Smiling International School
An Extra Smile

EVENTS IN FERRARA

OCTOBER 2026

Jazz Club – Torrione San Giovanni

From October to April 2027

Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays

Via Rampari di Belfiore, 167

Email: **jazzclub@jazzclubferrara.com**

Ferrara's leading jazz club is located in the beautiful Renaissance tower at the start of the walls in Porta Mare. It is the perfect setting for a relaxing evening of jazz with musicians from all over the world who come here to play. It is also possible to have an evening meal here if you book in advance by telephoning 331 4323840 (between midday and 10 pm)

The first time you go, you need to pay a membership fee which costs about €10 and lasts for one year. If you enrol the night of a concert, you will be entitled to a discount off the concert ticket! These cost around €15/€20 and can be bought on the night of the concert.

The ticket office opens at 7 pm, the wine bar opens at 7.30 pm and concerts start at about 9 pm /9.30 pm (check by clicking the link below). You are welcome to stay on for jamming sessions which begin at 11 pm.

https://jazzclubferrara.com/concerti/

Fitness Walk Ferrara – along the walls

4th October 2026

Meeting point: *Porta degli Angeli, Via Rampari di Belfiore at 3.30 pm*

Departure: *at 4 pm*

Hurry as places are limited! Combine music, keeping fit and healthy while enjoying Ferrara's historical scenery! €13 to participate. Booking online only:

https://fitnesswalk.eu/prodotto/4-ottobre-ferrara-lungo-le-mura/

(Please note that this event is not suitable for dogs, babies/toddlers in prams and pushchairs or children under the age of 8).

Internazionale a Ferrara

2nd – 4th October 2026

www.internazionale.it/festival

Journalist and authors from all over the world meet in Ferrara for a series of free lectures and meetings about current affairs, culture, international politics and scenarios for the future of the world. For the full programme, which includes events for children aged between 8 and 10 at a local library, visit the official website above.

Open Days for Joining Historical Palio

Saturday 10th October

Piazza Municipio at 3 pm

If you are interested in taking part in Ferrara's historical events linked to the medieval Palio games in May, why not join one the town's eight districts which hold open days in September and October?

The district of **Rione San Paolo** is having an open day on 10th October in Piazza Municipio where you can try your hand at flag-waving, playing the drum or clarion and get into the community spirit. Everyone is welcome to have a go and this event is totally free or charge.

What's on at Teatro Nuovo?

Piazza Trento Trieste 52

https://teatronuovoferrara.com/it/

Saturday 3rd October at 9 pm – 'Pink Floyd Festival' tribute band 'Wit Matrix'

Saturday 24th October at 9 pm – 'Carmen' Barcelona's Ballet Company

Friday 30th October at 9 pm – Abba Show 'The Golden Years'

Saturday 31st October at 9 pm – 'Ghost' the musical

The ticket office, located inside the theatre, is open on:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays:11 am – 1 pm & 4 pm – 7 pm

Thursdays: 11 am – 1 pm

Alternatively, 1 hour before each show for any remaining tickets

Email: biglietteria@teatronuovoferrara.com

Tickets can also be bought directly online by selecting the show and clicking on the ticket link

What's on at Teatro Comunale?

Corso Martiri della Libertà 5

https://www.teatrocomunaleferrara.it/spettacolo/

Ferrara's Contemporary Dance Festival continues...

25th October at 8.3 pm – 'Dear Son'

Classical Music Concerts:

7th October at 6 pm – Opus 13 Quartet featuring music by Bartòk, Franceschini and Beethoven

23rd October at 8.30 pm – Tuscany Orchestra with Francesca Dego on violin. Music by Brahms and Czajkowski

Thursday 29th October at 6 pm – Martina Meola Piano Concert featuring music by Chopin, Schumann, Prokofiev and Listz

To book tickets, visit the official website above

At Palazzo Schifanoia:

Thursday 22nd at 8.30 pm – Cellist Giacomo Cardelli, music by Cassadò, Carter, Berio, Bach, Gabrielli. Free admission.

Monumenti Aperti

17th & 18th October 2026

10 am – 1.30 pm & 3 pm – 6.30 pm

https://monumentiaperti.com/it/edizioni/2026/

This event celebrates Italy's cultural heritage and aims to encourage visitors to discover and appreciate Italy's art, architecture and its history, especially in their own town. Some buildings are opened just for this event! During this special weekend, you can visit the listed monuments below free of charge in small groups. Some monuments provide guided tours while others will have helpful volunteers from local schools. There is no need to book in advance. Here is a list of monuments which are participating in this event:

