



American Planning Association
Washington Chapter
Creating Great Communities for All

DESCRIPTION

AICP CM COURSE IN ITALY

Santa Vittoria in Matenano, Marche

May 10 – 15, 2026

Organized & Hosted by Mark Hinshaw

*Formerly President APA Washington Chapter, Urban Design Division Chair,
and AICP Commissioner*

The Region & Location





The **Marche region** has hundreds of ancient hilltop towns, each with a unique blend of food, artisanal crafts, and traditions stretching back centuries.

**MARCHE
REGION**

**Santa Vittoria in
Matenano,**
Province of
Fermo, Region of
Marche, Italy.
Santa Vittoria is a
Medieval era
hilltop town.



Certification Maintenance Credits: 22 total

(8 hours in lectures + 14 hours in field trips)

This course offers multiple opportunities to:

- ✖ Learn about planning policies, and projects in Italy from counterparts in that country.
- ✖ Observe on-going development, renovation, and restoration initiatives
- ✖ Experience daily life in a small Italian town – different than popular tourist destinations.
- ✖ Combine valuable continuing education with a personal travel itinerary.
- ✖ Receive two thirds of the required CM credits for a two-year reporting period.





Sunday, May 10

Participants arrival, charter bus pickup near train station in Porto San Giorgio)

Group Dinner at Ristorante Farfense with Mayor and Key Staff



Monday, May 11

Orientation walking tour of Santa Vittoria by architect Riccardo Vergari

Seminar: *Overview of Planning Policies and Programs in Italy* with Prof. Pietro Garau, Sapienza University of Rome.

Group Lunch at Ristorante Farfense

Field trip: Servigliano, Development of Renaissance era town and to local economy – state-of-the-art **olive oil production**, Frantoio Belleggia Giulio

Dinner on your own



Tuesday, May 12

Seminar: *Strategic Public Investments in Infrastructure and Buildings* with Paolo Concetti, City Architect

Seminar: *The Role of Public Space in Communities* with Prof. Luisa Bravo, University of Florence

Group Box Lunch at Abbazia di Fiastra Regional Park

Field Trip: Urbsalvia Archaeological Excavation Active Dig

Dinner on your own



Wednesday, May 13

Seminar: *Integrating Art with Community* with Iole Alessandrini, Artist

Seminar: *Real Estate in Italy, Regulations, Procedures, Incentives* with Anna Rita Dinshaw, President le Marche Real Estate Association

Group Lunch at Taverna Vittoria

Field Trip: Fermo - Museum, Roman Cisterns, and Teatro dell'Acquila.

Field Trip: Viviculture and the Italian Economy, Cantina Lumavita

Dinner on your own



Thursday, May 14

Field Trip: Tour of Liceo Artistico Preziotti - Licini

Group Lunch and Tour - Montepacini Social Farm

Evening Reception at home of the hosts: Mark Hinshaw and Savina Bertollini

Dinner (if still hungry) on your own.



Friday, May 15

Field Trip: Public Spaces in Ascoli Piceno. Walking tour given by local residents: Steve and Sandra Ramsey.

End of course

Lunch on your own

Trains to Porto San Giorgio

Departure times: 1:10, 2:08, 5:08, 6:15.

Transportation

Train travel to Porto San Giorgio

Walking time from Ascoli Piceno centro to station: 20 minutes.
Allow ten minutes to buy ticket.

Travel time of train to Porto San Giorgio: 1 hour and ten minutes

Note: In the past, some attendees have booked a room in Porto San Giorgio on their own for this night. They had plans to leave for their subsequent destination the next morning.

Participants will need to arrange their own flights, as well as train or express bus transportation, to and from Porto San Giorgio and for their return. Some past participants have folded this course into a series of travel segments in Italy or Europe.

On the arrival day of May 10, we will provide shuttle bus service several times between noon and 6:00pm from Porto San Giorgio to Santa Vittoria.
A map with a pick-up point near the train station will be provided later.

On the departure date of May 15, the final tour ends within walking distance of the station in Ascoli Piceno with train service to Porto San Giorgio. We will provide a place to store bags during the walking tour of Ascoli Piceno.

A charter bus will be used for field trips and is included in the registration fee. Some people may wish to rent a car at their arrival airport.
On street parking is free in the village, but is not necessarily immediately next to the lodging.

If renting a car, adding a GPS is highly recommended. A rental car allows for easy exploration of other places before or after the course. However, a car is not necessary during the course itself.

