

COMACCHIO

The beauty of Comacchio and its Lagoons lies in the gentle contours of its landscapes: a harmonious network of waters and islands, that give its historic centre the distinctive allure of a lagoon city. As you explore Comacchio, you'll discover a timeless landscape where humans and nature coexist in perfect harmony.

● CYCLING WITH A VALLANTE TO DISCOVER CASONE DONNABONA

Starting from the **Visitors' Centre**, a guide will take you on a journey through time, exploring pivotal locations in Comacchio's history. Cycling along the **Fosse-Foce** levee, you'll take in sweeping views of the lagoon and the reclaimed agricultural fields, shaped by monumental **drainage works**. At **Casone Donnabona**, a *vallante* (lagoon caretaker) will share **stories and insights** into the delicate balance forged over time between land and water, man and nature. The experience concludes with **tasting of liqueurs and grappas** infused with the briny aromas of the area, followed by a return to the **Foce Station**.

Rates

Full price € 18
Discounted rate € 12 (for children aged 7-12 and people with disabilities)
Free admission: children under 6 years of age

Rental services

Muscle-powered bike Daily: € 7
Binoculars: € 5
Helmets: € 1
Child seat: free

A vibrant city, traversed by bridges, canals, and prestigious architecture. As you stroll through the **narrow alleyways of its historic centre**, you'll discover the secrets and stories of its inhabitants, and the historical events that have shaped this town since ancient times. A visit to the **Ancient Delta Museum** unveils the area's evolution, while the historic Manifattura will entice you with **genuine local culinary delights**. And no journey to Comacchio would be complete without a stop at the **Visitors' Centre**, where you can take part in various activities and immerse yourself in the **scenic wonders of the Comacchio Lagoons** – a paradise for hiking and outdoor tourism enthusiasts.

Among **canals, dykes, and shimmering waters**, you'll encounter ancient stone shelters once used by the inhabitants of the lagoon areas. These structures echo the legacy of the Este court and the now-lost **Delizia delle Casette**, which marked a strategic hub for the salt and fish trade. Originally crafted from reeds and marsh grass, the "casoni" once housed fishermen and lagoon guards; today, they offer a glimpse into a bygone era steeped in tradition and allure.

● BIRDING TOUR AMID COMACCHIO'S LAGOONS AND SALT PANS

Immerse yourself in nature's slow rhythms, as you walk along a levee path, **exploring sites tied to fish farming and the history of the local area**. A guide will lead you on a breathtaking stroll to **Casone Pegoraro**, once a fishing outpost, as you enjoy the stunning panoramas of **Comacchio's Lagoons**. Herons, terns, and flamingos bring life to the wetlands, revealing the essence of this **internationally significant haven** – a paradise for nature lovers and **birdwatching** enthusiasts alike. A unique viewpoint over the **salt pans** enhances your journey, concluding with a visit to the "lavoriero", a modern fishing structure steeped in heritage.

Rates

Full price € 12
Discounted rate € 7 (for children aged 7-12 and people with disabilities) | Free admission: children under 6 years of age

Rental service

Binocular rental available: € 5

Route pedestrian

Average distance 2h

Length 3 km

Usage type guided tours with licensed guides



Route pedestrian cycle path

Average distance 2h 1h

Length 4 km

Usage type accompanied by an environmental guide

The Comacchio Lagoons are a priceless natural habitat, teeming with biodiversity. As Italy's largest brackish wetland and the crown jewel of the Po Delta Park, they have been designated as Sites of Community Importance and **Special Protection Areas** within the **Natura 2000 Network**, a European Union initiative for biodiversity conservation.

You'll embark aboard an electric boat to discover the wonders of Comacchio's wetlands



● TRADES OF THE PAST: HIKE AND BOAT TOUR TO THE CASONI

A journey for nature lovers and **slow travel enthusiasts**, designed with full respect for the surrounding environment. Beginning at the **Visitors' Centre**, a guide will enrich your journey with expert insights into the lagoon's fascinating landscapes. You will glide silently through the lagoon's inner canals, amid ancient fishing posts and stations. A tale of how man learned to understand, inhabit, and harmonise with the natural world around him.

The adventure continues along the tranquil lagoon waters, immersing you in a **unique ecosystem suspended between land and water**. A paradise for **nature lovers** and birdwatchers alike. The experience unfolds amid land and water: first, aboard a **silent electric boat**, then continuing on foot, fully immersed in the lagoon's enchanting beauty.

