

EMILIA ROMAGNA: LAND WITH A SOUL

Italy is one of Europe's most popular destinations and is home to a rich history that includes both the Roman Empire and the Renaissance. It has a vibrant culture, beautiful countryside, delicious food and world-famous sights. To really see Italy, you must visit several different cities, since the famous sights and monuments are spread around the country, and the different regions each have their own unique attractions.

Among these regions, you can go to **Emilia Romagna**. Well informed travellers will suggest you not just a stop on your way but a fully longer stay to enjoy the Emilia Romagna various attractions: from the sea to the mountains, from the big cities with artistic heritage to the other minor centres, from the forests to the Po Delta with its natural park.

Emilia Romagna was not only an **important geographic crossroads**, but also an **historic meeting point** where Etruscan, Romans, Barbarians, Byzantines fought cruel battles but leaving behind them remarkable works of art. All artistic expression and styles are represented in Emilia Romagna urban architectural structures to such an extent that Emilia Romagna cities are considered as **open-air museum**.

Young people who wish to live a self-made holiday can enjoy the 130 km. long sandy coast along which cities, pinery-woods, fishermen' villages and very elegant centres come one another. If you like resting or dancing, visiting museum or enjoying folklorical events, playing sports or making excursions together with good foods and wines come to one of the Emilia Romagna seaside resorts.

Choose your holidays in our youth hostels!

BOLOGNA: A CITY FULL OF CULTURE

Bologna is a city definitely not to be missed by any account. It is sure that the beauty of this town is in its urban complex: its homogeneous unit consists in one single monument. Streets, towers, palaces and churches, all linked by the "portico", a **36 km long binding ribbon**. The **University** of Bologna is the **oldest University in Europe**: the town and its University have been considered only one thing for over 900 years. The presence of so many students, with their freedom, their will of knowing, defined the two different souls of this town: one cultured and the other sensible to the pleasures of life. The disciplines which generated the occidental culture originated exactly from Bologna. Because of this extraordinary characteristic, the visit of the town begins from Archiginnasio, first prestigious seat of the University and ends at Palazzo Poggi which Napoleon chose as new seat.

Where to sleep: "Due Torri San Sisto" Youth Hostel

Price per person (for 1 night): € 16 in dormitory - € 17,50 in Family room - € 19 in double room

The price includes: bed and breakfast, sheets

By request (only for groups): meal (€ 11, 50)

The price does not include: membership Youth Hostels card, meals, entrance tickets to museums, transports.

***You can book this youth hostel with the International Booking Network System (IBN)
on www.hihostels.com***

RAVENNA: A UNIQUE CITY, A WORLD HERITAGE

This city of mosaics has been capital of the Western Roman Empire, of the Kingdom of Theodoric and of the Byzantine Empire. Thousand-year-old mosaics can be seen in its most important buildings, all **UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1996**, including the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia and the churches of San Vitale, Sant'Apollinare Nuovo and Sant'Apollinare in Classe. Ravenna is Roman, Gothic, Byzantine, but also mediaeval, Venetian and, finally, contemporary, civilised and welcoming, rich in cultural and internationally prestigious events such as the **Ravenna Festival** (from 13/06 to 18/07/2008), and "**Settembre Dantesco**" (at September).

Where to sleep: "Dante" Youth Hostel

Price per person (for 1 night): € 14 in dormitory - € 17 in Family room - € 20 in double room

The price includes: bed and breakfast, sheets

By request (only for groups): meal (€ 9, 50)

The price does not include: membership Youth Hostels card, meals, entrance tickets to museums, transports.

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MODENA: THE ELEGANCE AND POWER OF THE D'ESTE'S RULE

Piazza Grande is the heart of Modena: you can there admire the **medieval cathedral and the Ghirlandina tower** - both have been recognised by **Unesco as heritage of mankind in 1997** - and the Town Hall, a structure composed of various buildings that sprang up over the centuries starting in the Middle Ages and that is still today seat of the Municipality.

In the nearest Piazza Roma you will find the 17th century Ducal Palace, headquarters of the Military Academy. Coming back to via Emilia you can continue towards Piazza S. Agostino where you can visit the church of the same name and admire the splendid "Mourning the body of Christ" by Begarelli. Still on the same side where the church rises, is the Palazzo dei Musei, the seat of many prestigious cultural institutes, such as the Municipal Museums, the Estense Gallery housing one of the most important Italian collections which reflects the interest the Estenses had in painting and sculpture, but also in archaeology and other minor arts, the Estense Epigraphic Museum with many exhibits of high artistic value and the Estense Library which preserves precious illuminated codes from the 14th to the 16th century.

Some important events are not to be missed such as **Serate Estensi** (historic echoes of the Estensi Dukes of Modena - from 12 to 22/06/2008) which is a historic manifestation, reminiscent of Modena's historic period under the Estensi lords, with festivals, tournaments, performances in the piazza, exhibitions, dances and parades; the **International Festival of Military Bands** (from 07/07 to 12/07/2008), **Philosophy Festival** in september (for 3 days Modena, Carpi and Sassuolo offer meetings with the greats of contemporary thought with philosophic dinners, films, shows and exhibitions).

