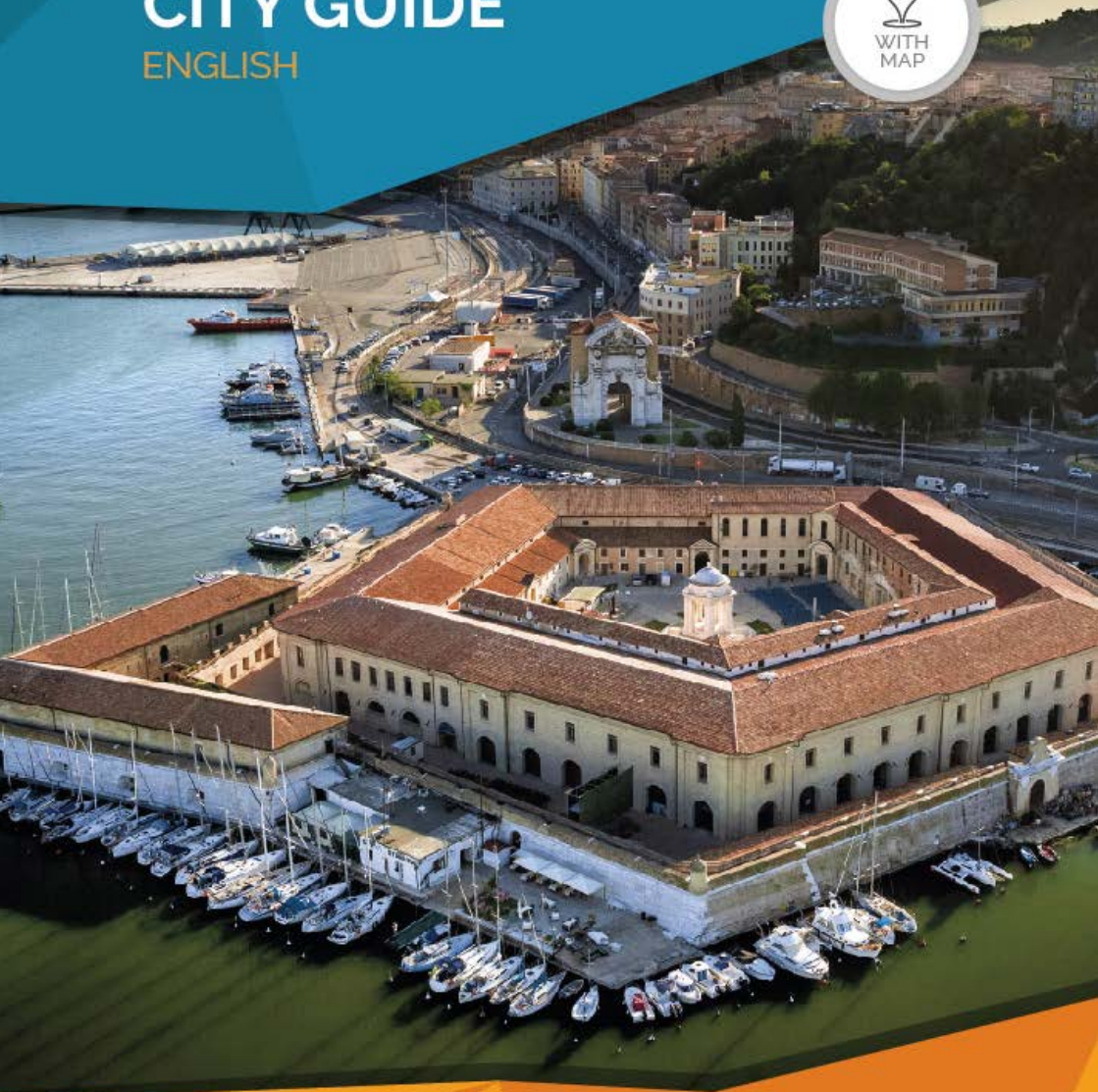


ANCONA

CITY GUIDE

ENGLISH



HISTORICAL
ITINERARY



MUSEUMS



PARKS



BEACHES

Welcome

Ancona offers much to its visitors: surrounded by the sea, it has beaches certified as “Blue Flag” clean, plus the farmland and vineyards of the nearby Marche hills nature area, while its artistic and cultural treasures benefit from services befitting its status as a provincial seat and hub for travel in any direction.

Ancona’s unique landscapes and time-honoured tradition of hospitality are further enriched by 5 museums, 1 production theatre, 1 nationally renowned cultural and exposition centre (La Mole), monumental buildings and churches of great interest, plus priceless archaeological sites, first among them possibly the best preserved Arch of Trajan of antiquity, along with the Port of Trajan and the Roman amphitheatre. The close connection to the Conero regional park offers nature trails and excursions suitable for everyone.



Visit the City of Ancona's
dedicated tourist portal

www.anconatourism.it

The history of Ancona

With its central position on the Adriatic coast, plus its peculiar “elbow” shape, Ancona sees the sun both rise and set over the sea. “Ankon”, or “elbow”, was the name given to the natural harbour at the foot of Guasco hill by the first Greek navigators to see it. But other settlements had preceded the Greeks, dating back to the Bronze Age (2nd millennium BC), while local museums also hold artefacts from the Picenian civilisation of the Iron Age. In 387 BC, a colony of Syracusans settled in the town, building a perimeter wall and monumental structures with blocks of sandstone. Allied with the Romans in the battle of Sentinum against the Samnites, Etruscans and Gauls, Ancona entered Rome's orbit after the year 295 BC, becoming a colony. Under the Emperor Trajan (1st-2nd centuries AD), the city gained significant strategic importance, as he developed the port to be a bridge to the east during his “Dacian campaigns”. The arch on the pier, attributed to Apollodorus of Damascus (115 AD), was erected in his honour. Today, as Ancona's single most important Roman monument, it elegantly symbolises the ties between the ancient port and the modern facility.

