



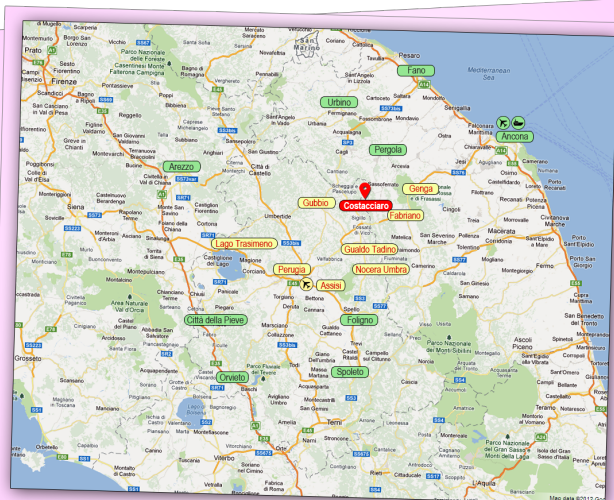
*Receive a guest means be responsible  
for the serenity of this person during  
the hours that he passed under our roof*



*Tips for  
your Trip*

Località Pascolo, 2  
06021 Costacciaro (PG)  
Umbria - Italia

Tel./Fax + 39 075.9170770  
[www.villapascolo.com](http://www.villapascolo.com)  
[info@villapascolo.com](mailto:info@villapascolo.com)



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Parco  
del  
monte  
cucco

> Monte Cucco

## Monte Cucco Regional Park [www.discovermontecucco.it](http://www.discovermontecucco.it)

The Monte Cucco regional park is situated on the north-eastern border of Umbria surrounded by the **Apennine** ridge, it represents an area with a remarkable cultural and natural heritage. The protected area includes the following towns; **Costacciaro, Fossato di Vico, Sigillo, Scheggia and Pascelupo**. It has a total surface area of 10.480 hectares and at 1.566m above sea level, stands as the areas highest peak.

The western side of the park is characterized by spectacular rocky and wooded valleys, such as **Prison Valley** (Valle delle prigioni) and **Rio Freddo gorge** (Gola del Rio Freddo).

Within Monte Cucco, massive hypogean caves unwind; kilometres of uncontaminated and wild beauty, a well known spot for keen spelaelogists. All this is surrounded by small town with valuable historic and artistic heritage which still preserve all their medieval charm.

## NATURE WALKS

Throughout the Park of Monte Cucco there is a network of walks making it a **paradise for hikers**. These walks range from easy and enjoyable walks as “**Val di Ranco**” which wind through the magnificent beech-woods, and the beautiful “**Valle di San Pietro**” to the more demanding and enchanting walk which winds along the “**Valle delle Prigioni**”.

## TOURING THE PARK

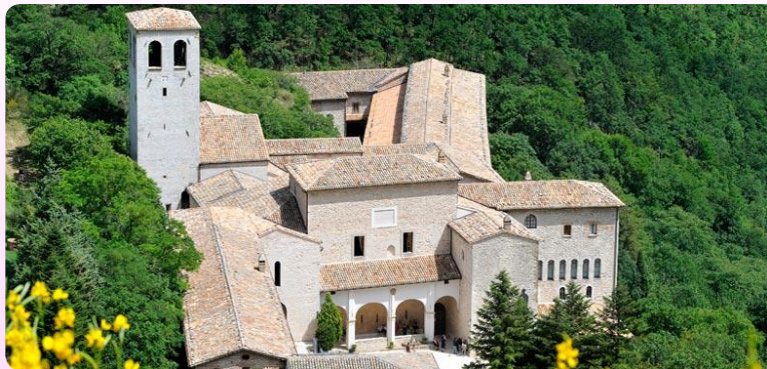
The Park's unspoilt environment offers the superb landscapes of Monte Cucco, hermitages, abbeys, and sanctuaries hidden among the rocks and, following the path of the ancient **Via Flaminia**, historic centres rich with art and history from Roman times to the Middle Ages.





**COSTACCIARO.** The fourteenth-century church of **San Francesco** (enlarged in the eighteenth century) should be visited for its rose window and lovely portal. Inside, there are frescoes by Matteo da Gualdo. Other places to visit are: **Rivellino** (a fortified tower from the XV century ordered built by Federico II, duke of Urbino); the **antic oil press**; the **civic tower** (XIII century). Also important are the **Museum of grottoes of Monte Cucco**.

**SCHEGGIA.** This was a station roman and, from the eleventh century, a powerful castle. The town is the starting point for excursions to Mount Cucco and nearby hermitages. Very interesting is the **Hermitages of St. Girolamo**, situated at the foot of the mountain buried in one of the most spectacular and wildest spots of the park. It is a beautiful example of Benedictine architecture.





