visit

sanl severino marche

A part of

LE MARCHE CHE NON TI ASPETTI

Art.
Memories.
Wonder.

In San Severino Marche, history, art and nature come together.
The spectacular Piazza del Popolo, one of the most beautiful squares in the Marche region, is the heart of the historic centre, whilst the Castello al Monte, the museums and the archaeological site tell the story of centuries of culture and identity.
All around, the medieval villages offer unique views and invite you to discover a region rich in beauty.

1

Feronia Theatre

There are beautiful theatres and theatres that tell the story of a community. The Feronia is both. Founded in 1747 as the Teatro dei Condomini, funded and owned through shares by the families of San Severino Marche, it was rebuilt in the 19th century by Ireneo Aleandri and also decorated by Filippo Bigioli. Since 26 July 2026, it has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site, alongside the historic Italian-style communal theatres: for San Severino Marche, this is a completely new development. Step inside when the auditorium is open: from the boxes, you will understand why this theatre belongs, first and foremost, to its town.

The **Feronia Theatre** is inscribed
on the UNESCO World Heritage List
Community theatres of central Italy (2026)

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2

Piazza del Popolo

If you want to understand San Severino, start here. Piazza del Popolo is a long ellipse flanked by arcades, the town’s ‘living room’ where, for centuries, people have been trading, strolling, celebrating and socialising. In the centre stands the ‘torchio’, the 17th-century fountain with its tiered basins, which the locals are as fond of as if it were a member of the family. Surrounding it are the Town Hall, the Feronia, the Clock Tower and the Church of St Joseph. Visit in the morning, when the square is bustling; then return in the evening, when the lights come on beneath the arcades. It’s the same place, but it feels like a different town.

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3



Municipal Art Gallery
P. Tacchi-Venturi

A remarkable collection that reveals a San Severino Marche capable, when it came to art, of looking far afield. Among the panel paintings, frescoes and sculptures, you'll encounter the Salimbeni brothers, Lorenzo d'Alessandro, Vittore Crivelli, Niccolò Alunno and Domenico Indivini. And then there is Allegretto Nuzi, with the *Madonna dell'Umiltà*, one of the city's great treasures. But don't stop at the most famous name: these works tell the story of a town which, between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, did not merely welcome art,but produced it, commissioned it and promoted it.

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4

Septempeda Archaeological Park

Before San Severino Marche, there was Septempeda. The Roman city still lies dormant in the Pieve plain, along the ancient road that wound its way up the Potenza valley towards the Apennines. Excavations have unearthed walls, gates, thermal baths, workshops and necropolises, but don’t expect spectacular ruins at every turn: here, you have to learn to look for them. A paving stone, an inscription, the outline of a road – these all become clues to a city from two thousand years ago. Then complete the story at the Moretti Museum: you come to understand Septempeda by piecing together its fragments.

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5





Archaeological Museum
Giuseppe Moretti

To discover the Roman side of San Severino, you must climb up to the Castle. It seems paradoxical, and that is precisely the beauty of it. Housed in the former convent next to the ancient cathedral, the Moretti Museum holds inscriptions, grave goods and architectural fragments from Septempeda, the city that once stood in the valley. Visiting them up here brings two thousand years of history back to life: when the inhabitants abandoned the plain and moved up the hill, they took part of their memory with them.

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6

Municipal Gallery of Modern Art
Collezione Filippo Bigioli

Step inside the Town Hall and you'll come across a name you've already encountered just a few steps further on. It is Filippo Bigioli, a nineteenth-century painter and engraver from San Severino, the star of the collection housed in the Gallery and also the creator of the decorations in the nearby Teatro Feronia. He is one of those invisible threads that make a visit to San Severino Marche such a pleasure. Bridging modern art and the town's history, the Gallery thus completes the small cultural hub centred on Piazza del Popolo.
Opening times may vary depending on events and exhibitions.

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7

Local History Museum
Oberdan Poleti

Here, history is not confined to display cases:
it takes the form of a plough, a millstone, a wine press. The Museo del Territorio brings to life the rural and artisan world of the valley through a farmhouse, the botanical garden and the tools of daily labour.
This is the rural San Severino, the one that for generations has lived in tune with harvests and the seasons. Today, this narrative intertwines with that of the MusET and Borgo Conce, where water, tanneries and manufacturing mark the beginning of the industrial chapter.
Bring the children along: standing before the real objects, explaining how people used to live becomes suddenly easy.

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8

Clock Tower

At one end of Piazza del Popolo stands a tower that measures time and marks its passing. The 19th-century Clock Tower is associated with the name of Ireneo Aleandri, the architect from Settempeda whom you will encounter in the history of Feronia. Take a close look at the dials: the intriguing system reflects the transition from ancient methods of measuring time to the modern way. The 2016 earthquake damaged it, but the tower has once again come to define the skyline of the square and the routines of those who pass through it. Use it as the locals do: arrange to meet here and begin your stroll beneath the arcades.

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9

Church of San Lorenzo in Doliolo

Just a short walk from the square, you can actually travel much further back in time. San Lorenzo in Doliolo is one of the city's oldest landmarks: a medieval building, with a history stretching even further back, and, beneath the chancel, a crypt where 14th-century frescoes linked to the Salimbeni workshop have survived. Even the name is intriguing: that 'Doliolo', meaning 'jar', holds a mystery that has fuelled local interpretations and tales.
Ask a Settempedano about its history:
you might get more than one answer.

