

Press-communicate

Photography and Birdwatching in the Po Delta Park in the Emilia-Romagna Region

From the 27th to the 29th of April **the annual International Birdwatching and Nature Tourism Fair** in Comacchio (Ferrara, Italy), in the Po Delta Park in the Emilia-Romagna Region: an event that birdwatchers and nature photographers should not miss.

The event, which in past years registered an average of 30,000 visitors and 200 exhibitors, takes place in an area that represents a preferred destination for slow tourism and birdwatching. This year's guest of honour will be the **Fotofestival 2012**, organised in collaboration with AFNI – Associazione Fotografi Naturalisti Italiani, that will be attended by the winners of the international photography competition **Asferico 2012**.

Within the Fotofestival several **high-quality photographic exhibitions** on Full-HD widescreens and **meetings** with internationally renowned photographers from all over Europe will be organised on 27th and 28th April.

The experts will illustrate their working methods and reveal some professional tricks. On Saturday there will be the **awarding ceremony** of this competition, to which participated more than 400 photographers from all over the world, e.g. Taiwan, India, Mexico, United States, Estonia, Australia, China and Israel. The winners will enjoy a gala dinner. There will be the opening of the **photographic exhibition** with the 80 winning photographs. On Sunday, 29th April, AFNI members will set up several video-projections.

Delta in focus photographers will organise several events: lectures on photography, photographic excursions by foot or boat in the park's most interesting sites, the photo-exhibition ***Il mio Delta – Otto fotografi e il loro punto di vista sul parco del Delta del Po (My Delta – Eight photographers and their point of view on the Park)*** and the *Delta in focus Photographic Competition* awarding ceremony (sponsored by the Italian magazine Rivista della Natura). The competition is divided into 4 categories: Birds of the Delta, Birds of the World, Natural landscapes and Slow Tourism.

In collaboration with Skua Nature there will be several **digiscoping** excursions, where participants will take pictures with a binocular on their reflex or digital cameras.

Many initiatives will be dedicated to **birdwatching**: events organised by **EBN Italia** and a meeting with **Lars Svensson**, the internationally renowned birdwatcher and author of the Collins Bird Guide, who will guide experts and beginners to discover the Po Delta Park, where one can observe up to 100 different species in during one day only.

Birdwatching can be done all over the Po Delta Park's territory, but during the fair several special itineraries, usually closed, will be open to the public.

EBN Italia will organise "The Big Year, 12 months of absolute birdwatching" competition, that will be held on the Po Delta Park's territory.

In collaboration with major international associations we will organise **lectures on birdwatching** and **birdgardening** activities: construction of nests and feeding systems in parks and gardens to attract birds and observe them. These activities are now very popular in Italy, among adults and children alike, since they promote a respectful relationship with nature.

Primavera 24 marzo - 3 giugno
11 Settimane alla
scoperta del Parco del
Delta del Po e dintorni
Slow 2012



The **exhibition halls** will be dedicated to optics, photography and equipment for birdwatching and nature photography, biodiversity, Slow Tourism, specialized press, sportswear, educational and environmental training, Tour Operators and natural destinations.

During the fair we will introduce the SLOW TOURISM Strategic Project, funded under the Italian-Slovenian Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, the European Regional Development Fund and several other national funds. The 30 project partners from the Italian regions Veneto, Emilia-Romagna and Friuli and the Slovenian regions Goriška and Gorenjska will participate to the fair, in order to show their offer in the fields of cycling tourism, river tourism, bird watching, nature tourism and sports tourism.

For the first time in history we will set up a **photo-market**, an exchange-exhibition event for old, used and digital cameras and accessories, whereas state-of-the-art equipment will be available for testing in the area overlooking the Comacchio Valley.

There will be many events dedicated to **families**: hiking, boating and biking in the most beautiful sites of the Po Delta Park, educational workshops, tastings, scientific conferences, sports gatherings and much more. More information available at: DELTA 2000, TEL. 0533 57693 deltaduemila@tin.it; www.podeltabirdfair.it