

## Abruzzo – Wild Mountains

Abruzzo is a wild, mountainous region sandwiched between the Gran Sasso Mountains and the Adriatic coast. It has a long, sandy stretch of shoreline and picturesque historic villages scattered among the hills. Although foreigners are beginning to come to the beaches, its interior is virtually unvisited and strangers are still a novelty to its vast tracts of unspoilt countryside. These silent valleys and stunning mountains were once thought to be the home of witches and werewolves. Today the native wolves and bears have been rounded up and are kept in the Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo, the region's national park. Trekkers should head to this 400 square kilometre park for some of the most amazing hiking in Italy. Just call in at the tourist office at Pescasseroli for information.

One of our favourite places in Abruzzo is the market town of Loreto Aprutino. Its centre, dating back to the 800's, is a quiet, cobbled labyrinth of lanes with pretty campaniles and flowering balconies – the perfect setting for the evening "passegiata". The town is home to many craftsmen, making pots and glassware and more of the region's ceramics, dating back to the 17th century, can be seen in the Acerbo Gallery. Agriculture also plays a large part in the town's life, and its olive oil has recently been awarded a mark of excellence, equivalent to the D.O.C. designation for wines. The characteristic sandy coloured stone buildings rise up the hillside to the central castle, (now part of the Cognoscenti hotel portfolio) and the pretty 16th century Abbey of Santa Maria in Piano, decorated with frescoes celebrating St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron saint of the town.

### Getting There

Fly direct from the UK to Pescara with Ryanair.

### Combine With

Puglia in the south or Tuscany, Le Marche and Umbria in central Italy.

For more images & hotel details see [www.c-boutiquehotels.com](http://www.c-boutiquehotels.com)

To book call **08717 500070**

**Abruzzo is a wild, mountainous region, whose spectacular interior and unspoilt hilltop villages are little visited by foreigners. We think this undiscovered and romantic corner of Italy is a fabulous place in which to relax, linger and explore the country's natural and cultural riches. With great walking country, sandy beaches, spectacular vistas, mellow towns and seriously good food and wine, this is a treasure waiting to be discovered. It is the Tuscany of 20 years ago.**

**Its central location means Abruzzo is easily combined with trips to Puglia in the south or Tuscany and Le Marche to the north and west.**

### Our Recommended Hotels in Abruzzo

#### The Castle

