



All IAT offices in Rimini
single telephone no. for tourist
information and hotel bookings
tel. +39 0541.53399
info@riminireservation.it

Station IAT
Piazzale Cesare Battisti, 1
tel. +39 0541.51331
stazione@riminireservation.it
Open all year

Marina Centro IAT
Piazzale Fellini, 3
tel. +39 0541.56902
marinacentro@riminireservation.it
Open all year

Miramare IAT
Viale Martinelli, 11/a
tel. +39 0541.372112
miramare@riminireservation.it
Open from Easter to September

Torre Pedrera IAT
Via San Salvador, 65/d
tel. +39 0541.720182
torrepedrera@riminireservation.it
Open from Easter to mid-September

Viserba IAT
V.le G. Dati, 180/a
tel. +39 0541.738115
viserba@riminireservation.it
Open from Easter to mid-September

Fellini Airport IAT
Via Flaminia, 40
tel. +39 0541.378731
airport@riminireservation.it
Open all year

Rimini Trades Fair IAT
Via Emilia, 155
tel. +39 0541.744768
fiere@riminireservation.it
Open during events



www.riminiturismo.it



RIMINI CITY GUIDE



Map of Rimini ▶



How to get here



By air

Rimini - San Marino
International Airport
Information and bookings
tel. +39 0541.715711

- Direct flights to and from cities in Italy and abroad
- Charter flights to and from major European cities

Rimini Airport:
www.riminiairport.com

How to get into town:
Bus no.9 (approx. every 30mins)
Taxi service tel. +39 0541.50020



By train

Trenitalia main train station
Rimini Piazzale Cesare Battisti
Information and timetables
tel. +39 892021

Direct lines:

- Lecce • Ancona • Bologna • Turin
- Milan (connections to Paris)
- Verona • Brenner (connections to Munich)
- Rome (direct or Via Falconara)
- Ravenna • Ferrara

Italian State Railways:
www.ferroviedellostato.it



By car

A14 motorway - Autostrada del Mare Milan - Bari

Exits and Toll Booths

- Rimini North (Bellaria - Igea Marina, Santarcangelo and Valmarecchia area)
- Rimini South (Rimini)
- Riccione (Riccione, Misano)
- Cattolica (Cattolica and Valconca area)

Motorway Authority:
www.autostrade.it

Travel Information and Traffic Updates:
Call centre 840042121

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DON'T FORGET TO...



INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Rimini is like the Blues - it has a bit of everything, or at least that is what a famous Italian pop singer, Luciano Ligabue, has to say about it. And when we say everything, we mean everything. Whether you want to sleep in a tent or in a suite at the Grand Hotel, the 5-star hotel made famous by Federico Fellini, Rimini is a great destination. There are also many places of artistic and cultural interest; there are truly unique masterpieces from Roman times and the Renaissance period, or, there are 15 kilometres of shoreline where you can walk barefoot chatting with friends or meditating alone, as the mood takes you. In all there are 227 bathing establishments and 1100 hotels, plus excellent facilities for children. Rimini is full of innovation, a testing ground always ready to turn out new trends; street bars, happy hours, aperitifs served on the beach, dinner on the seashore, sports of the future (the “Next Games”) and nordic walking on sand. Above all there is a special atmosphere to get caught up in. “The Rimini Enchantment”. You will love it. It is the perfect place to make friends for life. Therefore, for those who only have a little time to spare but a lot of curiosity, this is the ideal handbook of things to do and see, together with the best itineraries to follow, a list of things you should not miss, the places dear to those who live in the area and, of course, a little of its history. But what a history! Naturally, from this small guide you will get a lot of stimulating input but it is up to you to go out and discover things firsthand. You will not be sorry. It will be the experience of a lifetime.



ANTONELLA TAMBURINI, 50
LORIS CELLI, 61
FLORISTS
RIMINI - ITALY

History The Roman era

Rimini is a city of Roman origin and not just any city at that, but one of the most important centres in the ancient Roman Empire. The official date of its foundation is the year 268 B.C. when the Roman Senate sent a colony of 6000 people here to found a new city. The colony was called Ariminum after the original name of the River Marecchia (Ariminus) - and so Rimini was born. At first it was only a strategic colony, then (90 B.C.) it became a Municipium and finally a flourishing city of the Roman Empire with a large forum (Piazza Tre Martiri) and two central streets; the Cardo Maximus (Via Garibaldi e Via IV Novembre) and the Decumanus Maximus (Corso d'Augusto). It also boasted a large amphitheatre which was always packed with spectators (only the Colosseum had larger dimensions), and two triumphal monuments, the Bridge of Tiberius and the Arch of Augustus. Finally, we should mention a real gem: the surgeon's house (domus del chirurgo). It is the only ancient Roman doctor's surgery which has been miraculously preserved intact. Among the great works carried out by order of the Roman Senate we have two consular Roman roads; the Flaminia and the Emilia. The first of these links Rome to Rimini, terminating at the Arch of Augustus, whilst the latter starts from the Bridge of Tiberius and proceeds for another 100 km as far as Piacenza.

If you have no time to read the fascinating, unabridged history of our city, here are the most important points - in summary.



THE MIDDLE AGES

In the XII century Rimini became a municipality and in 1204 the heart of the city was transferred to Piazza Cavour where work was begun on the construction of the Town Hall (the Arengo). There are also convents and churches. Great artists came to work in Rimini, beginning with Giotto and continuing with the group of masters who formed the fourteenth century Rimini school.

THE RENAISSANCE

1400
The age of the splendid dominion of the Malatesta Family. Many parts of the city still remind us of Sigismondo Pandolfo, the most famous of its members, who built the castle, Castel Sismondo and the cathedral, the Tempio Malatestiano. Many artists arrived in Rimini (Piero della Francesca, Leon Battista Alberti and Giovanni Bellini) and the city became a more refined place to live.

THE LAST FIVE CENTURIES

1500 - 1600
Rimini became part of the Papal States.

Up to 1700
Many buildings important for the city's infrastructure were added: the Fish Market and the white lighthouse in the harbour area.

1800
Napoleon had the churches demolished, thus an enormous artistic heritage was lost.

It was in Rimini in 1815 that Giocacchino Murat incited the Italians to fight for their independence.

1843
The first bathing establishment was founded and, in effect, Rimini was born for the second time.

From 1944
Rimini suffered heavy damage from bombing raids in the war. After the war the local people rolled up their sleeves and got to work again rebuilding and reinventing with incredible commitment and, above all, they kept on smiling. Tourists started to arrive with their families and their number grew from year to year.

TODAY

There is much more to Rimini than just the beaches and works of art which are visited by 1.5 million tourists annually. It is a flourishing centre for congresses and trade fairs, thanks to the availability of 80.000 hotel rooms in the area. The new and technologically advanced Congress Centre (Palacongressi) is the largest in Italy and seats 9300. The new Trade Exhibition Complex, an array of steel, glass and fountains designed by famous architects, is one of the foremost in Europe, as the statistics show: 40 international fairs per year. Turnover: about 90 million (www.riminifiera.it)

Rimini has become a legend.





SAMANTHA PRIMAVERA, 29
OFFICE CLERK
CRISTIAN SAVIOLI, 36
TOURIST GUIDE
RIMINI - ITALY

Itineraries

The Roman route

What did ancient Ariminum look like?
It is not even necessary to use your imagination,
you can still see it today.

THE BRIDGE OF TIBERIUS

The Bridge of Tiberius is a testament to the engineering know-how of the ancient Romans. Built 2000 years ago it has remained standing, despite the rigours of war and bombing. The secret is that its pillars rest on a single foundation. The bridge is a piece of the ancient Roman past and its five arches in white Istrian stone have been a part of the city scene since 14 A.D. (during the reign of Augustus). It was completed in 21 A.D. during the reign of Tiberius to mark (as it still does) the beginning of the Via Emilia. Today, after 2000 years in service it has still not been pensioned off. Small boats bob on the waters beneath it and it is possible to take a trip on one of them to see the bridge from the water (*information from Cooperativa Atlante tel. 0541.54771*).



PIAZZA TRE MARTIRI

The Piazza marks the position of the ancient Roman forum at the intersection of the Decumanus Maxima and the Cardo Romano. The forum was the centre of civic life for the Latin-speaking citizens of Rimini. At that time the square was much larger. On one side there is a statue of Julius Caesar whilst at the entrance to Via IV Novembre there is a stone pillar in memory of the speech Caesar made to his troops after they crossed the River Rubicon. Today the square is named "Tre Martiri" in honour of three partisans who died in 1944.

THE MONTANARA GATE

What an enviable position Ariminum had, as, protected on three sides by water (the sea, the River Marecchia and the Ausa which flows underground today), it only needed to be defended from the direction of the mountains to the north. Anyone entering the city from that side would have had to pass through the Montanara Gate. Although after the war, during rebuilding work to the city, this gate was taken down, it has recently been rebuilt in Via Garibaldi. Its position is slightly different from before, but the original materials have been used for the reconstruction.



