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# UMBRIA

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# ASSISI AND GUBBIO

Enchanting, strikingly beautiful and endowed with an incredibly rich artistic and cultural heritage Assisi boasts an unrivalled spiritual legacy. Meet your charismatic private guide and set off to discover the town, global symbol of peace.

Framed by Umbria's gently rolling hills and crowned by Monte Subasio's thick forests, birthplace of St. Francis, Assisi is one of most spiritually important and one of the best-preserved medieval towns in the whole world: this is why the whole town, not just parts of it, is listed as UNESCO world heritage site! Follow your guide through evocative streets trod on yesterday and today by many a pilgrim, monks and nuns. Learn about the history, discover gorgeous churches and palaces, peek into the quaint local shops. Admire the town's sights and major landmarks, marvel at the Duomo's stunning Romanesque façade and experience true wonder visiting the awe-inspiring Basilica of St. Francis, crowning glory of Assisi. Divided in Basilica Superiore and Basilica Inferiore the church houses an impressive collection of artistic masterpieces. The Basilica Superiore houses one of Italy's most famous works of art: Giotto's cycle of vibrant richly colored frescoes portraying St Francis' life. Fascinating and dimly lit the Romanesque Basilica Inferiore wonderfully embodies the ascetic spirit and subdued appearance of the Franciscan lifestyle. Explore the Church, view spectacular works of art by some of the greatest artists of all times, among which Giotto, Cimabue, Lorenzetti and Martini. For an uplifting and moving end to your visit descend into the Crypt to admire St Francis' monumental tomb.

Time passes by and seems to have forgotten Gubbio, leaving this charming town possessed of an exceptionally evocative medieval atmosphere. Gattapone, a native son of Gubbio, designed the beautiful Piazza Grande and the 14th century palaces which stand around it - one of the greatest projects of the Middle Ages. The square is also the starting point for an incredible race called the Corsa dei Ceri, which has been run almost every year since medieval times. Every May, teams from different neighborhoods (contrada) in the city race to carry a huge, one tonne "candle" topped with the replica of a local saint to the cathedral high above the town to the wild and enthusiastic shouting of townspeople and visitors alike.

## INCLUSIONS:

- Mercedes vehicle and English speaking driver for the day (8 hrs)
- Private guide in Assisi
- Visit at leisure in Gubbio





# HALF DAY TOUR OF ASSISI

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## **INCLUSIONS:**

- Private professional licensed English-speaking guide (2.5 hrs)





# HALF DAY TOUR OF ORVIETO

A glistening crown perched high atop a stony cliff-like peak... the first glimpse one catches of Orvieto is simply dazzling! Founded by the Etruscans, as one can see by the necropoli's vestiges and the objects displayed in the Archeological Museum, and then ruled by the Romans, Orvieto was always very important because of its outstanding and safe position, high on the hilltop. Meet your private guide and explore the town's exquisite center, a maze of cobblestone-paved alleys leading to exquisite medieval squares enhanced by postcard-perfect churches and picturesque ancient buildings. Enjoy hearing all about the town's rich heritage and eventful history as you stroll to the spectacular Duomo, one of Europe's most inspiring Gothic cathedrals. It's an astonishing sight: a hypnotizing display of multi-colored frescoes, gleaming mosaics, and fine-grained braided carvings of flowers and vines. Learn how this amazing building was planned and built (in over 30 years!) thanks to the genius and talent of architects and artists; follow your guide inside and gape at Luca Signorelli's grandiose fresco, which is said to have inspired Michelangelo. And don't forget to take the time to saunter leisurely along the town's perimeter, to catch mystical breezes and views of eternity!

## **INCLUSIONS:**

- Private professional licensed English-speaking guide (2.5 hrs)
- Entrance fees to the Cathedral