**SIGILLO.** Sigillo is where the head office of the Monte Cucco Regional Park is situated. (Address: via G. Matteotti, num 52. Tel 0759177326 fax 0759179025). Very interesting are **St. Andrews Church**, the **Church of St. Augustine**, the **Church of St. Anna**, a very old oratory dated around the XV century and situated near Sigillo, in Villa Scirca, the **Church of St. Mary Assunta**.

**FOSSATO DI VICO.** The town preserves a beautiful medieval centre where you can still see the “**Rughe**”, defensive paths built to resemble open balconies overlooking the Chiascio’s valley. Very interesting is the **Museum of “Civiltà Contadina”**, where you can find over 1,500 artefacts connected with the old traditional ways of farming and living in a rural environment typical of this area.



## Fabriano

Fabriano has been an important cultural crossroads from ancient times and traditions which still today characterizes this territory with expressions of a distant past and recent times where it is possible to take in the natural environment, an ever changing native scenery, rural buildings, silent small alleyways protected from the hustle and bustle of the city and the friendliness of the locals. A stay in Fabriano will surprise the visitor



with the productivity of its fertile lands and outstretched hospitality, warmly extending their fruits of a sweet and wild splendour, bestowing moments of pure emotion, leaving the visitor at ease to float between art and history, spirituality and good food, avant-garde and tradition. The magic of the past can be re-lived in the **Fabriano Paper and Watermark Museum** where the visitor is transported

back in time to see paper being made by hand by artisans in exactly the way it used to be made in the middle-ages. Starting with a master papermaker demonstrating the manual movements to produce a perfect sheet of paper, to the technique of light and dark watermarks, a downright work of art, not only in its finished beauty but also in its complex incision on wax which is the basis for this marvel. At the museum it is possible to track the complete paper making cycle from the arrival and warehousing of the rags to the shipment of finished paper bales for Italian and European usage via the Fano and Talamone docks.

## Monte Cucco Cave

This is **the most important underground cave** of the area. It is more than 30 km long and 945m deep, making it one of the biggest grottoes in the world. Inside there are connected galleries, rooms and wells which give rise to the name: "Cucco", which in local dialect means something empty. The main entrance of the grotto is formed by a well that is 27m deep. At the start of the cavity there are large rooms and galleries connected to each other. From here it is possible to reach the heart of the complex, with very large galleries, deep wells, incredible galleries with underground streams, where fossils of bears and wild goats can be found.

The grotto was formed by the corrosive action of water on the limestone, which began about a million years ago.

The Monte Cucco caves are: Grotta Ferrata; Abisso del Boschetto; Buca del Faggeto Tondo; Buca della Valcella; Grotta del Menca; Voragine Boccanera.

### *info»* Infopoint Grotta

Via Valentini, Costacciaro  
tel./Fax 075.9171046





## Lake Trasimeno

Enclosed between the green hills of Umbria, Lake Trasimeno is the fourth bigger lake of Italy. On its banks you can find breathtakingly beautiful villages like **Castiglione del Lago, Passignano sul Trasimeno , San Feliciano, Tuoro sul Trasimeno, Castel Rigone** and also fascinating villages further inland like the Etruscan Panicale, Lisciano Niccone, Piegara. Let's begin our mini-guide on the best things to do in Trasimeno Lake from the three Trasimeno Lake's islands: **Isola Maggiore, Isola Minore and Isola Polvese**. Isola Polvese is the largest one; it is freely accessible although since 1995 belongs to the Lake Trasimeno Regional Park and offers visitors three points of interest : the fortress , the ruins of the Church Olivetana di San Secondo and the Church of San Giuliano. On Isola Maggiore, the only one inhabited you will find lots of things to see: the docking area (via Guglielmi) with its buildings, the Church of San Salvatore, the ruins of the monastery church of the Sisters of St. Leonard, the ruins of the Tower of the Roman era, the Church of St. Michael the Archangel, the Chapel of St. Francis, the Rock and the source of St. Francis, the Church of St. Francis, Guglielmi Castle and the windmill. Isola Maggiore was one of the places of St. Francis of Assisi, who stayed there and meditated in 1211. The third island, Isola Minore is private and not open to visitors. He is currently uninhabited, although until the fifteenth century appears to have been inhabited by many families.



