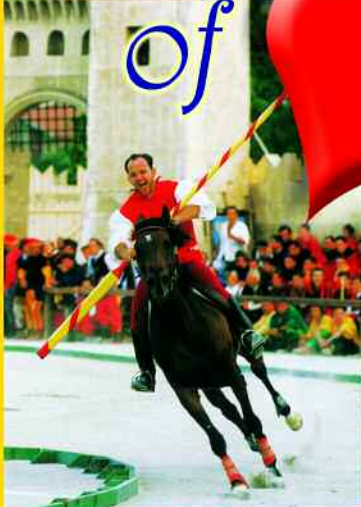




Riviera of Palms



In the heart and colours
of  the Piceno area



www.rivierapicenadellepalme.it



OFFERS FOR GROUP

**The Piceno area, in the Marche region
From the “Riviera delle Palme” to Ascoli, the capital of the ancient Picenis
and to the Sibillini Mounts National Park**

*The Riviera Picena delle Palme is a charming area all year round,
a lively strip of land adorned with palm trees and colours ranging from the blue
of the sea to the green of the mountains: Everyone is invited to discover it.
Precious fruits of the sea, fields and woods make up the essence of the typical local cuisine,
ideal for a wine and gastronomy exploration.
Strolling among age-old hamlets, villages and wine routes, with the never ending sight
of the infinite beauty of the sea, is a true delight... An adventure for the soul...
The Piceno area: always the right place for a holiday!*

Our offer

Net hotel Prices: full board in double room/person/day (no expenses for bus driver)

- 1 Night in a 4**** hotel

Season A: from 21/05 to 18/06 - € 55,00

Season B: from 18/06 to 06/08 - € 70.00

Season C: from 03/09 to 01/10 - € 55.00

Reduction for half board: € 5,00

Supplement for single room € 12.00/day

- 1 Night in a 3*** hotel

Season A: from 21/05 to 18/06 - € 42,00

Season B: from 18/06 to 06/08 - € 60.00

Season C: from 03/09 to 01/10 - € 42.00

Reduction for half board (only in Season B): € 5,00

Supplement for single room € 12.00/day

OPTIONAL FACILITIES:

- Dinner (not at the hotel) Typical regional cuisine € 35.00/person

- Sampling typical local specialities € 10.00/person

- Aperitif € 7.00/person

- Culinary lunch break € 15.00/person

- Lunch basket € 5.00/person

On the basis of our proposals, tailor-made programmes can be organised.

Possibility of tourist guide and coach hire on the spot.

Possibility of shuttle service from and to the airports of Ancona, Pescara and Rome.

PROPOSALS – ONE-DAY ITINERARIES

1st day: Loreto – Castelfidardo – Recanati

After St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, **Loreto** is the second most important place of pilgrimage in Italy and one of the most important catholic churches in the world. Thousands of pilgrims visit the basilica every year, where they admire the Black Virgin and the Holy House (house where Jesus was born), which mainly interests the faithful: according to tradition, it was taken to Loreto in 1294 by the Angels (from the surname of the Angelo or De Angelis family). The journey continues in the idyllic hillside town of **Castelfidardo**, famous for the production of accordions (over 150 are displayed at the International Accordion Museum). The area was also the stage of a famous battle for the unification of Italy: in 1860 the Piedmont army put the soldiers of the Papal army in flight. Still today a monument commemorates the event. The tour ends in Recanati, a marvellous hillside town where famous people like the unforgettable tenor Beniamino Gigli were born. His costumes, from over 30 operas, and a reproduction of his wardrobe, are exhibited at the Gigli Museum in the Town Hall. A town monument and other indications scattered in almost every corner evoke Giacomo Leopardi, the poet eternally in search of happiness. Well worth a visit are also the many churches, picturesque ducal palaces and art galleries (Lorenzo Lotto).



- Lunch box
- Dinner at the hotel

2nd day: Assisi

The birth town of St. Francis and a UNESCO world heritage site. The intense spiritual atmosphere of the place will not fail to infuse strength and inspiration for the whole day. Cultural influences and continuous changes of historical periods characterise the town. Following the footsteps of St. Francis, we cross the Town Hall Square to reach the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, famous for its cycles of Giotto frescoes, the Church of Santa Chiara and the Romanesque cathedral of San Ruffino (Episcopal Church of Assisi). Not to be missed is the suggestive walk through the oak tree wood past the hermits' caves, a place of silence and reflection.