Destroyed by the Saracens in 839 AD, Ancona became an independent commune around the 11th century, developing seagoing trade with the east and constructing prestigious buildings: the Cathedral of San Ciriaco, the Palazzo del Senato (Senate Building) and the church of Santa Maria della Piazza.

In 1167 and 1174, the city withstood the assaults of Frederick Barbarossa and Cristiano di Magonza. Its period of greatest prosperity and glory came in the 14th to the 17th centuries, when major structures were added to its urban fabric.

An important city in the Papal State, Ancona's economy and population declined significantly from the mid-17th to the 18th centuries.

It regained its splendour after it was declared a free port by Pope Clement XII, who commissioned architect Luigi Vanvitelli, in 1732, to build the imposing hospital and poor house known today as the “Mole Vanvitelliana”, a cultural symbol of the city. Ancona played a major role in the patriotic ferment of Italian unification, joining the Kingdom of Italy after the siege of 1860. The city suffered significantly during World War I, and even more so from the terrible bombings of 1943 - 44, when the majority of its historic districts by the port, on the Guasco, Astagno and dei Cappuccini hills, were lost.

Today, Ancona is a major centre of industrial and service-sector activity, as well as ship-building and fishing. It is also the site of a laboratory of Italy's National Research Centre and of a 16,000-student university, as well as museums, exposition spaces and 14 different cultural festivals.

> HISTORICAL ITINERARY



From Piazza Kennedy:

Church of Sant'Agostino.

Venetian gothic style portal by Giorgio di Matteo (also Giorgio Orsini di Sebenik);

Church of the Sacrament.

Consecrated in 1548. Note the 16th century portal, the stats by Varlè and the frescoes by Francesco Podesti;

Franco Corelli Theatre of the Muses (see pg. 22);

Palazzo Jona. Example of 18th century architecture (by Marchionni- Ciaraffoni);

Roman paving stones in the lobby of no. 3 Via degli Orefici;

Piazza del Plebiscito (see pg. 20).



Continuing on the Via Pizzecolli:



Palazzo Bosdari. Site of Municipal Picture Gallery (see pg. 24).

Church of San Francesco alle Scale. Built in 1323 and renovated in the 18th century; Venetian gothic portal by Giorgio di Matteo (1454) – works of art by Lorenzo Lotto, Andrea Lilli e and Pellegrino Tibaldi;

Church of Gesù. Curved façade with high pronaos – Luigi Vanvitelli (1743);

Palazzo degli Anziani. (Town Hall) dates from 1270 (Margheritone d'Arezzo) – rebuilt after 1647 fire.

Palazzo Ferretti. Site of the National Archaeological Museum (see pg. 26);

Palazzo Baldi. Elegant 17th century residence – Gothic arches visible from the seaside stairs;

Palazzo del Senato. Historically important building dating from 1200, probably the seat of the Doric commune government;

Archbishop's Seat. A former Roman structure modified in the early Middle Ages and used as the seat of the consuls and the commune leader;

Church of Saints Pellegrino and Teresa: inside the circular floor plan is a medieval Byzantine wood crucifix on the main altar and the remains of St. Dasius;

Cathedral of San Ciriaco and bell tower, 14th cent. (see pg. 8);

Old Bishopric, holds the Diocesan Museum (see pg. 29)



Walking from the Cathedral on the Via del Guasco:

Church of San Gregorio. Formerly San Bartolomeo – the 16th century complex was renovated by the architect Ciaraffoni in 1760;

Roman Amphitheatre (see pg. 27);

Church of Santa Maria Nova. Once part of a medieval monastery, only the perimeter walls and the portal remain;

Palazzo Camerata;

Porta San Pietro. This historic city gate, also known as the Garola arch, dates from 1221;

Church of San Biagio. Built in the 18th century, also known as the Church of Suffrage, the altar holds a painting by Simonetti;

Calamo Fountain. The current version of this historic fountain is attributed to Pellegrino Tibaldi (1560);

A segment of **Roman paving** runs parallel to the fountain;

Four Horses Fountain. Designed by Lorenzo Daretti and executed by the sculptor Gioacchino Varlè in 1758.



Walking from the Cathedral on the Via Giovanni XXIII:

The "Executioners Home" – built atop the remains of an Imperial Age Roman cistern, it was home to 19th century Ancona's executioner – two other Roman cisterns are visible beneath the rock;

The Harbourmaster's Home: dating from the 13th century, the building shows traces of Romanesque decoration;

Palazzo degli Anziani (Town Hall, seen from the sea);

Church of Santa Maria della Piazza (see pg. 9);

Portella Santa Maria: the entry gate, restored after WWII, leads to the port. The side facing the sea was restored in the 19th cent.;

The Merchants' Loggia: (Giorgio di Matteo) – begun in 1392, it was completed in 1443; of particular note is the façade with the statues of Hope, Fortitude, Temperance and Charity; above the portal are the knight on the rearing steed of the city's crest;

Palazzo Benincasa: a 15th century Gothic residence built by Giorgio di Matteo for Dionigi Benincasa;

The Port Wall: remains of 13th century defence works are visible;

Trajan's Arch (see pg. 6);

Arco Clementino (see pg. 6);

Clement's Arch: Carlo Mar chionni (1784). The lighthouse was damaged in 1860 – the polygonal-shaped base remains.

- > **TRAJAN'S ARCH**
- > **CLEMENT'S ARCH**
- > **THE PORTA PIA GATE**
- > **THE ROMAN PORT**



Trajan's Arch

1

Erected in the year 115 AD by Apollodorus of Damascus in honour of Trajan, a great supporter of the renewal of the port of Ancona, the arch was once adorned with statues and friezes that disappeared over the centuries. With its original elegance and style kept intact, it was restored in 2000, complete with new lighting to showcase its profile and position with respect to the city's historic core and the Colle Guasco hill.



