

Excerpted from local descriptions:

Orvieto origins go back to the Etruscan civilization: the first Etruscan settlements, going back to the 9th Century B.C., were found inside the caves in the bedrock on which Orvieto was build. Orvieto was annexed in the 3rd Century B.C. to the territories of Rome. It then became a free municipality, and during the struggles between Guelphs and Ghibellines, was an opponent of Barbarossa, remaining faithful to the Pope. With the support of the Papal State, and as a site of Papal reign, it was allowed to prosper through the entire Medieval Period reaching the top of its development in the 13th Century with the constitution of the General Council of the 400 and the election of the Captain of the People. It was during this period that one saw the fervent work of erecting palaces and holy buildings among which the very famous Cathedral stands out, dating back to 1263, undoubtedly the most important architectural landmark of the city, with its splendid Gothic facing and the richness of the ornaments and internal chapels. In the ancient town you also find the St.Patrizio well, the Palace of the Seven from 1300, the **Palace of People Captain (12th Century)**, where the meetings of the People's Council took place, and where we will have our meeting.

Orvieto is in Umbria, actually at the crossroad between Umbria, Tuscany and Lazio. Umbria, the green heart of Italy, is a region of great wines. Within 100-150 km from Orvieto are jewels of art and history like Assisi, Todi, Spoleto, Perugia, Gubbio, Foligno.

How to reach Orvieto

Orvieto is 130 Km from Rome, and 165 Km from Florence. We suggest that you **fly into Rome**, Leonardo da Vinci International Airport. From there you take a shuttle train to Rome Central station and, then **a train to Orvieto** Station on the Florence-Rome railway track. Alternatively, you may fly into Bologna airport, take a cab to the railway station (15 min), and then take a direct train to orvieto, on the Bologna-Rome railway track.

Orvieto can be reached easily **by car**, Motorway A1 (Autostrada del Sole) Florence-Rome: exit Orvieto (time required: from Florence 90 min. - from Rome 60 min.), Dual carriage-way E45 Perugia - Todi and SS 448 Todi-Orvieto.

You may consult the following web-sites

<http://www.stradadeivinietrusco romana.it/index.php>

<http://www.argoweb.it/orvieto/orvieto.uk.html>