



**IMMAGINANDO VIAGGI** CODIGORO (FE) Tel. +39 0533 718005 Fax +39 0533 718017  
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## BIRDWATCHING IN THE PO DELTA REGIONAL PARK



The Po Delta is one of the most fascinating natural areas in Italy, where land and sea meet creating an extraordinary biodiversity due mainly to the presence of wide fresh water and brackish water wetlands, as well as some salt works. The Po Delta is located at the crossroads of migration routes between Europe, the Mediterranean Basin and Africa, hosting a high number of migrants birds throughout the year; what makes the area so attractive to a wide range of bird species (over 300 species in the last 50 years, nearly half of which nest within the Delta) is the tremendous variety of habitats to be found within the area. These include historic sand dunes and their classic Mediterranean bush vegetation: well established forests of umbrella shaped stone Pines, salt works, both abandoned and still in production, flooded deciduous woodlands, open lagoons of shallow water with rich aquatic life, sandy beaches and river mouths.

Birdwatching is easy in the Po Delta. There are many places to stay that are happy to cater for the visiting birdwatcher, whilst the local cuisine specialises in excellent Italian food and wine. There are many sites where a full day can be spent observing an abundance of wildlife. There are professional guides that can be contacted if needed and there are tourist information offices that can provide all the information required for a highly successful visit.

The Regional Park of the Po Delta covers an area of some 52,000 hectares and is divided into six "stations". Each station is concerned with a range of features including landscape, environment, wildlife and heritage. In recent years birdwatching has become a significant pastime for many visitors to the Delta and steadily the number of facilities have grown. These now include trails, observation towers, birdwatching hides, information centres and a growing number of publications devoted to the birds and other wildlife of the region.



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## IMMAGINANDO VIAGGI ....FOR BIRDWATCHERS 7 days in the Po Delta

### 1<sup>st</sup> Day:

Arrival at the Airport (Bologna/Treviso/Forlì or Venice Airport) and pick up of Your car.  
Accommodation at Your 4 stars Hotel in Ostellato, a small village centrally placed to reach many birdwatching areas in the Po Delta. Welcome dinner with a typical local food menu and overnight.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Day:

Breakfast, dinner and overnight.

Full day birdwatching at **VALLI DI OSTELLATO**, an extensive wetland that has survived in the old valley of Mezzano and created a reserved area in the 1970s. Included within the site are 3 marshes extending over more than 200 ha. Here there is a large mixed heron colony, which includes Night Herons and Little Egrets. Mallard, Garganey and Teal are amongst the breeding wildfowl, with Cetti's and Fan-tailed Warblers and Penduline and Bearded Tits nesting in the water side vegetation. Wintering birds include Bittern, Great Crested Grebe and large flocks of diving ducks and Coot. Observation points and viewing towers on site.

A car parking and picnic areas are available, as well as a visitor centre, toilets, shops, a restaurant and café. Cycles and electric buggies are available on site to be hired.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Day:

Breakfast, dinner and overnight.

Full day birdwatching at **ANSE DI BANDO**, an area of fresh water pools and reed-beds (up to 70 ha.) within the reclamation area of Mezzano. The site contains a series of aviaries that are used for a White Stork breeding and reintroduction programme. The Visitor Centre and information boards provide details of the clearly marked trails and observation hides within the reserve area. Purple Heron, Little Bittern, Spoonbill, Marsh Harrier, Black-winged Stilt and Bearded Tits. Non-breeding visitors include large numbers of Great Crested Grebes, Great White Egrets, Pochard, and Shoveler. Migrant flocks of Lapwing are often accompanied by other waders including Green Sandpiper and Ruff. A car parking and picnic areas are available, as well as a visitor centre and toilets. Observation points and viewing hides available. Cookery lesson in hotel.



### 4<sup>th</sup> Day:

Breakfast, dinner and overnight.