Clement's Arch

2

The neoclassic arch was designed by Vanvitelli in honour of Pope Clement XII, whose statue, later placed in the Piazza del Plebiscito, was originally to stand above the attic. Work was resumed on the uncompleted arch under Pope Benedict, with the architect Marchionni, who also finished the Clementine wharf, handling the design. The side facing the sea is made of Istrian stone, that facing the town of simple bricks.

The Porta Pia Gate

3

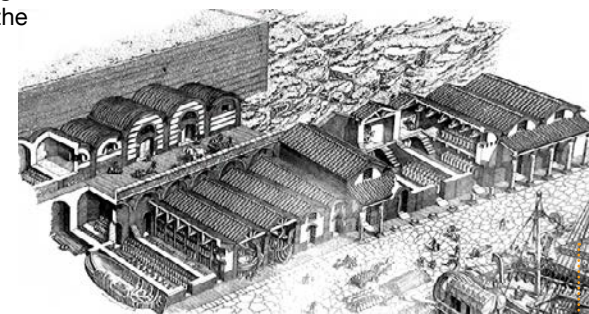
Built between 1787 and 1789, after completion of the Lazzaretto, Porta Pia gave the city a monumental coastal entryway, as per the wishes of Pope Pius VI. The Istrian stone facing on the sea side is richer in detail than the tufa-stone ashlar work facing the town. The Gate, designed by Filippo Marchionni, son of Carlo, has preserved its Baroque forms, as well as the impressive grandeur underlying its dual symbolic function as both a juncture and a defensive stronghold at the entry point to the city.



The Roman Port

4

The digs carried out between 1999 and 2002 by the Archaeological Superintendence of the Marche brought to light a significant cross-section of the ancient port of Ancona, dating from the 4th century BC to the Byzantine and Medieval periods. Of particular interest are the structures of the port from the Augustan to the Trajan periods of the Roman age, including buildings, warehouses and shipyards, plus the massive wall built around the port in the Republican Age (2nd cent. BC).



Hypothetical rendering of Ancona's Roman Port



For the exact location of the point that interests you, find its number **10** on the map in the central section of this guide.

- > THE CATHEDRAL OF SAN CIRIACO
- > THE CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA DELLA PIAZZA
- > THE PORTONOVO CHURCH



The Church of Santa Maria della Piazza (Cathedral)

5

The building's geographical position, plus its historical and religious significance, make it emblematic of Ancona. In ancient times, the promontory on which it sits was called "Cumero", from the Greek words "Kuma" and "Oro", which together mean "mountain facing the sea".

It was later called the Hill of San Ciriaco, or Guasco Hill, after major fortifications were built facing the sea under Spanish Colonel Cesare Guasco.

The Church sits on the remains of an ancient temple destroyed in 558 AD by an earthquake that also razed the small town of Numana. Above its centralised, cross-shaped floor plan is a twelve-sided pitched dome with vaulting in the Gothic style.

Lined with metal sheets, experts consider it to be one of Italy's oldest and most perfect domes. Also of note is the portal, a true work of art, while both the inside of the cathedral and the Diocesan Museum are well worth an attentive visit.



Open: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm / 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm (winter) – 8:00 am – 12:00 pm / 3:30 pm – 7:00 pm (summer)
Info: 071 52688;
Website: www.diocesi.ancona.it
E-mail: museo.ancona@diocesi.ancona.it

Church of Santa Maria

Nestled in the natural paradise of Mount Conero, this church sits atop a white granite bluff. In harmony with its surroundings, partially hidden by greenery, it is a true gem of Romanesque architecture, built with limestone blocks quarried from Mount Conero.

The Church of Santa Maria della Piazza

6

Built around the 11th - 12th Century on the remains of an early Christian basilica, the Church of Santa Maria della Piazza is a vestige of Medieval Ancona. Originally called Santa Maria del Canneto ("of the Canebrake") because of its marshy location, it later took the name of Santa Maria del Mercato from the town market held in the square facing the church. Following the transition from the rule of the consuls to that of a single Podestà, the square was used for the investiture of the latter before the people. The Church is a jewel of Romanesque architecture, with a rectangular plan in the shape of a Latin cross divided into three naves.

Steps lead to a raised altar. The bell-tower had a strategic function, resting against the fortifications tied to the hill behind it. The portal is embellished with ornaments, plus an interweaving pattern of small archers and pillars. In 1980, restoration work brought to light the remains of the earlier basilica, as well as those

of Greek walls dating from the 4th Century BC.

Location: on the Via della Loggia.
Visits free of charge, no reservation needed.
For guided tours or further information, call 320 8773610
E-mail: museo.ancona@diocesi.ancona.it



Detail of the ornamental frieze framing the entrance of the Church of Santa Maria della Piazza.

Ancona's Portonovo district

The Greek-cross floor plan is divided into five naves and the cupola into two parts. The lantern and the tambour are square, with the main source of light coming from traditional two-mullioned windows.

For guided tours:
Italia Nostra, Via Indipendenza 9 tel. 327 8238123 (only weekdays) email:



For the exact location of the point that interests you, find its number ⑤ on the map in the central section of this guide.

> THE BAY OF PORTONOVO AND MOUNT CONERO

Only a few kilometres from the city, Portonovo bay sits at the foot of Mount Conero, in the regional nature park of the same name, offering a charming panorama, natural setting, crystal clear waters and fascinating cultural sites.

Its white-pebble beach, still wild in spots, is set in a rocky coastal landscape, while the bay area offers every amenity, including traditional local restaurants, comfortable hotels and a campsite.

Must-see sites include the Church of Santa Maria di Portonovo, immersed in a natural setting high above the sea, plus the Vela rock, the Watch Tower and a fully restored Napoleonic Fort dating from 1808.

