

“Birdwatching in the Delta Park amidst Nature and Culture” 6 day/ 5 night package

Day 1: COMACCHIO

Participants arrive in the morning via their own transport at the *agriturismo* (holiday farm) or bed and breakfast situated in the area of the Po Delta Park. Lunchtime is free. Afternoon visit to the town of **Comacchio**, known as “little Venice”, for its picturesque canals and bridges. Don't miss the “Trepponti”, an extremely characteristic seventeenth-century bridge, which has become the symbol of the town. Continue through the peaceful and characteristic quarters of Carmine and San Pietro. Dinnertime free and overnight stay in *agriturismo*.

Day 2: COMACCHIO VALLEYS

After breakfast, a visit to the Comacchio Valleys, considered the heart of the Po Delta. The area is extremely vast, covering 11,000 hectares and is made up of a series of canals and saltwater areas. Due to its size, it has been divided into six different sites for Birdwatching. We suggest the **LE SALINE DI COMACCHIO**. This covers an area of 600 hectares and is formed by traditional canals of saltwater, areas of shallow water and, due to the presence of a particular microorganism, the water has a typical reddish colour. The first birdlife to establish itself here was a colony of **flamingos** and it is possible to see over 45 species.

Technical information: minimum 4 hours long.

Lunchtime free. Afternoon visit to the **VALLEY MUSEUM**, which is open all year. This is the best place to see smaller species such as gulls and terns, as well as black-headed gulls, the Mediterranean gull, the slender-billed gull and others. In periods of migration it is possible to see practically all species. Dinner and overnight stay in *agriturismo*.

Day 3: GRAN BOSCO DELLA MESOLA AND POMPOSA ABBEY

After breakfast, visit to the **Gran Bosco della Mesola**, the largest woodland area in the entire zone and also the most important from an environmental point of view. The vegetation is extremely varied, and here there are ilex, hornbeams and ash trees. The birdlife is made up of over 35 species, including woodpeckers, wood pigeons, tits and four species of **Owl** (barn owls, little owls, long-eared owls and tawny owls), nightingales, golden orioles and others.

Technical information: minimum 4 hours long.

Time suggested: morning and evening.

The Spring is the best time to visit the Wood, when the birdsong is at its height. Inside there are various itineraries that can be followed on foot, by bicycle or by cart (request when booking). Lunchtime free. Afternoon free to visit Pomposa Abbey, a masterpiece of Romanesque art, filled with the beauty of precious decorations in terracotta and stone, delicate mosaic flooring and magnificently coloured frescoes. Dinner and overnight stay in *agriturismo*

Day 4: THE OSTELLATO VALLEYS AND FERRARA

After breakfast, visit by car to the **Ostellato Valleys**, a designated **nature reserve** since the beginning of the '70s. It is made up of 3 valleys and has a surface area of more than 200 hectares. Here it is possible to see the famous Camargue Delta breed of **white horses**, while the fish species are the eel, the perch and the carp. The birdlife is represented by a mixed colony of Aldeidi, while **mallards**, garganeys and teals breed inside the wood. The white stork is being introduced to the site. Lunchtime free. Leave for Ferrara. Time by car: 30/40 minutes. Accommodation in a typical inn or bed and breakfast in the city centre. Since 1995 the historic city

centre has been part of the **UNESCO** list of World Heritage sites, as a complete surviving example of Renaissance city centre design.

In the afternoon we suggest you visit the Cathedral. Building began in the 12th century and it shows the signs of every era of the city's history. The facade was begun in Romanesque style and the upper part was later built in the gothic style. Dinner in a typical restaurant gives the opportunity to appreciate the excellent local cuisine.

Day 5: FERRARA

Breakfast, then free to visit the Estense Castle, built in 1385 for Niccolo II d'Este, who felt the need to erect a powerful fortress for himself and his family, following a revolt. The massive stateliness of the building, the moat, drawbridge and towers date back to this era. As centuries passed, and the periods of uprisings ceased, the castle became the magnificent court residence and was enriched by the roof terrace above the towers, the marble balconies, the sixteenth-century courtyard and the magnificent apartments. Lunchtime is free. The afternoon is free to visit the medieval streets of the centre, with perhaps a visit to Palazzo Schifanoia, an ancient *Delizia* (place of amusement) of the Este family, or a visit to the current exhibition at the famous Palazzo dei Diamanti, covered by over 8000 diamond-shaped stones from which the building takes its name. Dinnertime free. Overnight stay.

Day 6:

Breakfast. End of our services.

Important Information:

A hire car is **essential** for the itinerary proposed. Quotes are available on booking.

Price per person in double room € 350,00

The price includes:

- 3 overnight stays in an *agriturismo* or bed and breakfast in the Delta area
- 2 overnight stays in a bed and breakfast or inn in Ferrara
- 2 dinners in an *agriturismo* in the Delta + 1 dinner at a restaurant in Ferrara, drinks not included
- A guide to the Delta and map of the itineraries + material on Ferrara that will find on your arrival

The price does not include:

- Transfer to and from participants' point of departure
- Drinks with meals
- Entry tickets to birdwatching sites and historic buildings mentioned above
- Car hire
- Any personal extras
- Eventual area guide services
- Anything not expressly stated in "the price includes"

Stays can be extended or services personalised in any way – information and quotes on request

We can also book tickets for the current dance and music season at the Theatre in Ferrara. Information and costs on booking.

**Information and booking: Agenzia De Romei Viaggi, Via Palestro 107 - 44100 - Ferrara
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