THE CITY MUSEUM

In Via L. Tonini 1, next to the Church of the Intercession (Chiesa del Suffragio), part of an eighteenth century Jesuit College (*information tel. 0541.21482*). The City Museum records Rimini's past existence and is a treasure trove of wonders and curiosities. Here you can admire the pieces of stone used as entrance tickets to the amphitheatre, statuettes of gladiators, numerous coins from the Roman era, magnificent mosaics, amphorae and tiles from the kilns used by the very first Rimini artisans. Then you can continue on to see exhibits from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. These include paintings by masters of the fourteenth century Rimini school, including the famous Pietà by Bellini depicting the lifeless figure of Jesus supported by four cherubs. There are also works by Agostino di Duccio, il Ghirlandaio, Cagnacci and il Guercino. Another section full of life and creativity is the area dedicated to René Gruau, a world-famous graphic artist of the twentieth century.

THE ARCH OF AUGUSTUS

Even somebody who has never visited Rimini may be familiar with the Arch of Augustus since it is often seen in books on the history of art, or in films and TV programmes. What can be said about it? Well, of all the surviving ancient Roman triumphal arches it is the oldest, dating from 27 B.C. It is 17 metres high, built in Istrian stone and erected here in Rimini by express wish of Emperor Augustus. In 1935 it was decided to demolish the buildings around it to give the construction a fitting setting as the city's Triumphal Arch. It would be a real shame to view it only from a car window while driving past. It is much better to approach the monument on foot in order to appreciate it from close up and to experience the emotions called forth by the divinities represented on the oval ornaments: Jupiter and Apollo facing away from the city and Neptune and Rome facing inwards. They represent the greatness of Rome and Augustus' power. The battlements on top were added in mediaeval times, around the X century.



THE SURGEON'S HOUSE (DOMUS DEL CHIRURGO)

The Surgeon's House (II century A.D.) is an exceptional site which has proved to be of interest to experts from all over the world. It contains a doctor's surgery, perfectly preserved rather like the remains at Pompeii. In fact, after a barbarian attack on the city, there was a fire which caused the walls of the room to fold inwards. The domus has only recently been excavated but its importance was immediately recognised because every detail of the scene had been preserved: the floor, the walls,



the door hinges, the medicines bottles, the writing desk, the hot water bottle in the shape of a foot and the couch for the patient. Above all, there is the most complete collection of surgical instruments including those used for amputation and dental fillings ever found. From 2008 the site constitutes an integral part of the City Museum and it is possible to visit the excavations in Piazza Ferrari where they can be viewed thanks to the innovative glass covering together with a hanging garden.



THE ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE

Only the ruins of the Amphitheatre (II century A.D.) on the seaward side of the city are visible today. It could accommodate over 12,000 spectators. The Amphitheatre was only discovered in 1800 because a convent and other buildings had been erected on the site. You can obtain information about a guided tour at the City Museum.

- Many Americans dream of having a holiday in Rimini. A recent study published by the New York Times indicates that of 53 places in the world considered to be a tourist "must", Rimini was in 28th position. Why this great attraction? According to this authoritative American newspaper, Fellini's birthplace should be visited on account of its wonderful historic centre.

- The City Museum houses an exceptional "pinax" (a picture in glass) in shades of blue, decorated with three splendid fish. There are only two of them in the world and the Rimini exhibit is in a perfect state of conservation.

- In front of no. 38 Via IV Novembre it is possible to see a portion of the original paving of the Cardo Maximus (one of the main streets of Roman Rimini). The paving stones came to light during recent excavations and are now cordoned off from the road.

Itineraries

From mediaeval times to the 20th century

PIAZZA CAVOUR

One of the two central squares. If Piazza Tre Martiri was the heart of the Roman city, Piazza Cavour was the fulcrum of the mediaeval township. The main attraction is the Arengo Palazzo (1204) with Ghibelline (swallowtail) battlements and an arcade. It was the place where matters of public government were decided. The Palazzo del Podestà (1330) is right next to it, opposite the only surviving monument from the 17th century: the statue of Pope Paul V (1614), testimony to Papal domination

A panoramic view of the most important things: from the ancient Fish Market to the Tempio Malatestiano with its crucifix painted by Giotto.

at this time. Leonardo da Vinci was enthusiastic about the sound of water coming from the 15 waterspouts on the Fontana della Pigna (Fountain of the Pinecone) which is of mediaeval origin. When the fountain was restored in 1545 it had a statue of St. Paul presiding over it. However, three centuries later (1809), it was decided to replace this statue with a pinecone embellishment. Along the shorter side of the square is the Galli Theatre designed by Luigi Poletti in neoclassical style.



THE FISH MARKET

Across the square from the Palazzo dell'Arengo is the entrance to the eighteenth century fish market, one of the most distinctive areas of the city. The stone counters, the waterspouts for cleaning the fish and the large clock are all still there. Today, the alleyways around the fish market contain many small fashionable bars and the area has become one of the centres of Rimini's "movida" or night life (the other is in the beach area). House no. 24 in the small square is where Giovanni Pascoli studied.

CASTEL SISMONDO

From Piazza Cavour, passing along Via Poletti you will find yourself in Piazza Malatesta, face to face with the impressive Castel Sismondo (1437), a classic renaissance castle. The castle was designed by Sigismondo himself with Brunelleschi as one of his advisors. To build it he had to raze an extremely populous quarter of the city to the ground, regardless of the fact that it included the bishop's residence, a monastery, the baptistery and the cathedral's bell tower. The fortified castle was naturally a symbol of power. Today, only the large central nucleus remains and after recent restoration, the fortress is open to the public for certain exhibitions and other events. Furthermore, there is a project underway to restore the ancient moat.



THE MALATESTA TEMPLE

In Via IV Novembre. A passionate love story is at the origin of the Malatesta Temple (1450), a masterpiece of the Italian Renaissance. It was a love affair between Sigismondo and a young woman, Isotta Degli Atti, who first became his mistress and later his third and last wife. Sigismondo had the building work carried out (first by altering and then demolishing an existing Franciscan church) with the idea that it should become a mausoleum for himself and Isotta. With its magnificent white marble façade, designed by Leon Battista Alberti, a giant in the history of architecture, the Malatesta Temple contains a series of side chapels housing various treasures: the Crucifix by Giotto, a fresco by Piero della Francesca and a bas-relief of angels blowing their trumpets on a blue background. The peculiarity of the Malatesta Temple is that, although it was erected in a period when Renaissance philosophy was at its height, glory is not given to God alone, as was the custom, but also to a man, in the person of Sigismondo, a man who later fell into disgrace, with the result that his dream, this project, was never finished. It is, however, a splendid unfinished work.



THE CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE

In Via Cairoli. One of the pearls of the city's historic centre. It is worth a visit to admire the frescos decorating the apse and the bell tower chapel which depict episodes in the life of St. John the Evangelist and the Virgin Mary. They were painted by masters from the fourteenth century Rimini school and, curiously enough, were brought to light from under eighteenth century stucco work and frescos by an earthquake in 1916. Although at first their value was not recognized, they were saved because there was a portrait of Dante among them. Outside, the original Gothic style is still recognisable, although there is evidence of work done on the façade in the 18th century.

- The moving love story of Paolo and Francesca and their tragic death has fired the imagination of painters and poets from Dante (Canto V of the Inferno) to D'Annunzio, who dedicated his "Francesca da Rimini" to his beloved Eleonora Duse. Francesca, the daughter of the Lord of Ravenna became bride to Giovanni Gianciotto Malatesta (Giovanni the lame). Her lover, Paolo il Bello (the Handsome), was her husband's brother. It was an adulterous affair therefore, which was discovered and punished by death. Much of the historic evidence indicates that the murders were committed in Rimini in the "red houses" at St. Andrea's Gate, the Malatesta family's main residence. However, Pesaro, Gradara and Verucchio also claim to be the scene of the crime.

- Why should you be interested in visiting a library? In the case of the Gambalunga Library (opened in 1617 in Via Gambalunga), because of its historic rooms dating from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, which are still intact. Furthermore, there are 1350 precious ancient manuscripts housed there. It is possible to have a guided tour (tel. 0541.704421 or 0541.704426).





BRUCE MC NAIR, 54
TRAVELLER
KLEMZIG - AUSTRALIA

Here “andare a marina” means “to go the beach”.

MARINA CENTRO

The very soul of Rimini is the central part of the promenade. It has an official date of birth: 1843. It was in that summer that a group of entrepreneurs (the Counts Baldini and doctor Claudio Tintori) opened the first bathing establishment here. Summer after summer, ever more holidaymakers from the upper middle classes started spending weeks at a time in Rimini. So much so that Rimini City Council decided to enhance the “beach resource” by taking over the Tintori-Baldini establishment. They nominated a well-known doctor and physiologist, Paolo Mantegazza, who also specialized in thalasso-therapy (seawater therapy), to plan, build and run a new “Grand Bathing Establishment”. This was the turning point. Rimini became the place where bathing in the sea and simply enjoying yourself became linked with therapeutic aspects for the first time. In less than 50 years the landscape changed dramatically. Instead of sand dunes and marshy areas, an elegant urban area made up of Art Nouveau villas and promenades materialized. Now the way forward was clear: visitors came to Rimini not just for therapeutic treatments but with the idea of relaxing, enjoying themselves and having fun. The result: the resort Rimini became “the uncontested number one in Italy”. In 1845 a service of horse-drawn carriages was inaugurated to link the city centre with the beach area via the tree-lined Viale Principe Amedeo. Even today this is still a green area with many buildings dating from the late 19th century. In 1872 the Kursaal was built to enliven the evenings with waltzes and charlestons under the stars. Rimini had really become a fashionable summer resort (*for further information www.balnea.net*).