* Due to the fragility of this ecosystem, the route is restricted to a limited number of participants, always accompanied by licensed environmental guides.

Rates

Full price € 38
Discounted rate € 25 (for children aged 7-12 and people with disabilities)
Free admission: children under 6 years of age

Rental service

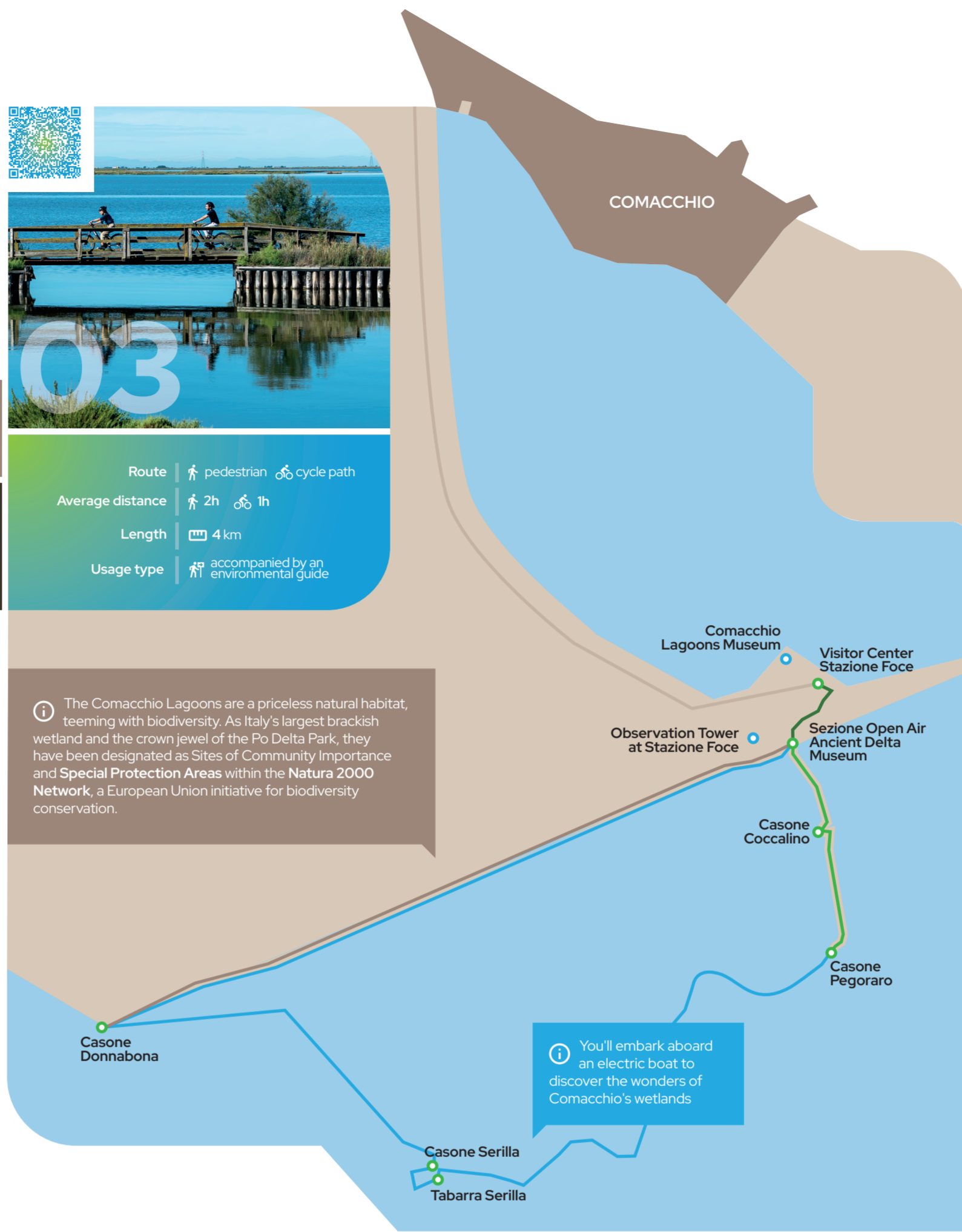
Binocular rental available: € 5

Route pedestrian navigation

Average distance 4h

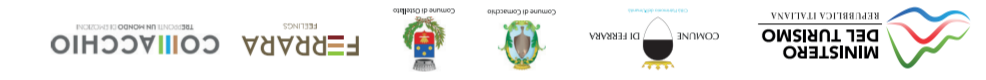
Length 9,5 km

Usage type guided tours with licensed guides
Accessible route for persons with motor disabilities



