

Umbria and Tuscany are scattered with attractive towns, hill-top villages, historical (especially Etruscan) sites, and routes for walking and cycling. The list below is a selection of places you may wish to visit, but part of the excitement of the area is coming across places and views unexpectedly. Remember that in Italy everywhere takes longer to reach than you expect, but the journey is as exciting - and unpredictable - as the arrival.

Local

Castiglione Foscio (3.5 km)

Post office, pharmacy, *alimentari* (La Bottega), bar. Interesting cylindrical tower (lit up at Christmas and New Year)

Chiusi (29 km)

Excellent Etruscan museum. Access point to the A1 autostrada for travelling north.

Città della Pieve (23 km)

Typical Umbrian and interesting walled town. Birthplace of Perugino and there are several of his works in the *duomo* and other churches around town.

Fontignano (6 km)

Village to the side of the main road to Perugia. Contains Perugino's tomb . you may need to ring the numbers on the door to get a key-holder.

Montegabbione, Monteleone d.Orvieto (12 km)

Two typical Umbrian hill-top villages out beyond Piegara.

Paciano (18 km)

Attractive hill-top village, renovated.

Panicale (13 km)

Attractive hill-top village, renovated. Church of San Sebastiano (outside the old part of the village, at the extreme eastern end) has a Perugino.

Perugia (30 km)

The major city within easy reach. All shops, supermarkets, banks etc. as well as a fascinating city full of art, architecture and history. Noted for several festivals during the year, including jazz (July) and chocolate (October).

Piegara (13 km)

Attractive hill-top village, renovated.

Tavernelle (8 km)

Supermarkets, banks, post office, most shops, garage, several bars and cafés. Public swimming pool, now upgraded to a *Parco Aquatico*.

Nearby: **Santuario di Mongiovino**. Very interesting church in San Martino, a small village up the hill from Tavernelle. Take the road north from the town square, or from the roundabout by the easterly Conad.

Further up the road beyond San Martino is the hill-top village of **Mongiovino Vecchio** (visible across the valley from Gaiche).

Around Lake Trasimeno

Castiglione del Lago (28 km)

Attractive old town on fortified promontory jutting into Lake Trasimeno. Castle worth a visit. Newer areas provide for swimming, beach activities, etc. Has a larger Coop and most shops.

Isole Trasimeno (Maggiore, Minore and Polvese)

There is a ferry service that goes from point to point around the lake and to the islands. Closest boarding point is at Castiglione del Lago.

Passignano (47 km)

North side of the lake. Might be thought to be a little resortish.

San Feliciano (28 km)

East side of the lake. Attractive old fishing village.

Reasonable distance - North

Arezzo (74 km)

Mediaeval city. Weekly antiques fair.

Cortona (50 km)

Attractive hill town. Basis for Frances Mayes. book *Bella Tuscany*.

Gubbio (70 km)

Old walled town, considered one of the most beautiful in Umbria. Classic piazza with excellent views. Well worth the trip.

Reasonable distance - South

Amelia (NW of Narni, S Umbria; 124 km)

Cascade della Marmore (SE of Terni, S Umbria)

Manmade (Roman) waterfalls. Very impressive and completely natural. . except that the water starts and stops at defined times! Check opening hours (= flow times). Both upper (superiore) and lower (inferiore) viewing points worth visiting. It is possible to walk between the two.

Nearby: **Piediluco**. Small village on side of lake (feeding the Marmore falls). Very attractive countryside and a good range of cafes and restaurants along the lakeside. Also **Labro**, a classic hill-town, filled with winding alleys.

Narni

The town that gave the basis for the name Narnia used by CS Lewis.

Orvieto (70 km)

Spectacular position on the top of a volcanic tufa. The façade of the cathedral is unparalleled and contains amazing frescos by Signorelli. Endless walks around the streets overlooking the walls.

Todi

Picturesque town perched on a hill in the middle of a valley.

Reasonable distance - East

Assisi (50 km)

Renowned for the three-level basilica of St Francis. Much rebuilding since the 1997 earthquake has restored this pink-stoned hill-side town. Can be very busy especially at weekends. Also do not miss **St Marie degli Angeli** below Assisi with its church within a church..

Bevagna, Montefalco

Very attractive Umbrian towns, small, quiet.

Deruta (35.40 km depending on route)

Shop after shop of ceramics (new town better value than old town).

Nearby: **Santuario Madonna del Bagno**. Walls covered with votives, dating from the last 400 years. (9.30.12.30/3.30.7.00 (summer); 9.30.12.00/2.30.4.30 (winter); closed Monday.

Ferrentilla

The most unusual museum of mummified bodies. Words cannot describe! S. Pietro in Valle is the oldest Romanesque church in Italy.

Norcia and eastern Umbria

National park with wonderful scenery. Great for walking, cycling etc. Norcia is an attractive small town, noted for its culinary skills.

Spello

Narrow-streeted, mediaeval hill-town, made of the pink and yellow stone (as Asissi).

Spoletto

Described by Shelley as .the most romantic city I ever saw.. Classic hill-town, medieval, narrow streets on multiple levels. Outstanding cathedral. Worth a visit . the route across from Acquasparta is also worth while.

Torgiano (35.40 km depending on route)

Home of Lungarotti wines. Good Museum of Wine (although the English captions run out after a bit).

Trevi

Hill-town, perched on a pyramidal hill.

Reasonable distance - West

Siena (108 km)

Medieval red town with a beautiful central piazza (the campo) and black and white striped duomo and campanile. Palios (bare-backed horse races around the campo) on 2 July and 16 August.

Montalcino

Classic walled Tuscan hill town watched over by a perfect castle and hardly changed in 400 years. Also well worth visiting, 10 km south, **Abbazio di Sant.Antimo**, a 9th century Benedictine monastery in a perfect setting.

Monte Oliveto Maggiore

An abbey in a wonderful setting of forests of pine, oak and cypress. Outstanding frescos of the life of St Benedict by Signorella and Sodoma.

Montepulciano (50 km)

Highest of the Tuscan hill towns, characteristic of the Renaissance period. Renowned for its wines (*vino nobile*).

Pienza

Charming town with much art content. Conceived as a .utopian new town. by Pope Pious II.

Other

Florence (150 km)

Wonderful, but always busy. Consider the train from Chiusi as an alternative to car (parking is not easy). You always queue

Lake Bolsena

Rome (175 km; Ciampino 195 km, Fiumicino 201 km)

Take the train from Chiusi. An experience in itself.

Naples, Pompeii, Herculaneum (400 km, 4 hours with good driving conditions)

A journey not for the faint-hearted, but the outcome unique and well worth while.