

English

THE FALLS AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

The Marmore Falls, with its 165 m course divided into three falls, is the highest in Europe. It is located in Valnerina, near the town of Terni, in the part comprising of the Nera River Park (also called the Water Park). Incredibly rich from a cultural, historical, and environmental point of view, the Park is a protected area that considers this waterfall its greatest attraction.

THE FALLS IN THE COLLECTIVE IMAGINATION

Its extraordinary beauty was well-known even in the past. Since the 18th century, in fact, it has been described by poets and writers, used as inspiration by great artists, and visited and admired by royals, academics, scientists, and all those lucky enough to take the Grand Tour of Europe.

HISTORY

The Marmore Falls is not a product of Nature; rather, it is man-made. It was in fact created at the beginning of the 3rd century B.C. upon the orders of the Roman consul M. Curio Dentato who had the water from the river Velino poured into the river Nera through a canal called Cava Curiana, thus freeing the valley from the swamp and making it healthier. Between the 15th and 18th centuries the waterfall was altered and restored by some of the most famous architects of the time such as Antonio Sangallo. These works, which entailed the construction of new canals so as to clear the obstructions caused by limestone deposits and enable the water to flow better, gave the waterfall the appearance it has today. Since the mid-19th century, the waterfall has been used to produce the hydroelectric energy needed to boost the industrialization of Terni. It is for this reason that the waterfall is only open to visitors at certain times and periods throughout the year.

THE LEGEND OF THE WATERFALL

As in many other cases, the origin of this waterfall is tied to a sad tale. The legend in fact tells the story of Velino, a shepherd boy, who fell in love with the beautiful nymph Nera after seeing her bathe in the river. Rejected by his love, the boy chose to throw himself off the cliff and into the river so as to remain with his beloved for all eternity.

THE GNEFRO

The “gnefro” is a kind although sometimes pesky wood sprite that lives in the park surrounding the waterfall and who takes children to visit the area during the “Fantapasseggiata”. For further information, please visit the website www.marmorefalls.it



The area surrounding the waterfall is peppered by scenic routes, all clearly signalled so as to make them easy to follow. The park also hosts the Centre for Environmental Education, an organization which studies and informs the general public on the main species of plants and herbs that grow around the waterfall, among which is the Hart’s Tongue (Phyllitis scolopendrium), a type of fern.

■ PATH NO. 1 (OLD PATHWAY)

Difficulty level: high - Difference in altitude: 150 m
Time required: 40’ uphill, 25’ downhill

Description: this is the historical path around the waterfall. It connects the Lower Belvedere to the Upper Belvedere where you will find the “Specola”, a terrace built by pope Pius VI in 1781. Halfway through the path you will find the tunnel leading to the Lovers’ Balcony. This path is not recommended to those suffering from heart or respiratory problems, or suffering from high and/or low blood pressure.

■ PATH NO. 2 (THE NYMPH’S RING)

Difficulty level: low - Difference in altitude: 40 m - Time required: 20’
Description: thanks to a series of stairs and bridges, this path takes you right into the heart of the waterfall. Furthermore, it offers visitors a spectacular view of the second and third segments of the waterfall.

■ PATH NO. 3 (MEETING OF RIVERS)

Difficulty level: low - Difference in altitude: 15 m
Time required: 20’
Description: this path offers visitors beautiful views on the gorge of the Nera river.

■ PATH NO. 4 (THE GRANDEUR)

Difficulty level: medium - Difference in altitude: 75 m - Time required: 20’ uphill
Description: a route with stairs that climbs along the mount Pennarossa to reach two panoramic spots which afford a beautiful front view of the waterfall.

■ PATH NO. 5 (CLIFFS AND MEN)

Difficulty level: low - Difference in altitude: 0 - Time required: 30’
Description: this path offers beautiful views on the Valnerina area. You can also see the water ducts from the old plant as well as the cliff’s consolidation wells.

■ PATH NO. 6 (THE WISE HOLLY OAKS)

Difficulty level: high - Difference in altitude: 160 m
Time required: 1 h uphill, 45’ downhill.
Description: this is an important route both from a historical and an environmental perspective. It links the higher ticket booth and entrance gate to the lower one and it partly follows the old “Route of St. Francis”. (It is recommended to hikers).

INFORMATION

The ticket to the Marmore Falls allows you to:

- Enter the area of both the Upper Belvedere and the Lower Belvedere, as well as all the paths;
- Use the park’s private parking lots.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Ambulance: 118 Fire fighters: 115 Carabinieri: 112 Police: 113
Municipal Police: 0744 426000 State Forestry Corps: 1515
Alpine and Speleological Rescue Unit: 333 5474180

WARNING

The water release is signalled by a siren. The area requires visitors to abide to safety measures. Those who do not will incur in fines as stated in the Rules and Regulations sheet displayed in the ticket booth. The managing authority will not be responsible for accidents and damages to people and/or objects.

