



MAP HISTORIC CENTRE



WHERE TO EAT



CAFFÈ PINSERIA COLONNA

Via Giacomo Matteotti, 35/37
0761 095217



ENOTECA RISTORAZIONE ORTEZZINA

Piazza della Libertà, 19/20
0761 958940
329 776 0855



BISTRÒ DELL'OROLOGIO & NUOVA TAVERNA ROBERTESCHI

Piazza della Libertà, 17
Via Vittorio Emanuele, 5/7
0761 770047
0761 402948



BAR CENTRALE

Piazza della Libertà, 5
0761 419588



TRATTORIA SAVIGLIA

Via Camillo Benso Conte di Cavour, 12
0761 411462
327 844 6291

USEFUL NUMBERS

Municipality of Orte	0761 4991
Local police	0761 499405
Municipal pharmacy	0761 493110
Carabinieri	0761 402400
Medical service	0761 338210

GETTING THERE

From Rome to Florence by car	A1 motorway-exit 33 SS204 towards Viterbo (2 km)
From Perugia by car	E45 towards Orte SS204 towards Viterbo
From Roma, Firenze, Ancona and Perugia by train	Orte Station Urban services available in front of the station

PARKING INFORMATION

Rocca Parking	Via della Rocca, 2
Fabbri Parking	Via Pubblica Passeggiata, 61
Fabbri basso Parking	Via Pubblica Passeggiata, 61
San Cesareo Parking	Via Piè di Marmo, 1291
Covered Parking	Via Giuseppe Garibaldi, 35

CAMPER AREAS

Agrisosta l'Isola degli Ulivi	Via del Ponte, snc
Agrifattoria didattica Erimari	Vocabolo Lucignano, 11

WHAT TO VISIT



Civic Archaeological
Museum



Museum of
Sacred Art
of diocesan importance



Museum of
Confraternity

ORTE UNDERGROUND

GUIDED TOUR DEPARTURES			BOOKING INFO
Monday to Sunday			+39 379 208 5237
9:15 AM	15:15 PM		+39 0761 267870
11:00 AM	17:00 PM		ufficioturisticoorte@gmail.com
Wednesday morning closed			www.visitaorte.com



HISTORY OF THE CITY

The city of Orte was founded in the 6th century B.C. as the southeastern stronghold of the Etruscan center of Velza-Volsini, present-day Orvieto. Thanks to its privileged geographical position and morphological features—resting on a tuff bastion overlooking the middle Tiber valley—the city assumed a strategic role as a control point at the borders with the Falisci and Sabini territories.

The Etruscans settled on the southern slope of the tuff plateau. The urban settlement required water supply systems: for this reason, independent tunnels were constructed, oriented north-south, which, exploiting the percolation of rainwater through the tuff, directed it toward cisterns accessible from the surface.

Besides the tunnel system, few other Etruscan evidences remain, mainly related to the necropolises of the Le Plane and San Bernardino areas, located on the southern slope.

Recognizing its strategic position, Orte became a target of Roman expansion, who conquered it following two battles in 309 and 283 B.C., fought near Lake Vadimone, still located today on the Tiber plain between Orte and the village of Bassano in Teverina.

During the Augustan era, spanning the 1st century B.C. to the 1st century A.D., the city underwent monumentalization, which included the construction of the Forum—still visible thanks to archaeological excavations in Piazza della Libertà—and a regularization of the urban layout.

Following this urban growth, the underground aqueduct was renewed. To improve the water system's efficiency, a spring on Colle delle Grazie, west of the Orte plateau, began to be exploited.

Originally, the connection between the two promontories was probably natural, and by using the slope, water was channeled into a new main underground tunnel oriented eastward, ending in the Lacus beneath the Forum.

Also, during the Roman Imperial age, Orte stood out as a hub for river trade along the Tiber: on its banks, the Port of Seripola was established.

Orte's geographical importance did not diminish with the fall of the Roman Empire but rather intensified during the medieval period.

In the 8th century, the city became part of the Papal States and acquired the status of a bishopric. In the 12th century, Orte became a free commune, further consolidating its importance. It was the commune that financed, in 1127, the construction of the so-called Ponte di Augusto, a travertine bridge that, until it collapsed due to river floods in 1524, represented the first practical opportunity to cross the Tiber north of Rome and connect the Via Flaminia with the Cassia route.

The bridge's importance, which became the city's emblem within a few centuries, granted Orte the role of a key commercial hub recognized throughout the Italian peninsula.

Between the 15th and 16th centuries, the city experienced a period of decline marked by the loss of its geographical significance—a role that was regained in the 19th century with the construction of the Papal railway.