Also found by the Bay are two ponds that attract numerous species of birds. Charmingly positioned by the sea, they complete a microenvironment rich in nature.

Visible to the north of the tableau framed by Monte Conero are the enchanting Mezzavalle beach and the Trave rock, accessible only on foot or by sea.



Those heading south, on the other hand, find themselves immersed in the Monte Conero Natural Park, amidst spectacular colours and species of flora and fauna typical of Mediterranean wild lands. From the small village of Poggio, you can take stupendous walks or bike rides along marked paths.



For guided tours: Conero Park Visitors Centre, Via Peschiera 30, Sirolo.
Telephone: 071 9330490
E-mail: info@conerovisite.it

> THE “PASSETTO” AND THE CITY’S OTHER BEACHES



A unique stretch of Ancona's shoreline, running north-south for 900 metres, is the Passetto beach. Currents keep its waters perfectly suitable for swimming, while the beach itself is showcased by the high bluff behind it and the “caves” whose bright colours stand out against the white rock. Unlike any others along the Adriatic coast, these caves (first built by fishermen in 1889) are treasured by the people of Ancona as part of both their landscape and history.

The Passetto also has unique rock formations, such as the “Pope's Seat” and the “Square”, plus bathing establishments on stilts and the “Cave Dwellers Trail”, which leads to the “Grotta Azzurra”, or “Blue Cave”.


The stairs at the end of the Viale della Vittoria, by the War Memorial in the Piazza IV Novembre (both were designed by Guido Cirilli of Ancona, with the stairs built after World War II) lead down to the beach, as does the elevator in the park right next to them.

The Torrette and Palombina beaches



The coast to the north of Ancona's natural harbour holds the Torrette and Palombina beaches. Unlike the rocky, jagged shoreline to the south (the Passetto, Pietralacroce, Trave and Mezzavalle beaches, and the Portonovo Bay), here the soft, comfortable sand is ideal for enjoying the marvellous hues of the sun setting over the city. For nature lovers, certain spots along the coast hold sand dunes that are home to protected species of flora.



For the exact location of the point that interests you, find its number  on the map in the central section of this guide.

> THE CARDETO PARK

8



This area rich in evidence of the city's thousands of years of history was transformed into a park covering roughly 85 acres, from the dei Cappuccini Hill to the Cardeto Hill, where man's presence dates from prehistoric times. Numerous finds from the Bronze and Iron Ages, plus the discovery of archaic Picenian graves, confirm that this was the site of the city's first settlements.



The oldest historical evidence is found on the dei Cappuccini Hill, including the ruins of the papal fortress of San Cataldo, built in 1355 by Cardinal Egidio Albornoz to reaffirm papal power over the city, but destroyed in 1383 by a hostile citizenry, or so some sources say, while the Church of Santa Caterina, or "of the Cappuccini", was built in 1621, together with the adjoining monastery, home to Capuchin Friars until 1860, when it became a barracks. The Fresnel Lighthouse was built in 1859 under Pope Pius IX. The English Cemetery is found by the south-east bastion of the old defensive wall, also known as the "San Paolo al Cassero" bastion, which follows the layout of the 12th century wall. Construction of the bastion, designed by Antonio da Sangallo the Younger and Bartolomeo Rocchi, began in 1540. Guided tours of the underground traces of the earlier fortifications are available.

Atop a bluff between the Cappuccini Hill and the Cardeto Hill is the Jewish Cemetery. The Park also contains some military structures built between 1860 and World War II for the soldiers of the nearby Villarey Barracks, now the site of the Polytechnic University of the Marche. Of particular interest is the Castelfidardo powder magazine (1864-1866),

Stamira) meant to lighten the traffic flowing onto the Viale built to hold 200,000 kg of gunpowder. When the troops of Napoleon I occupied the city, he had a fort built atop the Cardeto Hill, a structure that received its baptism of fire in 1799, when Austrian, Turkish and Russian forces besieged Ancona. The massive scarp and counter-scarp walls are still visible, offering a broad panoramic view of the city from their uppermost points, while the "Mu Gate", a bronze sculpture by artist Floriano Ippoliti of Ancona, also stands in a prominent position.

Open:

1 November – 31 March: from 7:30 am to 7:30 pm

1 April - 31 October: from 7:30 am to 8:30 pm

> THE JEWISH CEMETERY > THE SYNAGOGUE

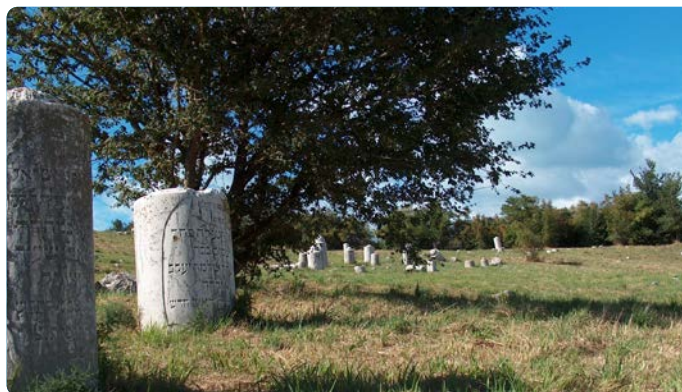


The Jewish Cemetery

9

Inside the Cardeto park is the historic Israelite Cemetery, one of the largest and oldest in Europe.

The cemetery was first referred to in a document of 7 November 1428 that noted how "the esteemed notables, elders and leaders of the city of Ancona" granted to the "judeis" Sabbatuccio



For the exact location of the point that interests you, find its number **9** on the map in the central section of this guide.