- **Palazzo Municipale – Ferrara's historical town hall** (Piazza del Municipio 2)
- Teatro Comunale Claudio Abbado – the beautiful opera house and its historic foyer/ music rooms (Corso Martiri della Libertà 5)
- **Chiesa di San Carlo – a striking church on the main road** (Corso della Giovecca 19)
- Palazzina Marfisa d'Este – a princess's residential villa (Corso della Giovecca 170)
- **Palazzo Naselli Crispi – a refined Renaissance palace** (Via Borgoleoni 28)
- Palazzo Magnanini Roverella – an aristocratic residence (Corso Giovecca)
- **Museo Civico di Storia Naturale – the civic natural history museum** (Via Filippo de Pisis 24)
- Scuola Primaria Alda Costa – a rationalist-style school building (Via Gaetano Previati 31)
- **Consorzio di Bonifica Pianura di Ferrara – the headquarters of the land reclamation consortium** (Via Mentana 7)
- Palazzo Barbantini-Koch – originally the historic headquarters of Ferrara's bank (Corso Giovecca 108)
- **Palazzo Pendaglia – a private, noble residence for a wealthy merchant and landowner** (Via de' Romei 12)
- Basilica di San Francesco – a prominent Renaissance Basilica (Piazza San Francesco)
- **Parocchia di Santa Chiara – an interesting parish church** (Corso della Giovecca 179)

- Ex-Monastero di Santa Chiara – a fascinating former monastery (Corso della Giovecca 181)
- **Citadella della Salute San Rocco – the historic former hospital** (Corso Giovecca 203)
- Casa Niccolini Children's Library – visit a students' art exhibition 'Lo Sguardo che crea'.

Ferrara Film Corto Festival 'Ambiente è Musica' / Short Films Festival 'The Environment is Music'

20th – 25th October
Sala Estense, Piazza Municipio for evening events
Chiostro di San Paolo, Via Borgo Leone – afternoon screenings

The Ferrara Film Corto Festival is an international cultural festival dedicated specifically to the art of short films. It celebrates indie cinema and short-form visual storytelling. This year's theme is 'Environment is Music' and focuses on the relationship between humans and the changing natural world. Local secondary schools will take part in judging the film entries while its screenings and other events are open to members of the public in the afternoons and evenings
The full programme will be published on 1st October. Check out this link:
https://www.provincia.fe.it/Novita/Eventi/Ferrara-Film-Corto-Festival-Ambiente-e-Musica-2026-IX-EDIZIONE#

Visioni - Piccola Scuola di Festebà Festival

Saturday 24th October at 9.30 am
Casa Niccolini Biblioteca / Children & Youth Library
Via Romitit 13 (city centre) Tel: 0532 418231 Email: ***info.niccolini@comune.fe.it***

For the second year in a row, Casa Niccolini is hosting "VISIONI", a monthly youth theatre training program organised by the Circi Association that runs from October to June for 7 - 18 year-olds. The project helps participants learn about youth theatre and prepares them to join the Festebà Festival jury through 2.5-hour sessions featuring professional theatre shows and playful workshops. The main goal is to

create active, knowledgeable audience members who truly understand and appreciate theatre. The programme kicks off on Saturday 24th October with a special show called *"Una fiaba in sette storie"* by Marta Zotti, followed by a creative workshop.

Oktoberfest

1st -4th, 8th – 11th, 16th -18th & 23rd, 24th October 2026
Ferrara Fiere Congressi, Via della Fiera Congressi, 11
7 pm – 2 am
Admission is free
On Fridays and Saturdays admission is €10 (which includes a drink) after 11.30 pm
www.oktoberfestferrara.it
Email: **info@oktoberfestferrara.it**

This festival celebrates Bavaria; its culture, music, cuisine and traditions including its excellent beer 'Paulaner' brewed since 1634. Folk music, fairground rides and shows will ensure everyone will have a great time. Visit the website to see which bands are playing live.

If you would like to eat at the self-service restaurant in the show area ('Biergarten dell'Area Spettacoli'), you must book online in advance. This is free of charge but places are limited so hurry! If you do book a table, it is compulsory to eat there (not for drinks only).
Check out the 'Servizio Navetta' /bus service, which costs €3 (one way ticket) and takes you to and from Kennedy car park to the festival:
https://www.oktoberfestferrara.it/servizio-navetta/

'Festival del Ciclista Lento' – 'The Slow Bike Ride Festival'

24th & 25th October
www.ciclistalento.it

On Saturday 24th - The slowest Bike ride in the world: 5 km in 5 hours!
Here is a fun bicycle event which includes the slowest bike ride in the world! 5km in 5 hours around the city to visit its monuments, learn about its history and to taste local delights at various stop offs along the way. It is a great opportunity to visit Ferrara by bike with a guide.

Meeting point: *9 am at Factory Grisù/Officine Riciclette, Via Mario Poledrelli 21*
Departure: *10 am*
To enrol: ***https://www.eventbrite.it/e/biglietti-pedalata-lenta-5-km-in-5-ore-festival-del-ciclista-lento-2026-1999363851100***
You can also enrol on the day itself at Factory Grisù if there are any places left.

Sunday 25th October – 'La Granfondo del Merendone'

If you prefer to go further-a-field then try this bike ride which takes you outside the walls and off into the charming Ferrarese countryside. It is a 45 - 50 km round trip, along cycle paths between Ferrara and Bondeno, to discover nature, parks and historical places from the times of the Estense family. This journey will be led by Alan Marangoni an Italian cyclist champion and the sports journalist Marco Pastonesi who will share some funny experiences along the way.