FEDERICO FELLINI PARK

Today, the Kursaal is no longer there. It was demolished after the war (1948). To take its place there is Federico Fellini Park, the green area in Marina Centro where families and tourists can take a pleasant walk. In summer, hardly a weekend goes by without a stage being put up for concerts featuring jazz bands or other musical performers, shows and children's events. The park is only a stone's throw from the Grand Hotel, near a high density area of bathing establishments which are open after dinner, street bars and open-air restaurants. The large white building opposite the Grand Hotel houses the Tourist Board, and is constructed in an early 20th century style.



THE FOUNTAIN OF THE FOUR HORSES

If the Federico Fellini Park is a meeting place then the Fountain of the Four Horses at the end of Viale Principe Amedeo, is at the heart of it. The area is always full of life with crowded park benches, people reading books, chatting, or just taking a break from riding their bicycles. The fountain has this name because of the four horses emerging from the surf and spraying fountains of water from their nostrils. Its circular basin symbolises the sea and it is a monument that has long been part of the Rimini scene. It was inaugurated on 29th June 1928. Then after the war when the Kursaal was demolished the fountain was dismantled (1954), renovated and restored to its place in 1983.



THE GRAND HOTEL

The Grand Hotel stands in Marina Centro and looks rather like something from a film set or a dream. It is a pure expression of Art Nouveau, white and turreted (the roof is actually topped by busts that from a distance look like turrets). It was built in 1908 from plans drawn up by Paolito Somazzi. The foyer is ideally suited to making a dramatic grand entrance and now the whole building is a national monument. It was greatly appreciated by Federico Fellini who kept a suite permanently booked there. Not many people know this: it is possible to give yourself the satisfaction of going there, maybe passing through the beautiful garden leading in from Piazzale Fellini, to have an aperitif or even dinner on the terrace overlooking the park, with an orchestra playing live in the background. You might even order the Fellini menu, the very dishes the Maestro always wanted, starting off with fish soup.



THE “PALATA”

You should visit Marina Centro at least twice: once in the morning when life is just starting up and the guests from the Grand Hotel are on their way down to the beach; and again at sunset when the fishing boats are returning to port followed by a flock of seagulls. The best place to wait for them is the “Palata” (perhaps an abbreviation of “palizzata” or palisade), the wharf at the end of Viale Tintori which extends out into the sea for 200 metres. It is a place to meditate with the sea to the right and left of you. At any time of day you will meet Rimini people here hoping to find a bit of peace and it was right here that Federico Fellini used to imagine the nighttime arrival of the ocean liner “Rex”.



ERON THE “WRITER”

Rimini was the first municipality in Italy to entrust an artistic project to a graffiti artist. Of course it was not a random choice; a well-known specialist in Street Art called Eron was selected. He grew up emptying cans of spray paint on the walls of disused factories, and today he holds his own exhibitions and is a successful artist in his own right. Elected “the best Italian graffiti artist” he has enhanced 200 metres of the wall along the walkway beside the port. The ten murals represent characteristic elements of the town and marine fossils (the original design consisted of enamel spray on canvas which was then reproduced on special material resistant to the weather, salty air and vandalism).



THE LIGHTHOUSE

Three flashes of white light every 12 seconds. That is the signal the Rimini lighthouse sends out every night to boats at sea. An eighteenth century construction, from an artistic point of view it is one of the finest of its kind in Italy. Situated on the port canal with the sea to the right it seems almost to watch over the boats moored along the quayside. In Baroque marine style with three steps up to the entrance, it is about thirty metres high and on sunny days it is of an almost dazzling whiteness against the blue of the sea and sky. It is one of the three European lighthouses chosen for renovation by the EU. After the work has been carried out it will be opened to the public as a marine museum as well as continuing to operate as a lighthouse.



THE NEW HARBOUR

Described as “one of the finest and most modern in the Mediterranean” and certainly not lacking in appeal, Rimini Marina (inaugurated in 2002) lies to the left of the port entrance. It covers an area of 100.000 mq and has 622 moorings. Its most striking element is an elevated walkway 1300 metres long leading to a restaurant with a terrace overlooking the sea. It was not designed exclusively for boat owners and people working at the port, just the opposite. It is a place open to everybody and is a venue for many events. A sight not to be missed: close by in Via Fantini near the quay there is a fisherman’s house completely covered in shells. The grandfather of the present owner used to sell shellfish and finding himself with a large quantity of scallop and cocklesheils he decided to use them to decorate his house.



BORGO SAN GIULIANO

Founded around the year one thousand, this old quarter once inhabited by fishermen (nowadays the houses here cost a fortune) is right next to the Bridge of Tiberius. Through the narrow Via Marecchia, you can gain access to the labyrinth of alleyways and low houses whose walls in pastel shades are often decorated by murals and flower-laden balconies. Since it is a pedestrian area you can take a quiet walk in its poetic atmosphere unspoiled by traffic. Borgo San Giuliano was the favourite place of Federico Fellini and Giulietta Masina: the Maestro always said he would like to retire and live here. The church of San Giuliano was an old Benedictine abbey (IX century)

which according to tradition was built on the site of a pagan temple. It is worth visiting not only to see the painting of the Martyrdom of St. Julian by Paolo Veronese (over the high altar), but also because directly under the picture there is a Roman sarcophagus said to contain the remains of the young Istriian saint who had been tortured by Proconsul Marcianus. Tradition has it that the sarcophagus was mysteriously washed up on the beach in Rimini, having come all the way from Dalmatia. Since then a miraculous spring of water, the Sacramora or Sacred Dwelling, has marked the spot. The church has long been a pilgrimage destination.

- Father Christmas in Rimini. The Church of St. Nicolas (Via Grazianni 2) has unceasingly been visited by pilgrims from the east of Europe where the saint is highly venerated in Greek Orthodox churches. They come because of an important relic kept here: one of the arm bones of St. Nicolas (his remains have been at Bari since 1087). In northern Europe St. Nicolas, that is to say Santa Claus, is another name for Father Christmas.

- The Camera. It is impossible not to notice the enormous camera in Piazzale Fellini. It was built in 1948 as a photographer’s shop to attract the attention of the public. It was renovated in 2002 as a monument to “modernity” and it is also a tourist information point open on special occasions.



ALCIDE PERAZZINI, 79
TARCISIO SEMPRINI, 74
BATHING ATTENDANTS
RIMINI - ITALY

When you meet someone new, the first question you ask is, "Which part of the beach do you go to?"

LIFE ON THE BEACH

There are two hundred and fifty beach establishments, all well cared for and regularly renovated. The philosophy is that life on the beach goes on day and night. It begins at dawn when people go walking along the water's edge and finishes well into the night after dinner, barefoot on the sand. The idea is that you can do anything on the beach, yoga lessons, needlework courses, sandcastle competitions and piadina making. All kinds of sports are practised, even those which do not officially exist yet (see the chapter on the "Next Games"). These days the beach establishments organize many kinds of events for adults and children. To put it briefly: the emphasis is on enjoyment.

EASY ON THE POCKET

The best thing of all is that the sports activities (together with the various facilities: warm showers, changing rooms, books and newspapers to read, games, entertainment, childcare) on the beach are all free. Everything is included in the daily price of an umbrella and sun lounger. These prices compare very favourably with the rest of Italy (according to various consumer associations). One advantage for tourists is that there is no entrance fee to go onto the beach. You can enter for free and only if you decide to stop in a particular place do you have to ask the bathing attendant for a sun lounger. In Rimini there are also free beaches with toilets and life guards: the area near Piazzale Boscovich; the area at San Giuliano in front of the harbour; the area in Marebello between beach areas 105 - 106 and 107 - 108; the area in Miramare between beach areas 139 and 140, and from 150 up to the Thalassotherapy Centre and then from the area reserved for the Air force to the boundary with Riccione; the area in Torre Pedrera around the end of Via Tolemaide.



A TASK FORCE OF GUARDIAN ANGELS

The keyword is safety. In Emilia Romagna we are organized to guarantee safety on the beach and at sea in a way which has no equal in any other part of Italy. From June to September every stretch of water up to 500 metres from the shore is under the control of "specialized life guards" who have passed an international course in life saving (recognized in 135 countries) and staff lookout towers every 150 metres. Rimini is the only Italian resort where the beach area number is written on the roofs of the beach cabins to facilitate the arrival of the "elimedica" (rescue helicopter). Yet another task force gives medical treatment to tourists. From the end of May to mid-September a Summer First Aid Centre is available in Piazzale Benedetto Croce (Pascoli area) from 8 in the morning to 8 in the evening. Other summer First Aid Centres are set up in Miramare, Via Locatelli, 22; in Marebello, Via Regina Margherita, 20; in Viserba, Via Burnazzi, 9; and in San Giuliano Mare, Via Coletti, 102.

HEALTHY LIVING ON THE BEACH

You will not need to hire a personal trainer to take courses in various types of light and natural fitness routines. From June to August many beach establishments offer lessons in yoga, bio-gymnastics, bio-energetica, tai chi ch'uan, mandala on the beach, belly dancing, breathing techniques and new energy. To join a group it is only necessary to be in the chosen place at the beginning of the lesson (for information Turisport tel. 0541.787643).



