

The 5th International Conference on Crack Paths (CP 2015)

Ferrara, Italy, 16-18 September, 2015

Ferrara is on the railway line Rome-Florence-Bologna-Ferrara-Padua-Venice (Roma-Firenze-Bologna-Ferrara-Padova-Venezia). It is located in a particularly favorable place for those who wish to explore the surrounding area and for those who love history and Italian food.

Rome-Florence = 280 Km

Florence-Bologna = 107 Km

Bologna-Ferrara = 52 Km

Ferrara-Padua = 77 Km

Padua-Venice = 46 Km



Ferrara

City of the Renaissance, UNESCO World Heritage

Lying in the middle of the **river Po Valley**, Ferrara still has the atmosphere of the past, which blends in harmoniously with the lively atmosphere of the present.

In 1995, UNESCO included the historical centre of Ferrara in the list of **World Cultural Heritage** as a wonderful example of a town planned in the Renaissance, the age of splendour of the **Estense Court** (Court of the Este family), and still keeping its historical centre intact. The adopted town planning criteria, named 'Addizione Erculea' after the Duke Ercole I d'Este (who reigned from 1471 to 1505), had a deep influence on the progress of town planning in the following centuries.

The grand Renaissance has left indelible signs everywhere in Ferrara. **Famous artists** were born in Ferrara or lived there in that period:

Garofalo, Guercino, Bastianino, Andrea Mantegna, and Tiziano Vecellio, who carried out frescoes, paintings and sculptures;

Ludovico Ariosto and Torquato Tasso, who were well-known writers;

Alfonso della Viola, great composer and viola player, and the most famous Girolamo Frescobaldi, who was composer, organist and harpsichord player.

The University of Ferrara was founded in 1391 (by Marquess Alberto V d'Este) with three Faculties : Arts, Theology, and Law.

The website for tourism in Ferrara and its province is:

<http://www.ferraraterraeacqua.it/en/>

Ferrara is a cosy and pleasant medium sized city (135,000 inhabitants). It can be explored by simply strolling through its streets, the actual annals of Renaissance time and culture, that amply suggest the city glorious past even today. History stands on every corner, in its sumptuous palaces and winding Medieval alleys, and comes alive once again in the colours and music of the annual pageant of the Palio of St George.

A truly special atmosphere reigns in the city centre, where the rhythm of life is cadenced by the passing of many bicycles amid pavements and coffee shops.

The most important symbols of Ferrara are :

Castello Estense (the Este Castle), No.3 in the Tourist Map,

in the middle of the city, begun in 1385 as a fort and completed in the 16th Century, an architectural treasure with its Medieval Tower of Lions, subterranean dungeons, gothic chambers on the ground floor, and spacious halls with frescoes by Girolamo da Carpi and Bastianino (see the Hall of Games).





Moat around Castello Estense

Duomo (the Cathedral of St George), No.4 in the Tourist Map, constructed in Romanic-Gothic style between the 12th and 14th Centuries, holding numerous frescoes, paintings and sculptures by Garofalo, Guercino, and Bastianino (16th Century).



Palazzo dei Diamanti (the Palace of Diamonds), No.21 in Tourist Map, presents an interrupted geometric facade of stone worked to diamond shape.





Details of the Palace of Diamonds : main entrance and inner court

