



Città di San Leo



VISIT TO SAN LEO
Tuesday 17th May 2022



SAN LEO

The capital of Montefeltro

In the Marecchia Valley, Romagna region, between Marche and Republic of San Marino

An imposing massif that dominates the Marecchia Valley, in a strategic location, the site of historic and military events in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance periods. Linked to first pagan and then Christian cults, it was home to the Dalmatian hermit Leone, who along with his friend Marino who retired to Mount Titano, helped to bring Christianity to the Montefeltro region in the 4th century. In the year 1000, it became San Leo and the ancient name of Montefeltro was given to the diocese. It became the seat the Archbishop in the 10th century and the place of refuge for Berengar II. Piazza Dante The Hamlet The town flourished in the Middle Ages, as too did the family that made San Leo the seat of its dynasty, the Montefeltro. The fact that both St Francis, in 1213, and Dante Alighieri, in 1306, passed through here helped to further enrich the history of this important settlement. The city of San Leo was heavily contended and was dominated over the centuries by various families – from the Malatesta to the Montefeltro, from the Medici to the Della Rovere – until it came under the direct rule of the Papal State in 1631. And thanks to Count Cagliostro, an itinerary around this city also becomes tinged with magic and mystery.



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PROGRAMMA Martedì 17 Maggio 2022

10.30 –Arrival in San Leo (bus parking in Quattroventi resort) and transfer to the Fortress with shuttle service.

Guided tour in English to the Renaissance Fortress



Its origins date back to a time before the wars between the Goths and Byzantines (6th century). It was heavily contested, above all between the 14th and 15th centuries, until it was finally conquered by Federico of Montefeltro in 1441. Designed by Francesco di Giorgio Martini, the imposing defensive apparatus of the Fortress of San Leo

seems to be an extension of the mass which supports it; indeed, it is difficult to distinguish between the hand of nature and that of man, capable of fully exploiting the advantages of this magnificent site. This is how it was described by Pietro Bembo in 1513: “...the city of Montefeltro and its fortress, an extremely strong bulwark and marvellous tool of war in the region...” Under the direct rule of the Papal State, the fortress became a harsh prison and Count Cagliostro spent his final days in one of its cells. Even after the Unification of Italy, the fortress continued to be used as a jail until 1906. After that, for eight years, until 1914 it was home to a “disciplinary company”. Nowadays it hosts a series of exhibitions, including one on arms and armaments, one on military life in the Middle Ages and one featuring the alchemist Cagliostro, as well as the cells that were home to many famous convicts and the dour fortifications.



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A visit to MuSleo will follow



MuSleo, funded thanks to the Made In-Land Project, aims to improve the virtual accessibility of inland areas and to know natural / cultural resources.

Musleo, the virtual museum of San Leo, where you can experience real emotions!

Musleo, the Ecomuseum that tells the area through the witnesses of today and yesterday...

Musleo, is a magical place from which to discover the exceptional historical and naturalistic heritage that surrounds it. It is a privileged gateway to the historical, naturalistic and environmental riches of the surrounding area. Travelers, who decide to stop in San Leo, will have the privilege to meet three famous witnesses, also pilgrims to San Leo: San Francesco, Dante and Cagliostro.



Through their stories it will be possible to discover how all the cultural and architectural heritage of San Leo is full of centuries of history and events often shrouded in legend and mystery.





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The tour begins within the walls of the Fortress, at the top of the rock. From here the visitor can see the peaks of the Apennines that merge Romagna with Marche Region; he can imagine the richness of life and history. This richness has animated the area since Roman age.

It's truly a unique and particular territory; that's because on the border between two different biogeographical regions; for the harshness of some places, unique for its architectural jewels.



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13.00, Historical Centre

Buffet with traditional dishes and typical products

Tour of the historical centre and visit to the main religious monuments of San Leo



The parish Church

The parish church is dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption and is the oldest religious monument in the Montefeltro region. According to tradition, the building was constructed on the site of a small chapel where St Leone used to pray (4th century). It has a basilica-style layout, with a nave and two aisles, a crypt and a raised presbytery



The Cathedral

Dating from 1173, the current building is the work of Romanesque Lombard craftsmen and stands on the remains of an older religious foundation, a cathedral dating from the High Middle Ages, built around the 7th century when Montefeltro (San Leo), elevated to the role of civitas, became the seat of a new diocese. The Cathedral is

dedicated to the patron saint Leone.



The bell tower

The bell tower is the most secluded monument in San Leo and stands, in an isolated spot, on top of "Guard Mountain", one of the two peaks of the massif of San Leo. Like all the monuments in the town, it too was built directly on a rocky outcrop. Its square perimeter incorporates a circular building with even older origins and it soars to a height of approximately 28 metres.



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At the end of the visit, departure from *Piazza Dante* and transfer to the bus parking area with shuttle service.

Info:

Società San Leo 2000 Servizi Turistici Srl
Piazza Dante Alighieri, 14
47865 San Leo RN
Tel. 0541/926967
Referente Cristina Protti: c.protti@sanleo2000.it
www.san-leo.it