

# LE MARCHE – ITALY



Le Marche in central Italy is one of the country's best kept secrets.

If you like Tuscany then you'll love Le Marche's stunning countryside, dramatic coastline, historic towns and cities.

Start your journey into this bewitching land with the Renaissance wonder city Urbino. The birthplace of one of Italy's greatest artists, Raphael, is also one of its most delightful towns, full of architectural and artistic masterpieces.

Le Marche is dotted with historic hill towns and, for a longer stay, check out Ascoli Piceno – a lively, buzzy town with highly attractive churches and piazzas and famous for its delicious street food, best served in the Fritto Misto all'Italiana festival in April.

Beach and nature lovers should head to the spectacular Parco del Conero, with

unspoilt woodland and pebble beaches lapped by clear water. The busier resorts are Portonovo and Numana, but those looking for something a bit quieter should head to the chic village of Sirolo.

Nature lovers will be spoilt by the national park Monti Sibellini, with miles of hiking trails and the eponymous spectacular mountains.

Photos: *Top left* – Marmite dei Giganti canyon, Metauro river and gorge *Top right* – Urbino, Italy medieval walled city  
*Bottom left* – The unspoiled beach of Numana, Mount Conero, Italy *Bottom right* – View of Sibillini mountains