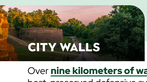
FERRARA FOR

SLOW TRAVELERS

Ferrara has a deep-rooted identity as a green, human-scale city. This spirit is not the result of a modern trend, but of **an urban vision dating back to the Renaissance** –one that still shapes everyday life today. Here, you move slowly, often **by bicycle**, through city walks, parks, and waterways that connect the historic center with the surrounding landscape.

Here are some places to experience Ferrara's slow spirit.



CITY WALLS

Over **nine kilometers of walls** –among the best-preserved defensive systems in Europe– encircle the city, forming **a large green ring** that can be explored on foot or by bike. Along the way, you'll enjoy scenic views of both the city and its natural surroundings. Start from Porta Paola, home to the **Documentation Center on Ferrara's Walls**, where you can learn more about this remarkable fortified architecture.

GIORGIO BASSANI CITY PARK

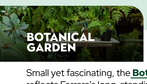
Just a few minutes from the city center, this **vast green area** stretches along the northern walls. It's the perfect place for walking, cycling, or simply unwinding in nature. Once part of the **Este family's hunting reserve**, it is now the city's main green lung.

MASSARI PARK

One of the **most beloved historic parks** among locals, featuring an *English-style* layout **with centuries-old trees and wide lawns**. It's an ideal spot for a relaxing break in the shade or a picnic after visiting the museums of the Addizione Erculea district.

DARSENA DI SAN PAOLO & PO DI VOLANO

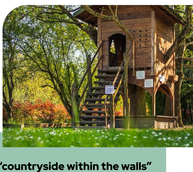
Once a key river port along the city branch of the Po, the **Darsena di San Paolo** is now one of Ferrara's most vibrant areas. Water takes center stage again here, with riverside walks, boat trips, and leisure spaces..



BOTANICAL GARDEN

Small yet fascinating, the **Botanical Garden** reflects Ferrara's long-standing connection with scientific culture. **Founded in the 18th century**, it hosts around **2,000 plant species** and offers free entry right in the heart of the city.

Did You Know?



The "countryside within the walls"

In the northern part of the city –near Via delle Erbe– you'll find a cultivated agricultural area within the city walls. **Originally conceived during the Este period** to ensure self-sufficiency and a close relationship with nature, it remains a unique example of **rural landscape** within a historic city center, perfect for visitors of all ages.

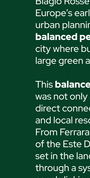
The City of Bicycles

Ferrara is widely known across Italy as the **city of bicycles**. An extensive network of cycling paths runs throughout the municipality, making the bike one of the most popular ways to get around.

DESIGNED TO BREATHE

With the **Addizione Erculea** –commissioned by **Duke Ercole I d'Este** in the late 15th century and designed by Biagio Rossetti– Ferrara became one of Europe's earliest examples of modern urban planning. **Wide streets and balanced perspectives** created an airy city where built spaces alternated with large green areas and cultivated land.

This **balance between city and nature** was not only aesthetic: it also ensured a direct connection with the countryside and local resources.
From Ferrara also extended the network of the Este Delights –leisure residences set in the landscape and easily reachable through a system of roads and navigable canals linking the city to its surroundings, all the way to the Po Delta.



The Shot You'll Remember

The Tree on the Bastion: along the city walls, a large tree appears to grow directly from the fortification, offering a unique and striking view.

Want to explore Ferrara at a slow pace?

Let yourself be guided through walls, parks, and waterways in a podcast dedicated to the city's green and slow soul.

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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