FERRARA FOR

FAMILIES

Ferrara is a human-scale city and **easy to explore with the whole family**. Here, there's no rush: you walk, pause, observe, and play. History isn't just something to study –it's something to discover together. Ready to set off on **a journey through castles, mysterious symbols, and ancient stories**?

Here are some places to explore as a family!

ESTENSE CASTLE

A real castle with a moat and drawbridges right in the heart of the city. Discover how medieval defense systems worked, climb the towers for panoramic views, and imagine court life among kitchens, prisons, and grand halls.

Mission: look for the plaque with ancient units of measurement and try to imagine how they were used in everyday life.

CATHEDRAL OF SAN GIORGIO

Ferrara's Cathedral is dedicated to **Saint George**, the dragon-slayer: a fitting patron for a city that for centuries battled floods and marshlands. Its façade reflects layers of history and is rich in carved symbols and details.

Mission: try to spot the figure of the patron Guglielmo Il Adelardi, and inside (respectfully), look for fossil shells embedded in the floor.

SCHIFANOIA MUSEUM

Palazzo Schifanoia, now a museum, was built between 1385 and 1391 for Alberto V d'Este and later **expanded by Borso**, the city's first duke. Its name literally means "to escape boredom" –an invitation to have fun. In the famous **Hall of the Months**, the walls are covered with mythological figures, zodiac signs, and scenes of Renaissance life.

Mission: find your zodiac sign among the frescoes –or those of your family– and try to spot hidden animals and symbols in the painted scenes.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Inside **Palazzo Costabili**, designed by **Biagio Rossetti** during the Renaissance, you'll find a museum telling the story of the **ancient Etruscan city of Spina**. Through vases, objects, and artifacts, you can imagine daily life from over two thousand years ago.

Mission: in the palace garden, you'll find an intriguing hedge maze –can you make your way through without getting lost?

Did You Know?

Where do Ferrara's children play?

Two places especially loved by local families are **Massari Park** –perfect for a green break near the center –and **Piazza Ariostea**, where many children learn to ride bikes or rollerblade, often at the cost of a few scraped knees. Add to this the "**countryside within the walls**," with its large play area, and **Parco Pareschi**, another central and welcoming green space for outdoor time.

The Sundial in Piazza Municipale

In **Piazza Municipale**, a large sundial tells the time using sunlight. Look at the shadow –can you guess the time? A fun way to discover how the sun once served as the city's true clock.

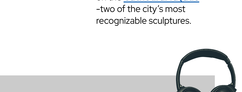
THE PALIO OF FERRARA

In Ferrara, you can travel back in time! The **Palio of Ferrara** is **one of the oldest in Italy** and brings the splendor of the Renaissance to life each year, with knights, elegant ladies, and colorful flag-throwers.

Throughout the year, the city fills with celebrations and spectacular challenges, but the most exciting moment comes when **the grand procession** crosses the historic center and the eight districts compete in **Piazza Ariostea**. Who will win?

The Shot You'll Remember

A fun shot for the whole family? Take a picture next to one of the lions or griffins on the **Cathedral facade** –two of the city's most recognizable sculptures.



Want to explore Ferrara as a great family adventure?

Let yourself be guided through stories, curiosities, and places across the city in the dedicated podcast.

Listen to the podcast

Looking for New Adventures?

Visit **www.inferrara.it** to discover guided tours, bike experiences, cooking classes, river cruises along the Po, and themed activities to create your perfect itinerary.

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