

BIKE ACROSS ITALY: FESTA DEI CERI

Ability Level: Intermediate / Duration: 11 days / 10 nights

Ciclismo CLASSICO
PEDAL YOUR PASSION



Bike Across Italy

Pedaling coast to coast through Italy's Cultural Soul with a special addition: Festa dei Ceri!

Named the "17 Best Bike Tours Around the World" by the *Active Times*, Bike Across Italy is a **Ciclismo Classico exclusive**: it was our first coast-to-coast cycling tour and has become our signature of many cross-country cycling adventures. Starting at the Adriatic and ending at the Tyrrhenian Sea, we take you to rural Italy through the regions of Le Marche, Umbria, Lazio and Tuscany. Passing through Etruscan and Roman architecture, you will learn about their influences on today's Italian culture. We include guided tours while in the quaint towns of Assisi Urbino, and a visit to Grotte di Frasassi, Italy's largest caves. Your native Ciclismo guides will take great delight in introducing you to different regional dishes of Italy and, of course, an introduction to the regional wines!

ITINERARY OUTLINE

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TRIP ESSENCE

- Medieval hill towns, castles, and ancient abbeys
- Learn more about Etruscan and Roman civilization
- Wander through Italy's largest cave
- Distinctive wines and cuisine from four regions
- Historical routes detailing threads of Italy's past from east to west
- Explore with local guides the quaint towns of Assisi, Urbino, and Orvieto
- Learn more about Slow Food at lunch in the Le Marche region
- Experience the Festa dei Ceri (Race of the Candles), considered one of the most unique events in Italy

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Use of a carbon road bike (see page 7 for details)
- Service of local, professional guides throughout the program
- Ciclismo jersey and water bottle
- All accommodations
- All breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 8 dinners
- 1 wine tasting
- Walking tours of Assisi, Urbino and and visit to private underground cave in Orvieto
- Cooking demonstration with an Italian master chef
- Visit to Frasassi grottoes and paper maker in Bevagna
- Shuttle to train station on the last day of the tour

For a complete list of what's NOT included, see: <https://ciclismoclassico.com/why-ciclismo/whats-included/>

* Alterations to the tour itinerary

Sometimes modifications may be made to the itinerary. We will notify you of any changes that may affect your arrival, departure or lodging. Any changes to the program are made in the best interest and safety of the group.

TRIP DETAILS

Ability Level

- Intermediate

Summary of Daily Distances

- Day 1: 10 miles
- Day 2: 30/39 miles
- Day 3: 46/51 miles
- Day 4: 32/40 miles
- Day 5: Rest day: 1 hour hike
- Day 6: 41/60 miles
- Day 7: 43/50 miles
- Day 8: 29/42 miles
- Day 9: 42/70 miles
- Day 10: 51/60 miles
- Day 11: Arrivederci!
- **Total:** 346 miles (without optional extra loops)

Have something else in mind?

- Itinerary available as a private tour or...
- Create a custom itinerary with help from our experienced travel consultants!

Contact Us

1-800-866-7314

info@ciclismoclassico.com



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DAY 1

PESARO

Daily Mileage - 10 miles

Riding Terrain - Rolling hills; elevation gain 787 ft

Hotel - Excelsior

- Location: Pesaro
- Duration: 1 Night
- www.excelsiorpesaro.it/en

Meals - L, D

Highlights

Benvenuti! Welcome to Italy! We meet at noon today in the lobby of our hotel for introductions and a light lunch. Afterwards, we change into our biking gear for a quick spin in the area. In the afternoon you're free to explore Pesaro or just relax at your seafront hotel and spa. Tonight we dine in town and you'll have your first introduction to the Italian *aperitivo*.

The 5-star Hotel Excelsior is a charming seafront boutique hotel and spa (spa entrance is complimentary) with stunning views of the Adriatic Sea, located in the center of town.