## Frasassi Caves

The Abyss Anconais the first part of the cave and the researchers gave to it the name of their city. It is a big hollow, perhaps one of the bigger hollow in Europe and in the world: 180 m. long, 120 m. large and 200 m. high. At the end of the abyss it is possible to see a caotic hoard of blocks, results of movements and fallings down from time immemorial that gave origin to the abyss. Looking down on the right it possible to see the “Paradise corner” and on high on the left wall there is the “bacon’s slice”. Beginning the tour, down on the right there is a little crystallized lake born after the saturation of a lake’s basin for the calcium carbonate action, following the water level’s change and evaporation during the time. On this crystallisation there is a ferric stalagmite 2 m. high. On the side of it has been origin a white concretion. Looking at it in prospective, the particular form wheted the speleologists imagination that have called it “devil with candle”. The



toursit can be struck by another detail: Niagara. It is a white flow of pure calcite and with notable dimensions. The end of the abyss is represented by a vault reduction. Then the 2nd hall begins and its name is two hundred hall. On the lake bank the little fairy castle rise up. It was so called for its profile made up of spires and pinnacles.

In the middle of the hall the group of millenary stalagmites called “the giants” dominates. Considering the diameter (from 2 mt to 5 mt) and the height (from 1,50 mt to 20 mt), they are certainly the most impressive stalagmites of the cave. From this point of view, looking at the abyss of Ancona it is possible to see the natural mouth through which the first speleologist let themselves down the complex hypogeum on 29th Sept. 1971 and announced to the world their discovery. “Albo signando lapilla”.

You must present yourself at the ticket office 30 minutes before the booked admission. Caves and Museums closed on 4 December, 25 December and from 10 to 30 January inclusive.

1 MARCH- 31 OCTOBER

EVERY DAY AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES

10 am - 11 am - 12 pm - 2:30 pm - 4 pm - 5 pm

FROM 1ST LUGLIO AL 15 SETTEMBRE

Further entry to 18pm

AUGUST: open all day with entrance every 10 minutes

ON HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Open all day 9:30 am to 6:00 pm with variable frequency inputs

1° NOVEMBER - 28 FEBRUARY

FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY 11:30 am - 3:30 pm.

SATURDAY at 11.30 am - 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm

SUNDAY and holidays at 10 am - 11 am - 12 pm - 2:30 pm - 4 pm - 5 pm

## Nearby Places

### Gubbio

Gubbio, the “city of fools”, has been called the “most beautiful medieval city”. Lying in the centre of the town is the Piazza Grande with the elegant **Palazzo dei Consoli**. Opposite it stands the Palazzo Pretorio. Also beautiful are the **Palazzo del Bargello** and the **Palazzo del Capitano del Popolo**. The **Palazzo Ducale** is a fine example of Renaissance architecture built for Duke Federico da Montefeltro. Next to it is the **Duomo** (cathedral) built at the instigation of St. Ubaldo, the bishop of the city. Other churches to be visited are San Domenico and Sant’Agostino. An important Roman remain is the **Theatre** on the edge of the town. The “**Corsa dei Ceri**” is hundreds of years old. On **15 May** three heavy, large wooden constructions portraying candles are carried at the run up the hill from Piazza Grande to the Basilica of Sant’Ubaldo (on Mount Ingino). Outside the ancient walls you will note a real Roman Theatre which dates back to the first century BC and has been renovated between the nineteenth and the twentieth century. Now the Roman Theatre hosts classical performances during the summer season. In Gubbio there are beautiful ceramics produced by sixteenth-century Mastro Giorgio school.



## Gualdo Tadino

This small town has some lovely monuments, the most important of which is the **Rocca Flea** where the Civic Museum is housed. Buildings worth a visit are church of San Francesco and the Palazzo del Podestà. The production of **cera-**



**mics** in Gualdo Tadino was begun in the fourteenth century, developed in the fifteenth, and reached the height of its splendour in the nineteenth. The products are highly artistic and are distinguished by their renaissance decorations.

## Assisi

The **city symbol of peace** which identifies itself with one of the most beloved and revered saints in the world, **St. Francis of Assisi**, it is at the same time a delightful medieval town with lots of hidden corners and typical foods. You must begin your Assisi tour with the beautiful **Basilica of St. Francis**, built in the XIII century established by two parts so different as complementary, the Lower Church and the Upper Church. Enter through the big oak doors carved by Niccolò da Gubbio and enter the Lower Church, going down the nave you will admire the St. Catherine's Chapel, built by the famous Cardinal Alborno, who is buried there. Go into the main nave and admire the wonderful side chapels painted by Giovanni da Cosma and Taddeo Gaddi, as well as the vault of the nave with wonderful frescoes by various artists including Simone Martini, Giotto and his school.