Venturello and Mosè di Beniamino land outside the San Pietro gate for use as a cemetery. Owing to the increase of Jew population, it was necessary a new enlargement, hence in July 1711 the Community bought from the Monastery of San Francesco alle Scale (St Francis of the Steps' Monastery) another plot of land located in the same place and named "Possessione del Giardino"(Garden Possession). In such act the Monastery Father Felice Gabrielli states that the ground was property of the Monastery since 1515. This tract, almost a third of the whole cemetery, stretches to the edge of the cliff, making it highly impressive, even though subject to erosion.

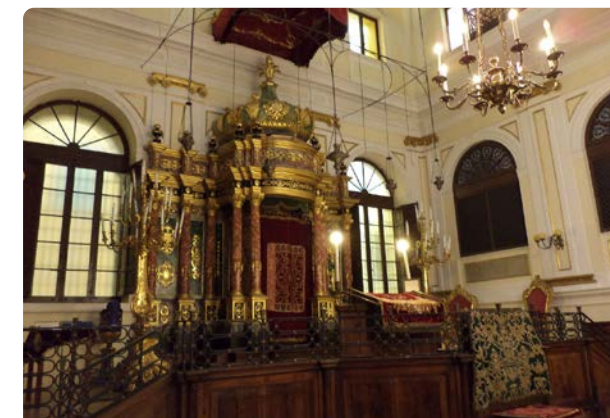
Today, an important work has been started, aiming at recovering, cataloguing, translating and placing into museum structures the memorial stones. The translation of many memorial stones, moreover, has allowed the reconstruction of genealogical trees of the main Israelite families of the town.

The Synagogue

10

Found in the historic Capodimonte neighbourhood, on the Via Astagno, the current synagogue, built in 1876, houses the temples of both the Italian and the Levantine rites. Coming after a shared entrance and a broad stairway, a glass door to the left leads to a small oratory beneath the Levantine temple.

Its furnishings are those of the original synagogue built in 1597 and demolished in 1932 by the Fascist authorities to construct a new road (today's Corso Stamira) meant to lighten the traffic flowing onto the Viale Adriatico from the Corso Tripoli (today's Corso Amendola).





Legenda Legend

- Luoghi di interesse**
Places of Interest
- Parcheggi**
Parking
- Fortificazioni**
Fortifications
- Punto Informazioni Turistiche**
Tourist Information Point
- Zona Archeologica Greco - Romana**
Greco - Roman Archaeological Site
- Stazione Marittima - Arrivo Crociere**
Tourist Port - Cruises Arrival
- Zona Archeologica Medioevale**
Medieval Archaeological Site
- Ospedali e Luoghi di Cura**
Hospitals and Health Care
- Parchi e Giardini**
Parks and Gardens
- Zone Panoramiche**
Panoramic View
- Osservatorio Astronomico**
Astronomical Observatory
- Servizio Spiaggia**
Beaches
- Impianti Sportivi**
Sporting Structures
- Postazioni Estive di Defibrillazione**
Summer Defibrillation Stations
- Informagiovani**
Youth Information Point

> THE CITTADELLA AND THE CITTADELLA PARK



11



Built atop one of the old city's highest points, the Cittadella (also known as Sangallo's Fortress) provides historic evidence of the shift from the 15th century "ideal city" concept to the 16th century "fortified city" approach. The main defensive structure at the entrance to the city (today's Piazza A. da Sangallo), its walls, by the end of the 18th century, had been connected to the Porta Pia gate with further fortifications.

The fortress is named for Antonio da Sangallo the Younger, who built it for Pope Clement VII (1532-1535). The five bastions of its star-shaped layout, each facing in a different direction, have evocative names: "Gregoriano", "del Cavaliere a basso", "della Campana", "del Barberino della Punta" and "del Giardino". A fortified approach, plus the city's defensive wall, designed by Francesco Paciotto, provided strategic reinforcement. Inside the Cittadella Park are pathways for the sight-impaired plus, from the highest point of this green area, a 360-degree view of the entire city, stretching from the Port to Mount Conero.

Opening hours of the Cittadella park:
1 November - 31 March: 7:30 am to 7:30 pm
1 April - 31 October: 7:30 am to 8:30 pm

> UNDERGROUND ANCONA

12

A series of ridges and valleys run through the greater Ancona area, from the hinterland to the coastline, with these features of the terrain favouring, from the dawn of time, the formation of countless small water tables, from the slopes of Mount Conero to the city gates, though the actual volume of available water is not always known.

Historical documentation shows that aqueducts and public cisterns were built as early as 1430 to supply water during periods of drought. A report from the early 1800's states that "...the springs in the hills on which the city was built are so bounteous for eight months of the year that they make up for the other four months of shortage". A network of underground channels and cisterns was designed accordingly, though even today their configuration, existence and/or functional efficiency are not entirely known.

Still operational, and open to visitors who reserve tours, are:

- The large cistern under the Piazza Stamira, presumably built following Italian Unification (1860);
- The Calamo Fountain, also known as the "Thirteen Spouts", whose Greek name reveals its origins;
- The galleries under the Viale della Vittoria, the ancient aqueduct of the "Garden Plain"

For information, reservations and speleological tours:

Associazione Anconasotterranea

Tel. 329 5462168

E-mail: info@anconasotterranea.it

Website: www.anconasotterranea.it



For the exact location of the point that interests you, find its number **12** on the map in the central section of this guide.

> PIAZZA DEL PLEBISCITO

13



Piazza del Plebiscito (also “Piazza del Papa”) is the city’s treasured drawing room, both socially and historically. Facing onto the piazza are the Church of San Domenico, the statue of Clement XII, the Palazzo Mengoni Ferretti, the Museum of the City, the Civic Tower, the Palazzo del Governo (today’s Prefecture), the Atelier dell’Arco building and a pair of 14th and 19th century fountains.