DAY 2

URBINO

Daily Mileage - 30/39 miles

Riding Terrain - Flat leaving Pesaro, followed by challenging, short and steep climbs to Colbordolo; rolling ridge ride to Urbino; Elevation gain 3,156/4,288 ft

Hotel - San Domenico

- Location: Urbino
- Duration: 1 Night
- www.viphotels.it/eng/

Meals - B, D

Highlights

From Pesaro we ride through fields and family farm plots en route to Urbino, a thriving cultural center and college town whose fairy tale skyline is visible for miles. In the evening, the main piazza is often filled with townspeople, university students, artists, and musicians from around the world. This evening our guides will take you through the famous Renaissance period area Palazzo Ducale, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Our hotel tonight is the 4-star San Domenico located in the main square of Urbino. The hotel is a converted 15th-century convent and is known for its friendly staff and excellent breakfast.

DAY 3

GENGA

Daily Mileage - 46/51 miles

Riding Terrain - Flat and rolling with two main climbs; Elevation gain 3,671/4,343 ft

Hotel - Le Grotte

- Location: Genga
- Duration: 1 Night
- www.hotellegrotte.it

Meals - B, D

Highlights

Today we follow part of the Roman road—Via Flaminia—in Le Marche region. The Via Flaminia was an ancient Roman road leading from Rome over the Apennine Mountains to Ariminum (Rimini). The ride ends in a spectacular gorge that is visible for miles, the Gola Rossa, which winds through wonderful mountainous farmlands, and where underground rivers have carved the immense Grotte di Frassasi. The extra loop adds a climb to Collegigliani from which you can see the Sibillini mountain range in the distance.

Tonight we rest and relax at the Hotel le Grotte. Enjoy the spa, steam room and swimming pool. Sip a cool drink poolside and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

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DAY 4

GUBBIO

Daily Mileage - 32/40 miles

Riding Terrain - Rolling hills; Elevation gain 4,652/5,488 ft

Hotel - Park Hotel ai Cappuccini

- Location: Gubbio
- Duration: 2 Nights
- <http://www.parkhotelaicappuccini.it/en/>

Meals - B, L, D

Highlights

Today we cross the Continental Divide! We ride through the 'wild' territories of the Appennini, crossing from Le Marche into Umbria. This morning we will visit the fascinating Grotte di Frasassi, the largest grottoes in Europe. Following our visit we ride through a beautiful river valley, then we climb up to one of the gentlest mountain passes of the Apennines and our arrival in the well-preserved medieval Gubbio comes after an incredible descent. Lunch is in Scheggia.

The prestigious, 4-star Park Hotel ai Cappuccini is set in a converted 17th-century monastery, near the historical center of Gubbio. It also boasts the largest wellness center in town!

DAY 5

GUBBIO REST DAY: FESTA DEI CERI

Hike - 1 hour

Hotel - See Day 4

Meals - B

Highlights

Today we have a 1 hour walk to the top of Monte Ignino, which is the path the carriers will race on pushing and pulling the Ceri all the way up to the basilica of Santo Ubaldo, where the mummified body of the Patron Saint of Gubbio is preserved and visible in a glass coffin. In the afternoon we will stroll into town to watch the competition take place in the narrow streets of one of the better preserved towns of the middle ages.

Translated to "Race of the Candles", this annual event is considered one of the most unique in Italy. This very ancient race says to have originated in 1160 with the death of bishop Ubaldo Baldassini. Since then, every year on May 15th a great luminary with candles is run through the beautiful Umbrian streets towards Mt. Igino where St. Ubaldo is buried. Spectators cheer on the "ceraiolo", or "candle runners", with applause and shouting as they carry the massive wooden structures, a feat of strength and will.

DAY 6

SPELLO

Daily Mileage - 41/60 miles

Riding Terrain - Hilly; Elevation gain 4,652/5,488 ft

Hotel - Asisium Boutique Hotel

- Location: Assisi
- Duration: 1 Night
- <https://www.asisiumboutiquehotel.it/>

Meals - B, L, D

Highlights

We descend from Gubbio to ride through the Appennini towards Monte Subasio—a day of spectacular scenery! Stop at the Roman amphitheater for a great photo-op. A couple of wake-up hills and fun downhill through the lush landscape help you to work up an appetite for lunch, then a rolling stretch with a final ascent brings you to Spello's town center. The extra loop takes you to the quaint town of Bettona, another town perched in the hills in front of Assisi, adding one more challenging climb and some easy spinning through rustic farmland. Tonight, we'll have a cooking lesson in Spello at Enoteca Properzio with master chef Marco Gubbiotti.

