

ITINERARIES BETWEEN FERRARA AND THE PO DELTA

On foot, by bike and by boat

destina
lente
Ferrara città del Rinascimento
e il suo Delta del Po

www.ferraterreaacqua.it



Special thanks to © Pierluigi Benini for the images

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FESTINA LENTE: MAKE HASTE SLOWLY

Ferrara, city of the Renaissance and its Po 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.

Ferrara: a city where distinct eras converge, guided by the rational spirit of the Renaissance. The **Po Delta:** a timeless cultural landscape where land and water unite to form scenes of exceptional beauty. A series of itineraries links **Ferrara, Comacchio, and Ostellato**, narrating the shared histories and grandeur of these lands.

Set time aside, and embrace the slow, immersive discovery of this area, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.





A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

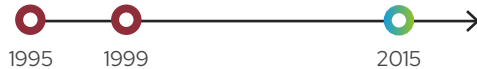
Ferrara's unique urban design and majestic architecture tell the story of transformative urban projects that expanded its medieval core, making it a shining example of a **Renaissance city**.

In 1995, **UNESCO** acknowledged the city's **outstanding universal value**, recognising how Renaissance ideals shaped its urban structure and inspired city planning for centuries to come. By 1999, the recognition extended to the surrounding **Estense Delights** – leisure residences and territorial control centres – and the **Po Delta**, a remarkable cultural landscape where Renaissance humanism is reflected in the harmonious morphology of the territory.

This is a land of discovery, where art and culture merge with breathtaking natural vistas, showcasing one of Europe's richest biodiversities, home to hundreds of plant and animal species. As a vital ecosystem, the Po Delta's designation as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2015 under the MaB program was essential for safeguarding its extraordinary biodiversity.

UNESCO World
Heritage Site

Biosphere
Reserve



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FERRARA

QUEEN OF THE RENAISSANCE

A treasure trove of beauty to experience, Ferrara is the first example of a **modern European city**. Its harmonious blend of past and present reflects the city's historical splendour, which reached its peak under the **Estense Duchy**. Strolling along the wide, orthogonal streets of the **Addizione Erculea** and travelling the perimeter of its ancient walls, you'll feel the **thousand souls** of Ferrara. **Estense Castle**, both fortress and court residence, the **Diamanti Palace**, home to internationally renowned exhibitions, and the **Schifanoia Palace** with its extraordinary Hall of the Months

- 01 **FERRARA'S GREEN SOUL**
THE ESTE WALLS
- 02 **RENAISSANCE LOOP**
BIKE AND BOAT
- 03 **A JOURNEY THROUGH THE**
DUCHY OF ESTE
AMID DELIGHTS AND NATURE





Route partially accessible to people with mobility impairments



Scan the QR code and discover the route on ferraraterraeacqua.it or request the map of itineraries

Ferrara

9km on the embankment + 9km in the moat

 pedestrian |  cycling

FERRARA'S GREEN SOUL

THE ESTE WALLS

Travel time: 3h on foot, 1h 30 by bike
Free access or with a tour guide

Rates

Half-day guided tour: €150 (holidays and pre-holidays €160) for up to 20 people + €3 per extra person.

Full-day guided tour: €230 (holidays and pre-holidays €240) for up to 20 people + €4 per extra person

Rental services

E-Bike

Up to 4 h: € 25
Daily: € 30

Muscle bike

Up to 4 h: € 10
Daily: € 15

Helmet € 2

Baby bouncer € 3

Ferrara's green soul
Ferrara

9km on the embankment
+ 9km in the moat
🚶 on foot | 🚲 by bike

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, proceeding toward **Bagni Ducali**, 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!

Get on a licensed guide to fully appreciate the itinerary!





Each season lends the walls a distinctive and unforgettable charm: the gentle pastel tones of spring, the deep shadows cast by summer's trees, the vibrant mosaic of autumn's colours, and the stark, minimalist elegance of winter



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Ferrara

45km by bike, 20km by boat
 cycling +  navigation

RENAISSANCE LOOP


BIKE AND BOAT

Travel time: 4h by bike, 3h by boat

Cycling section accessible independently or with a licensed guide. Boats subject to availability and boat reservation.