Full day in **FERRARA** to visit one of the most beautiful renaissance cities in Italy. The Mediaeval buildings in the town centre are almost untouched and tourists can admire the city just like it was planned out by the Estensi, the noble family that ruled Ferrara up until the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.





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### 5<sup>th</sup> Day:

Breakfast, dinner and overnight.

Full day birdwatching at **VALLE BERTUZZI/CANNEVIE'/PORTICINO**

With a total area exceeding 2,000 ha., the lagoons and marshes that make up this wetland valley are characterised by a range of raised islands, several of which are covered in vegetation, including holm oak. Saved from reclamation at a time when considerable development was taking place, the area has developed extensive aquatic vegetation but has retained open water. This is one of the best lagoons in the Delta for seeing Greater Flamingos, Yellow Wagtails, Blue Headed and Hashy Headed, Mediterranean and Slender-Billed Gulls nest here as do many little Terns. In recent years the northern area has been colonised by a feral populations of Egyptian Geese. Garganey, Spotted Redshank, Avocets, Ferruginous Duck, Water Rails, Water Pipits, Marsh Harriers and Great White Egrets. Observation points and viewing hides available.



Don't miss the POMPOSA ABBEY in the nearby.



### 6<sup>th</sup> Day:

Breakfast, dinner and overnight.

Full day birdwatching at **VALLI DI** collection of waterways and lagoons that can be considered the very heart of the Po Delta. most important wetland complex in the region.

is also productive for mullet, sea-bass and prawns. Historically there were extensive salt works but the abandoned pans are now excellent sites for birdwatching. Strips of land and small hillocks are dominated by Salicornia and sea lavender and provide secure nesting sites for many bird species. To the north of the lagoon, the town of Comacchio dominates the area with its network of canals and bridges, so to be called "The little Venice". Here the Greater Flamingos first colonised the area. This is an excellent site for migrant waders, with congregations of Culew Sanpipers, Ruff and Black-tailed Godwits very much a feature of the site. In winter Water Pipits are common and the mixed gull roost, spreads over many of the pans. This is probably the best site in the Delta to view Slender-billed Gulls.

**COMACCHIO.** The up the Valli di Comacchio They certainly make up the World famous for its eels, it



### 7<sup>th</sup> Day:

Breakfast and departure to reach the Airport. End of our services.



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### **YOUR EXCLUSIVE 4 STARS HOTEL IN THE PO DELTA PARK:**

**Villa Belfiore farm estate** lies in the district of Ferrara and Ostellato, near the "anse vallive", a humid area with fresh water, created by man after the land reclamation of the salmastra valley of Mezzano. The natural surroundings and traditions are reflected both indoors and outdoors to enable guests to have a relaxing stay. All the dining rooms and rooms with bathroom are decorated with antique and rustic furniture.

#### **Cooking classes free of charge for IMMAGINANDO VIAGGI guests.**

Menu of tastings with vegetables and aromatic herbs coming from the organic vegetable garden, stuffed, home-made pasta, a variety of cakes and biscuits.

Buffet breakfast with grandmother's jams and home-made tarts and home-produced fresh fruits.



### **INDIVIDUAL FARE: Euro 680,00**

#### **What is included:**

- ✓ 7 days car rental (Economy 2 drs)
- ✓ Accomodation in 4 stars hotel (farm estate), half board basis (breakfast, dinner, overnight) for 6 nights
- ✓ Welcome typical dinner
- ✓ 1 Cooking class
- ✓ 1 Wine and typical products tasting in a local farm (wine, cheese, salami, ham)
- ✓ Travel Insurance
- ✓ VAT

#### **What is not included:**

- ✓ Flight to Italy
- ✓ Extras
- ✓ Qualified and private naturalistic guide (AVAILABLE ON REQUEST)

**For any further information, ACCOMODATION IN HOSTELS OR CAMPINGS,  
OR REQUESTS FOR MINI GROUPS**



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