www.ferraterreaacqua.it
Festina Lente

On foot, by bike and by boat
ITINERARIES
BETWEEN
FERRARA AND
THE PO DELTA



Festina Lente: make haste slowly Ferrara, city of the Renaissance and its Po River Delta. An experience amid nature and culture.

An invitation to immerse yourself in the enchantment of a land where human ingenuity has harmonised natural and cultural treasures, resulting in extraordinarily enchanting landscapes.

The **House of Este** ruled Ferrara from 1264 to 1598, during which they transformed an entire region, infusing it with Renaissance beauty and character, making it a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** today.

Three cities are linked by a **series of itineraries** that narrate the history and splendour of these lands: **Ferrara, Ostellato and Comacchio**. Ferrara, where distinct eras converge under the **rational elegance of the Renaissance**. A multifaceted city that invites you to explore its historical, culinary, cultural, and environmental aspects, with city **landscapes** that both protect it and connect it to the outside world. A **cultural landscape** that's been preserved over time, reflecting the vision and grandeur of the Este dynasty. The extraordinary monumental residences known as the "delizie" embody legendary tales of love, leisure, trade, and opulence. Finally, a river delta where the land and water create breathtaking scenery, home to **one of Europe's most biodiverse wetlands**, designated as a UNESCO MAB Biosphere Reserve.

Leave the world behind, and savour your journey through Ferrara, **city of the Renaissance and its Po River Delta**.

Funded by the Ministry of Tourism, this project is aimed at enhancing municipalities with strong tourism and cultural appeal, especially those hosting UNESCO World Heritage Sites or belonging to the UNESCO Creative Cities network.

*Insurance policies
Po Delta Tourism ADV has taken out the following policies to cover the risks associated with programme participation: Policy no. 501648707 Enterprise Liability - 14 and Policy no. 203384532 Filo Diretto Protection 6006*

Scan the QR codes or visit www.ferraterreaacqua.it to learn more about the itineraries and find helpful tips on dining and accommodations during your visit.

FERRARA AND SURROUNDING

Ferrara's unique urban layout and majestic architecture tell the story of transformative urban planning projects, which expanded the medieval city into the Renaissance Capital and Europe's first modern city.