Inside the Church of San Domenico, designed by Marchionni and built in the second half of the 18th century, is a copy of a Crucifixion by Titian (the original is in the Picture Gallery), plus an Annunciation by Guercino. Across from the church is a statue of Pope Clement XI by Cornacchini, erected in 1738 to

honour the Pontiff who granted the city its free-port status. Also at the end of the Piazza, in front of the statue, is the 19th-century Hemicycle Fountain; the 15th century fountain to the side is decorated, on its upper portion, with effigies of victims of execution by decapitation, or so legend has it. Construction of the Palazzo Mengoni Ferretti, inside of which are today’s Public Library, plus portions of 13th century walls, began in the 1500s.

Events and concerts are held periodically in the Piazza, which also offers numerous nightspots.



> THE MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF ANCONA

The Museum of the City (barrier-free) occupies what was once the Hospital of St Thomas of Canterbury (13th cent.) and then, from 1817, a fish market. Its four sections cover: from Ancona’s origins to the year 1000; from 1000 to 1532; from 1532 to the end of the 17th century; and from the French occupation to Italian Unification.



Closed for renovation

Address: Piazza del Plebiscito

Tel. 071 2225047

E-mail: museodellacitta@comune.ancona.it

Consult the website: www.mira-ancona.it



For the exact location of the point that interests you, find its number 13 on the map in the central section of this guide.

> THE “Franco Corelli” THEATRE OF THE MUSES



14

In the Piazza della Repubblica, at the end of the Corso Garibaldi, the city's main thoroughfare, and across from the port facilities that lead to the sea, is the “Franco Corelli” Theatre of the Muses, a neoclassical building designed by architect Pietro Ghinelli of Senegallia and unveiled in 1827. Its elegant façade is cadenced by Ionic columns beneath an entablature and tympanum adorned with Greek friezes depicting

Apollo and the Muses. Damaged by bombing during the Second World War, the Theatre was restored through an effort seeking harmony between the modern interior and the neoclassic façade while preserving a number of historic features (the staircase at the entrance, the old lobby) and establishing continuity with the surrounding urban setting, in particular through the features of the



A detail of the
theatre's façade



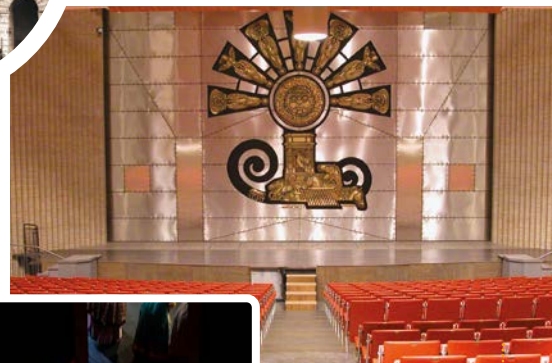
For the exact location of the point that interests you, find its number 14 on the map in the central section of this guide.

lobby, the banquet room and the foyer. The vigorous ground-floor portico presents rounded arches lined with ashlar work of Istria stone beneath a well-appointed balustrade complete with columns. The result is a “theatre-square” with a compelling atmosphere, reconstructed by drawing on the key materials of the nomadic, fleeting soul of theatre



Period photo of the
Theatre of the Muses

people (wood and metal, trellises and balconies), plus specific elements of urban décor (bricks and stones, extensive areas for accommodating the public). A noteworthy artistic touch is the fireproof curtain by sculptor Valeriano Trubbiani, conceived of as an immense rolling shutter that unveils the stage, its bronze decorations recessed in a black background. The theatre is one of 19 in Italy deemed to be of noteworthy cultural importance, as well as an institution that produces live performances, as recognised by the Italian Ministry of Culture.



Fireproof curtain of
metal laminate



A scene from *Pride and Prejudice*, directed by Arturo Cirillo, produced by Marche Teatro
(photo by Giulia di Vitantonio)

Ticket office: tel. 071 52525
Reception: 071 207841
Website: www.marcheteatro.it

> THE “Francesco Podesti” MUNICIPAL PICTURE GALLERY AND THE GALLERY OF MODERN ART

15



Since 1973, the Municipal Picture Gallery has been housed in the Palazzo Bosdari, the historic residence of a noble family of Dalmatian origin built on the city's ancient perimeter wall and atop a portion of a medieval tower.

In 2016, the exhibition space expanded into the adjoining Palazzo Bonomini, an 18th-century residence fully restored and enlarged, where historic and modern-day architectural

features successfully coexist.

The original core collection of the Municipal Gallery was a major donation by the artist Francesco Podesti of Ancona of his preparatory sketches and paintings originally found in churches, municipal collections or with private patrons.

An impressive suspended stairway leads up to rooms adorned with a wealth of frescoes, including

masterpieces by Titian, Lorenzo Lotto, Carlo Crivelli, Sebastiano del Piombo, Andrea Lilli and Olivuccio di Ciccarello, plus magnificent paintings by Carlo Maratti, Guercino and Sassoferrato, as well as the Majestic Oath of the People of Ancona by Francesco Podesti.

The museum also houses the Gallery of Modern Art, featuring works by Bartolini, Cucchi, Cagli, Mannucci, Levi and Trubbiani.



Titian, Madonna with Child, St. Francis, St. Biagio and the donor, Luigi Gozzi (the Gozzi Altar Cloth), 1520



The internal stairway of the Municipal Picture Gallery



Carlo Crivelli, Madonna with child, tempera and gold painted on wood (ca. 1480)



Carlo Maratti, Madonna and Child with Saints Ambrose, Francis of Sales and Nicholas of Bari

Address: Palazzo Bosdari - Vicolo Foschi, 4. Tel.: 071 2225047

E-mail: pinacoteca@comune.ancona.it **Website:**

www.mira-ancona.it www.comune.ancona.gov.it/ankonline/cultura/pinacoteca-comunale/

Open: Mondays closed; from Tuesday to Friday 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm; Saturdays, Sundays and holidays: 10:00 am - 7:00 pm (the hours are subject to modification). Check the site: www.mira-ancona.it

Social media:



PinacotecaAncona



@museicivici_ancona



For the exact location of the point that interests you, find its number **n** on the map in the central section of this guide.