In the heart of Assisi, in a historic building dating back to 1200, finely renovated in 2020, history and design come together to give life to the Asisium Boutique Hotel. All rooms are elegantly furnished in a modern style, with refinement and great attention to detail. Each accommodation includes luxury amenities such as tea and coffee making facilities, minibars, flat screen televisions, slippers, soft terry towels, hair dryers and exclusive toiletries.

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DAY 7

TODI

Daily Mileage - 43/50 miles

Riding Terrain - Three great climbs: Montefalco, after Bastardo and the final ascent to Todi; Elevation gain 2,539/3418 ft

Hotel - Hotel Bramante

- Location: Todi
- Duration: 1 Night
- www.hotelbramante.it/en

Meals - B, D

Highlights

Ride through rolling farmland to medieval Bevagna, where you'll learn about paper-making the way it was done in medieval times. Then we climb to Montefalco through olive groves and vineyards. After lunch, we drop down along a tiny road with magnificent views on both sides. After Bastardo we begin to climb again through vineyards, and sunflower and wheat fields. The approach to Todi is spectacular: a memorable descent towards this medieval hill town's soaring steeple. It's inspiring and definitely makes the climb at the end of the day worth it.

Tonight we enjoy the 4-star Hotel Bramante, a beautifully restored stone villa just outside of town. The hotel features a pool, tennis courts and beautiful open views.

DAY 8

ORVIETO

Daily Mileage - 29/42 miles

Riding Terrain - Hilly; Elevation gain 3,225/4,468 ft

Hotel - Hotel Palazzo Piccolomini

- Location: Orvieto
- Duration: 1 Night
- <https://www.palazzopiccolomini.it/>

Meals - B

Highlights

Despite the long uphill, today's ride is straightforward, short, and not too tough if you take the hill at your own pace. After descending from Todi, we climb for seven miles along an incredible shaded road. The grade is fairly gentle all the way up. We'll have lunch in Orvieto and then have a guided visit of private underground caves.

Set in a restored 16th-century building, the elegant Hotel Palazzo Piccolomini in Orvieto is a 9-minute walk from Orvieto Cathedral and 4 km from the historic San Patrizio Well. The hotel is characterized by the historical-artistic beauty of the building, from the refined facade overlooking Piazza Ranieri to the underground rooms obtained directly from the tufa rock. Staying at the Hotel Palazzo Piccolomini you immediately realize how History, Art and Architecture magically merge in this place full of charm: Renaissance, medieval and Etruscan environments follow one another in a surprising way inside with views and evocative details of Orvieto.

DAY 9

SOVANA

Daily Mileage - 42/70 miles

Riding Terrain - Rolling with several climbs; Elevation gain 3,562/5,260 ft

Hotel - Sovana Resort

- Location: Sovana
- Duration: 1 Night
- www.sovanahotel.it

Meals - B, D

Highlights

We descend from Orvieto and then enjoy a gentle climb out of this immense volcanic basin as we head towards Bolsena. We'll enjoy a swim in the Bolsena lake, leaving you refreshed for the climb ahead. The climb to Gradoli and beyond is tough, but a fantastic ride along a ridge is our reward. We are in three regions today: Umbria, Lazio (briefly) and finally Tuscany. This entire region is very rich in Etruscan history.

The 4-star hotel tonight is the elegant and intimate Sovana Resort. In the breakfast room and large outdoor garden you can enjoy the uniqueness of the splendid ruins of Sovana. The hotel is surrounded by the open Tuscan countryside and features a swimming pool.

