

THE TIMES

CITY BREAKS

Beat the crowds to this glorious unsung Italian coastal city

Roman relics, a Renaissance cathedral and few overseas tourists are the big pulls for the low-key, laid-back hero of Rimini — go now, before its moment in the sun

Lucy Perrin | Monday March 18 2024, 2.43pm GMT, The Sunday Times

Flight bookings for Rimini spiked when it was announced that the Tour de France would be carving its way through the coastal city on June 29. Spectators will find it hard to focus on following the yellow jersey, however: fighting for attention are nine miles of dune-backed beach, one of the world's most impressive collections of Roman relics and a fishermen's quarter that's just as pretty as a village in Cinque Terre, minus the crowds. This is a spot still firmly favoured by the Italians, who come in their droves during summer, fleeing the bigger, tourist-packed cities for the beach or to party — Bologna is 90 minutes' drive away, Florence just under three hours. While it's not at all polished and the strings of beach huts and hotels that line the sand look more budget than bouji, this is an Italian seaside stay at its rawest; steaming plates of spaghetti and clams, makeshift Aperol stalls and hardly any Brits.



Borgo San Giuliano
GETTY IMAGES

AT A GLANCE

48 hours in Rimini

Day one

- **Morning:** Domus del Chirurgo
- **Eat at:** Circus Panificio Caffè
- **Afternoon:** Piadina lesson
- **Drink at:** Dalla Jole
- **Evening:** Sunset wander around Borgo San Giuliano
- **Eat at:** Pizzeria Spaccio

Day two

- **Morning:** Cycle to Santarcangelo di Romagna
- **Eat at:** La Sangiovesa
- **Afternoon:** Shop at the market
- **Drink at:** Osteria Delle Poveracce
- **Evening:** Fellini Museum
- **Eat at:** Osteria de Borg