

Mete Piceno is the only brand of tourist destination in the Piceno area, which involves all 33 municipalities and more than 80 museums of the Piceno Museum System network. Within 70 km radius you can pass through the Apennine mountains, located between the Sibillini Mountains Park and the Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park, through rolling hills, with villages surrounded by olive groves and vineyards, expanses of anise and saffron, reaching the Riviera delle Palme.

Every year during summer, the "Apennine Festival, inclusive of nature" takes place, a unique opportunity to discover the Piceno territory through excursions, stories, traditions, excellences, food and wine, culture and entertainment, in the name of inclusivity and sustainability.

STRONGHOLDS, FORTRESSES and castles

Defensive architectures such as fortresses, strongholds and castles stand out in the area, guardians of stories and deeds of men and women who have inhabited and vivify the land of Piceno: the stronghold of Arquata del Tronto, built in the thirteenth century, watches over the Tronto valley and the Salaria; Castel di Luco in Acquasanta Terme; in Montegalio the remains of the ancient castle of San Maria in Gallo; in Ascoli Piceno the Pia Fortress and the Renaissance Malatesta Fortress; the Fortress of Acquaviva Picena, one of the most important and best preserved in Italy, dates back to the second half of 1200; in Grottammare the remains of the Castle of Marano and the Castle of Sant'Andrea, in Carassai the Stronghold of Montevermine.



OUR mountains

The Piceno area is the meeting place of two National Parks, the Sibillini Mountains National Park and the Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park. The borderland is a small village, Arquata del Tronto, the only municipality in Europe enclosed in two National Parks. Mount Vettore (2,476 asl), the highest peak of the Sibillini Mountains, Mount Sibilla, Mount Ascensione, the Montagna dei Fiori and the Laga Mountains offer many opportunities for outdoor activities. The Piceno mountains are ready to welcome anyone who loves outdoor sports.



Lovers of trekking, mountain biking and climbing will not be disappointed during the summer. While in winter you can ski, take snowshoe walks or trekking with crampons and ice axe. We recommend walking or cycling through these two rings: the GABA (Great Ring of the Ascolani Villages) and the GADA (Great Ring of Arquata).

PICENO MUSEUM system

The Piceno territory has more than 80 unique and different museums: art, archaeology, popular traditions, crafts, sacred art, history and so much more. The Piceno Museum System is the network that unites these large and small museums, created to enhance and promote them in an integrated way. Among them the most important is the Pinacoteca di Ascoli Piceno of the Civic Museums of Ascoli, together with the Museum of the Sea of San Benedetto del Tronto and the Museum Center of Offida. The museums that spread in the small villages are a



testimony of the passage of artists and the cultural dynamism that has animated these areas over the centuries. The Musei Sisti del Piceno (MSP) are the network of museums of sacred art of the Diocese of San Benedetto - Ripatransone - Montalto delle Marche and include eleven locations.

HISTORICAL re-enactments

Every year in the Piceno area you can relive the magic of bygone eras through festivals and historical re-enactments. In Ascoli Piceno you can attend the Giostra Cavalleresca della Quintana, in Acquaviva Picena the Palio del Duca - Sponsalia you can experience the emotion of a Renaissance wedding. Every three years in Spelonga takes place Festa Bella, a festival that re-enacts the Battle of Lepanto. In Arquata del Tronto the descent of Queen Giovanna. In Castel di Lama the establish-



ment of the Podestà and Pallo della Balestra. In Castignano, in August, takes place Tempolaria Festival, while Ripatransone rages with the Fire Horse during Easter. The four historical carnivals of Ascoli, Offida, Castignano, Pozza-Umito are a must-see.

WATER places

In the Piceno area, water is the protagonist: waterfalls, lakes and rivers. In Roccafluvione there are the Arena Falls, while in Acquasanta Terme there are the wonderful Prata and Volpara Falls, on the border between the two municipalities there are the Forcella Falls. There are four lakes in the Piceno area: Lake Gerosa, Lake Pilato, Lake Talvacchia and the lake of Palazzo Borghese. The first is artificial and delimits three municipalities: Comunanza, Montemonaco and Montefortino (FM). Here you can enjoy fishing or boating. Lake Pilato, on the other hand, is glacial and is located at 1941 m above the



sea level on Mount Vettore. In this legendary lake lives a small crustacean, the Chirocefalo del Marchesoni. The pond of Palazzo Borghese is also known as the "ephemeral" pond since it forms with the thawing of snow in late spring (late April) and then dries a few weeks later. Also suggestive are the Garrafo and Infernacchio gorges, which follow the path of the rivers.

