

"The Po Delta Park " Birdwatching tourist packages and itineraries

"The Whole Delta" 5 days/ 4 night package

Day 1: CAMPOTTO AND PIEVE DI SAN GIORGIO OASIS

Participants arrive in the morning via their own transport at the *agriturismo* (holiday farm) or bed and breakfast situated in the Po Delta Park area. Lunchtime is free. In the afternoon there is a visit to the **Campotto Oasis**. The site is famous for presence of one of the largest colonies of **cormorants** in Italy, and it is possible to see over 40 species.

Technical Information: Minimum 3 hours long.

Time suggested: all day

Another birdwatching site, **Pieve di San Giorgio**, can be reached in a few minutes by car from Campotto. Golden orioles, serins, green and great spotted woodpeckers make their nests in the woodland area, while aquatic birdlife is particularly numerous in winter and includes shovellers, pochards, goldeneyes, great crested grebes and large flocks of coots. Technical information: 1 hour long. Time suggested: afternoon and evening. Dinner in *agriturismo* and overnight stay.

Day 2: BERTUZZI VALLEYS AND CANNEVIE

After breakfast, visit to the **Bertuzzi Valleys**. The area extends over 2,000 hectares and is made up of lagoons and valleys, while the surrounding area consists of meadows, cultivated land, woodland and pasture. Over 40 species can be seen. Access is possible from 3 different sites. It is possible to admire **flamingos** in the whole area and the valley is the home of many natural habitats and the Mediterranean gull, the slender-billed gull, and the little tern have all made their nests here. A wild colony of Egyptian geese has recently settled in the northern part.

Technical information: Minimum 5 hours long, with observation points and towers.

Time suggested: morning.

Lunchtime free. Afternoon visit to **Cannevie**, one of the best spots for birdwatching in the Po Delta. The valley has rich hygrophilous vegetation and it is possible to see over 45 species, among which flocks of spotted redshanks, avocets and water rails. Dinner in *agriturismo* and overnight stay.

Alternative afternoon proposal: 2 hour-long motorboat excursion in the Po Delta. Information and cost on booking.

Day 3: GRAN BOSCO DELLA MESOLA AND THE OSTELLATO VALLEYS

After breakfast, visit to the **Gran Bosco della Mesola**, the largest woodland area in the entire zone and also the most important from an environmental point of view. The vegetation is extremely varied, and here there are ilex, hornbeams and ash trees. The birdlife is made up of over 35 species, including woodpeckers, wood pigeons, tits and four species of **Owl** (barn owls, little owls, long-eared owls and tawny owls), nightingales, golden orioles and others.

Technical information: minimum 4 hours long.

Time suggested: morning and evening.

The Spring is the best time to visit the Wood, when the birdsong is at its height. Inside there are various itineraries that can be followed on foot, by bicycle or by cart (request when booking).

Lunchtime free. Afternoon visit to the **Ostellato Valleys**, a designated **nature reserve** since the beginning of the '70s. It is made up of 3 valleys and has a surface area of more than 200 hectares.

Here it is possible to see the famous Camargue Delta breed of **white horses**, while the fish species are the eel, the perch and the carp. The birdlife is represented by a mixed colony of Aldeidi, while **mallards**, garganeys and teals breed inside the wood. The white stork is being introduced to the site. Dinner in *agriturismo* and overnight stay.

Day 4: COMACCHIO AND ITS VALLEYS

After breakfast, a visit to the Comacchio Valleys, considered the heart of the Po Delta. The area is extremely vast, covering 11,000 hectares and is made up of a series of canals and saltwater areas. Due to its size, it has been divided into six different sites for Birdwatching. We suggest the **LE SALINE DI COMACCHIO**. This covers an area of 600 hectares and is formed by traditional canals of saltwater, areas of shallow water and, due to the presence of a particular microorganism, the water has a typical reddish colour. The first birdlife to establish itself here was a colony of **flamingos** and it is possible to see over 45 species.

Technical information: minimum 4 hours long.

Suggested time: morning.

At the end of the visit, lunchtime is free. Afternoon free to visit the town of **Comacchio**, known as "little Venice", for its picturesque canals and bridges. Don't miss the " **Trepponti**", an extremely characteristic seventeenth-century bridge, which has become the symbol of the town. Continue through the peaceful and characteristic quarters of Carmine and San Pietro. Dinnertime free and overnight stay in *agriturismo*.

Day 5:

Breakfast. End of our services.

Important Information:

A hire car is **essential** for the itinerary proposed. Quotes are available on booking.

Price per person in double room € 220,00

The price includes:

- 4 overnight stays in an *agriturismo* or bed and breakfast in the Delta area
- 3 dinners in the *agriturismo*, drinks not included
- A guide to the Delta and map of the itineraries (you will find them in the *agriturismo* on your arrival)

The price does not include:

- Transfer to and from participants' point of departure
- Drinks with meals
- Entry tickets to birdwatching sites mentioned above
- Car hire
- Any personal extras
- Eventual area guide services
- Motorboat excursions
- Anything not expressly stated in "the price includes"

Stays can be extended or services personalised in any way – information and quotes on request