

- Main cities: **PERUGIA**, Assisi, Gubbio, Orvieto, Foligno
- Historical overview: The region is named for the Umbri people, an Italic people which was absorbed by the expansion of the Romans. After the downfall of the Etruscans, Umbrians aided the Samnites in their struggle against Rome (308 BC); the Roman started a period of integration under the Roman rulers, who established some colonies. With the collapse of the Roman Empire, barbarians struggled for the supremacy in the region. In the 14th century, the *signorie* arose, but they were subsumed into the Papal States who ruled. Between 1809–1814 Umbria became part of the Napoleonic Empire and after its defeat, the Pope regained Umbria and ruled it until 1860. In **1861**, in the context of Italian Risorgimento, Umbria was **incorporated** in the **Kingdom of Italy**. After being a bloody stage of the WWII, in 1946 Umbria became part of the Italian Republic.
- Spoken languages: Italian and **Umbrian** dialect

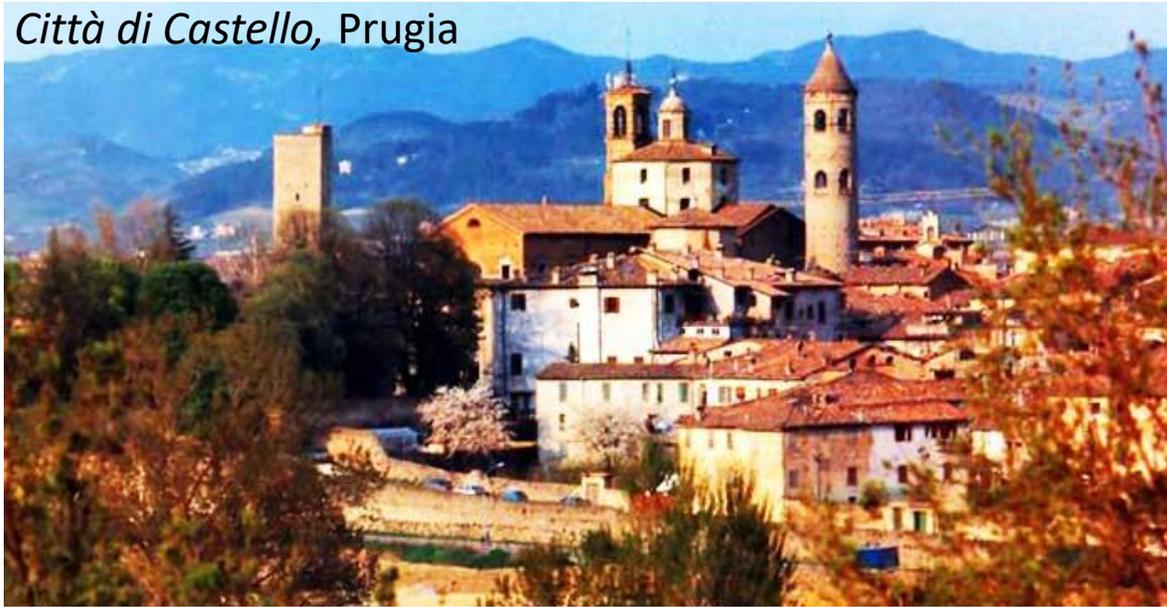
« Maybe I will give a favor to the reader telling him how he will have to spend a week in Perugia. His first care will be to not be in a hurry, to walk everywhere very slowly and without a goal and to observe everything that his eyes will meet» - Henry James

- Climate: it is very different due to differences in altitudes. On the hills it is temperate with dry summers, whereas as the altitude increases the temperatures tend to be lower with abundant rains in winter and fall.

