



Sede Legale:

Centro di Visita Valle dell'Orfento
via del vivaio
65023 Caramanico Terme (PE)
Tel. & Fax 085 922343
majambiente@tin.it

Sedi operative:

Ufficio Informazioni del Parco Casa d'Antino
65023 Caramanico Terme (PE)
Ufficio Informazioni del Parco Valle dell'Orta
65020 Bolognano (PE)
Ufficio Informazioni I.A.T. - A.P.T.R.
65023 Caramanico Terme (PE)
Tel. & Fax 085 922002
iat.caramanico@abruzzoturismo.it

Dear. Dr. ANNA LOY
a.loy@unimol.it

Caramanico Terme, May 3th, 2011

OBJECT: Proposal for a stay at the Majella National Park.

Dear Dr. Loy,

As you have kindly requested, we send you a proposal for a stay at the Majella National Park foreseen from September 5th to September 9th 2011.

We are available for every kind of potential clarification you would need.

Waiting for your answer, we take the opportunity to send you our kindest regards.

The President
Marco Di Michele





**POST CONGRESS TOUR
AT THE MAJELLA NATIONAL PARK**

SEPTEMBER 5th 2011

9:00 a.m.

Bus transfer from Pavia to Caramanico Terme.

1:30 p.m.

Stop in Ancona city, sited on the promontory of Conero and lunch in a restaurant.

7:30 p.m.

Arrival in Caramanico Terme, a village in the centre of the Majella National Park, accommodation at the "Casa del Lupo" (the "Wolf House"), one of the guest quarters of the Park.

Welcome dinner eating local products typical of Abruzzo region and listening to traditional and folk music.

Overnight stay

SEPTEMBER 6th 2011

8:00 a.m.

Breakfast. The pick-nick lunch is provided.

9:00 a.m.

Short guided tour at the Archaeological Naturalistic Museum "P. Barrasso".

The Museum was born in 1986 on the initiative of the Forestry National Guards (CFS) with the purpose to illustrate the more significant aspects of Majella mountain and territory; there are also a geological and an archaeological sections and another one dedicated to the Otter Project. This structure represents a useful reference point for the naturalistic tourism since it is the headquarters for numerous activities of environmental education programmes and reference point for various scientific research activities.

10:00 a.m.

Guided excursion at the Orfento Valley Reserve following the "Santa Croce - Ponte del Vallone - Ponte di Caramanico" itinerary.

From the hamlet of Santa Croce in Caramanico Terme (PE) one can take the path passing through various cultivated lands. Quickly one can reach a small rocky open space from which one can have a partial overview of the last and highest part of the Orfento Valley and from which one can notice, on the opposite walls, a dense artificial conifer trees forest in which black pine trees predominate. Going ahead up along the path one arrives to a little bridge from which one can see pools of water where a big number of invertebrate species live, other than various species of frogs. After about 100 meters one reaches an artificial break on the rocks; from here the path begins to go down towards the bottom of the valley and, arrived to the river, one has the possibility to freshen oneself up before coming back walking.

The last part of the walk is surely the most suggestive; the river during the past centuries has dug a narrow gorge in which the Hart's-tongue and the maidenhair fern predominate and where the thick wood of European Hop-hornbeam and Manna ash, filtering the sun light, give to the whole area an intense green colour. Along the path one continuously crosses the two banks of the river through characteristic little wooden bridges and one arrives to the base of the Caramanico bridge. A last effort going uphill and in about 20 minutes one reaches the bridge, ending the excursion.

Pick-nick lunch at the Valley.

Late afternoon free

Dinner at the restaurant.

After dinner...

Visit to the faunistic area of the European otter.

The Visitor Centre of the Orfento Valley Natural Reserve today is the headquarter of an important breeding centre of the European otter, wanted and promoted by the CFS in collaboration with other working teams. The otters that are in semi-captivity conditions will be useful for future potential reintroduction or repopulation activities.



Today in Italy unfortunately it is impossible to observe wild otters because of their big decline in the whole Italian territory. Among the various actions that the CFS has carried out in support of the protection and conservation of the species, an important one is to propagate, publish and communicate information about the otter, with the firm belief that before any further action today it is necessary to better know this mustelid, mostly not well known by people. Starting by this point of view, a “didactic”, educational fence has been opened in which it will be possible to observe a couple of otters during their natural daily activities (taking pictures is forbidden).

Overnight stay.

SEPTEMBER 7th 2011

8:00 a.m.

Breakfast

9:00 a.m.

Leaving for Pescocostanzo.

10:30 a.m.

Arrival to Pescocostanzo and visit of the village.

At 1400 m of altitude Pescocostanzo is located on the Abruzzo Region Major Plateaux, among vast and silent pastures and mountain chains. A real mountain town!

