**ANCONA (Italy)**

**ANC01 – URBINO & ITS HISTORICAL CENTRE**  **- 65€/adult & 45€/child**

**Duration: 5 hours, 15 minutes**

Budding painters, photographers and dreamers… all will enjoy the art and aesthetics of Urbino and delight in the quaint streets and squares of this lovely walled city and UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will reach Urbino after a 1.5-hour coach drive to meet your guide and start a short walking tour around the historic old town, one of the best-preserved medieval centres in Italy. Located on a sloping hillside, Urbino offers picturesque views over the verdant valleys, straight out of an Italian masterpiece. You will visit the “Palazzo Ducale” begun in the second half of the XV century and which houses the National Gallery of Marche with one of Italy’s most important collections of Renaissance paintings. Next, you will enjoy a buffet in a bistrot next to “Piazza della Repubblica”.

**ANC03 – THE “FRASASSI” CAVES**  **- 59€/adult & 42€/child**

**Duration: 4.5 hours**

An approx. 45-minute drive through the Italian countryside will take you to Genga and the unforgettable Frassasi Caves. Your guide will escort you on an underground adventure among the otherworldly stalagmites and stalactites found within the famous cave system, discovered and then explored between 1948 and 1971. The safe routes through the spectacular caves coupled with dramatic lighting make this a truly awe-inspiring experience for the whole family. The caves also boast Europe’s largest single cavern, the Grotta Grande Del Vento – so big that Milan Cathedral would easily fit inside. After the caves visit, board the coach again to reach some souvenir stands and have free time for shopping. Next up is a visit to Fazi Battaglia Winery where we will stop for a tasting inclusive of buffet of typical products. *Please note: we suggest bringing comfortable shoes and a jacket because temperature inside the caves is around 14 degrees. This tour is not suitable for guests who are claustrophobic, have mobility problems or are in a wheelchair.*

**ANC04 – “RIVIERA DEL CONERO”**  **- 52€/adult & 39€/child**

**Duration: 4.5 hours**

Leave the port and begin your tour with a visit to San Ciriaco Cathedral in Ancona before starting a journey into the verdant countryside of the Italian Marche region. This pleasant sightseeing tour by coach first takes you to Sirolo, a lovely seaside village with a fully restored medieval centre. The charming square in the middle of the village, the Piazza Belvedere, affords beautiful views of the sea and Mount Conero, a 572-metre promontory just south of Ancona that got its name from the Greek word for the strawberry trees that grow on its slopes. You will have time to explore the village and its church at your leisure before continuing on to Portonovo, another coastal village in the Marche region for a unique photo stop. The excursion will also give you the opportunity to sample some local products and shop at the same time. Next, enjoy a scenic return drive to Ancona including a short coach drive through the city with some free time for shopping. *Please note: guests using a wheelchair are advised that they must be accompanied by a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach and that wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Guests using a wheelchair who would like to participate in this tour are requested to contact the Shore Excursions’ Desk promptly once they are on board so that arrangements can be made. Conservative attire recommended for visiting places of religious importance.*

**ANC06 – WALKING TOUR**  **- 42€/adult & 32€/child**

**Duration: approx. 3 hours**

Your excursion begins with a coach drive to reach the Cathedral of San Ciriaco that is perched on the top of Guasco hill, dominating the town of Ancona. Next, you will reach the Pinacoteca “F. Podesti”, located in the historical Bosdari Palace, to admire some masterpieces of the Italian art, including the first **autographed work of the master of the Renaissance,** Tiziano Vecellio, the wonderful *“*Pala Gozzi”. The collection, one of the most important of the region, traces the artistic history of the Marche region since the Middle Ages, hosts the first workby the venetian artist Carlo Crivelli, the “Madonna con bambino”, in addition other works by Lorenzo Lotto, Sebastiano del Piombo, Andrea Lilli, Guercino, Francesco Podesti and many others. Your excursion continues with a guided walk around Ancona’s historic town centre, which is spread over three hills and which overlooks the natural port. Stroll the town and admire the ancient palaces and churches that are rich in history and celebrate an array of architectural styles. Enjoy 1 hour, 20 minutes free time in the city centre for independent exploration or to shop before boarding a bus to return to the ship. *Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests who have mobility problems or are in a wheelchair. Conservative attire recommended for visiting places of religious importance.*