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Co-Cathedral of St Augustine
New Cathedral

When San Severino descended from the castle towards the valley, its religious spirit followed it too. The ancient collegiate church of Sant'Agostino thus became the new cathedral, the great church of the lower town. The Gothic terracotta portal leads into an interior that spans the centuries, featuring frescoes and paintings from the Renaissance to the Baroque: further evidence of Settempeda's tradition of surrounding itself with beauty. If you find it open to visitors, take your time: sit down and let your eyes adjust to the dim light.

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11



Bishop’s Palace and MARec Museum of Recovered Art

This is not just a museum: it tells the story of an entire region. Housed in the 16th-century Bishop’s Palace, the MARec displays paintings, polyptychs, sculptures and sacred objects salvaged from churches rendered unusable by the 2016 earthquake. The works are also contextualised by the places from which they originate, because here geography matters just as much as art history. To look at them is to see both the scar left by the earthquake and the work needed to heal it. It is one of the most moving visits in San Severino Marche.

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12



Castello al Monte

At the summit of Monte Nero lies Castello al Monte, the ancient town founded in the early Middle Ages when the inhabitants of the ancient Septempeda left the valley in search of a safer place. This town, which for centuries has looked down upon the Potenza valley from above, still preserves today – gathered around the Piazzale degli Smeducci – some of the most recognisable symbols of Septempeda's identity. Here, the 13th-century Civic Tower, featuring the Ghibelline lion and the mysterious 'horse's bite', stands opposite the ancient cathedral.

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13



Smeducci Tower

You recognise it straight away: it’s the ‘leaning’ tower, the one that seems to keep watch over the whole valley from the Castle. Built in the Middle Ages, it wasn’t just there to be seen: it was a veritable communication system, linked in spirit to the fortifications of the surrounding countryside through signals, fires and sounds. Look for the stone bas-reliefs on the tower’s shaft, then look up again at its tilt, which has almost become a family trait for the people of Settempeda. Walk right up to the foot of the tower and turn round: in a single glance, you’ll take in the Potenza, the lower town and the castle-dotted hills.

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14



Church of St Severinus the Bishop
Old Cathedral

Once you reach the top of the Castle, step inside — when opening hours permit — the church that was once the religious heart of the upper town. The ancient cathedral still houses the wooden choir screen inlaid by Domenico Indivini, a work capable of transforming wood into architectural forms, perspectives and subtle optical illusions, along with a monumental organ that has accompanied centuries of liturgical services. It is proof that medieval San Severino, even up here, spared no expense when it came to beauty.

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15



Church and cloister of San Domenico

Step away from the busiest part of the city centre and seek out the tranquillity of San Domenico. The church and the ancient convent tell a story that began in the 13th century and has continued through reconstructions, paintings and frescoes. Inside, you'll find a 16th-century panel painting by Bernardino di Mariotto and traces of the Salimbeni family; but it is above all the 14th-century cloister that invites you to slow down. Its arches and frescoed lunettes create an intimate space, almost detached from the hustle and bustle of the city.
Stop for a few minutes without looking for anything else.

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16



Church of St Joseph

Piazza del Popolo also has a more intimate side. You'll find it in the Church of San Giuseppe, with its Rococo-Baroque façade leading into one of the city centre's lesser-known hidden gems. Built in the 17th century and renovated in the following century, it houses statues of the Evangelists and, in the dome, images of Saint Severinus the Bishop and Saint Pacificus, the city's patron saint and co-patron. It's a short visit, perfect between a stroll under the arcades and the Feronia festival, but it adds an important piece to the square's religious character.

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17

Borgo Conce

Follow the water and you'll find another San Severino. Borgo Conce is the neighbourhood where the power of the River Potenza and its canals was harnessed for work: tanneries, leather processing, wool and paper production, and, between the 19th and 20th centuries, the town's first hydroelectric project. It is the productive side of the town – less monumental but essential for understanding how people lived away from palaces and churches. Today, this heritage complements the exhibition route of the MusET and the Museo del Territorio. Take a stroll through its streets: you'll discover that factories, water and workshops are also part of the heritage of a city.

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18

Monte San Vicino and Monte Canfaito Natural Reserve

Within a few kilometres, the landscape around San Severino changes completely. Leave the arcades behind and head up towards San Vicino, at 1,479 metres – the mountain with its unmistakable silhouette that dominates much of the inland Marche region. A little further on, Canfaito is home to a monumental beech forest that glows copper-coloured in autumn, though it’s well worth a visit in any season. You can choose an easy walk amongst the tall beech trees or tackle the more challenging trails towards the summit.

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19

Elcito Castle

Elcito seems to have chosen the most challenging spot precisely to make itself memorable.
A handful of stone houses, at an altitude of over 800 metres, clinging to a rocky outcrop at the foot of Mount San Vicino: cobbled alleyways, windows adorned with flowers and a silence that is almost a luxury. The village offers a glimpse into what life might have been like for these close-knit, resilient mountain communities. It is also a natural gateway to the trails of the Nature Reserve. Leave your car outside, take water and whatever else you need with you, and set off without a plan.
If you can, stay until sunset: Elcito is at its best when the sun goes down.

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20



Pitino Castle

To understand why these hills were so fiercely contested in the Middle Ages, climb up to Pitino and look out over the valley. The stronghold associated with the Smeducci family dominated a strategic area between San Severino Marche, Camerino and Tolentino: controlling it meant controlling the roads and passes. The 2016 earthquake had damaged it, but since 2026 the castle has been reopened to visitors following a major restoration project. The walls, tower and medieval structures are once again telling their story. Arrive in the late afternoon: when the light dances across the stone and the River Potenza spreads out below you, you'll understand why Pitino was worth so many battles.

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