



## RIMINI - FRIENDSHIP TOURS

Rimini and the surrounding region are usually overlooked by British tourists. But it has all anyone could want from Italy – culture, sun and hilltop towns.

Rimini's family-friendly beach attracts an unpretentious, mostly Italian crowd; there are Roman remains and a Renaissance cathedral to admire, while Florence and Ravenna are within easy reach by train; and the nearby settlements of Santarcangelo di Romagna and San Leo are among the prettiest in Italy. It is also one of the country's pre-eminent party towns, with scores of lively bars near the coast and a clutch of swanky clubs on the outskirts.

### *Things to do during your time in Rimini*

Work on your tan or head for the hills. The beach is sandy, vast and has every amenity imaginable. It is divided into more than 100 numbered plots. Sun loungers can be hired from each for around €5 a day. Many offer perks including Wi-Fi access. Remember you get what you pay for, so check out the facilities at the establishment before deciding where to rent a sun lounger. They range from the cheap and cheerful to the state-of-the-art offering jacuzzi facilities, massage and gym equipment etc.).



There are also a number of free beaches, with toilet facilities and lifeguards on duty, where you can stretch out your towel and enjoy the summer sun without charge. The biggest of these is near the port, by **Piazzale Boscovich**, at the start of the beach facing the pier (and rock island). There are also free beaches at **San Giuliano Mare** (on the other side of the port), at **Marebello** between beach #s 105-106 and 107-108 and in **Miramare** from #150 up to the Thalassotherapy centre.

By law, all the paid beach establishments must allow free access to the sea and bathing area, so you can pass through any of the beach establishments on your way to have a swim without paying anything. Between the waves and the beach establishments there must be a strip at least five metres deep free to all.



Alternatively, why not take the number 9 bus and explore the gorgeous hilltop town of **Santarcangelo di Romagna**, just 6 miles to the north of Rimini.

There are lots of reasons why it's worth discovering Santarcangelo, it has the atmosphere of a large village where life follows a quiet pace, the beauty of its elegant buildings, village houses, narrow streets and small squares.

Standing on the gently sloping hillside, **Mount Giove**, where the traditional structure of a mediaeval fortified village is still visible to this day. It is criss-crossed by a dense network of mysterious tufa caves about whose origins and use there are, still to this day, many unanswered questions. Some believe they were used as wine cellars and others that they were a place of worship.



Today, some are open to visitors. In central **Ganganelli Square**, the huge triumphal arch built in 1777 in honour of their fellow-citizen Pope Clemente XIV (whose surname was Ganganelli, 1705-1774), can still be seen.

**The Bell Tower, Cervese Gate, Piazza delle Monache, the collegiate church, the parish church of St. Michael and the Sferisterio** are all characteristic places to visit and give this town its particular charm.

### *A 'must do' visit - San Marino.*

Whilst in Rimini you must visit San Marino. just 15 miles away but so different the historic centre of the **Republic of San Marino** is, in every part, a living monument.

San Marino is an independent republic enclosed within Italy. The Italian language is spoken, and you don't need a passport to enter the little country. Despite its Italian character, San Marino is very proud of its independent status, which brings in hundreds of tourists and tax-free shoppers every day. It has its own football team, military force and stamps. The town's bus connection with Rimini is proudly labelled 'international service'.

Through diplomacy, luck and possibly a lack of strategic importance, San Marino alone of Italy's city-states managed to hang onto its independence through the centuries, even opting out when Italy was unified in the nineteenth century.

The territory of San Marino spreads for several miles around the capital, which is also called San Marino. The town is what most tourists come to see, though, and it is an impressive citadel. It is high above the coastal plains, with three fortresses perched atop a giddy cliff. Monte Titano is 750m above sea level, so be prepared for winds and a cooler temperature than on the plains below.



**San Marino tourist attractions:** Although the steep slopes, cliffs and castles of San Marino are impressive enough in themselves, what really takes your breath away is the view from the town. On a clear day you can see the Adriatic a few miles to the east, and in other directions the hilly land rises into central Italy. It's possible to make out small hill-top villages and other, less lofty, castles and fortresses, commanding their own small green patches of territory.

The most obvious attractions of San Marino are its defensive towers. Two of these (**the Rocca and the Torre Cesta**) can be visited with a combined ticket and offer good chances to climb towers and explore ramparts. As there is not a great deal to see - views, defences, a few weapons - you can tour the buildings quite briskly.



More colourful tourist appeal is to be had from the changing of the guard ceremony (at half-past every hour in the summer months) in **Piazza della Libertà**. The republic's militia are proud of their fancy uniforms.

As an independent state, San Marino also has its own stamps and postal system. To send a postcard from San Marino, you just need to buy a stamp in one of the town's shops and make sure you post your cards in one of the state's white postboxes before you leave.



The centre is full of places to eat, including some snack and takeaway options.

Several of the restaurants have wonderful views and very inviting terraces; even if their food is squarely aimed at tourists.

As in surrounding parts of Italy, the *piadina* - a kind of flat-bread sandwich - features on most menus.



### *The accommodation*

We use a selection of good quality three and four star hotels in the area. Typically they are beach front and the food, being Italy, is of a very high standard.

Groups have a choice of rooms: quads, triples, twins, doubles and single, all have private facilities.

### *Whats included*

**All of our Friendship Tours to Rimini include:**

- \* Airport transfers
- \* 3 or 4 nights in 3 or 4 star hotels
- \* Breakfast and evening meal each day
- \* Arrangement of two matches against local teams
- \* Transfers to/from both matches
- \* Bilingual tour guide
- \* Generous free places, one free for every 20 paying



### *Getting There*

Rimini does have it's own airport but only [Ryan Air](#) fly there from London-Stansted.

The nearest airport is Ancona which is 53 miles away. [Ryan Air](#) fly there from London-Stansted.

The next nearest is Bologna (77 miles) [Aer Lingus](#) (seasonal) from Dublin. [BA](#) from London-Heathrow. [easyJet](#) from London-Gatwick. [Ryan Air](#) from Edinburgh, London-Luton, London-Stansted and Manchester, plus seasonal from Bristol and Dublin.