YOU ARE ADVISED TO

- Wear suitable shoes as the paths may be slippery.
- Hold your children’s hand. Children younger than 14 need to be accompanied by an adult.
- Avoid trespassing the edges we have signalled. If the path is crowded, please keep to your right.
- Wear a raincoat or other protection in the Lovers’ Tunnel. This part of the path is not recommended to those suffering from claustrophobia.

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO

- Enter the natural caves
- Crowd the wooden passageways
- Lean out on the fencing
- Pick herbs and flowers
- Throw litter on the ground
- Smoke in wooded areas

BUS SERVICE

On certain dates a bus service is available. This connects the parking lot f the Lower Belvedere to the one of the Upper Belvedere to the Lake of Piediluco.

FERRY

Ferry excursions on the Lake of Piediluco are available.

For more information on the bus service and the ferry, you can find the calendar, timetable, and rates at the ticket booths or on our website www.marmorefalls.it.



JANUARY

WEEKDAYS closed
SATURDAY
Opening hours - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Water release - 12 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 4 p.m.
SUNDAY AND BANK HOLIDAYS
Opening hours - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Water release - 12 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 4 p.m.

FEBRUARY

WEEKDAYS
Opening hours - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Water release - SATURDAY
Opening hours - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Water release - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 5 p.m.
SUNDAY AND BANK HOLIDAYS
Opening hours - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Water release - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 5 p.m.

MARCH

WEEKDAYS
Opening hours - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Water release - 12 a.m. - 1 p.m., 4 - 5 p.m.
SATURDAY
Opening hours - 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Water release - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., 4 - 9 p.m.
SUNDAY AND BANK HOLIDAYS
Opening hours - 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Water release - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., 4 -9 p.m.

APRIL

WEEKDAYS
Opening hours - 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Water release - 12 a.m. - 1 p.m., 4 -5 p.m.
SATURDAY
Opening hours - 09 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Water release -10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 4 -9 p.m.
SUNDAY AND BANK HOLIDAYS
Opening hours - 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Water release - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 4 -9 p.m.

MAY

WEEKDAYS
Opening hours - 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Water release - 12 a.m. - 1 p.m., 4 - 5 p.m.
SATURDAY
Opening hours - 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Water release -10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 10 p.m.
SUNDAY AND BANK HOLIDAYS
Opening hours - 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Water release - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 10 p.m.

JUNE

WEEKDAYS
Opening hours - 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Water release - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., 4 -6 p.m., 9 -10 p.m.
SATURDAY
Opening hours - 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Water release -10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 -10 p.m.
SUNDAY AND BANK HOLIDAYS
Opening hours - 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Water release - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 -10 p.m.

JULY

WEEKDAYS
Opening hours - 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Water release - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., 4 -6 p.m., 9 - 10 p.m.
SATURDAY
Opening hours - 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Water release - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 10 p.m.
SUNDAY AND BANK HOLIDAYS
Opening hours - 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Water release - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 10 p.m.

AUGUST

WEEKDAYS
Opening hours - 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Water release - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., 4 -6 p.m., 9 - 10 p.m.
SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND BANK HOLIDAYS
Opening hours - 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Water release - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 10 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

WEEKDAYS
Opening hours - 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Water release - 12 a.m. - 1 p.m., 4 - 5 p.m., 8 - 9 p.m.
SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND BANK HOLIDAYS
Opening hours - 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Water release - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 9 p.m.

OCTOBER

WEEKDAYS
Opening hours - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Water release – only Fridays 3 - 5 p.m.
SATURDAY
Opening hours - 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Water release -11 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 7 p.m.
SUNDAY AND BANK HOLIDAYS
Opening hours - 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Water release - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER

WEEKDAYS
Opening hours - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Water release - SATURDAY
Opening hours - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Water release - 12 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 4 p.m.
SUNDAY AND BANK HOLIDAYS
Opening hours - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Water release - 12 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 4 p.m.

DECEMBER

WEEKDAYS
Opening hours - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Water release - SATURDAY
Opening hours - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Water release - 12 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 4 p.m.
SUNDAY AND BANK HOLIDAYS
Opening hours - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Water release - 12 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 4 p.m.

DISCOVER ALL OUR EVENTS ON WWW.MARMOREFALLS.IT

The excursion area (paths no. 1,2,3, and 4) remains open until half an hour before nightfall for safety reasons. Apart from Sundays, Bank Holidays are January 1st and 6th – February 14th – Easter Monday – April 25th – May 1st and 22nd – June 2nd – August 15th and 16th – October 4th – November 1st – December 8th, 25th, and 26th.