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 agriturismo.

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

Renaissance loop Ferrara

45km by bike, 20km by boat
🚲 cycling + 🚤 navigation

An inter-modal circular itinerary connecting **Ferrara** to its **Delizie**, highlighting the **UNESCO World Heritage Site's** defining elements: 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 artistic haven adorned with frescoed halls and surrounded by lush gardens, 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. Aboard the Nena, unwind and admire the picturesque scenery as you make your way back to the city.



A landscape of
land, water, and
architecture, shaped
by the Po di Volano,
where the majestic
Estense residences
meet cultivated fields



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Ferrara - Comacchio

70km
pedestrian

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE DUCHY OF ESTE

AMID DELIGHTS AND NATURE


Travel time: 3 or 4 days
Free access

This itinerary is designed specifically for independent travellers or small groups, with options for custom quotes on **guided tours or transfer services**. Visit www.ferraraterraeacqua.it for recommendations on dining and accommodations along the route.

i Enjoy a complete experience amid the natural landscapes of the Estense court. We recommend **dividing it into 3 stages**: Ferrara-Belriguardo (Voghiera), Voghiera-Ostellato, Ostellato-Vallette-Comacchio and Lagoons.

Leaving **Porta Paola** behind, turn left toward the moat of the Walls, which leads to the Po di Volano. This path will lead you beyond the city's southeast boundary, 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 journey ends in Comacchio: be sure to explore its historic centre and the Lagoons, part of the UNESCO MaB program



COMACCHIO

TIMELESS CHARM

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**. Comacchio's vibrant atmosphere is traversed by bridges, canals, and prestigious architecture. It's a **timeless cultural landscape** where nature and human history coexist in perfect harmony. Amid canals, mounds, and shimmering waters stand stone structures and ancient homes, reflecting the stories and traditions of the past. It is said that the echoes of the Estense court and the monumental works shaping the Po Delta still linger in these stones.

- 01 **BIRDING TOUR**
AMID COMACCHIO'S LAGOONS
AND SALT PANS
- 02 **TRADES OF THE PAST**
HIKE AND BOAT TOUR TO THE
CASONI
- 03 **CYCLING WITH A VALLANTE**
TO DISCOVER CASONE DONNABONA



Comacchio

3km
pedestrian

BIRDING TOUR

AMID COMACCHIO'S LAGOONS
AND SALT PANS

Travel time: 2 h

Access with an environmental guide

Rates

Full price €12

Reduced €7 (children aged 7 to 12 and people with disabilities)

Free admission: children under 6

Rental services

Binocular rental: € 5



Scan the QR code and discover the route on ferraraterraeacqua.it or request the map of itineraries



01

Birding tour
Comacchio

3km
pedestrian

Comacchio's lagoons are home to at least 37 bird species of interest to the European Union, including flamingos, which find an essential nesting site here

As you follow nature's slow rhythms, you'll walk along a **levee path**, exploring sites tied to fish farming and the history of the local area. As you enjoy the stunning panoramas of Comacchio's lagoons, a guide will lead you on a breathtaking stroll to **Casone Pegoraro**, once a fishing outpost. 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.

i The lavoriero holds a deep historical connection to Comacchio and its Lagoons. Embodying a system perfected over centuries, it consists of a series of interconnected, arrow-shaped enclosures designed for selective fishing at specific stations. While the walls were originally constructed from one or more layers of marsh reed, known as *arelle* or *grisole*, the modern lavoriero has reinforced concrete walls.