PLACES of spirituality

Over the centuries, the Piceno territory has been a place of pilgrimages. There are monasteries, shrines and abbeys that bear witness to the passage of monks and pilgrims. In Ascoli Piceno, the Church of San Francesco and its convent were built following the passage of the saint in 1215. The Abbey of San Benedetto, with an adjoining monastery, in Valledacqua, a hamlet of Acquasanta Terme, the Church of S. Maria del Borgo, in Castignano, the Church Santa Maria della Rocca in Offida and the Sanctuary of



Montemisio in Rotella testify to the passage of Benedictine monks. In Montepandone, San Giacomo della Marca, who was born there, founded the Sanctuary of Santa Maria delle Grazie and its convent. The Templers also stopped in our territory: in Castignano and at the Hermitage of San Marco.

OUR sea

The coastline extends for over 10 km. Relaxation and fun coexist harmoniously in the Riviera delle Palme, an ideal place for family holidays. A long stretch of sand links the municipalities overlooking the sea. The small beach of Marina di Massignano is northernmost, followed by the quiet beaches in Cupra Marittima, then Grottammare also known as the "town of orange trees", ending in the beautiful San Benedetto del Tronto with a very long sandy beach and the relaxing seafront embellished with palm trees. The centuries-old



tradition of fishing animates San Benedetto del Tronto, providing the town with fresh fish cooked by local restaurants with unparalleled art. It is possible to practice very different sports, from tennis to sailing, from horseback riding and cycling, to beach volleyball tournaments.



THE EXCELLENCES of Made in Piceno

The cuisine of the Piceno area, linked to popular and religious traditions, respects the variety of our landscapes. Just as in a few kilometres we move from the sea to the mountains, fish and meat recipes are equally found in menus. On the coast we find the brodetto alla sambenedettese, a dish with as many variations as the fish used to prepare it. Moving towards the hinterland, recipes consist of mainly meat, enriched by the flavours of fine black truffle, saffron, green anise (the basic ingredient of our typical liqueur), but also by the pink



apple of the Sibillini or a type of tender olive. It is precisely from this tender olive that comes one of our most famous recipes: the oliva all'ascolana DOP. These dishes can be combined with local Doc and Docg wines: Rosso Piceno and Rosso Piceno Superiore, Pecorino, Passerina and Falerio.

ANCIENT crafts

Over the centuries, the Piceno area has been the showcase of numerous craft activities. Even today there are artisan workshops that hand down these precious works from generation to generation. In Acquaviva still survives the processing of Pagliarole, baskets made from the interweaving of wheat straw or wicker. The processing of lace is handed down from the women of Offida that weave on the tombolo through the streets of the village. In Ascoli there are still workshops where skilled crafts-



men work with majolica and ceramics. The extraction of travertine is also very important thanks to the numerous quarries between Ascoli and Acquasanta. Lastly, copper continues to be handcrafted in the villages of Force and Comunanza.

LEGENDS and mysteries

Visiting the Piceno area means to plunge into an atmosphere full of legends. Very ancient writings speak of a Woodpecker that, leading the Sabines, arrived on the banks of the Tronto river where the Piceno civilization was founded. In Ascoli it is said that Cecco's Bridge was built in one night by Cecco d'Ascoli with the help of the devil. Even the mountains are surrounded by an aura of mystery. According to a legend, after his death sentence, the corpse of Pontius Pilate was tied to two oxen and dragged to the lake



that takes its name, dyeing the waters red with his blood, a phenomenon actually due to the presence of the Chirocephalus. It is also said that the cave of the Sibyls, from which the fairies used to come out during the night, was the access point to the kingdom of the Sibyl.

	FORTRESSES AND CASTLES		PLACES OF SPIRITUALITY		MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERIES								
	HANDICRAFT		TYPICAL		EVENTS AND FOLKLORE								
	WATER PLACES		TRKING AND BIKE ROUTES										
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ADRIATIC SEA

