptions, Monument to Cola Pizzuti in *S. Maria Intervineas*, Bonaparte Palace.



Above:
Twin Towers.
Malatesta Fortress and Cecco's Bridge.
Below:
Inscription in via Annibal Caro.
Panorama of the city from Borgo Solestà.



A Voyage into History



Crivelli and his School

Carlo Crivelli (Venice 1430?/ Ascoli 1495) arrived at Ascoli in 1469. In his workshop numerous works of art that enrich the churches of the territory of Ascoli were realized. Among his disciples was Pietro Alamanno, active in Ascoli between 1475 and 1498.

Where to find them: Polyptych of Crivelli in the Cathedral, Madonna of Alamanno in the Church of *S. Maria della Carità*, paintings conserved in the Municipal Art Gallery (*Pinacoteca Civica*) and the Diocesan Museum (*Museo Diocesano*).

The Baroque Era

The beauty and the number of buildings and works of art realized in the 1600's and the 1700's makes the city likewise very interesting during this historical period.

Sights: altars and paintings in the Churches of *S. Maria della Carità*, *S. Pietro Martire*, *S. Agostino* and *S. Angelo Magno*, noble residences, Shrine of Morelli, façade of Arengo Palace.

Eclecticism

The role of Ascoli as the capital of the Province, acquired after the unification of Italy, produced new works of art reflecting the eclectic taste of that epoch.

Sights: fountains of Arringo Square (1882), Tabernacle of the Cathedral (1895), Palace of the *Cassa di Risparmio* (1914), frescoes in the Government Palace (*Palazzo del Governo*) by Adolfo De Carolis and Domenico Ferri, Merli Palace (1927).

Art Deco: "Caffè Meletti"

Since 1907 illustrious personalities have enjoyed savoring the anisette liqueur produced by Silvio Meletti in this famous historical café.

The café is the setting of several films such as "I Delfini" (1960) and "Alfredo Alfredo" (1971).

A drink to savor: Anisetta Meletti.

Above:
Detail of the polyptych of Carlo Crivelli (1473) in the Cathedral.
Below:
Shrine of Lazzaro Morelli (1639).
Detail of the frescoes of Domenico Ferri in the Government Palace.
Caffè Meletti.



The Places of Power

Piazza del Popolo

"People's Square" assumed its current rectangular aspect in the first half of the 1500's with the addition of graceful columned porticoes which served to keep the disorderly artisans' workshops hidden from view. They formed an aesthetic link with the massive pre-existent medieval buildings, the Captains' Palace and the Church of *S. Francesco*. The result is an asset of equilibrated harmony typical of the Renaissance.

Sights: Captains' Palace (*Palazzo dei Capitani*) with its subterranean archeological route, the Church of *S. Francesco*, the Merchants' Lodge, Caffè Meletti.

Piazza Arringo

This square is thus named for the public assemblies (*Arengo*) which were held here since the founding of the free city-state. Still today it is the civil and religious center of Ascoli due to the presence of the Cathedral of *S. Emidio*, the buildings of the Episcopate, seat of the Diocese and the Arengo Palace, seat of Town Hall.

Sights: Cathedral and Baptistry of *S. Giovanni*, Municipal Art Gallery and Halls of the *Mercatori* in Arengo Palace, Diocesan Museum and Library, Archeological Museum at Panichi Palace.



Above:
Piazza del Popolo.
Loggia dei Mercanti (1513).
Baptistry of S. Giovanni.
Below:
Piazza Arringo.