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DAY 10

TALAMONE

Daily Mileage - 51/60 miles

Riding Terrain - Rolling hills with several climbs; Elevation gain 2,910 / 3,753 ft

Hotel - Hotel Capo D'Uomo

- Location: Talamone
- 1 Night
- <https://thecaesarhotels.com/capo-d-uomo/>

Meals - B, D

Highlights

Today's regular road and extra loop split right at the start of the ride; the main loop heads to Pitigliano and then climbs out of it to reach Manciano, whereas the longer ride heads to Saturnia, a town whose thermal springs have been in use since Etruscan and Roman times. The two routes rejoin for a rewarding downhill descent to the Mediterranean coast. The longer loop provides two more climbs to S. Martino sul Fiora and Montemerano. The last stretch of the grand finale is through the "Tombolo di Feniglia," a shady forest that connects the Argentario peninsula to mainland Italy. You've made it! Tonight is our farewell dinner where we'll continue to celebrate our coast-to-coast adventure!

Capo D'Uomo is a hotel located on the cliffs of Talamone, a picturesque village of yachters and fishermen. A round form, nestled in the rock and surrounded by terraced gardens from which you descend to the sea of Cala Regina. Each room offers amazing views and the summer winds carry the sounds and scents of the sea. Step out onto your balcony and enjoy a drink as you lose yourself in the enchantingly blue Mediterranean Sea.

DAY 11

ARRIVEDERCI!

Meals - B

Highlights

Around 9 am there will be one complimentary shuttle to Orbetello-Monte Argentario train station to catch trains to other destinations in Italy. Or, why not spend a few nights on the Costa di Argento exploring footpaths or relaxing on the beach? *Buon viaggio!*

"Ciclismo is better than any other tour company in many ways -- the guides, itineraries, and willingness to go to places less traveled. As guests we feel Ciclismo truly wants to provide a memorable Italian cycling experience." - BeeBee & Stuart K. Oak Bluffs, MA.

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ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

GETTING TO PESARO

For easier return: Fly to Rome Da Vinci Airport (FCO). From within the airport, take the train (www.trenitalia.com) to Roma Termini (30 minutes). From Roma Termini, take the train to Pesaro (4.5 hours, change train in Falconara Marittima). From Pesaro, take a 10-minute taxi to the first hotel.
Or Fly to Bologna Airport (BLQ), take a taxi to Bologna's train station to catch a direct train to Pesaro (2 hours), from where you take a 10-minute taxi.

DEPARTING FROM TALAMONE**

We provide one 20 minute group shuttle around 9 am to Orbetello-Monte Argentario train station. From there you will find daily train connections to Rome (1.5 hours), Pisa (2.5 hours), and Florence via Pisa (3.5 hours).

** Do not arrange for a flight in the morning, as connections are tight!

BIKE INFORMATION

INCLUDED:

Bianchi Intenso, Vertigo (or Equivalent Carbon Road Bike)

- The carbon frame guarantees maximum performance with minimum stress for the riders, thanks to Bianchi's special C2C (Coast to Coast) frame design/ geometry and different material combination. Carbon bikes are equipped with compact crank and 11/32 cassette.
- Hybrid Bikes are also available upon request.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS:

E-Bike and Tandem

- Available. Please contact us for more information.

OTHER INFORMATION

For Flight Reservations, Pre- and Post-Accommodations, and Travel Insurance

Via Mondo Travel

Call: 315-707-4372 or

E-mail: rosemary@viamondotravel.com

viamondotravel.com

Transportation

Rome2rio

<http://www.rome2rio.com>

ON THE BIKE

Included:

- Ciclismo Classico water bottle
- Two water bottle holders
- Map holder on handlebars and a Garmin Edge GPS
- Handlebar bag
- Tire pump
- Combination bike lock
- Gel-padded saddle
- Choice of pedals
- Card with your tour leaders' mobile phone numbers

Pedal Options:

- Flat pedals
- Half-toe pedals (without straps)
- Toe cage pedals

Things to Bring:

- Helmet
- Optional: clipless pedals with shoes
- Optional: your own saddle



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RESERVE YOUR SPACE!

To reserve a space, call Ciclismo Classico at **800-866-7314**. At the time of registration, a \$600 deposit will be charged in order to hold your spot; payment can be made by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. The balance of your payment is due 90 days prior to departure. All prices are in United States Dollars. All travelers must review and sign a terms and conditions statement and waiver forms.

To review our policies, please visit <https://ciclismoclassico.com/tour-preparation/policies/>