02



Route accessible to people with mobility impairments



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Comacchio

9,5km
pedestrian + navigation

TRADES OF THE PAST

HIKE AND BOAT TOUR TO THE CASONI

Travel time: 4h

Access with an environmental guide

Rates

Full price €38

Reduced €25 (children aged 7 to 12 and people with disabilities)

Free admission: children under 6

Rental services

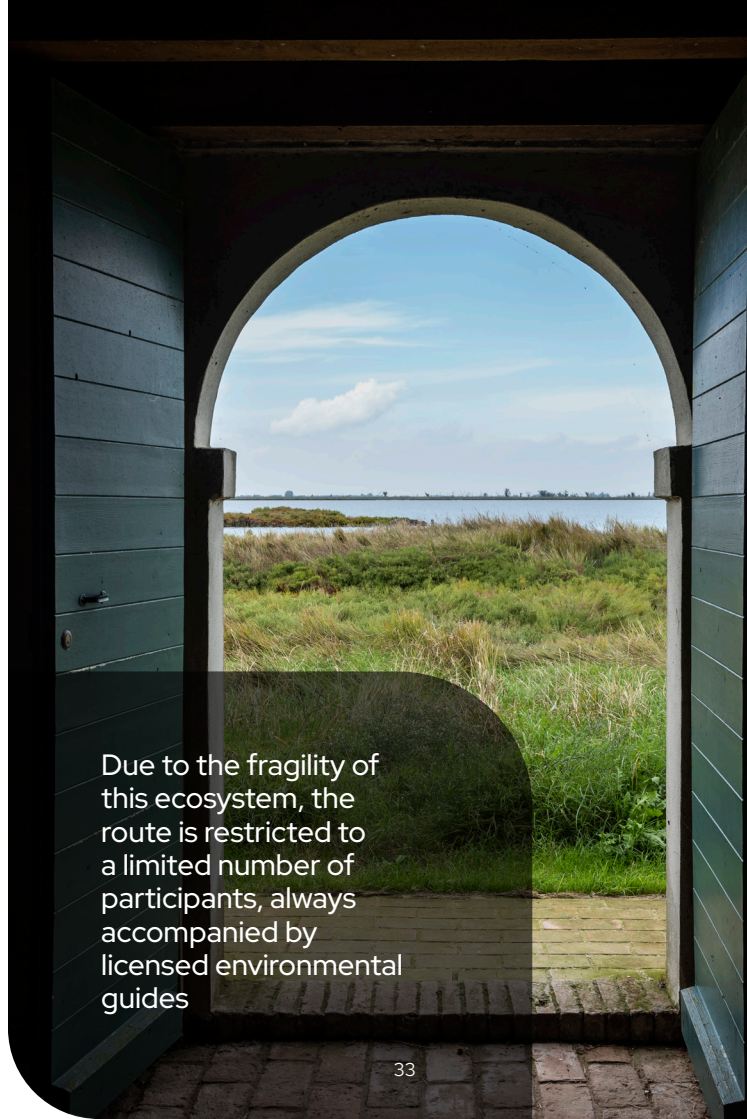
Binocular rental: € 5

Trades of the past Comacchio

9,5km
pedestrian + navigation

Designed with full respect for the environment, this route is ideal for **nature lovers** and those who embrace leisurely travel. 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.

i The Comacchio Lagoons constitute Italy's largest brackish wetland complex, and are the most breathtaking area within the Po Delta Park. Recognised as Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and Special Protection Areas (SPA), they are part of the Natura 2000 network, a European Union tool for biodiversity conservation.



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



Scan the QR code and discover the route on ferraraterraacqua.it or request the map of itineraries

Comacchio

4km
 pedestrian | cycling

CYCLING WITH A VALLANTE

TO DISCOVER CASONE DONNABONA

Travel time: 2h on foot, 1h by bike
 Access with an environmental guide

Rates

Full price €18

Reduced €12 (children aged 7 to 12 and people with disabilities)

Free admission: children under 6

Rental services

Muscle bike

Daily rental: € 7

Binocular rental: € 5

Helmet € 1

Cycling with a vallante Comacchio

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

4km
pedestrian | cycling

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 a **tasting of liqueurs and grappas** infused with the briny aromas of the area, followed by a return to the Foce Station.



Casone Donnabona also hosts thematic photographic exhibitions. Its evocative interiors, featuring traditional clothing, furniture, and tools, recreate the lagoon atmosphere of the past



Technical information about the Competition

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

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

To explore all of our proposals for your stay, visit:

www.ferraraterraeacqua.it



**Destina
lente**
: Ferrara città del Rinascimento
& il suo Delta del Po