Lodging

Overall Description

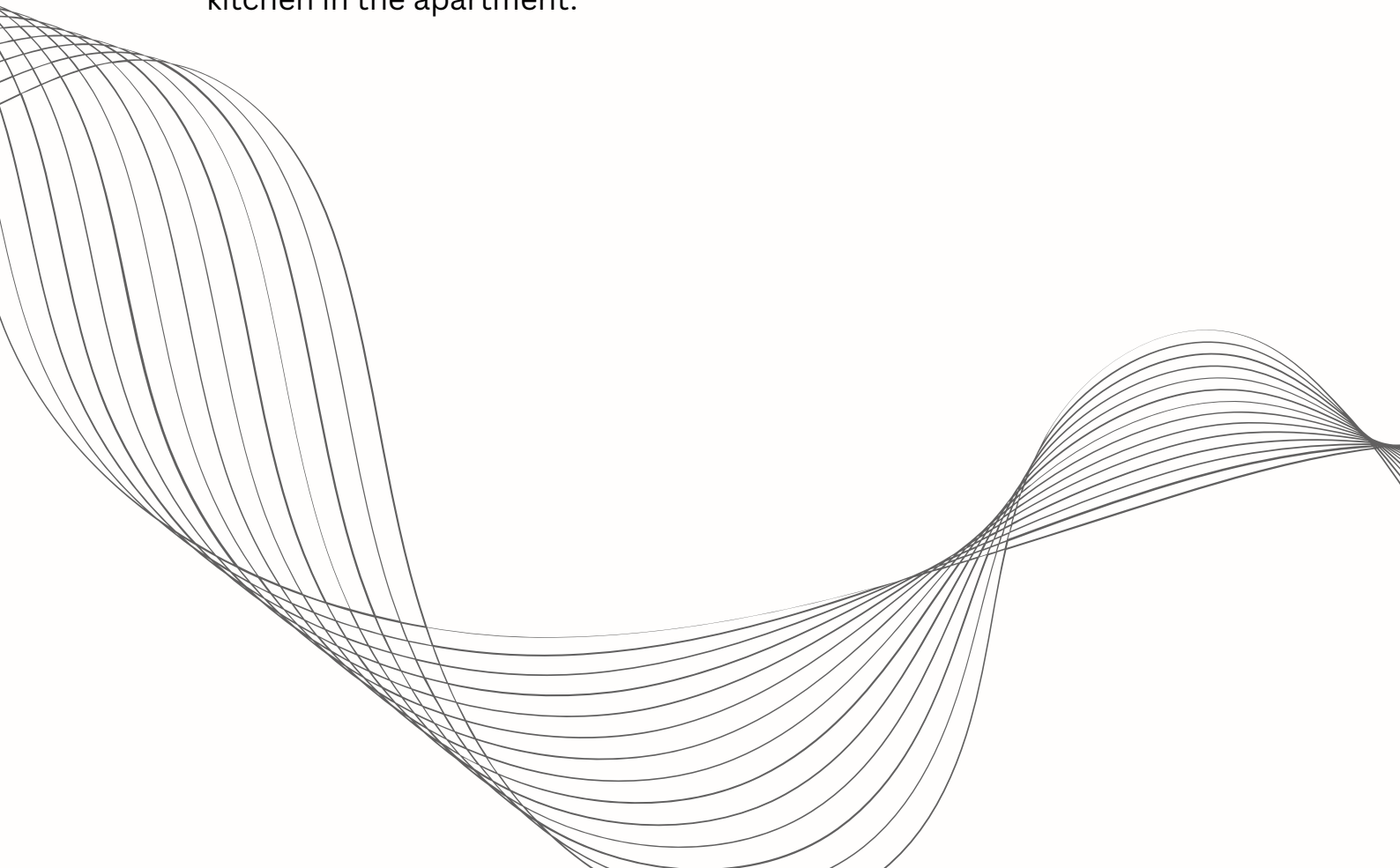
This is a small, ancient hilltop town. The historic center of the village is highly walkable with the venue for the course, restaurants, and for other services and shops being accessible on foot within minutes.

In order to provide accommodation for this course, we have made arrangements with individuals and organizations in the community. Some are apartments with multiple bedrooms with shared bathrooms, kitchen, and living area. Others are guest quarters in a house. One is a wing of a still active convent.

These accommodations are well-maintained, comfortable, and an integral part of the village and its culture. Indeed, we hope that the experience of staying in such places can give participants a memorable impression of life in an Italian town.

Because of relationships we have developed with local residents over the years, we can provide lodging at a fraction of the cost charged in most parts of Italy. An objective of the course is to make this course available at a comparatively modest cost.

However, most of the lodging choices mean that other attendees (and a family member) might be sharing a bathroom, living area, or kitchen in the apartment.



Lodging Options

The following are the choices in lodging. Assignments in specific categories will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. We are able to accommodate most people in housing within the village. However, if someone has a rental car, they might wish to consider choosing the villa in the countryside (H2 below).

Note that these are shared accommodations; that is, other attendees will be occupying other rooms in the same building or apartment. Please let us know if you are in a group and we will endeavor to place you in the same building.

Low Cost: 325 euros / room for 5 nights



E1. Benedictine Convent, Guest Quarters.

Six rooms, each with private bathroom. No living area or kitchen. Bed sheets and blankets will be furnished.

The convent dates back to the 16th century. A newer wing has rooms available for travelers. The décor is very basic; each room has two to four single beds and a private bathroom. Since the rooms are part of an active convent, individual rooms do not provide items such as a refrigerator. Note: there is no WiFi in the convent, but it's available in Bar Centrale, the main café, or in my wife's shop.



