SPICE ROADS
CYCLING



TOURING

UNSEEN CENTRAL ITALY: MARCHE EXPLORER

Tour Code
ITA-CIB

7 DAYS
6 NIGHTS

Destinations	Italy
Tour Meets	Fabriano
Tour Ends	Sirolo
Fly in to	Perugia San Francesco d'Assisi (PEG) or Ancona International Airport (AOI)
Fly out of	Ancona International Airport (AOI)
Group Size	4-16 riders
Minimum Age	18 (on scheduled departures)

ACTIVITY PROFILE

5 Cycling days	**205** km Total cycling distance
41 km Avg distance / day	**758** m Avg climbing / day

PRICING

Price	US$ 3,400
Bike Hire (Gravel Bike)	US$ 315
Bike Hire (E-Bike)	US$ 390
Single Supplement	US$ 450

**E-bikes are in limited supply, please enquire to reserve one.*

DEPARTURES

21 Mar - 27 Mar 2027
04 Apr - 10 Apr 2027
05 Sep - 11 Sep 2027
10 Oct - 16 Oct 2027

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ SpiceRoads jersey
- ✓ Water bottle
- ✓ Support vehicle
- ✓ Guide(s)
- ✓ Meals (as indicated)
- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Bike and helmet
- ✓ Snacks and drinks
- ✓ Entrance fees

WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- ✗ International flights
- ✗ Domestic flights
- ✗ Airport pick up
- ✗ Airport drop off
- ✗ Visa fees
- ✗ Alcohol
- ✗ Tips

TRIP PROFILE

This tour covers 205 km over 5 days of riding. We cycle in the region of Marche, Central Italy, from the city of Fabriano in the Apennine Mountains to the town of Sirolo on the Adriatic Coast. Riding on 'strade bianche' – chalk white gravel paths – and paved secondary roads we cover a varied terrain ranging from the rugged Apennines, rolling hills, vineyards, olive groves, and historic villages & towns. On this tour, we foreground a set of exclusive local experiences to complement the cycling; hands-on lessons on traditional paper making, beekeeping, crafting organic olive oil and producing natural Verdicchio wine. Gastronomy is also a highlight and you'll experience fresh, local, and seasonal meals paired with Marche's homegrown wines.

The trip is fully supported, and your guide's expert knowledge of the area and terrain means that you always know what is coming up in terms of distance and difficulty. This makes a tremendous difference, as does the constant supply of water and refreshments along the way.

Suitability: The tour is suitable for cyclists possessing a good level of physical fitness. Though daily distances aren't overly long, between 30 and 50 km per day, fitness will be a huge asset to keep up with the climbs. You should be comfortable on a gravel bike and have experience navigating on rocky roads for extended periods. There is nothing overly technical but good handling and braking skills are important. The tour is guided and fully supported, and a transfer is possible at certain points during each stage for any weary riders. Less experienced riders are welcome and e-bikes are available. The focus of this tour is on cultural immersion in Central Italy, and we have off-saddle experiences during as well as after the daily rides. For those seeking a more advanced cycling-focused tour, we suggest Italy Coast to Coast by Gravel Bike.

Biking Conditions: We ride on a mix of gravel and secondary asphalt roads. The conditions of the roads vary widely, ranging from hard-packed and level to loose and bumpy. Throughout all days, the terrain is hilly and changeable with flat sections and a lot of climbs and descents. Some climbs can be gradual while others are short but steep. For the most part, you can expect very little traffic in the countryside but coming in and out towns, as well as near popular tourist attractions, we will share the roads with cars and buses and rules of traffic must be observed. While rainfall is uncommon during the months we schedule our tours, showers can occur at any time – we generally ride rain or shine though, based on the guide's discretion or your level of comfort, modifications to the planned route can be made. It's all part of the adventure!



Day 1: Meet in Fabriano

We meet in Fabriano, Italy's famed 'City of Paper'. Located in a valley within the Apennine Mountains of western Marche, Fabriano's charming ambiance and heritage-infused townscape makes for an ideal start point to our adventure. After meeting at our tour hotel in the early afternoon, we'll head out for a trip briefing and a welcome aperitivo consisting of regional

cuisine and wine – our first encounter with the flavors and aromas awaiting us throughout the week ahead!

B&B La Portell Dinner

Day 2: Fabriano – Genga

For hundreds of years, Fabriano was Europe's most esteemed center of paper production and these medieval traditions are still kept alive. This morning we'll visit a maestro's workshop in Fabriano's historic center to learn first-hand about this time-honored paper making process. And then we start our cycling adventure! Heading out of Fabriano, our route takes us through the natural and rural landscapes of the Apennines via 'strade bianche' (white gravel paths) and paved secondary roads. Surrounded by rugged limestone ridges and thick forests, the area is famous for the Frasassi Caves, Europe's second largest network of caves. But we are going to be focusing on lesser-visited sites such as the abandoned village of San Cristoforo, a hidden gorge of the Sentito River and the ancient hermit sanctuary of Madonna di Frasassi (accessible by a short hike). We spend the night at an agriturismo, a rural hotel, near the town of Genga. Relax by the pool or head out for an optional afternoon activity before we re-convene for a dinner of local delicacies.

