

Getting to The Hill That Breathes by Car (or motorbike, scooter, tractor, steamroller...) from Ancona airport

Welcome to Italia.

As you walk out of arrivals, you'll need to head off towards the **right for the hire car centre**. (At this stage it's worth making sure you have some Euros in your pocket for the toll... it will cost about €2 but obviously it's worth having more).

They never seem that hot at telling you about the car... so make sure you know where the brake is... sorry, make sure you know where the lights are, and what fuel it takes and how to open the fuel cap.

As you set off, **stick your headlights on**, it's law in Italy to have them on all the time.

Traffic rules are pretty much the same in Italy as the UK... you give way where you see a Stop line... you give way to people on roundabouts... and you drive very close to the car in front on motorways and flash them relentlessly if they're getting on your nerves.

Oh, and remember to **drive on the right!**

You have to **turn right as you leave the hire car centre**.

You're heading now for the motorway, which we'll now refer to as the **autostrada**.

Just follow the **green autostrada signs**, they're marked **Bologna - Taranto... A14**. Anyway, you can't miss these green signs.

You'll come to the toll entrance of the autostrada. And you need to **get a ticket**... don't go in the 'telepass' stream... pull in behind a car that is getting a ticket. Take the ticket, slip it behind your sun visor (a great Italian tradition) and proceed.

Take the autostrada north **towards Bologna**.

You're now on the autostrada heading north. You're going to be on for about 15-20 minutes. And you need to get off at the exit for Fano. Take care you don't miss it. It's a bit tough knowing how far off things are on the autostradas. They have some distance signs, but they're very small and on the central reservation. As you get closer to Fano, some of them will count you down. The main thing to do though is to watch out as you get close to the exits.

So you **get off at Fano**, taking care not to get off too quickly as the slip-roads in Italy are very short.

You come to the toll area (alt stazione)... it's always a bit bewildering knowing where to go... but first look out for the signs that show a diagram of a toll booth taking money from a car or lorry (you'll see what I mean)... then make sure you choose one with a green light... or just join the nearest queue.

Say Buongiorno, pay your dues and set off again.

In front of you there is one road going straight on (to Fano) and one road **veering off to the right** signposted towards **Roma** and **Urbino** (amongst many other places). So get over onto the right.

All roads apparently lead to Rome, but this one certainly does.

It's a dual carriageway. And you'll be on here for another 15 minutes. In fact you'll be on here until it turns into a normal road. So don't get off. Carry straight on past the sign to Rome. Marvel at the more mountainous scenery you're now passing through... the Roman town of Fossombrone on your right... and notice the enormous gorge in front of you.

And before you know it, the dual carriageway is a single carriageway and you're entering the small town of Canavaccio. I say entering, you just drive straight on through it. (In case of any doubt, there have been signs to Urbino all the way along this road, and will be from now on, right into Urbino).

Okay, stay on this road. It curves and it bends, but just stay on. Because in another 15 minutes you'll find yourself in **Urbino**.

You'll know you're there because you'll hit a roundabout. **Go straight on**.

You hit another roundabout. And you **turn right**.

The road now climbs... going up round a long bend... and you drive on towards the hospital (ospedale), where you'll reach another roundabout. **Turn right**.

Get into the left lane (the hospital is now on your right) and when you come to the next roundabout, **turn left**. The sign is now sending you to places like Carpegna and San Marino.

Back to the bends... drive down this road for about 5 minutes until you reach a little town called **Gadana**. You want to **turn left** here towards a place called **Pieve di Cagna**. The turning is opposite a bar. And you'll know you've gone too far if you see a little Conad supermarket on your right and a car park on your left.

Okay, we're on the road to **Pieve di Cagna** now... just stay on this road until you reach the town... until you reach a t-junction in fact (which will take you about 10 minutes).

At the t-junction turn left.

Nearly there now.

You'll soon see a cemetery on the right and a turning to the right after it. Don't take it. Carry straight on... towards Urbania.

The road now ascends... you go round a couple of sharp bends... then a very sharp bend with a (brown) house on the corner.

You now descend for a while, past a sign 'S. Apollinare' on the left... past a big farm on the right as you now ascend again.

Now, slow down, you're very nearly there. Just over the brow of the hill you'll see a lay-by on your right... carry on... past an opening in the trees on the right (where if you looked down you'd see a white house and after it The Hill... but don't take your eyes off the road here you fool, it's dangerous).

The road goes down a bit then starts to climb up again and you'll see on your **right** a track descending away from the road. And there's a sign for **Via Cà Loreto** and **LA COLLINA CHE RESPIRA**. Take this track, being careful at the beginning as it is steep. Follow the track down, past a house on your left, then down to a white house on your right. Keep going past this house.

The Hill starts where the trees start. Just keep going down the track, taking it very easy, especially if it's wet. There is a deer track that crosses over our car track, so watch out.

Then you'll reach the house... we'll give you a hug... you can unload and we'll show you where to park the car.

Ahhhh, you can relax, you have arrived at The Hill That Breathes and are in for a rather marvellous time.