



- Main cities: **ANCONA**, Urbino, Pesaro, Ascoli Piceno, Macerata

Historical overview: Marche was known in ancient times as the Picenum territory. The Picens were the Italic tribe who lived in Picenum during the Iron Age; after 295 BC the Romans founded numerous colonies in the areas. After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the region was invaded by the Goths. Marche was nominally part of the Papal States, but most of the territory was under local lords, while the major cities ruled themselves as free communes. During the Renaissance, the region was fought over by rival aristocratic families, such as the Malatesta of Fano-Rimini and the house of Montefeltro of Urbino. Later on, the territory fell under Napoleon control and after his defeat, Marche returned to Papal rule until 4 November 1860, when it was annexed to the unified Kingdom of Italy by a plebiscite.

- Spoken languages: Italian and Marchigiano dialect

- Climate: it is strongly influenced by the vicinity of the Adriatic Sea. There is a Mediterranean climate in the coastal and mid-hills that, as they move inwards, gradually become sub-mediterranean, while in the mountainous area it can be defined as oceanic.

«A trip to Marche, not hasty, leds you to enjoy marvelous wonders» - Guido Piovene

Mezzavalle beach



Sferisterio, Macerata



Urbino



Ancona





Giacomo Leopardi, was an Italian poet, philosopher, essayist and philologist. He is widely acknowledged to have been one of the **most radical and challenging thinkers** of the 19th century. Although he lived in a secluded town in the ultra-conservative Papal States, he came in touch with the main thoughts of the Enlightenment and created a remarkable and renowned poetic work, related to the Romantic era. The extraordinarily **lyrical quality** of his poetry made him a **central protagonist** in the **European** and **international** literary and cultural **landscape**.



Putti, Madonna Sistine, Raffaello

The highest expression of poetry is reached in *L'Infinito*, which is at once philosophy and art, since in the brief harmony of the verses are concentrated the conclusions of long philosophical meditations. The theme is a concept, which mind can only with extreme difficulty conceive. The poet narrates an experience he often has when he sits in a secluded place on a hill. His eyes cannot reach the horizon, because of a hedge surrounding the site; his thought, instead, is able to imagine spaces without limits. A hill represents the **heights human thought achieves**, but at the top there is a **hedge that prevents one from seeing the ultimate horizon, beyond death and existence**. Thus this hedge can be interpreted as signifying the **limits of human understanding regarding human existence in the Universe**.