Hotel le Grotte Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Ride 30km +590m -617m

Day 3: Genga – Montecarotto

In the morning we'll tackle a climb up to Monte Murano. Located at an elevation of 830 m ASL, this summit offers breathtaking views over the Apennines to the west and the rolling hills of Marche to the east. After a fun downhill, which takes us past the mountain town of Serra San Quirico, we continue to an organic bee farm where we'll stop for a home-cooked lunch. We won't just be tasting a variety of honeys produced on-site but also join the farm owner in the apiary o learn all about the fascinating world of these Italian bees. We'll trade our cycling gear for beekeeper's attire and see what's going on in the hives. After this insightful experience we'll cycle through Marche's wine country on a mix of gravel and paved roads that dissect the undulating hills. Our destination is Montecarotto, renowned for producing one of Italy's most prestigious white wines: Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi. You'll be able to taste this exquisite wine paired with dinner tonight at our agriturismo.

Le Piagge del Sole Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Ride 45km +1000m -1200m

Day 4: Montecarotto – San Marcello

Today's route winds along gravel roads through an endless sea of vineyards in the home region of the highly acclaimed Verdicchio wines. The climate and soil conditions aren't just great for growing wine grapes but also olives! For lunch, we'll be visiting a family-run olive grove. We'll learn all about the process of olive oil production from seed to shelf and enjoy a tasting of different varieties produced at the farm. We then continue riding through the gentle, green hillscape of the Marche countryside to conclude our ride at a lovely agriturismo near the village of San Marcello. Produced on-site are an excellent selection of natural Verdicchio wines, crafted through biodynamic farming methods and the use of ancient Roman style amphorae. The owners will give us a run-down on their approach to viticulture and invite us to a wine-paired dinner of regional and seasonal dishes.

Tenuta San Marcello Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Ride 40km +800m -700m

Day 5: San Marcello – Offagna

Starting from the agriturismo, we continue through the undulating Verdicchio vineyards and ride through the town of San Marcello. Upon reaching the Esino River via a mostly downhill section, we then enter the historic hinterlands of Marche known as the 'Terra dei Castelli' (the 'Land of Castles'). Unlike the abandoned medieval castles commonly found elsewhere in Europe, those in Marche remain full of life. That is because they are villages which, during the Middle Ages, were fortified with walls, gates, and towers, transforming them into self-sufficient bastions perched atop the hills. First up, we'll cycle through Polverigi, known for its distinctive circular old town center and imposing curtain walls. Then, after the day's final climb, we'll reach Offagna, one of Marche's most picturesque fortified medieval villages. We spend the night here, so you have the remainder of the day free to stroll the cobblestoned streets and check out the village's remarkably well preserved 15th-century fortress, Rocca di Offagna. Dinner is on your own tonight, giving you a chance to set your own pace and try a ristorante or osteria of your choosing in Offagna's small but lively center.

Casa Soresina | Breakfast, Lunch

Ride 40km | +800m | -750m

Day 6: Offagna – Sirolo

Our final ride takes us from the green hills of Marche's interior to the azure waters of the Adriatic Sea. After descending down from Offagna, we'll savor every last bit of undulating backcountry riding in the rustic heart of Central Italy. Welcomed by the sight of the Adriatic emerging in the distance, we roll into the small town of Sirolo where we spend our last night. Situated atop cliffs with panoramic views of the ocean and featuring a medieval town square, we couldn't ask for a more scenic conclusion to our cycling adventure. We aim to arrive in the early afternoon, giving you the remainder of the day to immerse yourself in Sirolo and the natural splendors of nearby Conero Regional Park, a stunning protected area with dramatic limestone cliffs, hidden coves, and pristine beaches. You can relax at the beach, hike some trails, paddle kayaks, or even participate in a painting workshop. Spend the afternoon as you please and, in the evening, we'll reconvene for a celebratory farewell dinner.

Villa Ghirardelli | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Ride 50km | +600m | -850m

Day 7: Sirolo Departure

Arrivederci! Feel free to extend your stay and relax by the sea or travel onwards to your next destination in Italy or beyond. Arrangements for transfers or post-tour hotels can be made.