The goal of this event is to spend a day out in the open air on your bikes and to discover the local territory. The day concludes with a delicious afternoon snack featuring local products.

Meeting point: *open from 8 am at Factory Grisù/Officine Riciclette, Via Mario Poledrelli 21*
Departure: *9 am from Factory Grisù (return at about 3 pm)*
To enrol: ***https://www.eventbrite.it/e/biglietti-granfondo-del-merendone-festival-del-ciclista-lento-2026-1999363811983***

- *The organisers advise participants to arrive 30 minutes before departure for both of these events in order to complete the enrolment*
- *It is possible to hire a bike from 'Officine Riciclette' if you ask in advance*
- *You can enrol on the day of both tours, but places are limited.*

'L'Autunno Ducale nelle Terre Estense' / A Duke's Autumn in the Land of the Estense

24th & 25th October 2026
Piazza Castello and Piazza Savonarola
9.30 am – 8 pm
https://www.prolocoferrara.org/

Visit this autumn-inspired market with forgotten fruits and historical plants from the Estense family's reign. Step back in time and discover local products which were prepared for court banquets. Taste delicious jams, breads and cakes which are typical from the local area and have been grown and used for centuries.

Ferrara Food Festival

30th, 31st October & 1st November

Piazza Trento Trieste, Piazza Savonarola & Piazza Castello

9 am – 8 pm

https://www.ferrarafoodfestival.it/

A three-day festival dedicated to showcasing Ferrara's finest products and regional specialities. Throughout the day there will be cooking demonstrations, talks, aperitifs, interviews and food competitions between towns and farmhouses.

The shopping centre 'Ipercoop Castello' will be holding a sneak preview of this event on Saturday 25th October with a photography exhibition highlighting Ferrara's typical products. There will also be talks about health and innovation, plus a cooking show held by students at 5 pm in the central plaza.

Candlelight Concerts at Ferrara's Archaeology Museum

Museo Archeologico Nazionale

Via XX Settembre 124

Enjoy a memorable evening in the beautiful setting of Ferrara's Archaeology Museum lit with candles and filled with excellent music.

31st October

7.30 pm – Ennio Morricone and Other Theme Tunes

9.30 pm – Coldplay and Imagine Dragons

7th November

7.30 pm – Tribute to Ludovico Einaudi

14th November 2026

7.30 pm – Tribute to Hans Zimmer

9.30 pm – Ennio Morricone and Other Theme Tunes

Tickets start at €29 and can be bought online from the website Fever:
https://feverup.com/it/ferrara-italia/candlelight

Food Festivals 'Sagre' Continue...

Casumaro – Zucca Days / Pumpkin Days

17th, 18th, 24th & 25th October
Via Garigliano 14, Casumaro
Saturday at 7.30 pm & Sunday at 12.30 pm
Indoor heated area

Pumpkin, which is grown locally, is such a versatile and staple part of Ferrara's cuisine it features in many dishes, both savoury and sweet. This village really goes to town to promote this autumn ingredient with an array of imaginative dishes from appetisers to desserts. Try their baked pumpkin au gratin filled with ham and pumpkin bechamel, lasagna with pumpkin and taleggio cheese, roast pork with thyme and pumpkin, tiramisu with toasted almonds and pumpkin. It is well-worth a visit!

Vigarano Pieve - Festa della Cappelletto d'Autunno / Autumn Cappelletto Pasta

1st – 4th October
Church hall, Via Mantova 120, Vigarano Pieve
Open at 7.30 pm. Sundays lunches only 12.30 pm
It is possible to book: 345.6890018 Email: sagra@vigaranopieve.it
Indoor heated area

Start with a traditional appetizer called 'Pinzin' - fried bread served with cold meats. For a first course try 'Cappelletti' – meat filled pasta served with cream, ragù, truffle or in broth.
As a main course taste delicious 'Cotoletta' (fried breaded pork fillets) with savoury truffle, mixed grills or tender slice beef 'Tagliata'.
Finish off the meal with a traditional chocolate 'Tenerina' cake, 'Zuppa Inglese', 'Torta Tagliatellina' or a semifreddo with marscapone and Nutella!

Mesola - Sagra del Radicchio / Chicory

2nd – 5th October

Piazza E. Bullega – Bosco Mesola

Open 12.30 pm & 7.30 pm (Heated indoor area)

Info: 391 7418404

The woods of Mesola, near Ferrara and the Delta, is the perfect area in which the sweet/bitter Italian chicory grows. It is a popular ingredient for many Ferrarese dishes and during this food festival you can try a variety of interesting dishes. If you go, look out for information about excursions into the woods by moonlight and bike tours of the area.

Casumaro - Festa della Lumaca / Snail Festival

Sports Field, Via Boschetti, 21, at 7.30 pm

2nd, 3rd, 4th & 9th, 10th, 11th, 17th & 18th October

Casumaro celebrates the Festival of Snails, a popular ingredient in the Ferrarese countryside. Choose from a selection of very interesting snail starters and a wide range of delicious meat main courses!

Halloween news to follow shortly!