# UMBRIA – Heritage and Natural Sites

## 04. THE CENTER

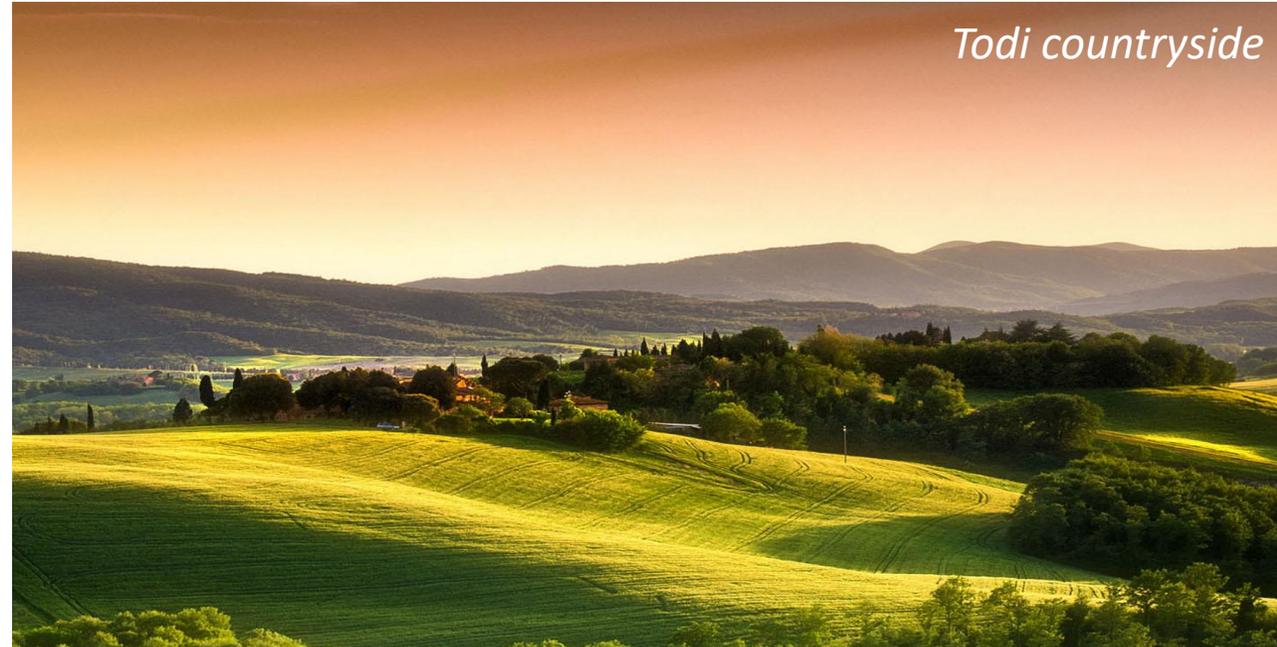
*Città di Castello, Prugia*



San Francesco d'Assisi Basilica

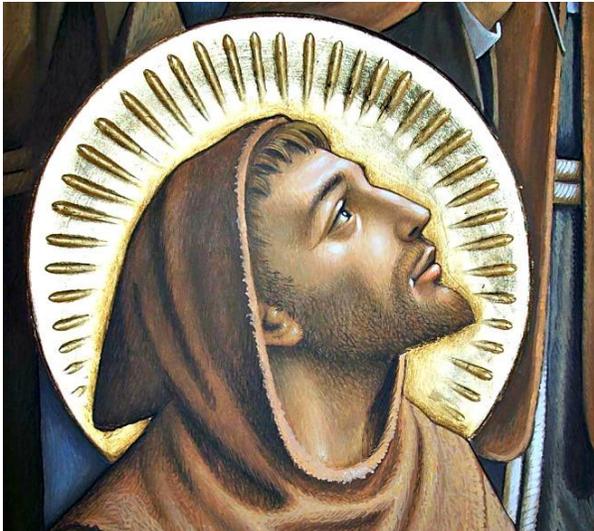


*Todi countryside*



*Fontana Maggiore, Perugia*

*Delivery of the keys, Perugino (Cappella Sistina fresco)*



**San Francesco d'Assisi** was born in Assisi, Italy, in 1182. The son of a wealthy merchant, he received an appropriate education geared for business. At the age of 16 years, he participated in the fight against the feudal nobility, was imprisoned in the city of Perugia, where he stayed a year in prison. In 1203, back to his hometown, Francis lived a life of parties, festivities, and pleasure. In 1206, praying in the chapel of San Damiano, he heard a call of Christ who said to him to go and restore his house. He is one of the two Patron Saints of Italy. Today, Saint Francis is one of the most-known religious persons worldwide; his "**Cantico delle creature**" (Canticle of the Sun) is a religious song with a notable poetic value and it is believed to be among the first works of literature, if not the first, written in the Italian language. The Canticle of the Sun in its praise of God thanks Him for such creations as "Brother Fire" and "Sister Water". It is an affirmation of Francis' personal theology as he often referred to animals as brothers and sisters to Mankind, rejected material accumulation and sensual comforts in favor of "Lady Poverty".

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