- Lunch box
- Dinner at the hotel

3rd day: Rome, the eternal city

Discover the fascinating capital of Italy, an ancient metropolis, a multifaceted city with its host of faces. As if in a journey back through the centuries, you will be able to come across impressive monuments of the Roman Empire, like the Colosseum and the Roman Forum, you can visit St. Peter's Basilica, the spiritual centre of the Roman Catholic Church, or enjoy the Italian "Dolce vita". In Trastevere or near the Pantheon you will be able to savour a typical Roman lunch. In addition to the tourist attractions, churches and museums, it is well worth devoting some time to the little daily delights of the city, roaming around to discover charming hidden squares and romantic courtyards. The exclusive shops that surround the Spanish Steps are a veritable invitation to see the windows and do some shopping. Take a break at the Antico Caffè Greco, the oldest café in Rome, or sip a Campari in Piazza Navona. Rome offers, at the same time, a countless wealth of cultural and historical treasures and the typical charm of famous cities that make visitors want to come back. Rome is not merely for visiting, it is experienced.



- Lunch box
- Dinner at the hotel

**4th day: San Benedetto del Tronto/harbour - Old town centre of Grottammare
Old town centre of Cupra Marittima - Castello di Sant'Andrea - Ripatransone
Acquaviva (dinner, typical local cuisine)**



San Benedetto del Tronto – The most beautiful sea front in Italy – Heart of the Riviera of Palms, with over 7,000 palm trees surrounded by thick bushes of luxuriant oleanders, which give this town an exotic charm that is unique in its kind, in Europe. The old part of the town, its veritable “heart”, with its ancient architectural works, the Gualtieri Tower, the abbey of St. Benedict and the narrow alleyways, stands above this lively holiday resort, which from a tiny coastal village has become a major fishing port. The historical importance of the sea for this town can be seen from the number of fishing boats and yachts moored. Particularly recommended is a visit to the Fish Museum and to the Museum of Maritime Civilisation and Antique Roman Amphorae. You will also be able to admire the over 80 sculptures along the jetty, all made of travertine.

Absolutely not to be missed is the “Brodetto”, the town’s famous fish soup, prepared with 13 different types of fish (booking is advisable). San Benedetto del Tronto is truly a hard place to forget. After a good cocktail at the



port, the journey can continue following the coast road to **Grottammare**, the “pearl of the Adriatic”, a welcoming town in Art Deco with a wealth of history and traditions that offers tourists the possibility of regenerating from the city smog and re-discovering lost fragrances and colours. The old town centre, overlooking the sea, is a medieval hamlet that seems to cling to the hillside. It has a wealth of interests for tourists, including the historical Arancio Theatre and the Pericle Fazzini Museum. The real heart of the city is Piazza Peretti, with its impressive open gallery that offers a magnificent view over the coast and sea. In **Cupra Marittima**, a pretty little coast town, submersed in a family atmosphere, you can enjoy its peacefulness and luxuriant vegetation, but also the architectural qualities of the marvellous old town centre. The town is famous not only for its cosmetic products but also for its Museum of Shells that boasts a collection of as many as 700,000 items from all over the world, including the huge *Tridacna gigas*. Witnesses of the past are kept in the Heritage Museum of Marano. Delightful are the town walls dating back to the days of the Sforza family, adorned with the greenery of palm and pine trees; the remains of the fortress, the

solitary and steep roads and the ancient buildings. About 500 m to the south of the built-up area stands the hill with the medieval **castle of St. Andrew**, an ancient fortress that served for sighting and defence. Its ruins are silhouetted sheer above the sea. The view from this point is quite simply breathtaking. The journey then continues to **Ripatransone**, the “Highlight of Piceno”, one of the



oldest places in the province of Ascoli Piceno. The historical and cultural heritage, the medieval buildings and the narrowest street in Italy (just 43 cm) are surrounded by 15th century walls. Lastly, we travel to **Acquaviva Picena**, a fortification not far from the coast with the largest fortress of southern Marche. Already visible a long way away, this fortress, dating back to the year 1000 and maybe even earlier, is a symbol of strength and invincibility. Those who take the effort to go up the steps of the majestic “Torreone” are rewarded by a panorama that embraces the whole area pervaded by a harmonious peacefulness. The sea, the hills and the mountains: the Piceno area is at your feet.