GUARANTEED WATER QUALITY

The seawater quality in Rimini is probably under tighter control than anywhere else in Europe. For many years the Emilia Romagna region has monitored and controlled our "marine resource". Every week a report on the state of the sea is issued (www.arpa.emr.it/daphne). Every year since 2000 Rimini has been awarded the Blue Flag. This important award is conferred by the FEE (www.feitalia.org). It takes into consideration not only the quality of the water, but also cleanliness, facilities for the disabled, green areas and the quality of life in general.



BOAT TRIPS

Not only are there excursions on land, from Rimini there are also boat trips to be enjoyed. Motorized vessels leave the port at all hours of the day. There are various companies operating on different routes. You can spend an enjoyable day or evening discovering other places along the coast or platforms for the extraction of methane gas or visiting areas of the sea where mussels are farmed. On board, passengers are offered a snack or a dinner of "pesce azzurro" (fish, mostly sardines, anchovies and mackerel). Music is always provided and sometimes dancing. If you wish you can choose "a day out with the fishermen" leaving at dawn and trying your hand at deep sea fishing (for information IAT tel. 0541.56902).





HURRAH FOR SPORT

If you choose an "active holiday" it will include enjoyable physical activity. In any case, in this the most Californian of Italian cities (extensive beaches, green areas and a warm climate), everybody is on the move. Where can you go? Well, the largest open-air gym is the beach itself: there are numerous places to play volleyball, beach volleyball, beach tennis, beach soccer and beach basketball. There are clubs offering lessons and equipment for sailing and wind or kite surfing. In Rimini, beach sports begin at Easter when the free beach at Piazzale Boscovich is taken over by the colourfully dressed fans of "Paganello" frisbee. For three days they take part in the World Cup of "ultimate beach

frisbee" and "acrobatic frisbee", then in the evenings you can hear music and singing in many different languages. In addition, all the year round you will see young people wearing headphones racing along on roller-blades. If you are not keen on any of the activities already mentioned, don't worry, we can invent new ones. In Rimini we have come up with the "Next Games": the sports of the future. The strangest is retro-running, a race where you run backwards. But let's not forget cheecoting, a game where you roll little plastic balls along a track in the sand. There is an official federation which organizes exciting national championships at beach area 39 in Rimini and these attract



many fans (www.hotelazzurra.net/biglie). Tchoukball is a cross between handball and Basque pelota, a game which is competitive but not aggressive, so the atmosphere during play is very pleasant. It is taught and played on the beach at Viserba (where it was invented) from the month of May onwards. Then there is nordic walking, originally from Scandinavia but which has now arrived at the beach in Rimini where there are organized walks accompanied by experts. A preview of the "Next Games" can be had at the Rimini Wellness Fair, held every year in mid-May at the Rimini Trade Exhibition Complex (but also on the beach).



RIMINI THERMAL BATHS

There are not many thalasso therapy centres in Italy where the therapeutic properties of seawater or the marine environment are used for various kinds of treatments. The Rimini thermal baths are housed in a building directly on the beach with large windows overlooking the sea. It was, in fact, the very first thalasso

- Environmental awareness on the beach: every season environmental awareness on the beach improves, with introductions such as the separation of rubbish ready for recycling, using recycled water for the flowers, solar panels and improved access for the disabled. Beach area 62, for example, has received the Blue Flag Award for the best bathing establishment.



therapy centre to be opened in Italy (1876) and specialises in the wellbeing of its guests. The centre also offers thermal treatments in water containing bromine salts. If you are in the area, even just half a day there is enough to boost your well-being and general health. You can treat yourself to a relaxing massage, bathe in one

- Beach areas where dogs are allowed. Some beach establishments welcome your canine friends. However, there are certain rules to be followed. Vaccination certificates must be kept up to date, dogs must be on a lead and in some cases wear a muzzle. Furthermore, in this region it is forbidden to take dogs into the water. Here are the addresses:
 - San Giuliano Mare. Beach area Libeccio (harbour zone) tel. 0541.28282
 - Viserba: Playa Tamarindo Dog Beach (Beach areas 29-33) tel. 0541.734357
 - Marina Centro: Beach area 26 tel. 0541.27058 - Beach 33 tel. 0541.380356
 - Miramare: Beach area 149 - Beach area 150 Silvano tel. 0541.375403

of the three seawater pools or maybe have a marine exfoliating treatment. There is a thermal spa, a cardio-gym, water aerobics in seawater and a private beach with sports and entertainment for children. Open all the year round and approved by the SSN (tel. 0541.424011 www.riminiterme.com).



FLAVIA, 9
GIOVANNI, 8
PESARO - ITALY

MARGHERITA, 2
CATTOLICA - ITALY

MAYA, 3
ERIKA, 4
MISANO - ITALY

For children

Children are really happy to be on holiday in Rimini and their mothers are happy to relax a little.

RIMINI - A PLAYGROUND

The sea is very safe because it remains shallow for quite a distance. You can have lots of fun on the beach with the slides, inflatable toys, entertainers and you can even book baby sitters. These days every hotel has a room where children can play or watch videos while mummy and daddy have a quiet coffee. In town there are events specially for under fourteen-year-olds almost every week. In July the whole month is dedicated to the little ones with events and shows of every kind as part of the "July for Children" initiative. It is no secret that Rimini is a wonderful place for young ones and our Tourist Board works on projects all the year round with the aim of making children happy.

IN THE SEA

Tranquillity first and foremost. The shallow waters near the beach are ideal for those going into the sea for the first time or for those who are still learning. Ask the bathing attendants for information about swimming courses: there are a lot and thousands of young children learn to swim every year while on holiday.

There are also courses in sailing basics for the very young on the beach or in the 7 nautical clubs and the 9 sailing clubs in the area (*ask for the information booklet at the IAT or at turismo@comune.rimini.it*).

Some bathing establishments organize courses in snorkelling or you can book a course at one of the 3 diving centres in the beach area. A dults can hire jet skis or an old favourite, a pedalo, better still with an incorporated slide. Over and above all this, the beach is under the constant vigilance of life guards stationed along the shore with their little red boats.



ON THE BEACH

Children do not get lost on the beach. Or rather, if they do get lost, they are soon found again. For 50 years now, the 230 bathing establishments have been connected to the Publiphono service (*tel. 0541.390000*) which sends out immediate appeals to find missing children. Most bathing establishments give the children an identity bracelet or a bandana with the name of the establishment on it. The beach is also equipped to deal with young babies: there are cabins with facilities for nappy changing and bottle heating. In many parts of the beach there is entertainment for children at certain times in the morning or the afternoon. The children are kept occupied and experience something new everyday: from theatre courses (producing a show at the end) to painting competitions. It does not cost anything: the price is included in the cost of the umbrella.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Every morning a host of instructors from UISP arrive on the beach. Each teacher stands under a flag and gives a lesson to tourists and passersby. Ask the bathing attendant where you can find free courses in aerobics, gymnastics, aqua aerobics, dancing and entertainment for children (there are 50 sites between Torre Pedrera and Miramare). The period runs from mid-June to the end of August (except the week of Ferragosto - 15th August), Mondays-Saturdays from 9 - 12 (*for information UISP Rimini tel. 0541.772917*).

A MONTH DEDICATED TO CHILDREN

If a child tells you about spending an afternoon with some favourite cartoon characters, or discussing philosophy with other children, or going into a Renaissance castle to listen to a concert of cartoon theme music, then you can be sure - it was a holiday in Rimini during the month of July. In this month, in every area and quarter of town, the historic centre, in the squares and on the beach there are initiatives for young ones. There is a Cartoon Club, an international festival of film cartoons and comics, with animations from all over the world; meetings with authors, cartoon and strip cartoon drawing competitions, shows, exhibitions and music (*tel. 0541.784193*). The focal point of the festival is in Piazzale Fellini, appropriately transformed into a cartoon world (with a maxi cinema screen and Riminicomix, a popular cartoon exhibition and market). Again during the month of July the beautiful cloister of the Gambalunga Library is transformed into the "Forum of Why and Because" where children can discuss philosophy together (*tel. 0541.704485*).



THE CHILDREN'S MARKET

Plastic toys from Kinder Surprise eggs, scribbled-on books, and puzzles - all of these and more are on sale at the children's market during the months of July and August in Piazza Cavour in the historic centre. The children do everything themselves, fixing prices and haggling over sales. From five o'clock in the evening hundreds of little stalls appear, laden with used toys, comics, books and phone cards. At the same time other things are going on, music and dancing shows, creative workshops and the reading of fairytales (for information Tourist Information Office tel. 0541.56902).



