



Colors of Italy

Fair Isle Knitting in Montelparo

with Janine Bajus
June 11-18, 2022

Description

Imagine a week spent exploring the Marche region of Italy: remote hilltowns, rugged hills, agricultural valleys. Accented by visits to artisans and markets. Then relaxing at the pool and enjoying marvelous meals from local ingredients.

Add to this vision 15 hours of playful exploration of color in the Fair Isle tradition, choosing from 212 shades of Shetland yarn to capture an impression of the landscape. We will begin with instruction about the very specific way that color and value are used in Fair Isle design. Then, over the next few days, you will create motifs and choose colors—small postcards of your vacation! You might choose to expand these swatches when you get home to make a hat using the template I provide.

Non-knitting companions are welcome, too—there is plenty to do while we play with yarn!



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Where

We'll be staying at the Hotel Leone in Montelparo, a small, hilltop village in the Fermo province in the Marche (*mar-kay*) district on the Adriatic side of Italy.

Hotel Leone is a small, highly rated boutique hotel. I hardly know where to start to describe it—I encourage you to explore the hotel's website (www.hotelleonemarche.com) to learn more about what they offer and to see details on each room.

About Me

I've been intrigued by the interplay of fiber and color since I learned to weave at age 11. I live in Berkeley, California, surrounded by colorful yarn, spinning wheels, piles of fabric, knitting needles, fleeces, and natural dyes. I revel in designing colorful and uniquely personal clothing.

I am known as the Feral Knitter because of my fascination with modern, personal Fair Isle knitting. My classes on Fair Isle design have inspired hundreds of students to express themselves through color and pattern; my book—*The Joy of Color: Fair Isle Knitting Your Way*—makes my techniques available to everyone.

For the past four years I've also been leading fiber tours of Shetland and Peru. My knitting patterns can be found on Ravelry.com, and you can learn more about me at www.feralknitter.com.





Day-by-Day

(subject to change, of course,
because that's life!)

Day 1. Arrival day.

Pick up from the Ancona airport/Pedaso
station and transfer to hotel
Rest until dinner
Aperitivi and welcome dinner at the hotel

Day 2. Recovery day.

Breakfast
Morning workshop (3 hours)
Buffet lunch
Walking tour of Montelparo with entrance to
museum and aperitivi at local bar
Dinner at the hotel

Day 3. Medieval hilltop towns

Breakfast
Hilltop town tour to visit Santa Vittoria,
Montelfalcone, and Smerillo
Purchase ingredients for pizza
Lunch at external provider
Afternoon workshop (3 hours)
Pizza making and wood oven masterclass,
using the ingredients we purchased
earlier

Day 4. Ascoli Piceno

Breakfast
Excursion to Ascoli Piceno
Lunch in Ascoli Piceno
Bobbin lace demonstration in Offida
Dinner at the hotel

Day 5. Pottery

Breakfast
Visit to local pottery maker
Lunch at external provider
Workshop (3 hours)
Dinner at the hotel

Day 6. Relax and Enjoy

Breakfast
Workshop (3 hours)
Buffet lunch
Cookery class and dinner at external
provider

Day 7. Adriatic Lifestyle

Breakfast
Workshop (3 hours)
Tour, tasting, and lunch at wine producers
Free afternoon
Aperitivi and a game of bocce before dinner
Dinner at the hotel

Day 8. Departure

Breakfast
Transfer to the Ancona or Pedaso



Cost

IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to COVID-19 this trip has been postponed twice! These figures are the costs for 2020; I do not have exact costs for 2022. Madeline at Hotel Leone can give you more guidance.

The tour fee ranges between ~\$2122/person to ~\$2905/person (€1895 to €2595), depending on which room you choose, whether you will be taking the workshop, whether you will be sharing the room, and the exchange rate. See the table below for specifics (please note that the table shows the cost in Euros; your exact cost in US dollars depends on the exchange rate when you make your reservation). This cost includes:

- ❖ 7 nights of a single or shared hotel room. Wi-fi is available at the hotel.
- ❖ All ground travel from your arrival in Ancona (if flying) or Pedaso (if arriving by train or coach), through to your departure from Ancona/Pedaso.
- ❖ All meals (including house wine with every meal).
- ❖ Excursions as described in the itinerary.
- ❖ 15 hours of Fair Isle workshop with Janine Bajus, including Shetland yarn for extensive swatching.

The tour fee does NOT include:

- ❖ Travel/airfare from your home to Ancona or Pedaso and homeward.
- ❖ Tips to hotel staff and guides.
- ❖ Incidentals such as taxi rides, snacks, personal items, souvenirs, and medical expenses.

<i>Room</i>	<i>Single workshop participant</i>	<i>Workshop participant sharing the room</i>	<i>Non-workshop participant sharing the room</i>
<i>Triple (for 3 people)</i>	<i>n/a</i>	€2,075	€1,895
<i>Twin</i>	€2,445	€2,215	€2,035
<i>Superior Deluxe Double</i>	€2,495	€2,265	€2,085
<i>Deluxe Double</i>	€2,525	€2,295	€2,115
<i>Suite</i>	€2,595	€2,365	€2,185

Join Us for Colors of Italy!

If you've decided this experience is right for you, the helpful folks at Hotel Leone will handle all the sign-up details. They host many retreats at their beautiful hotel and are well equipped to help you find the best flights to the regional airport in Ancona if you'd like some assistance.

Please contact Madeline Jones at madeline@hotelleone.it to register or to ask questions about Montelparo, the itinerary, food, etc.

Please contact me at janine@feralknitter.com to ask about the workshop content.