Breakfast

Disclaimer: The adventure cycling tours we operate often go beyond the beaten track, and the countries where we ride are not always predictable. Due to these reasons, it is occasionally necessary to reroute or update itineraries. Our guarantee is that we will not change a trip unless for safety or to improve it. Our listed hotels are always accurate at the time of writing, but should we have to change any hotel, it will always be for a similar or better one.

NUTS & BOLTS

Bikes

Because some people can't imagine going on a trip without their own beloved bicycle, we do not provide them as part of this tour. However, you can hire bikes locally for the price listed in the

tour pricing section. We provide high-quality Cinelli (or similar) gravel bikes ideally suited for the conditions and terrain on this tour. If you bring your own bike, please make sure it is a gravel bike in good mechanical order. We also have E-Bikes available for hire, but they are limited in number & size - please send an email to us to check on availability.

Bike Repairs

Basic spares and tools are carried by the guide and on the support vehicle, though we cannot guarantee having spares for every conceivable problem. Carrying a basic tool kit, a spare tube and a pump while riding is recommended.

Safety

Wearing a helmet is required on all our biking adventures and is non negotiable. If you do not wear a helmet you will not be allowed to cycle. Your tour leader is trained in first aid and emergency rescue, but to a large degree you must be responsible for your own safety while riding. It is therefore compulsory that you take out travel insurance that will cover you for a mountain biking tour.

Guides

You will be led by a local English-speaking guide and if the group is 9 people or more we will add another guide to the tour. All our guides are well informed in the history, culture and religions of the area where you are biking and are skilled at passing that knowledge on to you. Your guide is also medically trained and an experienced cyclist, able to handle most minor repairs en route.

THE NITTY GRITTY

Passports and Visas

Italy is a founding member of the Schengen Area. Citizens of the UK, US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand do not require a visa for short-term tourism. All visa-exempt travellers must obtain a valid ETIAS approval prior to arrival. This digital registration links to your passport and remains valid for three years. The Entry/Exit System (EES) operates at all borders, requiring a biometric registration of facial images and fingerprints upon entry into the Schengen zone. For citizens of the EU, Switzerland, and Norway, entry is permitted with a valid National ID card or passport. Ensure your passport remains valid for at least three months beyond your intended date of departure.

Health & Insurance

No specific vaccinations are mandatory for entry to Italy. We recommend remaining current on standard boosters such as Tetanus and Hepatitis A/B. When cycling in rural or forested areas, be mindful of ticks and consider a vaccination for tick-borne encephalitis if you plan significant time in the backcountry. Comprehensive travel insurance is essential and must specifically cover cycling activities and medical evacuation. EU citizens should carry a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), while UK citizens should carry a Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC).

Weather

The prime window for cycling in Italy spans from April to October.

- **Northern Italy:** The Alps and Dolomites are best from June to September to avoid snow on high passes.
- **Central & Southern Italy:** Spring (April to June) and Autumn (September to October) offer the most comfortable riding temperatures, typically between 18°C and 26°C.
- **Summer Peak:** July and August can be intensely hot, particularly in the south and Sicily, with temperatures often exceeding 35°C.
- **Gear:** Pack a lightweight waterproof shell for mountain descents and breathable fabrics for the Mediterranean humidity.

Food

Italian cuisine is fiercely regional and celebrates the honesty of local produce. You must try regional staples such as **Pici** pasta in Tuscany, **Orecchiette** in Puglia, and fresh **Cannoli** in Sicily. Local markets provide a wealth of seasonal vegetables, artisanal cheeses, and cured meats. Italian meals follow a traditional structure of *Antipasto*, *Primo*, and *Secondo*, providing the perfect caloric foundation for long days in the saddle. All dietary needs are managed upon notification at the time of booking.

Drink

Coffee is a cornerstone of Italian life; expect a quick, standing espresso at a local bar to start your day. Italy is the world's largest wine producer, offering a sophisticated range from the sparkling **Prosecco** of the north to the bold **Primitivo** of the south. Tap water is safe and of

excellent quality throughout the country, and many town squares feature historic fountains where you can refill your bottles. Alcohol during meals is not included in the tour price.

Solo Travellers

SpiceRoads welcomes solo adventurers and does not charge a mandatory single supplement. We arrange for you to share a room with another traveller of the same gender in twin-share accommodation. If no match is available, you receive a single room at no additional cost. If you prefer to guarantee your own private room for the duration of the trip, a single supplement is available at the rate listed in the tour pricing.

Extra Expenses

Italy offers a high standard of living with costs that vary significantly by region. Budget for personal incidentals such as designer leather goods, artisanal ceramics, or high-quality olive oils. Tipping is not strictly mandatory as a service charge (*coperto*) is often included, but rounding up the bill for good service is appreciated. Small gratuities for your support crew are also a common gesture of appreciation.

Money

The currency is the Euro (€).

