

Colours, Culture and Flavours

Photographic Holidays in the Abruzzo Region, Italy

September 2021

£1295 per week
All Inclusive*
(except flights)

From the medieval hilltop town of Santo Stefano di Sessanio to the Trabocchi coastline, this photography holiday will enable you to capture some of Italy's real hidden gems. Let your passion for photography flourish in the Abruzzo region of Italy – an ideal location for anyone interested in its landscape and culture and at the same time experiencing Italian cuisine.



Whether you're just looking to get to grips with your camera, improve your technique or develop your creative instincts, the richness and diversity of subjects to be found in the region will provide endless material to satisfy your interest in photography.

Spending a week right in the heart of the Abruzzo region with expert tuition from Andrew is an investment in yourself that will pay dividends with your photography in the future. And during your stay, as well as improving your photography, you'll also learn more about the local area, get to sample authentic Italian cuisine and try a selection of local wines. Just about everything you'll eat and drink will have been grown and harvested by local farmers and wine producers.

Our base will be a beautifully restored villa, located within a working vineyard near Poggiofiorito, a small town in the Province of Chieti, where the Apennine mountains are clearly visible and the Adriatic coastline is within easy reach. National parks and nature reserves cover much of the region's rugged interior, which also encompasses hilltop towns, dating to the Medieval and Renaissance periods.

Itinerary (photography group size: 3 or 4)

I like to keep the itinerary flexible and is subject to change, based upon your interests/needs, the weather/available light and any particular opportunities that may present themselves.

After a little time to settle into your accommodation on arrival, you'll enjoy a warm welcome with aperitifs in the evening and a locally inspired, Italian meal. There'll be an informal introduction to the main topics that will be covered during your stay and an opportunity to discuss any last minute changes to the itinerary.

Our first full day will begin with a leisurely breakfast after the previous day's travelling, followed by a morning photo-shoot nearby to help everyone get their bearings. The rest of the week, which is likely to involve some early morning and also twilight photography, will include the following:

- Exploring the unique Trabocchi coastline, littered with historic fishing machine structures, balanced on wooden piles;
- Trekking in the Majella National Park with its mountains, extensive hiking trails and probably best preserved apennine ecosystem;
- Discovering Santa Stefano di Sessanio, a fortified medieval village located inside the Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park;
- Walking around Rocca Calascio (once the highest fortress in Europe) and Calascio itself;
- Driving to Scanno, made famous by Cartier Bresson and then to Pacentro, a gem of a town at the foot of Mount Morrone, with its narrow streets, elaborate railings and sculpted stone archways;
- Visiting Casoli, Lanciano (famous for its 8th century Eucharistic miracle), Pennadomo (famous for its surrounding blades of limestone) and San Vito (famous for Dora's ice cream!).

What you'll learn

I find that people learn the most by doing. Through practise and by not being afraid to make mistakes we improve our understanding and technique. You'll take more control of your camera and rely less on its automatic settings to capture images as you see them. There'll be plenty of opportunity to review and analyse your work in a supportive and friendly environment. As well as discussing the results that participants are getting whilst 'on location', I like to support this with informal (and entirely optional) image review sessions as the week unfolds. The main topics that we'll cover are:

Fundamentals of exposure: camera modes, controlling aperture, shutter speed and ISO;

Composition: the rule of thirds, framing, leading lines;

Focusing on what's important: image quality, depth of field and focal length;

Colour balance: the difference between what our eyes see and what the camera 'sees';

Reading an image: metering, the histogram and dynamic range;

Digital workflow: Lightroom and Photoshop essentials.

The Accommodation

Our accommodation consists of a lovingly renovated and updated villa, overlooking and set amongst working vineyards. A spacious, first floor, open-plan kitchen/diner opens out onto a large, terrace balcony and additional dining area.



All bedrooms have ensuite bathrooms and guests also have use of a TV/Cinema lounge, accessed from the kitchen and free wifi (can be limited due to remoteness).

Outside, the grounds include an outdoor kitchen/BBQ and covered eating area and a small swimming pool.

The accommodation provides a perfect base for your photography holiday – a remote location and yet within easy reach of the Majella National Park to the west and Adriatic coast to the east.

Essential items – Your (digital) camera (ideally with manual), charger (don't forget your adapter), memory cards, filters and tripod if you've room.

Due to the nature of the terrain and impact of the extreme weather in this part of Italy, the roads can be both bumpy and winding, especially when we explore the hillside towns. Anyone susceptible to travel sickness may find some of the trips uncomfortable at times as there's only room for one front seat passenger in the car!

Please bring suitable footwear for walking, as you will be spending a lot of time exploring the area. Bring something warm to wear as the weather can be cold in the early morning and in the mountains. A waterproof jacket is also advisable – thunderstorms can be heavy!

Make sure you bring insect repellent – because of our proximity to the vineyards, small biting insects can be troublesome without the necessary precautions.

Prices (Full refund in the event of coronavirus cancellation)

£1295.00 per person (includes accommodation with en suite bathroom)

Additional partner: £695.00 (Photo) or £495.00 (non Photo)

A 50% deposit of the total price is required with your booking (which will be fully refunded if the minimum 'photo' group size (3) is not achieved 8 weeks prior to the start date). The balance will be due 8 weeks before the start date.

What's included in the price?*

All one-to-one and group photographic tuition with Andrew.

All accommodation, breakfasts, packed lunches (where necessary) and evening meals. Meals are prepared by our chef using fresh, local produce and includes Italian classics and regional specialities. Evening meals are 3 courses and include half a bottle of wine per person.

Please let Andrew know if you have any particular dietary requirements well in advance.

Transport during the week, including airport transfer to and from Pescara. Whilst the cost of all organised travel within the itinerary is included in the price, you may wish to hire your own car, particularly if you are arriving with a 'non-photo' partner or at an airport other than Pescara, and this is entirely at your discretion.

Please note: we recommend you aim to arrive no later than 7.00pm where possible in order to enjoy the welcome dinner.

Full, detailed directions will be sent to you nearer the departure date.

Not sure if it's for you?

How about a day's photographic tuition with Andrew to help you make up your mind?



I offer friendly, one-to-one tuition to help you get to grips with your camera and improve your technique, either in the comfort of your own home or by going out on location with you or a mixture of both. It's an intensive, full-day's tuition for just £195.00, with the emphasis very much on enjoying your photography and getting the most out of your camera.

**Half Price
Offer
£97.50**

Choose one of my photographic holidays and I'll give you 50% off the one-to-one tuition fee when you pay the balance for the holiday.

www.andrewchandler.co.uk