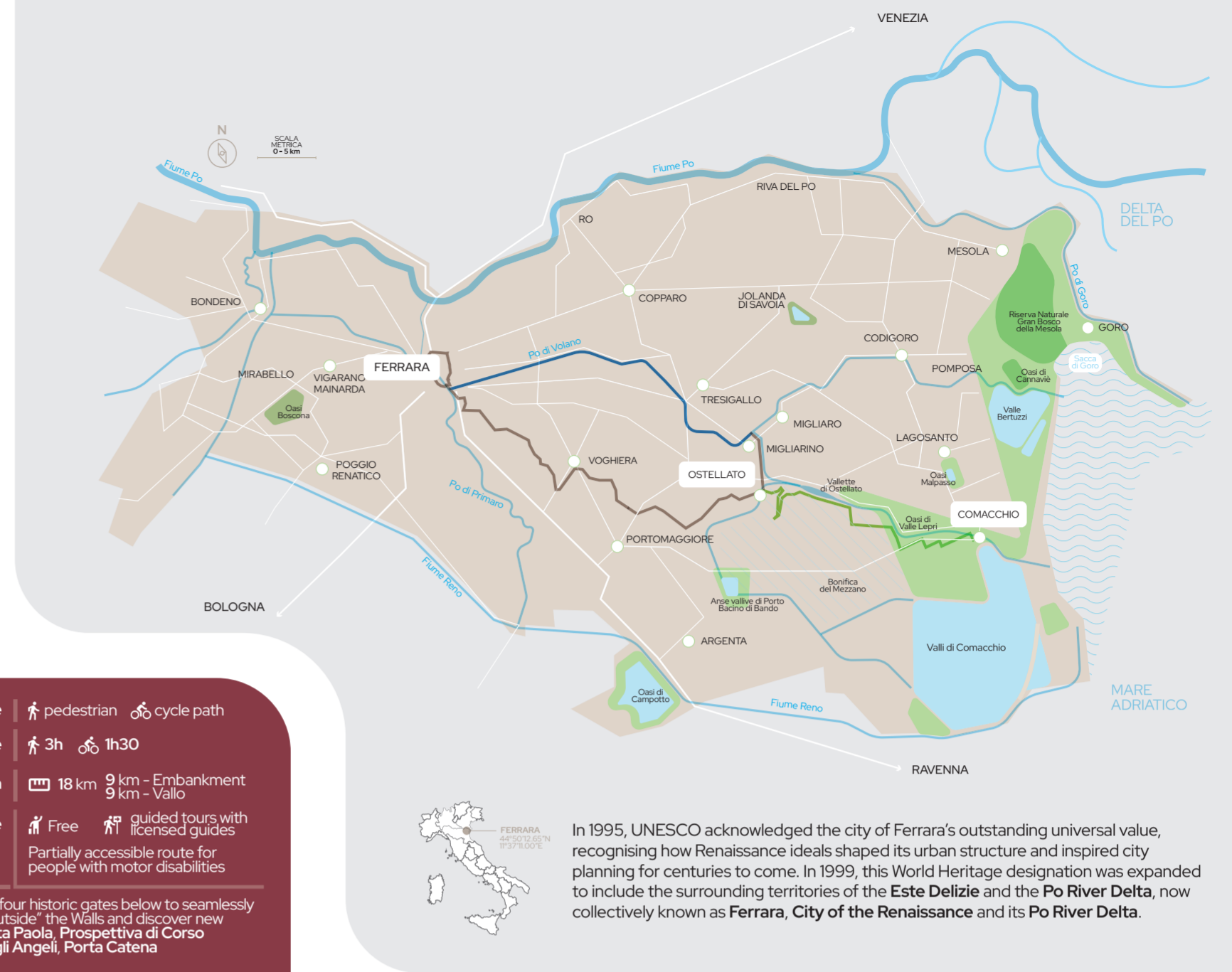
FERRARA'S GREEN SOUL: THE ESTE WALLS

This route encapsulates the historic heart of a unique city with a thousand souls. Explore the moat of the Walls, winding through lush greenery alongside ancient fortifications, or climb the shady embankment, perfect for athletes on warm days.

Two distinct ways to discover and interpret the city's timeless charm. Experience the Walls at any time of day: from the ethereal morning mist to the warm hues of the setting sun illuminating the ancient red bricks. Each season lends the Walls a unique, unforgettable charm: from the soft pastel tones of spring to the dense shadows of summer's trees, the vivid tapestry of autumn hues, and the stark, minimalist beauty of winter. The **Documentation Centre of the Walls** at **Porta Paola** has everything you need to begin your tour. From here, proceed toward **Bagni Ducali**, where you'll find the distinctive spade-shaped bastions of the southern wall, running parallel to the river. Immerse yourself in the forest-like setting between the **Torrione di San Giovanni** and the **Torrione del Barco**, surrounded by lush greenery and various bird species. The tall structures along the northwest walls harken back to the city's urban soul, blending daily life with moments of quiet reflection. Distant yet harmonious, these contrasting impressions are the essence of the city walls.

This route is ideal for outdoor enthusiasts: the key takeaway? **Stay active!** Hire a scenic guide to fully appreciate this fascinating itinerary.

Rates 2h30 guide service € 150 (€ 160 on holidays) up to 20 people + €3 per add. person 5h guide service € 230 (€ 240 on holidays), up to 20 people + €4 per add. person	Route pedestrian cycle path Average distance 3h 1h30 Length 18 km 9 km - Embankment 9 km - Vallo Usage type Free guided tours with licensed guides Partially accessible route for people with motor disabilities
Servizi noleggio E-Bike Up to 4 h: € 25 Daily: € 30	Muscle-powered bike Up to 4 h: € 10 Daily: € 15
Helmets: € 2 Child seat: € 3	Venture through the four historic gates below to seamlessly move "inside" and "outside" the Walls and discover new parts of the city: Porta Paola , Prospettiva di Corso Giovecca , Porta degli Angeli , Porta Catena



In 1995, UNESCO acknowledged the city of Ferrara's outstanding universal value, recognising how Renaissance ideals shaped its urban structure and inspired city planning for centuries to come. In 1999, this World Heritage designation was expanded to include the surrounding territories of the **Este Delizie** and the **Po River Delta**, now collectively known as **Ferrara, City of the Renaissance** and its **Po River Delta**.