- **Card Acceptance:** Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, and shops in major cities and tourist hubs.
- **ATMs:** Cash machines (*Bancomat*) are plentiful and accept most international cards.
- **Rural Cash:** In smaller villages, rural farm stays (*agriturismi*), and some local markets, a cash-based economy remains prevalent. It is essential to carry Euro notes for small purchases, coffee breaks, and for use in remote areas where card terminals may be unavailable.

GENERAL BOOKING INFO

If this is the tour for you here's what you need to do to confirm your place:

FLEXIBLE BOOKING CONDITIONS

Booking a SpiceRoads cycling adventure is easy and we try to do everything possible to make sure you have full flexibility and peace of mind. We do not require a deposit to hold your place on a tour and once full payment has been made your money is protected in our client account and you have the flexibility to cancel or change your booking if needed.

CONFIRMING YOUR BOOKING

Just complete our online booking form or send your booking details offline (email or post), and we will confirm your participation. No deposit is needed to confirm your place on a SpiceRoads tour.

You are advised to read our Booking Conditions in full before you make your payment and should you require further clarifications of any of the conditions below, please email us or call our office.

TRIP STATUS

There is a minimum number of participants (usually 2) required to enable the trip to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to Depart'. Once a trip is guaranteed to depart you are free to book your flights and make other travel arrangements. If the trip status is 'Limited' will mean we have only a small number of spaces available for booking. If you are unsure about the trip status, please email us or call our office.

BOOKING ONLINE

From the tour page, click the 'Book Now' link. All departures for this tour will appear, just select the date you'd like to travel. For the next steps, you'll need to know the names of the people travelling. If you wish you can also provide extra details such as passport numbers, height (for bike hire), or you can add that later by logging into Manage My Trip (we'll set up an account for you automatically if you don't already have one). Our system will contact you from time to time to fill in the missing information, as it will be required before departure. However, if the trip that you are booking offers a child discount, you will have to fill out the date of birth of each rider (so we can calculate the appropriate discount).

If you are having any problems please send us an email, or give us a call (+66 026 3295) and one of our travel specialists will assist you with your booking.

BOOKING OFFLINE

Just call us or send an email indicating which trip you want to join and we will happily send you a list of questions and process your booking for you.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS

We do not require a deposit or full payment to book a place for you on a tour.

The balance of the tour's cost (final invoice) will need to be paid 60 days before the departure date with fees for any bicycle rental(s), single supplement(s) and extra hotel nights.

In the case where a booking is made when there are less than 60 days until the tour departure date, the tour's cost should be paid in full within 72 hours of receiving an invoice from SpiceRoads. Payment can be made by credit card using our online payment gateway or by bank transfer. When making payment online you will need to confirm that you have read these booking conditions during the "checkout" process, which equates to agreeing to the terms of services and stipulations as indicated in this document.

In all cases, tour fees need to be paid "in full" before participation in a tour. No person(s) will be allowed to join a tour without fully settling their invoice and receiving a confirmation number from SpiceRoads.

The exception can be made for last-minute miscellaneous fees that can be paid locally (visas, additional local hotel bookings, etc.) can be settled on the day of arrival.

FULL FLEXIBILITY FOR TOUR CANCELATIONS

If the tour is cancelled or postponed by SpiceRoads because we didn't make the trip numbers and the tour can't run, we will make a full cash refund (by bank transfer or on your credit card).

If the tour is cancelled for any other reason, including due to Covid related travel restrictions, we will give you a full credit (with no deductions for admin or any other small-print item) to use on any SpiceRoads tour with no time limit. (Exceptions being flights, special permits and other non-refundable items and these will be advised when booking the trip).

Before paying for your tour, you can cancel your booking with no charge and up until 40 days before departure, you can change your booking to another travel date or move your booking onto another SpiceRoads tour with no charges.

If you need to cancel after you have made full payment, please see our cancellation policy.

Loyalty Riders Club

For those who have been on several long tours with us, we reward customer loyalty by offering repeat customers a special discount off the tour price (excludes single supplement and bike rental). If this is your fourth scheduled tour or more you will receive a 5% discount. If this is your eighth scheduled tour or more we will extend a 10% discount. The discount will be reflected in your online booking, but please contact us if any questions. Loyalty discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Note: Only tours of 7 days or more will be applicable for a loyalty discount.

International Flights

International flights, to and from the start and finish points are not included in the tour price. Once your tour is Guaranteed to Depart you can book your flight. Please contact us for advice before arranging flights for the best arrival and departure times. We would only cancel a trip for an extreme circumstance, but in that case, where we cancel your trip, we cannot be liable for losses incurred relating to any flight booking you have made. Please claim any losses from your travel insurance that you acquired when you booked your holiday.

Newsletter

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from SpiceRoads, be sure to subscribe.

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