FAMILY HOTELS

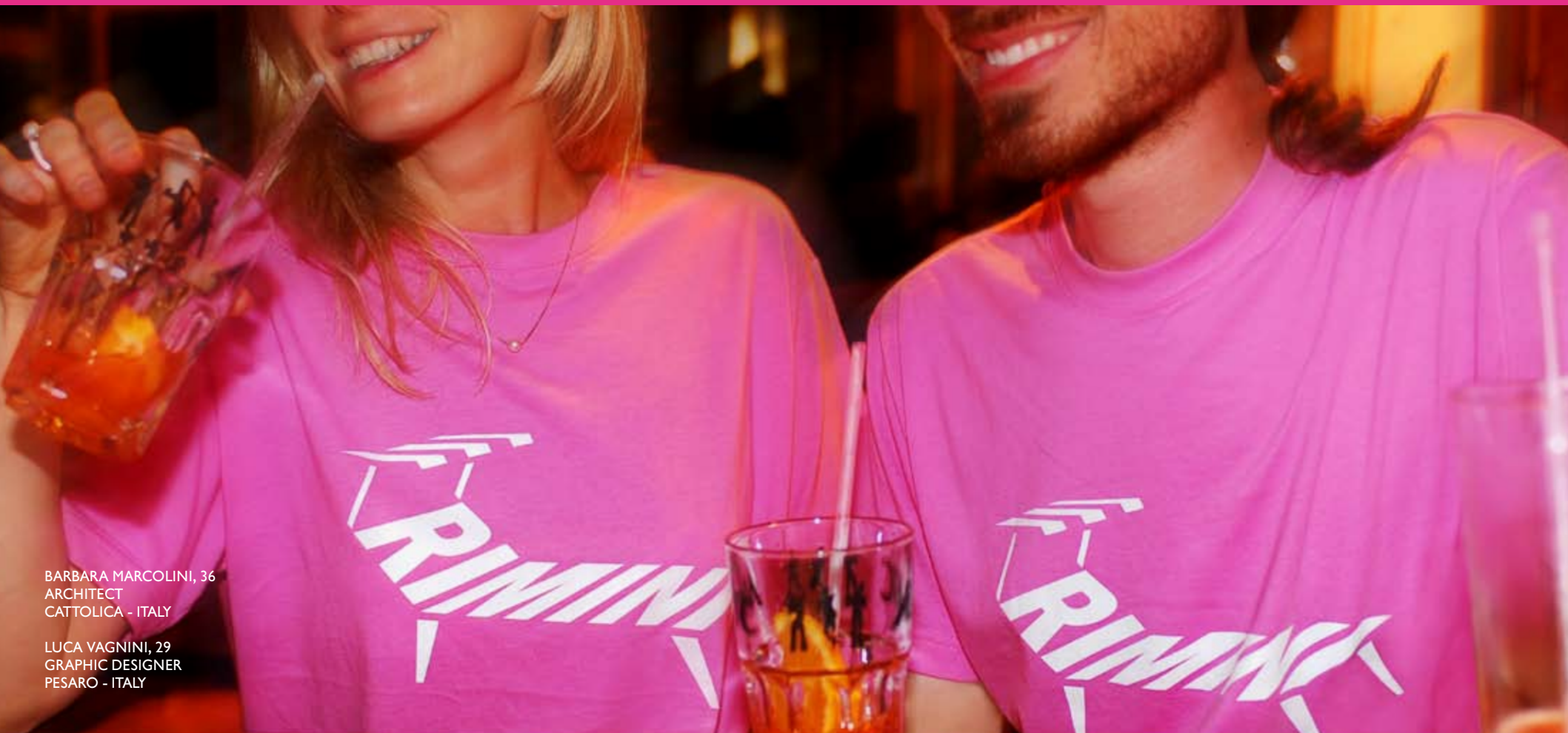
Family Hotels came into existence on the Riviera Romagnola. They are hotels specially for families with children. If a hotel displays the emblem Club Family Hotel it means that it follows guidelines concerning the provision of facilities and equipment suitable for children on holiday. There is a present on arrival, rooms with cradles or cots and bottle warmers. Mothers also have a place where they can prepare baby food. There are special children's menus and plenty of opportunities to play: miniclubs, baby sitters; and a paediatrician on call night and day. A list of facilities can be found on the site www.adriacoast.com under the heading "alberghi a tema" (theme hotels) (for information tel. 0541.53399).

THEME PARKS

The Riviera Romagnola is the area with the highest density of theme parks in Europe. Some people come here for the weekend just to visit "Italia in Miniatura" (Miniature Italy), Aquafan and Oltremare Water Park or La Navi Aquarium. You can have a very enjoyable day in "Italia in Miniatura" (tel. 0541.736736). Over the years this park has grown and now it contains a large number of attractions. Besides admiring scale models of the wonders to be found in Italy (272 perfect reproductions carried out by professional sculptors), you can also navigate the canals of a realistic model Venice or visit the Science Museum, battle with water cannons or take a breathtaking trip down a water flume. In Rimini there is the only park in Italy suitable for very small children of two or three years of age: Fiabilandia (Fairlyland) (tel. 0541.372064). It is built around a small lake where Captain Hook and his pirates sail around together with a (real) seal and sea lion which swim in the lake or sun themselves. The Dolphinarium in Piazzale Boscovich is always very popular. This is where Lapo, the famous dolphin pup, was born. (tel. 0541.50298). There are 40 veteran aircraft in the Aviation Theme Park (tel. 0541.756696). And finally, near Ravenna (40 minutes away by car) there is Mirabilandia (Wonderland). For those wishing to visit more than one of these parks, it is possible to buy multi-park tickets at reduced prices (www.larivieradeiparchi.it).

- Back to nature. There are over 60 km of cycle paths within the city and in the large Marecchia Park (235.000 mq with a small lake and cycle paths); there are also many natural attractions in the vicinity: a nature park along the river Marano (*Coriano* tel. 0541.659811); a group of limestone caves where colonies of bats live (*Gemmano* tel. 0541.984694); a wood of 9 hectares (*Mondaino* tel. 0541.25777); a park where many fossils have been found (*Poggio Berni* tel. 0541.688098); one astronomical observatory (*Saludecio* tel. 0541.857026).
- Shall we do something different today? Rimini certainly deserves full marks for initiatives designed to entertain you and your family. In the region there are 13 riding schools, 13 lakes for fishing sports, 12 crazy golf courses, 4 funfairs and playgrounds with inflatables, 1 flying club, 7 games arcades, 1 baby karting and a track for model cars, 14 open farms (however these are only open to groups), 20 tennis clubs and 1 baseball stadium. Children love to go for a ride on a tandem or in a rickshaw: on the promenade there are over 20 places where you can hire bicycles or quadbikes (four-wheel motorbikes). Afterwards you can stop at one of the many ice-cream parlours serving homemade ice cream: Rimini is one of the top places in Italy when it comes to ice cream.





BARBARA MARCOLINI, 36
ARCHITECT
CATTOLICA - ITALY

LUCA VAGNINI, 29
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
PESARO - ITALY



BEACHES

If you spend a week in Rimini you will get as much out of it as from a fourteen-day holiday elsewhere. Time stretches like magic, because life goes on at night time too. The Italian entertainment capital never sleeps. But its spirit is light-hearted, never crossing boundaries. Rimini nightlife starts in various parts of town every evening, beginning in the area around the port. The end of the promenade - between Marina Centro and the wharf - is the place to find the most popular addresses: small restaurants, pubs, designer bars and various other places which are meeting points where the newest trends are born. Some of these places are along the promenade, others are directly on the beach. In effect they are beach establishments where you can dine (Turquoise, Tiki Bagno 26, Basilico) or just go after dinner for a fruit cocktail, to listen to music or to dance - even barefoot. There are many of these places (*just to mention*

Ah! Night time in Rimini!
After sunbathing you will be bathed
in the magical moonlight.



a few: Coconuts - a disco bar in an "Ocean Drive" style tel. 0541.52325; The Barge tel. 0541 709845; the Rose & Crown, the oldest pub in town on Viale Regina Elena tel. 0541.391398), but one that is particularly interesting to visit is the historic Rock Island: completely made of wood and built on stilts out on the sea. It is an outpost at the end of the "Palata" (the walkway along the wharf) and a good place to enjoy a cocktail at sundown - although you can stay until late. This, however, is something that you can also do in other nearby pubs such as Mucho Macho or Bar Souvenir, a classic pub on the quay on the east side of the harbour. Chillout music, aperitifs and organic food. This ferment of young ideas has recently reached Viserba to the north of Rimini, where several beach establishments at Marina Grande have united to form innovative areas on the beach by night. Crowds of young people immediately discovered the entertainment to be had here.

THE OLD FISH MARKET

Wine cellars, pubs, little restaurants, tables outside and candlelight - the area around the Old Fish Market, in the heart of the historic centre of town, could be called the Montmartre of Rimini. It's where the local young people meet to enjoy the nightlife which enlivens its little mediaeval squares and romantic alleys. They dine under the stars in an age-old square or have a drink chatting under a white colonnade. All of this goes on in the Old Fish Market (adjacent to Piazza Cavour) with its eighteenth century marble counters. Many trends were started here and then exported to the rest of Italy: finger food, mini-portions in small glasses or on decorated spoons. If you want to go to a place where you can meet people and make friends, then the Old Fish Market is the right place to go all year round. It immediately became fashionable after faculties of the University of Bologna were established in Rimini, which brought about 6000 students from all over Italy to Rimini (www.polorimini.unibo.it). An interesting fact is that in the picturesque Piazzetta Gregorio da Rimini there is the oldest book shop in town: the Libreria Riminese (in summer open also in the evening) and at no. 4 is the house where Giovanni Pascoli (1855) lived when he was at grammar school.



STREET BARS

You can take a stroll about 6 o'clock in the evening to have an aperitif along with the first little groups. From then onwards there is a constant stream of customers until late at night. Not everyone knows that street bars were born on the Riviera. It happened that large numbers of young people would come together to chat and have a drink outside the bar, on the pavement. The idea caught on. The street bar became something between a pub and a disco, a popular formula because it is a place where it is easy make new friends, in fact many people go there to do just that. There is always a DJ to provide good music, but it never gets too loud. You can go there for a quick drink and if you get bored in one place you can continue on to another. In Rimini the most well-known street bars are in Marina Centro along Viale Vespucci or along the stretch of promenade leading to the port.