The little town is an integral part of this idyllic and serene fortress.

- Aperitif
- Dinner in Acquaviva

5th day: Sibillini Mounts National Park – Madonna Dell’Ambro – Castelluccio Montemonaco – Sampling typical regional specialities – Civitella Fortress

Established in 1993, with an area of about 17,790 hectares, the **Sibillini Mounts National Park** lies astride the Marche and Umbria regions. It is one of the most beautiful national parks in Italy and reaches its highest peak with Mount Vettore. It is populated with a very rich variety of fauna and flora and woods that enhance its suggestive atmosphere. The next place on our itinerary is the shrine of the **Madonna Dell’Ambro**, known as the “little Lourdes of the Sibillini Mounts”, a place of pilgrimage built before the year 1000, with its idyllic location in a gorge at the foot of the Ambro. Above the fabulous “Piano Grande” plateau is the town of **Castelluccio**, famous throughout Italy for its lentils. With its extraordinary panoramic view and its fascinating naturalness,



Montemonaco is considered one of the most beautiful places of the Sibillini Mounts. At an altitude of about 1,000 m, you will discover the “Shop of feasts”, with its typical delicacies. Lastly we shall pay a visit to **Civitella del Tronto**, famous above all for its fortress with its lookouts, cisterns, squares, depots and the ancient soldiers’ living quarters. Guided tours are possible on request. Particularly interesting are the narrow alleyways overlooked by renaissance cottages and the beautiful view from the Piazzetta Belvedere, Porta Napoli as well as the churches of St. Francis (14th century) and St. Laurence (16th century).

- Sampling
- Dinner at the hotel

6th day: Ascoli Piceno – Offida – Dinner at a local wine cellar

Ascoli – the town of the hundred towers. The first fundamental step is the Cathedral of Sant’Emidio, dedicated to the local patron saint, followed by a stop at the famous Meletti café. The town of Ascoli, also known as the “town between two parks” because of its strategic location between the protected area of the Sibillini Mounts and the Gran Sasso National Park, is within the area of the Laga Mounts. After a walk through Piazza del Popolo, one of the most beautiful squares in Italy, overlooked by the magnificent facade of the Church of St. Francis and the “Palace of the People’s Captains”, we shall then stop at the Lorenz café to enjoy a cocktail with typical Ascoli olives. Lastly we shall go to the “capital” of Rosso Piceno Superiore wine, **Offida**, an eclectic and mysterious ancient hamlet, characterised by brick coloured medieval buildings, entrenched on a rocky spur of tuff. Well worth a visit is the church of St. Mary of the Fortress with its 14th century frescoes, one of the most impressive monuments of southern Marche, whose roots date back to Lombardic times. It isn’t hard to imagine how many stories this church has to tell. Offida is also the home of pillow lace.



- Culinary break for lunch
- Dinner based on regional Marche cuisine at a local wine cellar

7th day: Free day at your leisure

A whole day for yourselves. You can go for a stroll round **San Benedetto del Tronto** and see the market (which is held every Tuesday and Friday) discovering pleasures and curiosities. You will find everything: from food to drinks, from typical local specialities to clothes, shoes, bags...

In the pedestrian area of the town you will find lots of little shops to browse through and try on Italian designer items. You can sit in one of the many cafés and look around enjoying a relaxing moment, or explore the surroundings on the seat of a bicycle (usually they are obtained free of charge at the hotel) along the cycling track that leads to **Grottammare** in one direction and to Porto d’Ascoli in the other.

- Dinner at the hotel



8th day: Fermo – Sant’Elpidio a Mare – Torre di Palme

Fermo, an attractive hillside town with many architectural points of interest, like the Gothic-Romanesque cathedral, where the vestry holds the liturgical vestments of the archbishop of Canterbury, Saint Thomas Becket. Particularly fascinating are Piazza del Popolo and the Town Hall, which hosts the town art gallery, without



however forgetting the extraordinary “Roman baths”. Where once there was a fortress, now there is a park that overlooks the whole town. Fermo is also the hub of the footwear industry. The tour continues to **Sant’Elpidio a Mare**, a stupendous medieval place which, despite its name, is located on a hillside rock that looks downwards. Walking from Porta Marina we reach Piazza Matteotti with its impressive Knights of Jerusalem’s Tower. Particularly interesting are the churches and the town hall with its art gallery. The journey continues to the medieval village of **Torre di Palme** which, nestled on a veritable balcony over the sea, offers a fantastic belvedere. This village, with its marvellous time-

less atmosphere, exerts a particular charm over tourists and is a very popular destination exactly because of its artistic treasures.

- Culinary lunch break
- Dinner at the hotel

9th day: Norcia – Arquata del Tronto – Castel di Luco (dinner in a medieval setting)



Norcia, located at the foot of the Sibillini Mounts, is famous for its black truffle and precious salami and cold pork meats. The origin of the town dates back to the days of the Sabines, centuries before the foundation of Rome. Beyond the city walls (14th century), well worth a visit are the buildings around Piazza di San Benedetto, the Basilica of St. Benedict, the town hall and the stronghold called the “Castellina”. Before reaching **Arquata del Tronto**, you will be able to enjoy a panorama that is unique in its kind, the unmistakable features silhouetted against the beautiful background of Mount Vettore. And high up, above the town, the tall castle tower is “squatting” and watches, as in the past, that same via Salaria where Charlemagne passed in the year 800 on his way to Rome for his coronation. Here you will have the possibility to roam through the streets of the old town centre and visit the churches of Our Lady of the Annunciation and St. Peter. The church of St. Francis lovingly houses the “Arquata Shroud”, not a copy but an extract of the original wanted on May 1st 1655 by the bishop Giovanni Paolo Bucciarelli, therefore it contains a tiny part of the blood of Jesus and this can represent a marvellous fact. The journey continues to **Castel di Luco**: its 11th century medieval architectural structure has reached us unchanged and is enhanced by the unusual circular shape and the characteristic hamlet all the way around. At the end of the tour and after enjoying a wonderful panorama, when evening comes you will be able to sample exquisite local dishes in an atmosphere evoking bygone days.

- Culinary break for lunch

10th day: St. Pio of Pietrelcina (San Giovanni Rotondo)

A day under the hallmark of spiritual concentration and prayer. San Giovanni Rotondo, the land of St. Pio: every year more pilgrims come here than go to Lourdes, Fatima or any other European pilgrimage destination. You will be able to take part in the religious service celebrated in the crypt in the holy church of “Our Lady of Grace” which once, when angry, he called “box of matches”. St. Pio’s objective was to praise God and save mankind and he was particularly attentive to treating the poor, the sick and the suffering.

- Lunch box
- Dinner at the hotel



11th day: Itinerary in the “Middle Ages”

A route through churches, castles, ancient city walls, medieval towns, characteristic alleyways, surrounded by a singular landscape that brings back atmospheres lost long ago. A day to relive the sensations of ancient customs, art and crafts.

Campofilone – Fortress of Mount Varmine – Montalto delle Marche – Montedinove – Rotella – Castignano, with visit to a wine cellar - Offida – Spinetoli – Monteprandone.

- Sampling
- Dinner at the hotel



12th day: Frasassi caves

The Frasassi caves are one of the major and most famous karstic complexes in Italy. Up to now about 13 km of limestone caves have been explored and 1,500 m of this enchanted world of crystals are open to the public. The guided tour lasts about an hour; you are advised to wear jumpers and comfortable shoes because the temperature inside is constant at 14°C.

- Lunch box
- Dinner at the hotel.



13th day: Rosso Piceno Superiore Wine Route

Certainly the best way to get to know the wonderful stretch of Piceno land, together with its wines and excellent olive oil, is to go along the Rosso Piceno Superiore Wine Route.

All of the Piceno area can be considered an open wine cellar, with unprecedented varieties that stimulate the fantasy and creativeness of wine growers to create new blends and new cuvees.

Top quality and precious original wines are produced, certified with the IGT brand (Typical Geographical Indication); with regard to DOC wines (Controlled Denomination of Origin), we are only giving a brief list of classical wines and native varieties of the Piceno area: the red wines include Rosso Piceno and Rosso Piceno Superiore; the white wines include Falerio dei Colli Ascolani, Passerina and Pecorino.

*A tour is planned of four wine cellars, where it will be possible to sample typical local specialities, in addition to tasting 16 different types of top quality wines.

- Price per person: € 40.00
- Dinner at the hotel



CYCLING TOURISM

PICENO AREA BY BIKE – Places and legends.

30 ITINERARIES for training, riding, discovering...

Mountains and the seaside, uphill and down, hairpin bends and long straight stretches, woods and single trails, velvet roads and the Sibillini Mounts stone pits; Technical sheets, bike hotels and service points along the routes.



TREKKING AND MOUNTAIN SPORTS

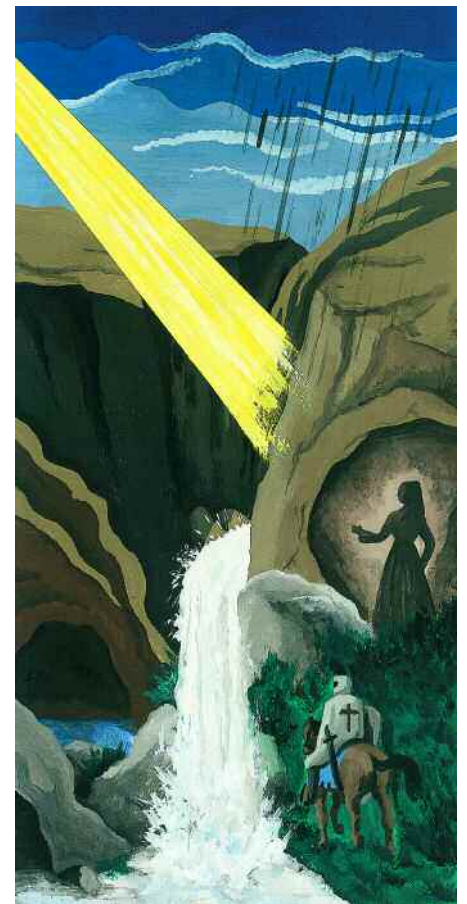
SIBILLINI MOUNTS – Laga Mounts – the Mountain of the Flowers - Colle San Marco

Trekking – Hiking – Mountaineering and free climbing – Slow Bike – Potholing – Canyoning – Hang gliding – Summer and winter training school – Downhill skiing.



In medieval times, the Sibillini Mounts were known throughout Europe as the reign of demons, sorcerers and fairies. A legend of a mysterious Goddess of Profane Love and Prophetess takes place in a cave of the Sybil Mount. The literary witnesses about the Sibyl's Cave date back to the Latin historian Suetonius, who lived at the time of the Flavian emperors. Throughout the renaissance this mountain was at the centre of an important communication route to Rome and it was the continuous destination of visitors who hoped to catch sight of an oracle from the Sibyl. French, Swiss, German and Italian knights errant told of their "encounters" with the sorceress in the mountain caves, sometimes followed by repentance. This resulted in "The Wretched Warrior" by Andrea da Barberino; the French "Sibyl Paradise" by Antoine de la Salle; the lustful story about the adventure of the knight "Simplicianus", by Felix Hemmerlin. Those legendary times have handed down place-names that are still used today: Grotta del diavolo (Devil's Cave) – Passo del diavolo (Devil's Pass) – Fossa dell'inferno (Hell's Pit) – Gola dell'infernaccio (Infernal Gorge) – Lago di Pilato (Pilate's Lake) – Grotta della Sibilla (Sibyl's cave).

Today the Sibillini Mounts National Park is characterised by villages and hamlets of medieval origin found in strategic locations, naturalistic beauties, history, traditions and an unfailing aura of magic.





PalaRiviera San Benedetto del Tronto **Congresses - Theatre - Multiplex**

From the architectural point of view, the **PalaRiviera Congress Centre**, Theatre, Multiplex of San Benedetto del Tronto is one of the most modern and advanced facilities in central Italy, capable of simultaneously organising congresses, concerts and cinema shows. Due to its technical equipment, many versatile halls, catering activities annexed to the programme of events and the top level always up-to-the-minute screenings, it can offer its customers – users complete service, capable of meeting even the most demanding expectations. Inside the