> THE NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM AND THE ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE



16

The museum is housed in the Palazzo Ferretti, a renaissance residence from the second half of the 16th century with salons magnificently frescoed by Pellegrino Tibaldi and artists of the school of Federico Zuccari. In the 18th century, Luigi Vanvitelli did work on the building.

One of the largest of its kind in Italy, the museum's noteworthy archaeological collection includes artefacts from digs throughout the region, dating from the prehistoric to late classical periods. The most significant are those of the Picenian civilisation, consisting primarily of sumptuous funerary decorations,



Palazzo Ferretti, Salone dei Ricevimenti, affreschi di Pellegrino Tibaldi, seconda metà del Cinquecento.



A bulla of Perseus killing the Gorgon, plus gold pendants, from San Filippo in Osimo, c. 350 BC.

including a wealth of weapons and bronze jewellery, some of it adorned with amber, plus bronze and ceramic pottery of Attic or Magna Graecia production, often adorned with designs.

Other rooms hold finds from encampments of the Gallic Senones, including arms and magnificent gold jewels from burial sites, while yet another section features artefacts from Ancona and its port, dating from the Hellenistic age to late antiquity.

Location: Palazzo Ferretti, via Gabriele Ferretti, 6.
Open: from Tuesday to Sunday, 8:30 am to 7:30 pm. Closed Mondays. Tel.: 071 202602
E-mail: drm-mar.museoarcheomarche@beniculturali.it
Website: www.musei.marche.beniculturali.it

Social media: Museo Archeologico Ancona @museoarcheomarche



Roman Amphitheatre Archaeological Site

17

The amphitheatre sits in the saddle zone between the Guasco and Cappuccini hills, in the city's historic core. It dates to the Augustinian period (late 1st cent. BC – early 1st cent. AD), a time known for monumental constructions. The area's clearly visible layers of history and urban development are the result of different phases of building that, starting from the Age of Trajan, modified both the amphitheatre's structure and its function. After serving as a

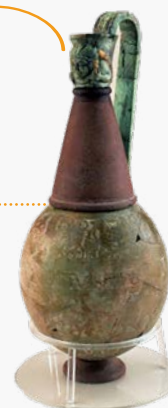
fortification, its materials were quarried for use in other building projects, until the zone was finally rediscovered in 1810, revealing the amphitheatre in its true form, thanks to Abbot Antonio Leoni and Count Girolamo Bonarelli, the owner of the Palazzo Bonarelli, a property which contains a portion of the archaeological remains.

The restoration work undertaken by the Archaeological Superintendent's Office is currently nearing completion.

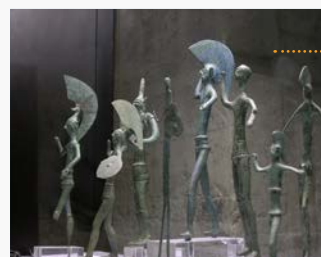
Visits only by reservation - tel. 071 5029811 (Superintendent of Archaeology, Fine Arts and the Countryside of the Marche).



Polymateric oinochoe (jug) made of ostrich egg, ivory and gold foil, from Pitino di Sanseverino, late 7th – early 6th cent. BC.



Rhyton (wine jug) with a dog protome by the Sotades Painter, from Numana, c. 460 BC.



Bronzes of Mars and warriors on the attack, from various sites, 6th– 5th cents. BC



For the exact location of the point that interests you, find its number on the map in the central section of this guide.

> THE MOLE VANVITELLIANA

18



Designed by the renowned Luigi Vanvitelli for Pope Clement XII in 1732, this pentagon-shaped structure has served over time as everything from a hospital to a fortress, in addition to being used as a sugar factory and a customs depot.

Today it is a cultural hub for the entire Marche region, hosting and producing art exhibits, festivals, performances, workshops and

training courses. Not to be missed are the courtyard, at the centre of which, for religious functions, is a travertine shrine to St. Rocco, the protector from plagues, plus the guard-walk along the perimeter wall.

Works are on permanent display both outside the Mole (by Mimmo Paladino, Velasco Vitali) and in the State Homeric Touching Museum.

Location: Lungomare Vanvitelli Banchina da Chio.

For information: tel. 071 9257388.

Open in winter, Tuesday to Sunday, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Open in summer every day from 8:00 am to midnight

Website: www.lamoleancona.it



> THE “Monsignor Recanatini” DIOCESAN MUSEUM

19

The Diocesan Museum exhibits materials from the Cathedral of San Ciriaco and other Churches in the city, illustrating Ancona's history through numerous items of great value analysed from a variety of perspectives: aesthetic-artistic, iconographic, technical, historical and devotional. Of particular interest is the sarcophagus of Flavio Gorgonio from the 4th

century, plus a hypothetical reconstruction of the remains of the Portal of the Romanesque Church of San Pietro, which was damaged beyond repair during the WWII, along with massive Flemish tapestries made from preliminary sketches by Rubens on the subject of the major Christian festivities (the Nativity, the Holy Eucharist, the Resurrection and the Assumption).



Location: Piazzale del Duomo, 9.