DISCOTHEQUES

Within an area of just a few kilometres you will find some of the most exciting discotheques in Europe. After a short period of waning popularity, disco clubs are now making a very definite comeback. The latest development is to go there not just after midnight. The majority of discos have been transformed into fascinating places where you can have dinner in a refined atmosphere, maybe overlooking the city lights and the surrounding hills as at the famous Paradiso Club. Or, perhaps you would prefer to gaze at the moonlight reflecting on the waves during a meal at Rock Island, a club built on stilts over the sea at the end of Rimini wharf. There are also lounge clubs with quiet areas where you can talk. To put it briefly, there is such an abundance of choice in Rimini by night (in the municipal area alone there are 23 discotheques, 52 pubs, around 800 bars and restaurants open in the evening) that everyone can find a suitable venue with the kind of company he or she prefers at any particular moment: from house music to Caribbean rhythms, from live music to techno, from a revival of the 70s, 80s (the current trend is a 90s revival) to... baby dance! Most of the more spectacular discos are concentrated on the high ground around town, perched on top of hills not far from each other: Paradiso, Pascià, Prince, Byblos, Villa delle Rose, Cocoricò, Echoes... just to mention some of them.

BLUE LINE

The most intelligent way of travelling around to enjoy the nightlife is on the Blue Line, the bus that takes dance addicts right to the door of the Riviera discos just like a private chauffeur. Indeed, the Blue Line is the most famous night transportation in Italy. Every night from about ten o'clock to six o'clock in the morning there are various routes covered by these multicoloured buses from the terminus in Piazzale Kennedy to all destinations of Rimini nightlife. Tirelessly they cover the territory up to 60 km from the sea into the hills around Riccione, Misano and Cattolica. Today we hear a lot about road safety, young people driving under the influence of drink and licences being withdrawn, however, Rimini had already found an alternative to this need for mobility over 20 years ago! The first Blue Line bus went into operation in 1986 and since then the service has been used by a total of 5 million passengers over the years. These gaily-coloured buses with loudspeakers blaring pop music are usually loaded with young and very young people between the ages of 15 and 26. Sometimes on board there is a DJ deck or cappuccinos and pastries on offer. Nobody would hazard a guess as to how many lives or just how many licences have been saved in this way. The service is only operative in the summer except for some special occasions such as long weekends or New Year's Eve (www.bluelinebus.com).

PLACES FOR BALLROOM DANCING

There must be a reason why "Romagna Mia" is one of the most popular Italian songs ever played! Even the Polish Pope, John Paul II used to whistle it. So it just shows that the passion for ballroom dancing is really quite widespread and if you think that it is a pastime for the over forties, think again. In recent years more and more young people have been flocking to ballroom dancing schools on the Riviera and it is no longer a novelty to find that this kind of dancing is coming back into fashion with a vengeance. "With respect to other kinds of dancing, there is more physical contact and you can talk to your partner," say aficionados. Anyway, you will have a nice evening out pirouetting to waltzes, polkas and mazurkas. In most places, if you arrive a bit early, you will generally find some one willing to teach you. You can ask for a list of these dance halls (to find the most convenient address) from any IAT (Tourist Information Office, see inside cover).

BREAKFAST AT DAWN

A typical Rimini custom is that of having breakfast at dawn. After a night spent chatting, dancing and jumping around you obviously feel the need for a cappuccino and a doughnut or a pastry straight from the oven. So it is that night-loving people end up in the bars offering this service. The usual places are some of the bars in the historic centre of town in Piazza Mazzini and Piazza Tre Martiri. Near the sea (Marina Centro, Rivazzurra) many places are still open from the night before and others open at 6am. What is certainly a classic for these night owls is to buy a warm cake in some bakery in town and then go to eat it on the wharf while the sky changes from grey to pink. Breakfast at dawn is a mass phenomenon after the Ferragosto holiday festivities (16th August), which is the night celebrated on the Riviera in a fashion similar to New Year's Eve (and the "Notte Rosa"). On this morning there are a number of concerts going on at dawn - pianos and other instruments are even taken down to the beach. After the concert, breakfast is often offered to those present.



- Yes, food. Where shall we go out for dinner? There are over 800 bars, restaurants and trattorias, and you have to take into account how difficult it is to resist the piadinas sold at the numerous kiosks which are open until late at night. Apart from all this, Rimini can offer you something different. As well as the excellent traditional cuisine of Romagna you will also find ethnic, organic and macrobiotic restaurants, restaurants on board ships, pizza parlours and over 40 vendors of homemade ice cream where you can try out hundreds of different flavours or varieties without added fat or sugar.

PIERLUIGI FELICI, 50
PROJECTIONIST
RIMINI - ITALY



"I can never think of Rimini as an objective reality. Rather, it is only a dimension of the memory."
Quote from "La mia Rimini" (My Rimini).



Rimini also has ties with the cinema since it is representative of Federico Fellini's world of fantasy. Hollywood awarded this film director (born in Rimini on 20th January 1920) 5 Oscars and in his famous films, his past life in Rimini recurs again and again. Piazza Cavour and Piazza Tre Martiri are the squares of *Amarcord*, *Cinema Fulgor* on the main street is revived in *Roma and Amarcord*, the beach and its beach huts in the "Città delle Donne", the portico and street benches in the *Vitelloni*, these and the ever present *Grand Hotel* all testify to his conflicting emotions about Rimini, which is where he wanted to be buried. Now the Maestro is no longer with us, he died on 31st October 1993, but the family home in Via Oberdan 1 now houses the Federico Fellini

Foundation. It was set up in 1995 thanks to the efforts of his sister Maddalena (who died in 2004). It is a centre for study and research. As time goes by, the archives of the Foundation are gathering more and more mementos, photographs, the Maestro's personal books, prizes, costumes and props, including those for *G. Mastorna*, his last project for a film that was never made. The most famous piece is the *Book of Dreams* (bought in 2006) in which Fellini noted down everything he dreamt about in narrative and drawings. The museum is on the ground floor and there are often exhibitions held there too. Open every day except Mondays. Entrance free (tel. 0541.50085 www.federicofellini.it).



THE FELLINI ITINERARY

There is a lot about Rimini in Fellini's films, even though the sets were always constructed from Cinecittà. To see the real thing for yourself, start off from Parco Fellini from where you can view the *Grand Hotel*: If you wish you can even sleep in the *Fellini Suite* (his own favourite) or book a dinner based on the *Fellini menu* (tel. 0541.56000). Your next stop should be at the port on the 'palata' (wharf) where the *Vitelloni* (young men about town) liked to philosophise endlessly in wintry Rimini and where the motorcyclist in *Amarcord* used to come to ride his bike at full throttle. Even trains (symbolic of travel) and the

station are often present in his films. The original station is in Piazza Battisti. There are also various houses where the *Fellini family* lived. Fellini himself could not remember where his very first home was (in Via Fumagalli), only that one day his father vaguely indicated a street saying that it was where he had been born. However, he was always very fond of the home of his adolescent years and his first love affairs. It was in Via Clementini, 9. After that the *Fellini residence* was the one in Via Oberdan, 1 (where his sister *Maddelena* lived until her death).

THE CEMETERY

The cemetery could also be a good place to start a tour on Fellini. The tomb of Federico and Giulietta Masina is at the entrance to the Monumental Cemetery in Rimini, on the left of the main gates. It is topped by a sculpture by Arnoldo Pomodoro depicting the "Great Prow" of a ship pointing straight up into the sky, reminding us of the liner Rex in *Amarcord*. Photographs or films can only be taken with permission from the Cemetery Management (go in the morning and the permit will be issued on the spot). Another interesting thing about the cemetery is that the motorcycle champion, Renzo Pasolini is also buried here, together with his motorcycle helmet. Piazzale Bartolini (tel. 0541.742766).



THE MURALS IN SAN GIULIANO

The picturesque little suburb of San Giuliano is usually a starting point for any visit to Rimini, but it is also worthwhile going back there to look around the place e borg ("il Borgo" - the suburb, in dialect) with other thoughts in mind. Maybe to look at the murals dedicated to the Maestro and his films in the labyrinth of little streets and trim little houses with flower pots at the windows. Fellini himself was very fond of this old corner of Rimini that as a child he used to see from the other side of the port. Borgo San Giuliano is just over the Bridge of Tiberius and film lovers will immediately recognize the scene of the car race (Mille Miglia) in *Amarcord*.

CINEMA FULGOR

The curvaceous Gradisca in *Amarcord* stops in front of the cinema and, affecting her poshest tone, asks the proprietor, "When is the Gary Cooper film on?" You will find the cinema if you walk halfway down the main street (the same street Gradisca walked along in *Amarcord*) to Corso d'Augusto 162, the same place where Fellini used to spend his afternoons as a grammar school boy, developing his passion for the cinema. Nearby is Piazza Cavour and its Fontana della Pigna where Gradisca threw snowballs. Today the Fulgor (also mentioned in "Roma") is the same as it was then. Now, there is a project underway to restore it and incorporate it into a large Hall of the Cinema dedicated to the Maestro. If Fellini were to pass by the place today, he would do as he always did. He would go inside (tel. 0541.25833).



