



# Umbria & Le Marche



**TUESDAY, JUNE 14<sup>th</sup>** - Depart this afternoon by private bus from Barrington to Boston's Logan airport where we board our overnight flight. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15<sup>th</sup>** - Upon arrival at London, we transfer to the connecting British Airways' flight to Rome. Our Discover Europe courier, Fiona Bennett, will greet us at the airport, where we'll join our coach and driver for the journey to Spoleto. Following time to check-in at the hotel and relax, Fiona will lead a gentle walking tour of the highlights of medieval Spoleto, including its elegant 12th-century Duomo and the dramatic Ponte delle Torri, "bridge of towers." This evening, a dinner party at a nearby restaurant welcomes you to Italy! **(D) OVERNIGHT: SPOLETO**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 16<sup>th</sup>** - We turn southwest today into the very heart of Umbria; the drive to Todi takes us over one of the most beautiful roads in Italy, and the classic Umbrian hill country unfolds before us. We'll stop in Todi, a medieval hill-town of fairytale beauty,

visit its Duomo, and walk around the Piazza del Popolo, reputedly the most perfect medieval piazza in Italy. We continue to Deruta for a visit to Italy's most famous ceramics workshops. There will be time to browse the many pottery shops and purchase your own treasures to carry (or ship!) home. We return to Spoleto for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: SPOLETO**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 17<sup>th</sup>** - Today we venture into the most beautiful part of Umbria and Le Marche, the Valnerina, a truly forgotten corner of Italy. We'll meander slowly, stopping for photographs and the chance to stretch our legs, briefly, in Norcia. Norcia is the only town of any size in the Valnerina and is notable as the birthplace of St. Benedict. (It is also the producer of Italy's finest salami). We continue to the enchanting town of Ascoli Piceno where we'll have time for lunch on our own and to explore. On our return route we'll see the eerie expanse of the Piano Grande, a prairie ringed by mountains, stretching for miles and uninterrupted by tree, hedge, or building. This evening we return to Spoleto for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SPOLETO**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 18<sup>th</sup>** - It's a short journey this morning to Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis, and home to the extraordinary Basilica of St. Francis, one of the greatest monuments to 13th-14th century Italian art. The damage caused by the 1997 earthquake has largely been repaired and the two churches, Upper and Lower, are truly awe-inspiring as you will witness during our guided tour. There will be free time for lunch and exploration before we continue to Gubbio, a town that vies with Assisi for the accolade of Umbria's most beautiful medieval town. Our charming hotel is well placed for exploring Gubbio's many narrow cobbled streets and alleyways. Dinner at a nearby restaurant this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: GUBBIO**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 19<sup>th</sup>** - A panorama of Le Marche today, beginning with a visit to Fabriano where fine paper has been manufactured since the 13th century; it was in Fabriano where the watermark was invented. We'll watch men making paper using antique methods and beautiful samples can be purchased at the small shop. We'll lunch at a nearby restaurant for the chance to sample local specialties and later have the famous Verdicchio wine. We continue to the Frasassi Caves, a vast network of caverns; the largest is seven-chambered and contains monumental stalagmites and stalactites in an array of striking colors. The evening is free. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: GUBBIO**

**MONDAY, JUNE 20<sup>th</sup>** - We travel this morning to Urbino in the region of Le Marche to visit the Palazzo Ducale and its marvelous art collection (guided). Some free time to explore, perhaps a visit to Raphael's birthplace, and the chance to find lunch before we return to Gubbio for a free afternoon. We return to Gubbio with time to relax before finding a local restaurant for dinner on your own. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: GUBBIO**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 21<sup>st</sup>** - We turn to Umbria's capital city, Perugia, for morning sightseeing with a local city guide. We begin with a guided tour at Perugia's National Gallery of Umbria, full of Umbrian treasures and a few Tuscan masterpieces as well. Within the same building, the Palazzo dei Priori, is the Collegio del Cambio, which contains a superb collection of Perugino frescoes. We conclude our time in Perugia with a visit to its 15<sup>th</sup> century Duomo. Leaving Perugia, we travel along the southern bank of Lake Trasimeno to Orvieto. The town is built, spectacularly, upon a 300 meter volcanic plug, and the views of it from a distance are unforgettable. Dinner at a local restaurant this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ORVIETO**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22<sup>nd</sup>** - We begin the day with a walking tour of Orvieto and visits to the Duomo, possibly Italy's finest Gothic building, and the Pozzo di San Patrizio, a vast well commissioned in 1527 by Pope Clement VII. This afternoon, we'll take a gentle drive into the surrounding countryside which is dotted with tiny vineyards. We'll have a chance to sample some of the Orvieto Classico wines that are amongst Italy's most popular, and stop at an agriturismo farm where we'll have a tour and try the local specialties for lunch. We return to Orvieto for free time to browse along Corso Cavour with its fine collection of shops and medieval palaces. This evening, our farewell dinner party will be in a traditional restaurant! **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: ORVIETO**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Sadly our coach transfers us this morning back to Rome airport for our returning flights to Boston, via London. On arrival at Boston, Logan Airport our private coach will be waiting to take us back to Barrington. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

*Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner*