



Discovering Craftsmanship in Romagna



English

How to get there



by car

A14 Bologna – Bari Motorway
E 45 Rome – Ravenna Highway
A1 Milan – Naples Motorway
A13 Bologna – Padova Motorway
State Highway SS16 Adriatic Coastal Road



by bus

shuttleitalyairport.it
flixbus.it
ferrabusandfly.it



by train

Trenitalia
www.trenitalia.com
Italo
www.italotreno.it
From Germany – via Brenner Pass
Deutsche Bahn bahn.com



by plane

Rimini and San Marino International Airport
www.riminiairport.com
G. Marconi Bologna BLQ Airport
www.bologna-airport.it
Forli Airport Italy
www.forli-airport.com



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www.visitromagna.it/en

Tourist information

FERRARA (IAT-R) (Tourist Information and Welcoming Office - R) ESTENSE CASTLE
Largo Castello, Ferrara
+39 0532 419190
infotur@comune.fe.it

FORLÌ (IAT) (Tourist Information and Welcoming Office)
Piazza Saffi 8, Forlì
+39 0543 712362
iat@comune.forli.fc.it

RAVENNA HISTORIC TOWN CENTRE (IAT-R)
Piazza San Francesco 7, Ravenna
+39 0544 35404
turismo@comune.ra.it

RIMINI TRAIN STATION (IAT-R)
Piazzale Cesare Battisti 1, Rimini
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Photos:
Association of Romagna Printers
Marche Artisan Printing House
Ecomuseum of Marsh Herbs
Faenza Ceramics Authority
Ravenna City of Mosaics
MAR - Art Museum of the City of Ravenna
Ferrara Terra e Acqua (Ferrara Earth and Water)

Sagramoro Leather Workshop
Artistic Sgraffito Ceramics by Franco Mazzia
Travel Emilia-Romagna
Marinati Manufacturing
Casa Artusi (Artusi Home)

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For more information, go to
www.visitromagna.it/en/
romagna-craft



RUST PRINTS OF ROMAGNA

A country tradition from rural Romagna that still lives on today.

Nature still abides here in the numerous farmhouses and many PDO and PGI products, but also in the tradition of rust printing: a technique dating back to the 17th century, maintained and safeguarded by a dozen artisans in their printing shops scattered throughout the provinces of Forlì-Cesena, Ravenna and Rimini.

Exclusively hand-beaten by those who have chosen not to abandon traditional methods, tablecloths, napkins, aprons, bedspreads and many other household fabrics are made by combining hemp, linen or cotton fabrics, pear-wood moulds, colours obtained from rust or other "poor" minerals, and traditional designs such as ivy leaves, ears of corn,

cockerels, vine shoots, bunches of grapes, rustic jugs and caveje, the pins connecting the oxen's yoke to the cart.

This is a journey through workshops, which starts in the hills and inland, and comes to an end at the seaside: an itinerary beginning in Santarcangelo di Romagna, with a detour to Carpegna, continuing on to Gambettola, going as far as Meldola and Santa Sofia, in the heart of the Casentino Forests, and then passing through Forlì and Ravenna to arrive at the beach, with the last stops in Cervia, Cesenatico, Bellaria-Igea Marina and Rimini.

Get ready for a journey to the tune of the 3- or 4-kilo mallet beating on the wooden mould resting

on the canvas and the unmistakable scent of wine vinegar mixed with soft iron and flour to create the typical rust colour – but don't even think of asking for the proportions of this mixture, every craftsman has his own secret formula.

And wherever there is tradition, you can be sure to find authenticity: the villages, towns and neighbourhoods that are home to a print shop are undoubtedly also the ideal place to seek out and discover the other great traditions of Romagna, starting with those linked to food.



FAENZA, CITY OF CERAMICS

Among studios and museums, a story written in clay.

Faenza is ceramics, and ceramics is Faenza. What's more, even today in France, the term *faïence* is used to refer to majolica.

This is thanks to a thousand-year-old tradition, which began in the Middle Ages as there was an abundance of clay soil in the surrounding area, and grew due to the strategic location of the town, situated halfway between the sea and Bologna along the Via Emilia and the gateway to Tuscany.

A characteristically Romagna story: necessity becomes a virtue, and in just a few centuries, the first ceramics with simple shapes and practical uses, which we now call archaic, became more refined, incorporating Byzantine, Arab and Oriental

influences, and were coloured and decorated with the typical peacock eye pattern.

In the second half of the 16th century, the technical mastery of Faenza's artisans reached its peak, and the city gained the undisputed title of capital of ceramics: this was the era of Bianchi di Faenza, elegant milk-white artefacts characterised by minimal decorations and a variety of shapes, some of which were quite extravagant.

Five hundred years later, in the city of the Manfredi, the art of ceramics is still handed down by dozens of artisans and artists in their workshops, and there are plenty of places where you can admire plates, jugs and vases which, from mere objects, have

become works of art. The first must-see attraction is the MIC, the International Museum of Ceramics in Faenza, one of the richest and most important museums in the world in this field and a UNESCO 'Monument testifying to a culture of peace'. However, there are several private collections and museums in the city, not least of all the one devoted to the famous sculptor Carlo Zauli.

However, it must be clearly understood that ceramics in Faenza is not just about works to admire: there are more than 60 craftsmen's workshops and numerous artistic studios scattered throughout the city that keep the passion alive, where it is possible to purchase unique souvenirs and, in many cases, they also organise courses and workshops.



THE ESTENSI WORKSHOPS IN FERRARA

Amidst ceramists and luthiers in the ideal Renaissance town.

This internationally renowned town reached the heights of Renaissance architecture and prestige under the rule of the d'Este family and for two centuries enjoyed a status equal to that of cities like Florence and Venice and the great courts of France and Spain.

Ferrara is literally the City of the Renaissance: a recognition bestowed on it by UNESCO, together with the title of World Heritage Site, because it was the first city to develop according to an urban plan that focused on the harmonious layout of the cityscape rather than the beauty of individual buildings.

And thus, for more than five hundred years, Ferrara's historic town centre has balanced humanistic

principles related to form and volume in architecture with open spaces, the needs of the city and local traditions.

This harmony still prevails today and can be experienced by taking a stroll through Ferrara following the traces of the *Addizione Ercolea*, the urban development project that extended the city northwards according to a rational plan, with straight, wide streets and intersections designed to be visually appealing, new squares such as Piazza Ariostea, and large Renaissance palaces. One can begin with the Palazzo dei Diamanti (Palace of Diamonds), whose art gallery now holds masterpieces by artists from the Ferrara School.

A plunge into the past made even more authentic by the dozens of historic craftsmen's workshops that still allow you to shop almost as if you were in the company of Isabella d'Este.

Among the numerous traditions to find out about while wandering through the streets of the town centre, with its leather workshops and luthiers' studios, there is certainly sgraffito ceramics, a Renaissance art brought back to life using the same techniques as those that the d'Este court used in the 15th century. This technique is characterised by the practice of engraving, the use of a few primitive colours that are melted and toned down by fire, and by decorations representing symbols, characters and court scenes.



THE WEAVING OF MARSH GRASSES

From the Po River Delta, the history and tradition of an ancient technique.

A unique handicraft tradition was born in Romagna between land and water, right where the Po River flows into the Adriatic Sea, a tradition capable of transforming a local product at no cost, the reeds that grow wild in the Delta area, into numerous everyday objects and then into artistic handicraft products.

It all began in Villanova di Bagnacavallo, a few kilometres from Ravenna, where, over the centuries, the *genius loci* (the spirit of the place) has developed a great skill in weaving marsh grasses among the inhabitants: here, people lived, worked, and even played with reeds and rushes because the use of grasses and seasonal cutting ensured the continuous renewal of the ecosystem of a valley unique in terms of biodiversity.

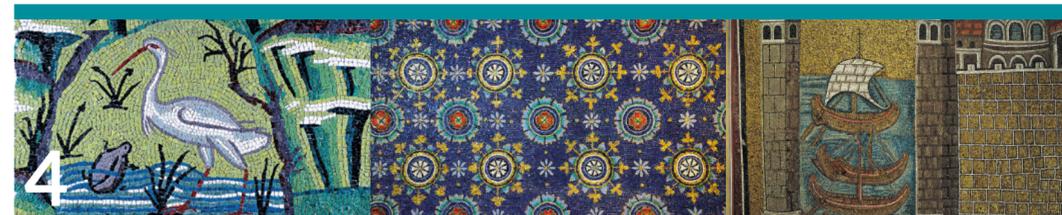
The skilled hands of the Romagna people produced mats of various sizes and qualities, trellises, ties and drawstrings, brooms of various types, bags, baskets, hats, footwear, waistcoats, straw covers for flasks, even entire huts.

At the end of the 19th century, the fame of the basket weavers was such that they were invited from Romagna to the International Exhibition in Paris in 1900. Even in the 1970s, tens of thousands of items were still being produced in Bagnacavallo, Argenta, Comacchio and Ostellato, always more and more in line with the tastes and fashions of the time.

To (re)discover this entirely local heritage, we start in Bagnacavallo; here, the Ecomuseum of Marsh

Grasses and the traditional Marsh Grass Festival are held every year in September, and they perfectly illustrate the golden age of Romagna's weaving industry.

From here, we then go on to an exploration of the main protagonist of this story, the Po Delta: A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve for 10 years. Its 54,000 hectares of protected reserve are home to natural areas such as the Ortazzo and Ortazzino pine forests, the Punta Alberete oasis, the Valle delle Canne (Valley of Reeds), the Foce del Bevano (Mouth of the Bevano River) with its coastal dunes, the Bosco della Mesola (the Mesola Woods) and the saltwater lagoons of Goro and Comacchio.



MOSAICS YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

Ravenna, capital of the art of mosaics, combines art and craftsmanship.

Ravenna is known worldwide as the city of Mosaics.

First and foremost, for its eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites, created between the 5th and 6th centuries AD by unrivalled artists and daring master builders: the golden tiles of the dome of the Basilica of San Vitale still shine even after almost 1,500 years of wonder in the eyes of every traveller, from Lord Byron to Gustav Klimt to those of the present day.

Ravenna is the city of mosaics thanks to the MAR Museum (the Museum of Art of the City of Ravenna), with its ongoing collection of modern mosaics that go beyond traditional techniques, and the Biennale del Mosaico Contemporaneo (Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary Mosaics), an

international exhibition that brings together artists and mosaic art schools from all over the world.

As a matter of fact, mosaics are everywhere in Ravenna, not just in monuments and museums. They can be found on street signs, in parks, on flower boxes, in shop windows and on walls, thanks to the incursions of the international street artist, Invader.

Ravenna is also known as the city of mosaics because it is home to dozens and dozens of workshops and shops where tourists can admire the craftsmen at work, purchase their creations and perhaps even try their hand at mosaic art for themselves by taking a course that will make it

possible for them to create their own personal work of art: the best souvenir possible.

And once the Byzantine city has awakened your love for mosaic art, why not explore Romagna tile by tile?

Just follow the traces of ancient Rome, amidst museums and domuses, to visit Comacchio and the remains of ancient Spina, Russi with its Villa and 8,000 square metres of its archaeological site, Sarsina and the Triumph of Dionysus, Savignano sul Rubicone and the archaeological area of Comito, the centre of Rimini for the Surgeon's House and finally Bellaria Igea-Marina, where the Noi Museum is home to an important mosaic devoted to Bacchus.



CRAFTSMANSHIP AT THE TABLE

When food is truly handcrafted.

A single huge kitchen extending from Comacchio to Cattolica and reaching as far as the Apennines: the entire region of Romagna is a restaurant capable of satisfying all palates and turning food into an event with lunches and dinners in places steeped in history and culture.

The best and tastiest products of the land and sea in Romagna are delicacies to be enjoyed at the table, prepared according to tradition or revisited by talented chefs, but also experiences to be enjoyed in order to find out about the roots and traditions of the territories: from fossa cheese, with the opening of the cave for ageing, to blue fish and re-enactments of pesca alla tratta (a kind of trawling), from tours of the cellars to piada courses with the azdore.

Italian cuisine was invented by Pellegrino Artusi from Forlimpopoli in Romagna, and today, in his hometown, on the premises of a former convent, is Casa Artusi, the museum-restaurant of home cooking. For those who want to explore the ancient techniques used to catch and process fish, there is the Maritime Museum in Cesenatico and the Manifattura dei Marinati (Marinati Manufacturing) in Comacchio.

And when we mention handmade, we don't just mean tagliatelle rolled out with a rolling pin: on a genuine Romagna table, alongside Sangiovese wine, there are always handmade creations that have always made it more enjoyable to add an extra place for a guest.

Wine, perhaps a Rebola, tastes better when poured from a jug made using the techniques and styles of Rimini ceramics, and the padina is first cooked strictly on a Montetiffi terracotta baking tray and then kept warm by covering it with a rust-printed napkin pressed with a mangle.

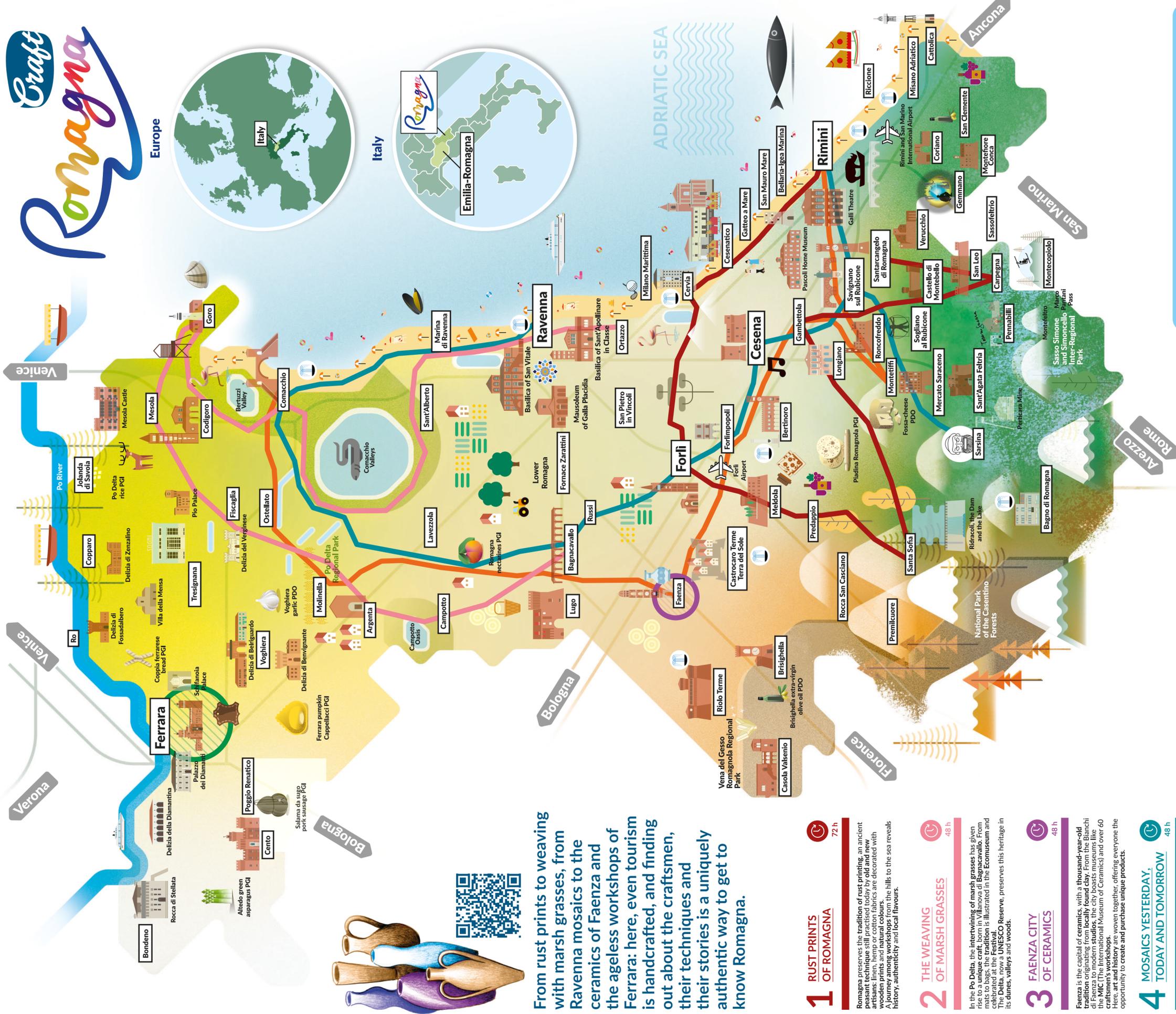
In Romagna, we pay attention not only to what we eat and drink, but also to how we make it: in Faenza, the stars of the Nott de Bisò, the most important local festival, are the Gotti, ceramic mugs for mulled wine that each of the five districts in the town decorates in its own style every year.

Craft Romagna

Europe



Italy



From rust prints to weaving with marsh grasses, from Ravenna mosaics to the ceramics of Faenza and the ageless workshops of Ferrara: here, even tourism is handcrafted, and finding out about the craftsmen, their techniques and their stories is a uniquely authentic way to get to know Romagna.

1 RUST PRINTS OF ROMAGNA

Romagna preserves the tradition of rust printing, an ancient craft that dates back to the 16th century. Here, artisans: linen, hemp or cotton fabrics are decorated with wooden prints and natural colours. A journey among workshops from the hills to the sea reveals history, authenticity and local flavours.

2 THE WEAVING OF MARSH GRASSES

In the Po Delta, the intertwining of marsh grasses has given rise to a unique craft, born in Villanova di Bagnacavallo. From mats to bags, the tradition is illustrated in the Ecomuseum and celebrated at the festival. The UNESCO Reserve, preserves this heritage in its dunes, valleys and woods.

3 FAENZA CITY OF CERAMICS

Faenza is the capital of ceramics, with a thousand-year-old tradition originating from locally found clay. From the Bianchi family to modern studios, the city boasts museums like the MUSEUM OF CERAMICS and over 60 craftsmen's workshops. Here, art and history are woven together, offering everyone the opportunity to create and purchase unique products.

4 MOSAICS YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

Ravenna is the city of Mosaics, from UNESCO monuments to craftsmen's workshops. The MAR Museum (The Art Museum of the City of Ravenna) and the Biennale celebrate mosaic art, while mosaics decorate streets and parks. Every visitor can create their own masterpiece before going on to follow the traces of ancient Rome and explore the entire Romagna.

5 THE ESTENSI WORKSHOPS IN FERRARA

Ferrara is a Renaissance masterpiece. The d'Este family's dream of creating an ideal city resulted in its harmonious urban layout, with wide streets and awe-inspiring buildings like Palazzo del Diamant (The Palace of Diamonds). Here, historic shops preserve traditional crafts such as the sophisticated sgraffito ceramics.

6 CRAFTSMANSHIP AT THE TABLE

In Romagna, culinary traditions are intertwined with local crafts: wine is served in ceramic jugs typical of the Rimini area, and piadina flatbread is prepared exclusively on terracotta cooking stoves. Here, every dish tells a story and reflects the traditions of the region, encompassing food, art, and history.

Museums and Collections

Ecomuseum of Marsh Grasses Bagnacavallo (RA)	Maritime Museum Cesenatico (FC)
MAR - The Art Museum of the City of Ravenna Ravenna (RA)	International Museum of Ceramics Faenza (RA)
Marinati Manufacturing Comacchio (FE)	MUSA Salt Museum of Cervia Cervia (FC)
A Mangle from 1633 Santarcangelo di Romagna (RN)	"The House of the Marionettes" Ravenna (RA)
MET - Museum of Customs and Traditions of the People of Romagna Santarcangelo di Romagna (RN)	The House of the Surgeon Rimini (RN)

Major Events

Mostrascambio (Exhibition-Exchange) May - Cattolica
Festival of Romagna June - Cervia
Argilla August - Faenza
The Marsh Grass Festival September - Bagnacavallo
Made in Italy September - Faenza
Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary Mosaics October - Ravenna