



lonely planet

Ravenna



We're home to the largest network of local contributors

Who bring destinations to life through lived experience. Lonely Planet's recommendations backed by local experts are authentic, trusted, and sought after by travelers everywhere.

750+ local experts

The world's biggest library of destination based travel content.



150M
GUIDEBOOKS



5K
DESTINATIONS



18K
ARTICLES



270K
POINTS OF INTEREST



An iconic travel brand with strong beliefs

We foster connection and understanding.

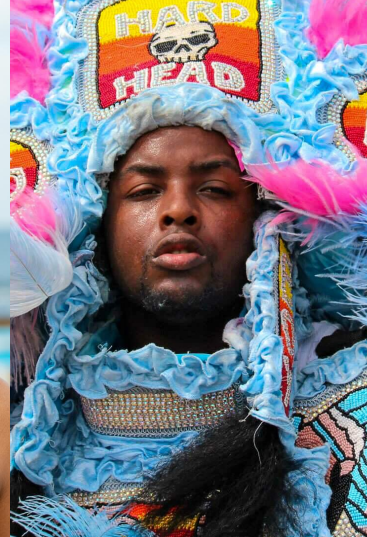
In a divided world, travel brings people together and helps build a kinder, more **inclusive**, more open-minded world.

To know the world is to love it.

Travel has social, economic and **environmental** impact. We must equip travelers with the knowledge and tools to make informed choices about their impact, and inspire them to travel with generosity.

We bring travel to all.

Our goal is to help more people from more backgrounds experience the joy of exploration. We believe that travel should be **accessible** to all.



BEST IN TRAVEL

Lonely Planet's **most celebrated franchise** contains our expert recommendations for the year ahead, told through premium storytelling.





lonely  planet

Ravenna, Emilia-Romagna & the Via Dante



Ravenna



THE GUIDE

BOLOGNA & EMILIA-ROMAGNA

RAVENNA

For mosaic lovers, Ravenna is an earthly paradise. Spread out over several churches and baptisteries around town is one of the world's most dazzling collections of Early Christian mosaic artwork, enshrined since 1996 on Unesco's World Heritage list. Wandering through the unassuming town centre today, you'd never imagine that for a three-century span beginning in 402 CE Ravenna served as the capital of the Western Roman Empire, chief city of the Ostrogoth Kingdom of Italy and nexus of a powerful Byzantine exarchate.

During this prolonged golden age, while the rest of the Italian peninsula flailed in the wake of barbarian invasions, Ravenna became a fertile art studio for skilled craftsmen, who covered the city's terracotta brick churches in heart-rendingly beautiful mosaics. Ravenna was momentous as inspiration for Dante Alighieri's greatest work, *Divina Commedia*; and romantic toff Lord Byron added further weight to Ravenna's literary credentials when he spent two years here in the early 19th century.



TOP TIP

As state monuments have free admission on the first Sunday of the month, you can visit three of Ravenna's Unesco World Heritage Sites (Battistero degli Ariani, Basilica di Sant'Apollinare in Classe and the Mausoleo di Teodorico) for free if you plan accordingly.

Ravenna, p396

Another of the region's criminally under-visited gems, Ravenna offers some of the world's most beautiful Early Christian mosaic art and a wonderful, less crowded seaside.



TAKE A LOAD OFF IN RAVENNA



Luca Barberini, a contemporary mosaic artist who runs **Koko Mosaico** studio and mosaic school in Ravenna. He shares some of his favourites around town. (@lucabarberini)

I am an artist living and working in the heart of Ravenna. My favourite places are the **DarsenaPopUp**, an incredible space that brings the sea to the city where you can comfortably walk to and relax with an aperitif and eating inside maritime containers; and the **Giardini Pubblici**, a green space where you can stretch out and free your children, indulging in a drink at the **Chalet**.

Ravenna



The world's most perfect places are being turned into backdrops for our tourist selfies

Tobias Jones

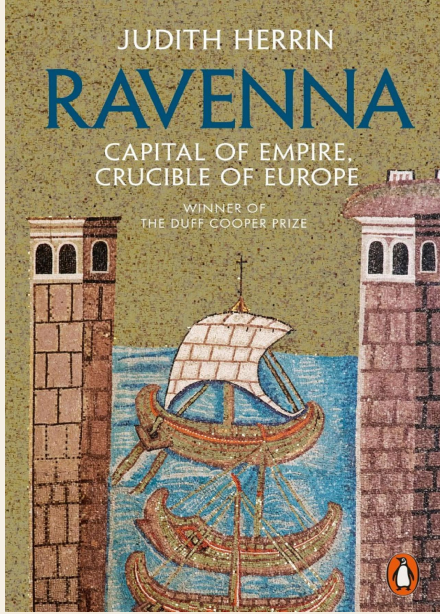
Italy depends on tourism but despairs at the hordes who descend on its beauty spots. Its solutions are being watched around the globe

The most romantic way to cross Europe – and why it's a sleeping giant

Sleeper trains are back, with new services linking some of the continent's greatest cities – and here are seven of the best



Ravenna



Ravenna



Ravenna