A **treasure trove of beauty** to be discovered and explored: **Estense Castle**, both a fortress and court residence, the **Diamanti Palace**, home to internationally renowned exhibitions, the **Schifanoia Palace** with its extraordinary Hall of the Months, and the **quaint shops, guardians of culinary traditions** that delight the palates of explorers. Exploring the large orthogonal streets of this Renaissance city, either on foot or by bike, visitors can discover every detail that makes **Ferrara truly unique** – a place where a **harmonious balance** between past and present, art and culture reigns supreme.

Here, the grandeur of the **Este family** finds its fullest expression, extending over time beyond the city's boundaries to reflect **Renaissance ideals** upon the surrounding natural landscape: from the city, through the countryside, and even to the sea. These are the places where the Este family built their grand residences, designed to escape the demands of courtly life, known as the "Delizie"

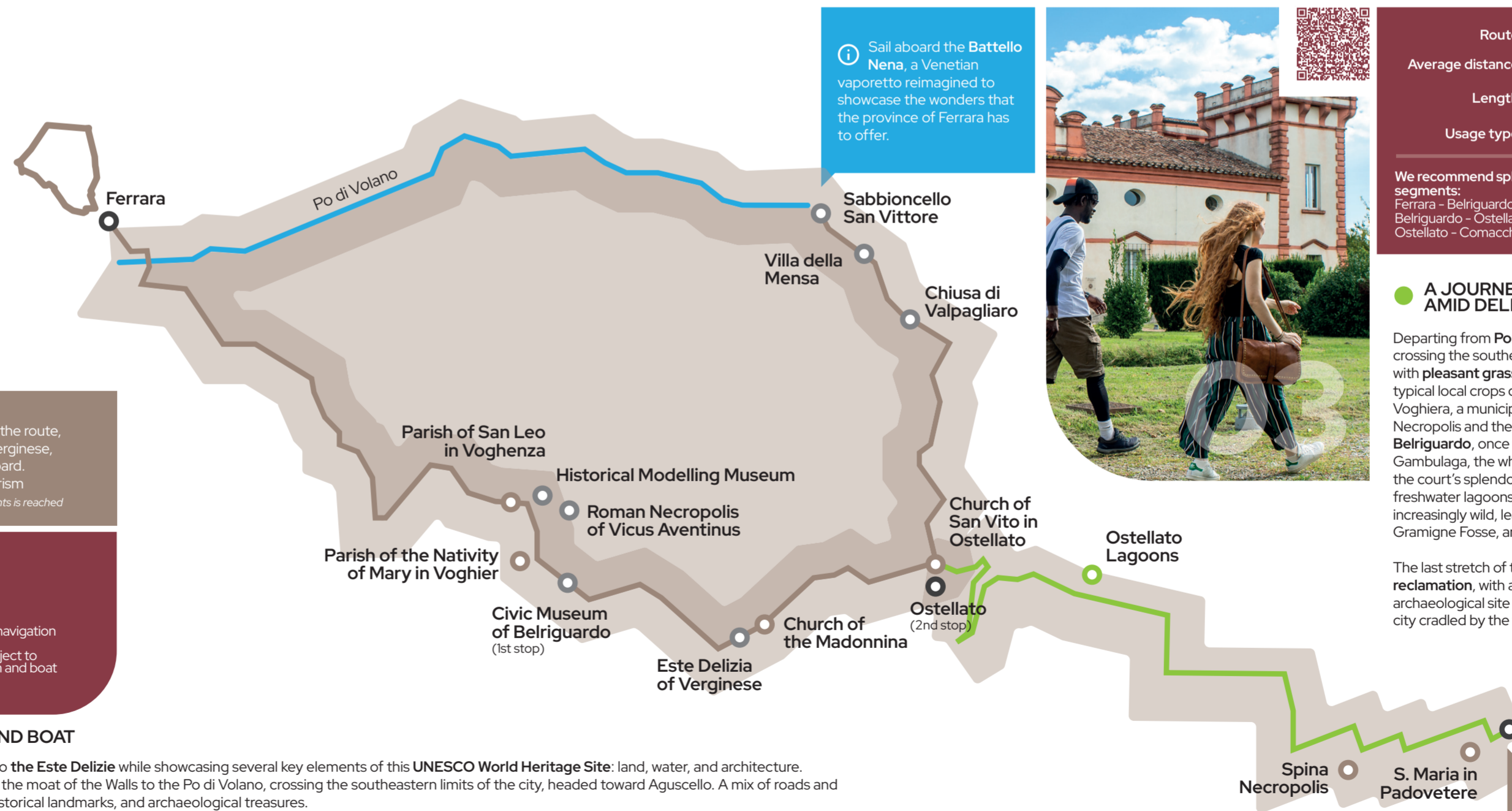


Full-day rates € 39 per person, including guide service during the route, guided visits to the Delizie of Belriguardo and Verginese, boat transfer to/from the city, and aperitif on board. Not included: bike rental and lunch at an agritourism *The tour will proceed once the minimum number of participants is reached	Route cycling sailing Average distance 4h 3h Length 45 km cycling, 20 km navigation Usage type Free access subject to reservation and boat availability
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RENAISSANCE LOOP: BIKE AND BOAT

An intermodal loop itinerary that links Ferrara to the **Este Delizie** while showcasing several key elements of this **UNESCO World Heritage Site**: land, water, and architecture. Departing from **Porta Paola**, turn left to follow the moat of the Walls to the Po di Volano, crossing the southeastern limits of the city, headed toward Aguscello. A mix of roads and beaten paths will lead you through farmland, historical landmarks, and archaeological treasures.

As you approach Gualdo and Voghenza, you'll reach the heart of the itinerary, home to two Renaissance jewels: the **Delizia del Belriguardo**, an oasis of beauty featuring the Sala delle Vigne and its Renaissance frescoes, and the **Delizia del Verginese**, a stately residence with castle-like features. The journey continues in pursuit of the ancient splendour of the **Delizia di Medelana**, until you reach the riverbanks of the **Po di Volano**. At **Villa della Mensa**, the river dock at Sabbioncello San Vittore marks the start of the second phase of your adventure. Your adventure concludes with a restful riverboat journey aboard the Nena, taking in the surrounding landscape as you return to the city.