**ANC07 – THE BEACH AT NUMANA**  **- 42€/adult & 32€/child**

**Duration: approx. 4.5 hours**

Time to do nothing but hang loose, stretch out on golden sands and ponder the meaning of life are what holidays are all about. Give yourself a few hours off the ship, take a break from sightseeing and indulge in some special moments that will soothe your soul and let you reconnect with your inner self on this enjoyable outing to Numana. A short coach ride from Ancona will first take you through the pretty Marche countryside to reach Numana, a resort town situated close to the state park and protected ecological area of Mount Conero. The main areas of this attractive old town are the historical Numana Alta quarter and the Numana bassa district, which includes the bustling port. However, Numana also offers visitors a choice of lovely beaches, one of which will be your destination on this tour. Your seaside sojourn provides a perfect opportunity to do whatever you please – swim in the inviting blue of the sea, lie back and soak up the sun, taste a slice of pizza (included) or perhaps simply sit and let the moment work its magic on you before the tour is brought to a close with your leisurely return to the ship. *Please note: this tour operates from June until the end of September. Guests using a wheelchair are advised that they must be accompanied by a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach and that wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Guests using a wheelchair who would like to participate in this tour are requested to contact the Shore Excursions’ Desk promptly once they are on board so that arrangements can be made.*

**ANC09 – THE IMPERIAL TOWN OF JESI**  **- 59€/adult & 45€/child**

**Duration: approx. 5 hours**

Tucked away just a short distance from Ancona lies a jewel of Italian architecture, the town of Jesi and your destination on this enjoyable tour. Combining a chance to explore the town’s rich cultural heritage with a convivial wine-tasting session, the outing begins with a scenic 45-minute coach drive to Jesi. The Palazzo Pianetti – an imposing 18th-century Rococo palace with an exquisite interior – in the middle of town forms your first stop. Now serving as a municipal museum and exhibition site, the Palazzo is also home to the Pinacoteca Civica, Jesi’s much-respected art gallery. A group of works including the masterful altarpiece, *St. Lucy before the Judge*, by Lorenzo Lotto, a notable late 15th- to mid-16th-century Italian painter, is considered the gallery’s star exhibit. Moving on, an unhurried stroll will both allow you to enjoy the full breadth of the town’s civic splendour and take you past the late 18th-century Pergolesi Theatre on Piazza della Repubblica en route to the Enoteca “Antiche Cantine del Porticello”. After a chance to savour the flavour of various wines during the tasting session including some typical products, you will also have some time to spend on your own in Jesi before you head back to Ancona and your ship. *Please note: comfortable shoes recommended. This tour is not suitable for guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair.*

**ANC10 – LORETO TOWN & BASILICA**  **- 69€/adult & 52€/child**

**Duration: approx. 4.15 hours**

A 45-minute coach ride through the scenic countryside of Ancona province will first see you reach Loreto, a charming town that is also home to the Basilica della Santa Casa, an important Catholic pilgrimage site. The basilica’s façade was built by order of Pope Sixtus V during the 16th century and the campanile, designed by the Italian architect Vanvitelli, was added during the 18th century. Most notably, the inside of the basilica features the Santa Casa di Loreto, the Holy House where the Virgin Mary is said to have lived and whose move from Nazareth to Loreto is accredited to a miracle by the Catholic Church. The precious relic is the centrepiece of the sizeable complex and is considered to be an extremely important place of Christian worship. Your visit will be followed by a chance to explore the pleasant street of Loreto town and some time to enjoy your snack box before the coach returns you to the port and your ship. *Please note: conservative attire recommended for visiting places of religious importance. As this tour involves walking on uneven ground, it is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.*