Open: from October to April, Saturdays and Sundays 10:00 am – 12:30 pm and 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm;

from May to September, Saturdays and Sunday 10.00 am – 12:30 pm and 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. **Website:** www.lamoleancona.it

Entry free, with guided tours available. For info and reservations for other days and times: 320 8773610

Email: museo.ancona@diocesi.ancona.it

Website: www.museodiocesanoancona.it

> THE STATE “HOMERIC” TOUCHING MUSEUM

20

The innovative, barrier-free Homeric Museum promotes a multi-sensorial approach to art, offering everyone, including the sight-impaired, a unique experience. Established in 1993 by the City of Ancona, its educational and cultural value was recognised nationally in 1999. The Museum's collection, housed in the 18th century rooms of the Mole Vanvitelliana, documents all periods of the plastic arts and sculpture by means of copies made directly from classical Greek art and works of Michelangelo and Canova, plus a wealth of original contemporary sculptures by, among others, De Chirico, Marini, Martini, Messina, Vangi and Pistoletto. Also on exhibit are architectural models of renowned monuments, including the Parthenon and St. Peter's Basilica.

We let you touch art! Reserve your special visit. No entry charge.

Telephone and whatsapp: 335 56 96 985.

Opening hours can vary. It is always best to consult the site www.museoomero.it;

From Tuesday to Saturday: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Sunday and holidays: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm; **July and August:** from Monday to

Saturday: 5:00 – 8:00 pm; **Sundays and holidays:** 10:00 am – 1:00 pm / 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Closed: Monday, December 25th and 31st

Location: Banchina Giovanni da Chio 28.

Email: info@museoomero.it Tel. 0712811935

Social media: #museoomero



Useful numbers

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE	113
MEDICAL EMERGENCY	118
SEA RESCUE	1530
POLICE - 112 FOR EMERGENCIES - REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS	071 5031
MUNICIPAL POLICE	071 2222222
TRAFFIC POLICE	071 22881
POLICE HEADQUARTERS	071 22881
PREFECTURE	071 22821
TAX AND CUSTOMS POLICE	117 071 22721
FIRE FIGHTERS	115 071 280801
FOREST FIRE BRIGADE	1515
FORESTRY CORPS	071 99497
CCISS TRAVEL INFORMATION	1518
ACI ITALIAN AUTOMOBILE CLUB	071 803116
CUSTOMS OFFICE	071 9944111
MARITIME BORDER POLICE	071 227471
HARBOURMASTER'S OFFICE AND COAST GUARD	071 227581
PORT AUTHORITY	071 207891
CURRENCY EXCHANGE OFFICE	071 2070529
TOURIST PORT Marina Dorica	071 54800

Travel connections

Consult bus schedules here →



CONEROBUS Via Bocconi, 35
www.conerobus.it - info@conerobus.it

071 2837411 | TOLL-FREE NUMBER 800218820

TRENITALIA RAILWAY SERVICE	TOLL-FREE NUMBER 848 888088
RAILWAY POLICE	071 214971
CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION	071 41703
AERDORICA AIRPORT	Information info@marcheairport.com 071 28271 / 071 2827491
	Ticketing biglietteria@marcheairport.com 071 2827434 / 071 28271
	Lost luggage lost-found@marcheairport.com 071 2827511 / 071 2827296

Health care

Ancona First Aid – Central Dispatch	118
Torrette Regional Hospital (Emergency Room) Via Conca 71	071 5961
Salesi Hospital (Emergency Room) via Corridoni, 11	071 5961
Yellow Cross – Ancona Emergency Medical Service	071 5015
Red Cross	071 2810484
DOCTOR ON CALL	071 8705620

Pharmacies

Adriatica	via Trieste 1/a	071 204252
Ancona	C.so Amendola	071 204142
Centrale	via Gramsci 1	071 202746
Collemarino	Piazza Galilei 4	071 882210
del Passetto	viale della Vittoria 73	071 32366
del Piano	Piazza Ugo Bassi 7/b	071 2802163
del Pinocchio	via Pontelungo 20	071 2802355
dell'Orologio	Piazza Roma 8	071 2074801
della Ferrovia	via Marconi 213	071 44937
delle Grazie	via Torresi 135	071 2802308
Dorica	C.so Garibaldi 32	071 202793
Dubbini	C.so Amendola 26	071 202710
Flaminia	via Esino 62	071 888251
La salute	via del Conero 34	071 35303
Lemme	via Tavernelle 107	071 85808
Nazionale	via Marconi 131	071 204040
Ottavia Sciarillo	via Ascoli Piceno 23	071 898061
Palmieri	C.so Garibaldi 62	071 202771
Posatora	via Martin Luther King 9	071 42767
San Giorgio	via Antonio Giannelli 8	071 200434
S. Gaspare	via B. Bianche 68/C	071 2861222
Ferranti	Piazza Fratelli Rosselli 2	071 43395
Talamo	via XXV Aprile 100	071 2070811
Tornatora	Piazza S. D'Acquisto	071 2866437
Tomassini Lauro	via Aspio 4 Località Montesicuro	071 2906141
Valla	C.so Garibaldi 115	071 202717
Zecchini	Piazza Roma 7	071 2074804

Other useful numbers for tourists

ITALIAN POSTAL INFORMATION	071 5012260
LOST PROPERTY	071 2224042
UNIVERSITY	071 2203202
TOURISM BUREAU	turismo@comune.ancona.it 071 2223125
TOURIST INFORMATION POINT Piazza Roma	edicolaia@comune.ancona.it 339 2922855
TORRE PORTONOVO CAMPSITE	info@campeggiatorreportonovo.com 071 801257
INFORMAGIOVANI YOUTH INFO LINE	info@informagiovianancona.com 071 54954 / 346 0042917

Covered parking facilities

CIALDINI	071 206419
TRAIANO	071 203834
STAMIRA	071 206511
ARCHI	071 203748

Accustomed for centuries to being hospitable and maintaining relations with other peoples, in the midst of the traffic of the port and the comings and goings of sailors, the city has structured its tourist offerings around the port and the sea.

But look just a bit further.....



www.anconatourism.it

IAT Information Point

"L'edicola", Piazza Roma

339 292 2855