One of the best things to do in Assisi is surely a visit at **St Rufino Cathedral**, the church dedicated to Assisi's Patron St. Rufino. In the interior of the church you will find a Roman cistern, the baptismal font in which Francis and Clare were baptized, and the beautiful crypt of Basilica Ugoniana which dates back to the twelfth century.

You will walk along Via San Francesco to reach the medieval Piazza del Comune around which stands the Temple of Minerva, dating from the first century B.C., a true jewel of ancient art. Returning in the footsteps of the Saint, leave the square and go down. At your right you will see the New Church, built in 600 on the birthplace of S. Francis. Around the church you come to the Oratory of St. Francis Piccolino, in which according to legend was born the Saint. Walking along Corso Mazzini you will arrive in Piazza S. Chiara, overlooked by the **Basilica of St. Clare**. Inside it, you will admire the remains of the Saint and the beautiful wooden crucifix which, according to legend, spoke to S. Francis.

## Perugia

Arm yourself with flat shoes because in Perugia you have to walk many climbs to conquer the heart of the city, the amazing **Piazza IV Novembre**. Here, the first of the things to do in Perugia is admire the famous **Fontana Maggiore**. The symbol of the city, was built between 1275 and 1278 by Nicola and Giovanni Pisanone.



Piazza IV Novembre is cloaked from **San Lorenzo Cathedral** and the imposing **Palazzo dei Priori**, which hosts since 1878 the **National Gallery of Umbria**. Built in 1345, San Lorenzo Cathedral is dedicated to one of the patrons of the city . One of the best things to do in Perugia is discover **Corso Vannucci's** locals and shops! Then we suggest you to visit **Rocca Paolina**, a fortress that was built by Pope Paul III after the sack of Rome. Its construction necessitated the destruction of more than a hundred homes but also of monasteries and churches. It was the symbol of authority and power of the Pope until 1860, the year of annexation to the Kingdom of Italy. Near the Fontana Maggiore, in Piazza Danti, do not miss the **Etruscan Well**, incredible engineering work built 300 years before the birth of Christ and perfectly preserved, it descends underground for 37 feet deep.



## SPELLO

Let's start our tour from its lower part, still surrounded by the well-preserved **Roman Walls**, in which you will see three gates. Enter in Spello and discover the best things to do in Spello: visit the **Church of Santa Maria Maggiore** with its famous Cappella Baglioni that has a ceramic Deruta's floor and Pinturicchio's frescoes (considered his best production and his self-portrait). Take a visit to the **Roman House**, dating from the first century AD, whose walls inscriptions suggest that it was owned by the mother of the roman emperor Vespasiano. Our tour continues with the **church of S. Andrea** built in 1258 and the **church of S. Lorenzo** with its impressive facade, a twelfth century loggia, rosettes and decorative elements. What are the best things to do in Spello if you love both art and flowers? Do not miss the most representative event of Spello, the **Infiorata**, a Flower Festival of Corpus Christi held between May and June. Every year the streets of Spello turn into a wonderful, spectacular, huge carpet of flowers that exceeds 1.5 km







In the quiet and near magic atmosphere of the Umbrian Hills, where the Country's green comes in a variety of different shades... there lies Villa Pascolo: an ancient Residence of local Landlords which has been recently remodelled to meet our Clients' requirements and comfort, and yet it retains all the glamour of the good old Country life, with everything, all around, that makes you live.... The spell of the ancient life.

It is also just about half way between the Adriatic Sea and Lake Trasimonto, at the center of the Appennini Mountains and their green forests and picturesque meadows. The towns nearby Villa Pascolo are full history, with unique cultural and artisan traditions. The town of Gubbio, for example, dates back to the middle ages and is celebrated for its art ceramics. We have then Assisi, the hometown of st. Francis, with its blessing and sound spiritual life. Just as interesting are the towns of Spello, Spoleto, Nocera Umbra, Gualdo Tadino and Fabriano.

Thanks to the central position of Villa Pascolo, you can enjoy – within the easy reach of just a few kilometres – sports and activities like: horsemanship, tennis, ball playing, beach-volley, as well as the emotions of the free, open air-flying with “Hang-gliding” and “Paragliding”. If you love the mountain, the Massif of Monte Cucco with its magnificent natural grottoes offer you a variety of activities: from guided visits to the grottoes, to climbing and to mountain walking. To this end, the recent organization and mapping of the local sentry routes allow the mountain lovers to fully enjoy this heartbreaking, unblemished landscape..... and its rich variety of natural beauty.

- Restaurant
- Reading/television room
- Tourist material
- Guide on request
- Cooking lessons on request
- Pet Friendly Hotels
- Wi-fi zone
- Swimming pool
- Car park
- Large garden whit playground
- Bike Hotels service



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