The exceptional richness of monuments from the baroque and Renaissance periods and the artisan tradition still alive and precious (goldsmithing, typical objects made with a local technique called “merletto a tombolo” and with the wrought iron technique, carved wood etc.) testifies the ancient origins of this village, the intense culture and incredible artistic history which has developed especially between the twenty-fifth and the twenty-eight centuries.

The most interesting monuments are churches, noble palaces, public buildings and the typical houses with the “vignale”. The old town centre is perfectly preserved and maintained, there one can see fantastic glimpses, fountains and flowered balconies.

The territory of Pescocostanzo, included inside the Majella National Park, offers a still uncontaminated environment within a vast horizon, with some forested areas of high cultural and environmental importance: among them the “S. Antonio Wood” offers an amazing scenario of secular beech trees with odd shapes. It’s a sacred forest, an enchanted place where rare species of plants and wild animals find a refuge. During summer it could be a starting point for excursions or horse rides, whereas during winter is the ideal place to perform cross-country skiing, choosing among various itineraries.

Place to visit: the “Collegiata di Santa Maria del Colle”, the Convent, the “Chiesa di Gesù e Maria dei Francescani”, the “Chiesa del Suffragio dei Morti”, the “Palazzo Mansi”, the “Palazzo Ricciarelli”, the “Palazzo De Capite”, the “Palazzo Sabatini”, the “Palazzo Grilli”, the “Palazzo Solecchi”, the “Palazzo Coccopalmeri”, the “Palazzo del Governatore”, the Town Hall, the “Palazzo Fanzago”, the “Tombolo” Museum.

Lunch in a restaurant in Pescocostanzo.

During the afternoon...

Visit to the town of Sulmona.

Made famous by Publio Ovidio Nasone and for the typical product named “Confetti”, the town of Sulmona is located in the heart of the Abruzzo region, in the centre of important communication routes by which it is connected with the most famous and important places of South-Central Italy. It is also located in the middle of the three national parks of Abruzzo region.

Places to visit: the “Basilica di S. Panfilo”, The “Chiesa di S. Francesco della Scarpa”, the “Acquedotto romano”, the “Palazzo Sanità”, the “Palazzo Tabassi”, the “Palazzo San Giorgio”, the “Palazzo Melinati”.

Walking around in the centre of Sulmona among the shops of typical and traditional products of the Abruzzo region.

Return to Caramanico Terme

8:30 p.m.

Dinner at the restaurant

Overnight stay



SEPTEMBER 8th 2011

8:00 a.m.
Breakfast.

9:00 a.m.
Visit to the church of San Tommaso Apostolo in San Tommaso village.
(5 km away from Caramanico Terme).

The legend tells that it was built in the year 451 anno domini, date confirmed by an inscription inside the church; in 1706 the church was partially destroyed by an earthquake, but it was later restored by Giuseppe Bevilacqua. The style of the stone wall face was made in the twelfth century, the columns and the pilasters were built in the 1200's.

It has been a property of the "Benedettini" friars of Casauria and later it has become a possession of the "Celestini" fathers until 1806.

11:30 a.m.
**Arrival to Roccamorice, village inside the MNP
and visit to the Hermitage of San Bartolomeo in Legio.**

The hermitage is located at an altitude of 600 m above the sea-level in the Santo Spirito Walloon, near Roccamorice; it takes the name of San Bartolomeo Walloon and develops behind a huge rocky roof of about 50 m of length. To reach the hermitage there are four staircases, among which the "Holy staircase" in which in the past people walked only rising generally on one's knees and preying. As many others hermitages, San Bartolomeo was rebuilt in the thirtieth century by Pietro da Morrone, later become Pope with the name of Celestino V and remembered as "The Pope of the big refuse". Probably the hermitage was built before the year 1.000 AD.

It is still visited by several peregrines and visitors, especially on August 25 of each year, for the Saint's festivity.

Lunch in a restaurant in Roccamorice

During the afternoon...

Return to Caramanico Terme and visit to the old town centre.

Caramanico in the past was a military settlement, even the map of the town reflects its defensive origin: houses were protected by defensive walls, towers, big and solid entrance doors and by a castle sited on the top of the town.

Aperitif at the "Bottega di Maja" (shop of typical local products) with typical products of Abruzzo region.

Dinner at the restaurant.

SEPTEMBER 9th 2011

8:00 a.m.
Breakfast. Pick-nick lunch provided.

9:00 a.m.
Greetings and bus transfer to Pavia and/or international airport of Milano Malpensa.

PRICES

Each person: € **400,00** (forty hundred/00)
(at least 30 participants)

The fee includes:

tourist guide;
RTC assurance (for excursions);
VAT;
the costs of the "P.Barrasso" Museum and of the Otter Den;
every overnight stay, breakfast, dinner, lunch in a restaurant and pick-nick lunch;
bus transfer and internal transport services.

The fee does not include:

every activity not indicate in the section "the fee includes".