- In Via Gambalunga no. 27 is the seventeenth century building housing the well-furnished library of the same name. Among its 230.000 volumes (the catalogue can be consulted on the internet via the city homepage) there are also 1300 precious illuminated Malatestian manuscripts. One wing of the building has been dedicated to a collection of films, in which a special section on Federico Fellini could not be omitted (tel.0541.704302).

- Just think what it would be like to sit on the beach in front of the Grand Hotel enjoying a Fellini film in the moonlight. Rimini (its citizens and its tourists) has discovered the pleasure of watching films to the accompaniment of the quiet lapping of the waves. This combination of elements is to be had in "AMarena", the summer film festival held on the beach at night (for information IAT tel. 0541.56902).

- Sergio Zavoli says that Fellini often arrived in Rimini without warning, even at night. He would throw a stone against the window of his great friend, the lawyer Titta Benzi. Then, they would go off together to piazzetta Teatini, near the Malatesta Temple, to kick a tin around the square while they told each other all the latest news. At dawn Fellini would set off back to Rome again.



MICHELA PASINI, 33
MUSEUM CURATOR
RIMINI - ITALY

The hit parade of the most curious and exciting ones to visit.

THE CITY MUSEUM

Is appropriately set in an eighteenth century Jesuit College and the inside is well worth a visit. Nowhere else in the world is there such a unique collection: that is to say a set of surgical instruments found in the house (domus) of a Roman doctor of the III century A.D. together with a collection of mortars, medicine containers, scales, measuring spoons and an original foot-shaped pot. Other treasures, such as the mosaic depicting boats in the port of Ariminum, have been found in Roman houses in the area. Works from the fourteenth century Rimini school of painters are wonderful to see, particularly the majestic fresco of the Last Judgement. There are also masterpieces of the Renaissance Court, paintings of the seventeenth century... And so on. Brightly coloured eye-catching posters are displayed in the area dedicated to commercial art by René Gruau. Recently the museum collection has been enhanced by the archaeological findings from the surgeon's house which has been excavated in an area only a stone's throw from the museum itself. All in all, the exhibits embrace 2000 years of history.

Why pay it a visit? Because nowhere else in the world will you be able to see a doctor's surgery from ancient Roman times, complete with all its surgical instruments.

Via L. Tonini, 1 tel. 0541.21482 www.comune.rimini.it

THE FELLINI MUSEUM

You can browse through these archives containing material about one of the greatest maestros of the cinema. His sketches, costumes, photographs, mementos and books, are all to be found on the ground floor of the family home. The most important exhibit is the Book of Dreams in which Fellini wrote and illustrated what he had dreamed about in his typical style. The material was then a source of inspiration for his films.

Why visit it? Those who love the cinema and who have a poetic vision of life can spend a fascinating couple of hours there.

Via Clementini, 2 (on the corner of Via Oberdan) tel. 0541.50303 www.federicofellini.it

BALNEA MUSEUM

It is a virtual museum not a real one. Balnea is the name of a museum narrating the history of tourism at the seaside: 3000 works, 10 galleries, 120 rooms with photographs, period exhibits, posters, scenarios with virtual journeys from Europe to Australia. There is no need to pay for an entrance ticket because it is all on the Web.

Why go there? To see how our way of life has changed the beach over the last two centuries.

www.balnea.net

THE SHELL MUSEUM

At the Shell Museum they have even reconstructed the beach as it would have been in the 50s, with a wooden beach hut, sun lounger and umbrella. Besides the shells (8000 altogether and all very beautiful) nostalgic visitors can see a wooden lifeguard's boat (impossible to find any more), historic crafts and exhibits like the "scaion", a tool used to fish for clams.

Why go there? If you love the seaside you will not want to miss seeing a place like this. Open in summer in the evenings. Via Minguzzi (in a former primary school) Viserbella di Rimini tel. 0541.721060 www.escaion.it

THE MUSEUM OF CROSS-CULTURAL INSIGHTS

The museum is to be found on the hillside overlooking Rimini. The concept behind it is: how does a Westerner of today view other cultures? To open a window on the world there is a pre-Columbian archaeological collection from the Amazon, rooms full of sixteenth century wonders. The project for the museum was initiated by the famous anthropologist Marc Augé to house the collection of a great twentieth century traveller, Delfino Diniz Rialto.

Why go there? To discover that, ultimately, the dreams and desires of man are of a universal nature.

Villa Alvarado in Via delle Grazie, 122 Covignano di Rimini tel. 0541.751224 www.comune.rimini.it

THE AVIATION MUSEUM

Aircraft are not like pictures, they cannot be crammed into small rooms. So, here we have an aviation theme park extending over an area of more than 100.000 mq. It is one of the most important in Europe and is certainly the largest in Italy. There are aircraft from various different countries and a museum with flight suits, photographs, scale models and medals on show.

Why go there? Perhaps to satisfy the latent ambitions of those who dream of becoming an aviation ace and because there are not many of these museums in Europe.

Via Santa Aquilina, 58 tel. 0541.756696 www.museoaviazione.com

THE MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM

There are more than 250 veteran motorbikes on show, dating from the end of the nineteenth century to the 1980s. The museum opened its doors in 1935 thanks to three friends from Rimini who decided to put their precious collections together. The result is a selection of some of the best models produced by almost sixty companies from Italy and abroad.

Why go there? To see firsthand the stages we passed through before reaching today's Biaggi, Rossi, Melandri & Co.





JHEISON HUERTA, 24
ACCOUNTANT
PESARO - ITALY

It is enough to go just a few kilometres inland to find yourself in completely different surroundings. Not far from the sea there are two valleys you should not leave unexplored, that of the Marecchia and the Conca.



THE VALMARECCHIA

SANTARCANGELO DI ROMAGNA (10 kilometres from Rimini)

The township centres around a mediaeval village whose little narrow streets which are stepped and have the verses of local poets written on them. It also has ancient walls and a triumphal Arch in Piazza Ganganelli, all dominated by the massive Malatesta Castle (*private but can be visited tel. 0541.620832*). What you can see there: the Collegiate Church, the thousand-year-old Parish Church of St. Michael's, the Ethnographic Museum (*tel. 0541.624703*) one of the most important in Italy, the Nuns' Square with a mediaeval well in the centre and, if it's possible, the caves in tuffaceous rock. They form a series of mysterious tufa catacombs extending right underneath the historic central area of town (*information from IAT tel.0541.624270*). Among the many little shops and restaurants, we would just like to mention one, the Osteria La Sangiovesa, because the inside was designed by the poet, Tonino Guerra, also a scriptwriter for Fellini.

POGGIO BERNI

Continuing up the valley from Santarcangelo you soon arrive at Poggio Berni (10 minutes), a small village divided into a lower and upper part. The upper area is, of course, the older. Among the palaces of the lesser nobility, the best known is Palazzo Marcosanti (XIII century). There is also a very nice mill, Molino Moroni. Although not used any more, it is still in full working order and visits can be arranged (*tel. 0541.629701*).

TORRIANA AND MONTEBELLO (21 km from Rimini)

Coming here for the first time you will be impressed by the two great bastions of rock each with a rather menacing castle, complete with keep and towers. The one at Montebello is in a perfect state of conservation, the one at Torriana less so. However it is flanked by a thirteenth century watchtower (hence the name of the village). Behind the rocks is a protected valley (a small eco-system) and two small villages still inhabited and full of life. In Torriana there is the Albergo del Acqua, a fountain designed by Tonino Guerra. At the castle of Montebello many visitors get a thrill from the ghost of Azzurrina, a little five-year-old princess, lost in its dungeons. Many people swear they have heard her still crying. If you are in the area then you must go to see an extraordinary sanctuary perched on a spur of rock in the middle of the Marecchia riverbed. It is the sanctuary of the Madonna di Saiano which can only be reached on foot (*for information Pro Loco Valmarecchia tel. 0541.675402*).

VERUCCHIO (14 km from Rimini)

To see one of the most impressive and impregnable castles in the area (*tel. 0541.670222*) you must come to Verucchio, considered to have been the main residence of the former ruling family, the Malatestas. This is where Mastin Vecchio, mentioned by Dante, was born (1100). The panorama from the castle terrace is superb and the entire fortified historic centre of Verucchio, the churches, squares, ancient fountains and parish churches, is extremely picturesque. Also one of the most important archaeological museums in Europe, the City Archaeological Museum (*tel.0541.670222*) is to be found here. It contains exhibits of the Villanovian-Etruscan era (in the area hundreds of tombs of the IX-VI centuries B.C. have been found). In Verucchio there is also an eighteen-hole golf course open all year round.





VALCONCA

MONTEFIORE CONCA (30 km from Rimini)

In the valley of the River Conca, little more than half an hour's ride in the car, you come to a completely fortified little mediaeval village which is one of the best preserved in the area. The Malatestian Castle, with its harmonious geometric design, is one of the most beautiful in the area. It stands in a naturally dominant position from which you can enjoy a truly extraordinary almost magical panorama on a sunny day. You can see the whole coast from Ravenna down to the Marches and there through the mountains, a glimpse of San Marino, seemingly very nearby. The inside of the castle is completely covered with frescos (at the moment some of these are being restored). At Christmas, in the historic centre where there is a nice walk around the walls and in the park, they re-enact the birth of Jesus by torchlight (*for information Pro Loco tel. 0541.980189*).