Piazza della Libertà

Ancient 'Platea Sancte Marie', the heart of the city. Archaeological remains testify to the presence of the forum in Roman times. The seven streets coming from the seven city districts flow into it, at the access point the chains.

- Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, Bishop's Palace, Clock Palace, Town Hall.

La Rocca

Little or nothing is known of the origins of the Rocca, which was undoubtedly rebuilt at the behest of Cardinal Egidio Albornoz in 1366. In the 15th century, the Rocca was in the hands of Antonio Colonna, who imposed a tyranny on the city, leading the Ortani to finally demolish it during a revolt in 1431.

- Alberti Palace.

Porta del Vascellaro

The door is named after the neighbouring district, which in Roman and medieval times housed numerous potters' workshops. The papal coat of arms stands out above the vault arch. Next to it stands the former Church of St. Gregory, which preserves some frescoes from the early 16th century.

- Porta del Vascellaro, former Church of San Gregorio.

Piazza Belvedere

It overlooks the south valley of the Orte hill, the San Bernardino hill and the Sanctuary of the Trinity. The most important building is the 'House of Judas', so called because it was attributed in medieval times to a traitor of the community.

- House of Judas, former Church of San Sebastiano.

San Biagio

Of Romanesque origin (1253), it underwent extensive alterations in 1757. It belonged to the Roman Hospital of Santo Spirito in Saxia, whose symbol, a Lorraine cross, is preserved above the entrance portal. Until 1613, this order managed a Preceptory located in adjacent premises.

- Church of San Biagio, Museum of the Confraternity.

Piazza Colonna

The square develops around the church complex of San Silvestro. The church, with a single nave, dates back to the mid-11th century. The bell tower, of the Roman-Latin type, dates back to the mid-12th century. The original bell is preserved in the Museum of Sacred Art.

- Former Church of San Silvestro, Museum of Sacred Art.

Piazza del Popolo

Formerly 'Piazza Sant'Agostino', it houses the church dedicated to the Saint of the same name. The structure is the result of the union of three separate buildings, the Church of Santa Croce, the Oratory of Sant'Egidio and the Church of Sant'Agostino. The church today houses the Museum Diffuso delle Confraternite.

- Church of Sant'Agostino, Museum of the Confraternity.

Porta Santo Cesareo

The construction of this gate began in 1449, as part of the city's fortification works after the Ortani destroyed the Rocca, which had become a place of tyranny, on the death of Martin V in 1431. A first gate, demolished just after 1870, was surmounted by the coats of arms of Eugene IV and Nicholas V and completed the structure that can be seen today.

- Gate of Santo Cesareo

Piazza Senatore Manni

The square is home to the Church of St. Francis. In ancient times, the Romanesque structure was dedicated to St. Angelo, the present building was constructed in 1695. Next to the church is the cloister of the convent into which the Franciscans moved in the 1480s.

- Opposite is Palazzo Manni.
- Church of St. Francis, Museum of the Confraternity, Manni Palace.

Porta Franca

Located almost below the fortress and consisting of two consecutive doors, which fell into disuse following the destruction of the fortress, it was nevertheless still in use in the 1570s. Today, the inner door is visible, surmounted by a quadrangular shielded tower. Presumably, a way along the edge of the cliff led to the belvedere on Via Solferino.

- Porta Franca.



COMUNE DI ORTE

River Tiber

Motorway junction
Terni - Perugia - Cesena

Motorway A1



City Hall



Pharmacy



Health Center ASL



AED



Public toilets



Cash Machine



Post offices



Parking



Camper parking



Bus stop



Bakery



Tourist office



Orte Underground



Churches



Museums



Historic building



Ente Ottava Medievale library



Alberini Cinema Theatre



Panoramic view



Tourist attractions

- 1 - Piazza della Libertà
- 2 - La Rocca
- 3 - Porta del Vascellaro
- 4 - Piazza Belvedere
- 5 - San Biagio
- 6 - Piazza Colonna
- 7 - Piazza del Popolo
- 8 - Porta Santo Cesareo
- 9 - Piazza Senatore Manni
- 10 - Porta Franca



Where to eat

- 1 - Caffè Pinseria Colonna
- 2 - Enoteca Ristorazione Ortezina
- 3 - Bistrò dell'Orologio
Nuova Taverna Roberteschi
- 4 - Bar Centrale
- 5 - Trattoria Saviglia
- 6 - Bar Etrusco

Visita
Orte

ACe20
innovazione - cultura
comunicazione



Tourist office

- Via G. Matteotti 45
- 9:00 - 13:00 / 15:00 - 19:00
- 0761 267870
- ufficioturisticoorthe@gmail.com
- www.visitaorte.com