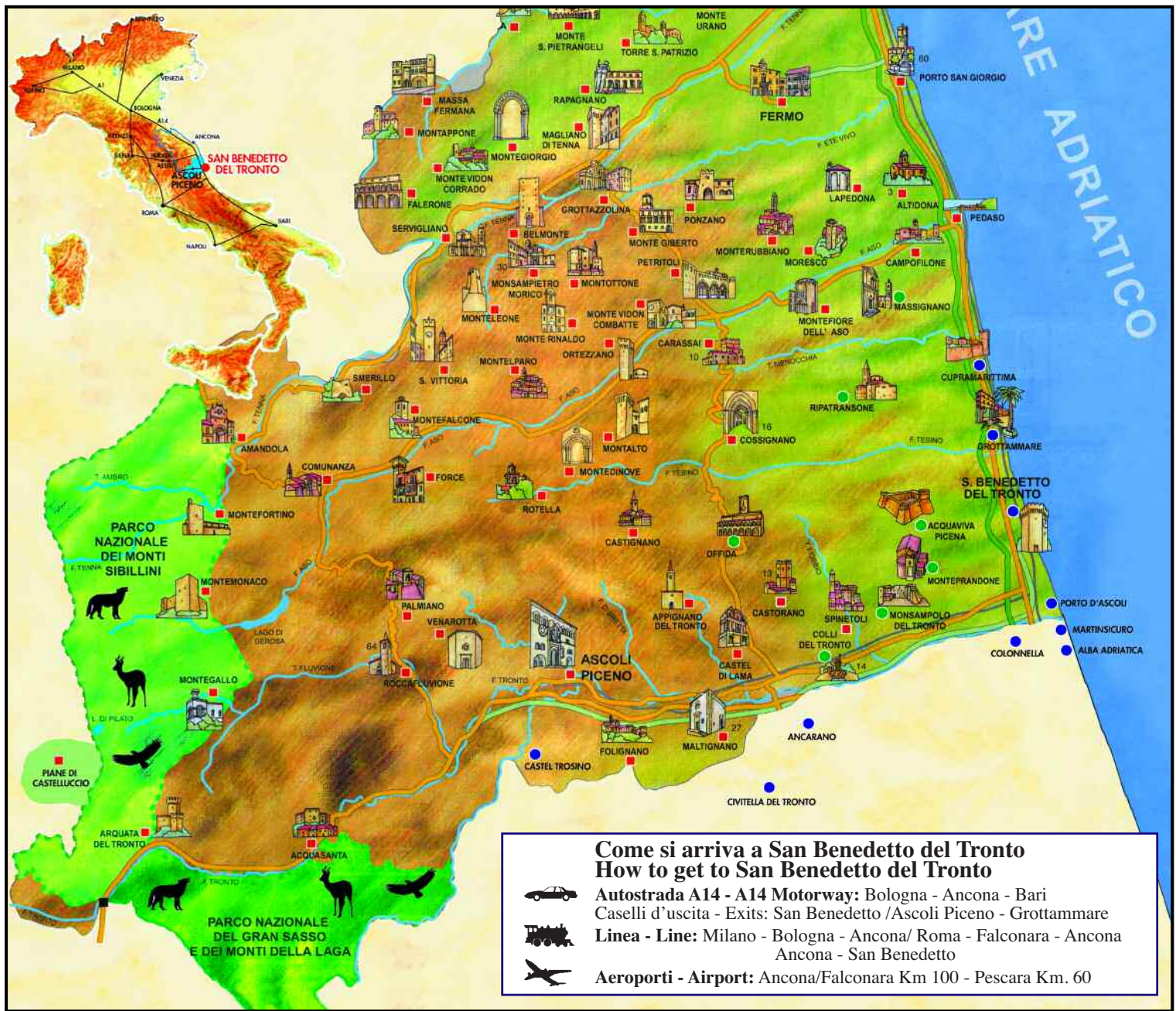
PalaRiviera various kinds of services are concentrated, intended to make the whole structure a pole of reference in the sectors of art, cinema, entertainment and the organisation of events, owing to the presence of as many as 1 hall with 1,000 seats, 1 hall with 386 seats, 4 halls with 150 seats, 2 halls with approx. 100 seats, 2 exclusive halls for congresses, reception halls, playroom, bar room, amusement hall, Hollywood style pizzeria area, gourmet area, Bollywood style restaurant area, self service area, ice-cream parlour, dance hall, private offices and exhibition spaces.



PalaRiviera San Benedetto del Tronto

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