MONDAINO (35 km from Rimini)

The large Malatestian Castle (*today the Town Hall tel. 0541.981674*) is the outstanding feature of Mondaino. The name means "Village of Deer". Its historic centre is fortified and in it there are the houses of what was once the local nobility as well as cottages. However, its most characteristic feature is the large circular Piazza which the locals affectionately refer to as the "frying-pan". There is an interesting palaeontology museum where you can see the imprints of fish and other organisms in rocks (*tel. 0541.981674*).

MONTEGRIDOLFO AND OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

If you still have time and curiosity to spare, there are other places to explore. For example, Saludecio, with its renaissance style urban layout, San Leo with its forbidding, bellicose fortress perched on an enormous spur of rock (Cagliostro was imprisoned and died in a dungeon there), Montegrifolfo (formerly in a state of serious disrepair) a district which underwent distinctive renovations carried out by the fashion designer, Alberta Ferretti.

- This is Romagna, where every occasion is a good excuse for a fiesta... in the village. There are many of these fiestas organized throughout the year in villages around Rimini. The most well-known are: the Deer Fiesta held at Mondaino in mid-August, the 1800 Festival at Saludecio during the first half of August, St Martin's Fair in Santarcangelo around 11th November and the Donkey Festival at Poggio Berni in July, not to mention the Fira del Bagoio (Pork Fair) in January at Verucchio and the Film Festival also in Verucchio in July.
- Living monuments: One of the oldest trees in Italy is to be found in Villa Verucchio. Known as the Cypress of St. Francis, since it is considered certain to have been planted by the saint, it is now 800 years old and about 23 metres high. It is to be found in the cloister of the monastery (1215) of Franciscan Grey Friars. The majestic oak at the St. Francis spring on the road to Verucchio, is, however, "only" 400 years old. *Information from IAT tel. 0541.670222.*
- Mediaeval villages, castles perched on rocky spurs, streams and woods, all waiting to be explored in the area around Rimini, can best be reached by means of the "Collinea" bus service. There are four different tours every week covering the most beautiful places in Malatesta country. They leave in the afternoon, have a hostess on board and get back in time for dinner. Tickets and bookings can be made at your hotel, at travel agencies, tobacconists' and newsagents. *Information from www.riminilive.com/collinea, tel. 0541.743594.*



TASTE...

a real piadina from Rimini. In town there are many kiosks where it is difficult to resist buying one. A piadina from the Rimini area is thinner and crisper than that of Forlì or Ravenna. You can choose the filling - ham and mozzarella or wild salad leaves, even chocolate spread if you like. The main attraction on the local menus is "pesce azzurro" (specific fish from the Adriatic) and all kinds of other fish such as mackerel, red mullet, mantis prawns, sprats, etc. The "arzadore" (local housewives) prepare fish soup or barbecued fish cooked on the "focon", which means over coals. What is the most famous of our wines? As everyone knows, it is Sangiovese, the wine that warms the cockles of your heart. To start a journey of discovery into local flavours, the place not to miss is Via Castelfidardo, where you will find the covered market (Mercato Coperto). Here there are 130 businesses which specialise principally in fish, fruit and vegetables. It is a place of traditions, full of wonderful scents and specialities among which you will also find the best food and wine shops - and these make this the gourmet district of the city.

**TRY...**

• Dancing all night. Whether it be ballroom dancing or a revival of the 70s, enjoying yourself on a carefree evening out in Rimini, dancing under the stars.
 • Taking a walk at dawn or sunset along the "Palata" (wharf). This is the favourite walk of local people, Fellini included;
 • Having an aperitif or just a cappuccino at the Grand Hotel;
 • Taking a ride on a pedalo or even trying out one of the new technological novelties (every season new novelties are available on Rimini beaches), a little electric boat, a love pedalo (a two-seater pedalo with a canopy for privacy), a water bicycle, a banana boat...
 • Observing the seawater a few metres from the beach. You will discover a myriad of little creatures: shoals of fish, cockles, little crabs, sea horses, families of rock gobies and small turbot.

**PARTICIPATE...**

in at least one event: there are over 700 every summer!
 If you want to watch something with an Australian atmosphere, you should choose Easter weekend when the free beach is full of a colourful international crowd throwing frisbees: it is the "Paganello", a world championship in the sport (Beach Ultimate). In mid-May you can rub shoulders with the crowds of people visiting Rimini Wellness - the health and beauty fair. At least once in your life you should experience the "Notte Rosa", a night to welcome the arrival of the summer season (in principal something like New Year's Eve). The highlight of the evening is a pink firework display stretching 100 km along the coast. Are there open-air cinemas? Yes, "Cinema under the Stars" organized at historic sites.



The initiatives of "Gradisca... l'estate" (Summer... for your enjoyment) on 21st June have become a permanent fixture on Rimini's events calendar. In mid-June the Festival of the Ancient World is held with seminars and workshops (also for children). Symphonic music is the main star of the "Sagra Malatestiana" (September), whilst new music can be experienced at the "Percuotere il Mente" festival (July). Every year, at the end of August, there is the Rimini Meeting. Every year begins in Rimini with the most spectacular New Year's Eve celebrations in Italy thanks to an unequalled calendar of events which covers the whole festive period. For information about the other events... contact the IAT or get your free copy of the events guide.

**SAY...**

If you want to be accepted by the locals you will have to learn the basics of the Rimini dialect. To start with, as you well know, a day of "gnòrgnia" (moodiness, boredom) can happen to anybody. If it does happen, it is not your fault, it is because of the Garbino. "E garbén" (garbino, south-west wind) is a very warm wind blowing in sudden gusts which usually heralds rain and bad weather. But that is the least of it, because the "garbén" is a wind which would make even a saint feel irritable. So much so that people commonly say "T'è e garbén?" (Have you got the garbino? That is to say: are you in a bad mood?) A different expression is to call somebody "pataca". This means they are stupid or too good-natured and it can be used affectionately



"E mi patacou". Never mind. The garbino is part of Rimini, in the same way as Fellini, the discos and the "pièda", queen of Rimini specialities, and a "baraca" (a party or merry get-together), the indispensable "rustida" (barbecued meat or fish) and the "puràza" (a small tasty shellfish). Then there is the "palèda" the very end of the wharf on the port canal where the local people love to go and where the "ber" (the young men about town in Rimini who passionately courted the girls at the seaside in summer) would have melancholy meetings in the autumn. In these cases it is important to remember the golden rule. Are you from Rimini? No, I am a citizen of the world. A STÈ ZÈT UN SI SBAJA MAI (Keep quiet and you can't go wrong).



TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS...

of the most significant monuments, of course. To visit them all on a guided tour, you can join a group every Tuesday morning for "Walking through History" (it is free, by the way) in the historic centre of town. In just a couple of hours, which flash by, you can grasp what is the very essence of the city and if you wish, the stimulating experience can be complemented by a visit to the City Museum. The number of participants keeps on growing (*information tel. 0541.704421 or 0541.785183*). To take a few snapshots of the surrounding area it is enough to get on board the "Collinea", a bus service running four afternoons a week and which takes tourists around places connected with the former ruling family, the Malatestas (*for information tel. 0541.743594*).

**VISIT...**

an archaeological site, the only one of its kind in the world. We are referring to the Surgeon's House (Domus Del Chirurgo) in Piazza Ferrari which was opened to the public in December 2007. It was the residence of a doctor who lived during the time of the Roman Emperors (III century A.D.). It has remained miraculously intact in a similar way to the remains at Pompeii. In this case there was probably a fire which caused the walls to fall inwards, so preserving the scene as it was on that fateful day: the couch, the instruments, the scalpels, the medicine jars and 80 silver coins. From a catwalk, visitors can admire the luxurious mosaic floors and walls which reveal that the owner of the house was a rich professional originating from the orient. It is an exceptional discovery which can help us to understand what it was like to consult a doctor in Roman times. It has stirred up interest in the archaeological section of the City Museum in international circles (*for information tel. 0541.21482*).

**BUY...**

original hand-printed cloth from Romagna. A robust cream-coloured cloth with rust-coloured patterns (but also blue and green) used to create dishtowels, tablecloths and curtains, on sale in most parts of town. The colours are natural: the rust colour, for example, is obtained by putting iron in vinegar to get rust and then mixing it with flour. However, every craftsman has his own secret recipes. Another good buy is a bottle of extra virgin olive oil from the Hills of Romagna and labelled DOP. You will enjoy browsing for lots of other things among the stalls of the many markets held practically every day of the week, even in the evenings. In Rimini, in Piazza Cavour and Piazza Malatesta, market days are always Wednesdays and Saturdays. On Mondays there is a market in Viserba, Tuesdays in Miramare, Thursdays on the promenade at Bellariva (in summer), Fridays in the Peep Ausa area and on Sundays at Torre Pedrera. On Tuesdays in the summer there is an antiques market on the promenade in Marina Centro.





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The Tourist Administrative
Office City of Rimini
Piazzale Fellini, 3
47900 Rimini
tel. +39 0541.704587
fax. +39 0541.54290
www.riminiturismo.it

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Creative Director
Marco Morosini

Graphic Design
Studio Marco Morosini
Luca Vagnini
Claudia Stefenelli

Editorial Coordination
Errica Dall'Ara

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