Where to sleep: "San Filippo Neri" Youth Hostel

Price per person (for 1 night): € 15, 50 in dormitory - € 17 in Family room

The price includes: overnight, sheets

The price does not include: breakfast, membership Youth Hostels card, meals, entrance tickets to museums, transports.

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THE PO DELTA PARK

The territory of the Park of the Po Delta is large (60, 000 hectares) and there are several places of naturalistic and cultural interest. For simplicity, we can distinguish three main zones: **in the North**, the real Delta of Po (with canals, bends, great embankments and dunes protecting the vast territories under sea-level), the wood of Mesola (an oasis with almost virgin fauna and flora of unusual beauty, where the deer is king) and the XI century **Abbey of Pomposa**, one of the most significant testimonies of the Romanesque art; **in the centre**, the Valleys of **Comacchio**, the famous pine-wood of St. Vitale; **in the South**, the pine-wood of Classe, the **Basilica of St. Apollinare in Classe** of the VI century and the Cervia salt-works which developed in Roman age and were constantly contended by sovereigns in the following centuries (Venice, the Emperors, the Pope, the Signorie, etc.). The Park has unique morphologic and geographic features in Italy. Thanks to the extensive damp ambience, it is of European importance because migratory and permanent avifauna finds shelter here.

"Musica Pomposa": Music can be said to be an innate vocation at the Abbey of Pomposa, a vocation stretching back to around the year 1000 when the musical notes as we know them today were invented. That's why the summer music festival (June, July, and August) that's been celebrated here for over the last forty years has a special significance, with a repertoire and performers of unfailing high quality and intense emotional impact. "Musica Pomposa" is great music reaching back to whence it sprang. It affords performers, critics, and music lovers a unique opportunity of enjoying a unique experience in a unique setting, the Abbey, to which the magic of summer nights adds a truly spell-binding touch without compare. The presence of performers from all over the world have turned this concert review into an event of international renown.

Where to sleep: "Pomposa Hostel" Youth Hostel

Price per person (for 1 night): € 15 in dormitory - € 16 in Family room - € 17 in double room

The price includes: bed and breakfast, sheets

The price does not include: membership Youth Hostels card, meals, entrance tickets to museums, transports.



REGGIO EMILIA: HOME TO THE ITALIAN FLAG

Reggio Emilia is also known as “ the home of the Italian flag”. On the **7th of January, 1797**, the delegates of the Cispadane Republic decreed the green, white and red Cispadane Standard or Flag to become universal. The Cispadane flag became the symbol of Italy as a whole after 1848. Today the Museo del Tricolore (Tricolour Museum) housed in the Town Hall, in Piazza Prampolini, contains several objects and documents dating back to the Risorgimento (the 19th-century movement promoting the independence and unification of Italy) and a wooden scale reproduction of the Sala del Tricolore (Italian tricolour room).

Where to sleep: “Basilica della Ghiara” Youth Hostel

Price per person (for 1 night): from € 15 in dormitory – € 18 in double room – € 16 in Family room - € 20 in single room

The price includes: bed and breakfast, sheets

By request (only for groups): meal (€9, 50)

The price does not include: membership Youth Hostels card, meals, entrance tickets to museums, transports.

PARMA: A TOWN OF ART, MUSIC, FOOD AND WINE

Parma is one of the most beautiful Italian towns, and proud of its beauty for that matter. It seems to wear its elegant, well-kept streets and buildings as a well-off, self-conscious woman would wear her jewels.

The first visit to Parma is out of curiosity. The following are out of sheer love. It is impossible to resist the pervasive joie de vivre and sensuality – which satisfies all the senses – emanating from this town.

It is no coincidence that Parma is the capital of great music (the world’s greatest composer, Giuseppe Verdi, was born here) and gourmet food and wine (just two names: DOP Parmigiano Reggiano and DOP Prosciutto di Parma, the local star specialities). Do not miss important events such as **Parma Poesia Festival** (from 18/06 to 24/06/2008); **Exhibition “Correggio”** (from 20/09/08 to 25/01/2009); **Verdi Festival** (from 01/10 to 28/10/2008).

Where to sleep: Parma Youth Hostel

Price per person (for 1 night): from € 18 in dormitory – € 20 in double room – € 19 in Family room - € 19,50 in a three-beds room

The price includes: overnight, sheets

The price does not include: breakfast, membership Youth Hostels card, meals, entrance tickets to museums, transports.

For further information or booking:
aig.emiliaromagna@ostellionline.org
www.hostels-emiliaromagna.it

How to get to Emilia Romagna from Austria:

- From Vienna to Bologna with Austrian Airlines;
- From Vienna to Rimini (112 km from Bologna from 12/06/2008) with SkyEurope.