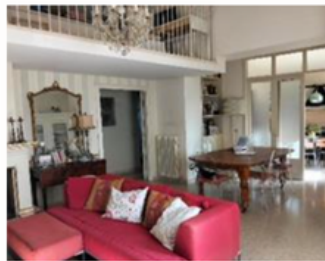
E2. Sonia's Guest House

Two rooms with shared bath. No living area or kitchen.

Two rooms on the second floor of a house occupied by the owner. The rooms share a bathroom. The guest house is not located within the town; it's a two-minute walk outside the south entrance.

One room has a large bed for two, the other has a large bed for two and a third single bed.

Moderate Cost: 425 euros / room for 5 nights



M1 Caferri Apartment Building, Flat A

Three bedrooms, two shared bathrooms, spacious living room, kitchen.

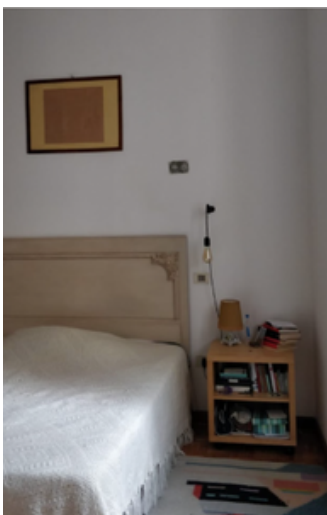
Cosy and fully furnished apartment on the top floor. 1 room with a double, and 1 room with 2 single beds that can be combined and 1 room with single bed. WiFi, bed linen and towels included.



M2 Caferri Apartment Building, Flat B

Three bedrooms, two shared bathrooms, living room, kitchen.

Another fully furnished apartment similar to the one above. 1 room with double bed 2 rooms each with a single bed. WiFi, bed linen and towels included.



M3 Caferri Apartment Building, Flat C

One bedroom, bathroom, living area, kitchen.

A fully furnished apartment in the middle of town, on the street level, with one large bed, a bathroom, a living area, and a kitchen. Wifi, bed linen and towels included.

Higher Cost: 525 euros / room for 5 nights



H1 Apartment next to course venue

Two bedrooms, each with a bathroom, and a living/dining room. This apartment is adjacent to the venue for the seminars and is the most convenient for shops and services in the village. It is ideal for a household needing two bedrooms or for two couples who are friends. It is also ideal for people who find the sloped and cobblestone streets in the village difficult to walk up and down.



H2 Modern Country Villa with Ensuite Rooms

Eight bedrooms each with a private bathroom, shared kitchen, dining, and living areas and a pool.

This is a villa normally rented as a vacation home for multiple weeks. It is well-appointed and has a garden area with a pool. However, this B&B is a mile outside the village, in the countryside, but within a short walk of another small village.

Attending the course would require walking up the mile-long hill on winding, narrow country lanes. Therefore, this option is most appropriate for people with rental vehicles who might wish to explore other areas on their own.

For those without vehicles, the owner has offered to shuttle people to and from the village for a modest fee.

Additional Information

WiFi

Several places in the village have WiFi. However, it is recommended that people purchase or rent a hot “spot” if they want to be assured of connectivity.

Going through Customs

You should be prepared to fill out the new Entry/Exit System (EES) forms upon arrival. You will, of course, need a current passport. It must be valid for at least three months prior to your planned departure from the Schengen Area (essentially, the EU).

Language

Relatively few people in the area speak English. It would be useful to learn a few words of courtesy, such as when you order coffee or gelato. Locals are generally friendly toward outsiders, especially Americans. They realize people are different than politics. Most restaurants will have menus in English. If they don't give you one, you can ask. An important word to know is “Bagno” –pronounced ban-yo. Restaurants and bars all have them available to the public. Shops, no. The two restaurants in town have English speaking staff.

Daily Needs

There are two small but well-stocked food markets in town, one at each end of the main street. They also carry wines, beer and alcohol. There is also a bakery that serves coffee and a pharmacy. If you need anything else, we can guide you.

Money

We recommend that you bring 100 euros in cash, mainly for small purchases. There is an ATM near the archway inside the village. Stores do not give cash back on cards. Also, small businesses like those here are family-owned and the credit card companies charge them a lot for use of the machines. It's best to use cash if a purchase is less than 10 euros. It would be considered rude to pay for a 1.20 euro espresso drink with a card.

Weather

May is typically a very nice time to travel anywhere in Italy. It's warm during the day. A light jacket is sometimes needed in the evening. It can occasionally rain.

Other Questions?

Send an email to:

Mark Hinshaw

hinshaw.mark@yahoo.com

Course Registration Fee

Course enrollment: 1600 euros

Family member: 300 euros

Plus:

Lodging Costs, depending on the option selected

(specific assignments in a category on a first come, first served basis)

Notes:

1. We cannot accommodate family members under 16.
2. Enrollees are responsible for making their own flight arrangements, as well as ground transportation from the arrival airport to Port San Giorgio on the Adriatic coast