Sail aboard the **Battello Nena**, a Venetian vaporetto reimagined to showcase the wonders that the province of Ferrara has to offer.



Route Pedestrian Average distance 3 or 4 days Length 70 km Usage type Free

We recommend splitting the itinerary into 3 segments:
 Ferrara - Belriguardo
 Belriguardo - Ostellato
 Ostellato - Comacchio and the Lagoons

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE DUCHY OF ESTE: AMID DELIGHTS AND NATURE

Departing from **Porta Paola**, turn left to follow the moat of the Walls to the Po di Volano, crossing the southeastern limits of the city, headed toward Aguscello. Paved roads alternate with **pleasant grassy sections, bordered by canals** framing the lush countryside, where the typical local crops change with the seasons. After approximately 20 km, you'll arrive at Voghiera, a municipality rich in archaeological and historical landmarks, such as the Roman Necropolis and the Modelling Museum. Beyond Voghiera's centre lies the Estense **Delizia of Belriguardo**, once the Este family's summer palace, and now home to the Civic Museum. In Gambulaga, the white **Delizia del Verginese** stands proudly against the blue sky, a symbol of the court's splendour and grandeur. Continuing onward, you'll come to **Ostellato**, where the freshwater lagoons are home to a **Wildlife Protection Oasis**. From this point, the route grows increasingly wild, leading walkers along the right embankment of the Canale Circondariale Gramigne Fosse, and exiting onto Strada Mezzano.

The last stretch of the journey traverses a landscape shaped by **large-scale land reclamation**, with a geometrically structured expanse of agricultural fields. Not far off is the archaeological site of the ancient Etruscan city of Spina, and finally, **Comacchio** – a charming city cradled by the waters of its canals and lagoons.

Your adventure will conclude in Comacchio. Don't miss out on the chance to extend your stay one more day to visit the historic centre and the captivating Lagoons, part of the **Po River Delta Park** and a **UNESCO MaB heritage site**