

Dear participant,

It is 2 weeks until the start of WCO3 and we are looking forward to welcoming you all to Trieste very soon. I know you are all excited for the science, but we would also like to tell you about some other exciting opportunities to take advantage of while you are here.

The WCO3 organising committee.

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WWF guides tours

Friday 8th September afternoon

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The conference activity closes at approximately 12.30 on Friday 8th.

In the afternoon after the conference closes, we have the opportunity to offer you activities with the World wildlife fund (WWF).

You may not know, but the ICTP and Miramare Castle are situated right in the middle of a beautiful Marine Biosphere Reserve which you can read more about here: <https://www.ampmiramare.it/en/home-inglese/>

As part of a collaboration between WWF and ICTP, WWF have offered to organise two different possibilities for activities for Friday afternoon. Note that the central biosphere area around the castle is strictly protected, and one may only enter with permission from the WWF, so these are unique opportunities to visit the marine park swimming or by boat!

For both trips the numbers are limited but also subject to minimum participation [or they can proceed but at higher cost]. If you wish to join a trip we ask you therefore to sign up by the STRICT DEADLINE OF AUGUST 24th, using the online google form, so we can confirm numbers and bookings with WWF.

DEADLINE AUG 25th

SIGNING UP PAGE: <https://forms.gle/eciWrRxEmEvMPQ676>

We will then send out a confirmation email shortly after to confirm if one or both activities can proceed.

For reasons outlined below, the price of the boat trip is indicative, we will confirm to you the final price on the first day of the conference and collect payment (cash only please!) on the first evening of the conference at the welcome reception to confirm your participation.

1) Snorkling/Seawatching/Bioma - Price 25 Euro

see here for details:

<https://www.ampmiramare.it/en/seawatching-en/>

[minimum number 5, maximum number 24]

Departure 2.30pm

Approximate duration 2.5 hours

You have the opportunity to have a guided visit to the Bioma centre in Grignano and then this is followed by snorkeling in the protected marine reserve accompanied by an English-speaking guide (max 8 people per guide). Please note that you will be provided with a wetsuit and fins, but ***YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN MASK AND SNORKEL*** if you wish to join this activity.

2) Boat trip - ***Indicative*** price 50 euro

<https://www.ampmiramare.it/en/how-to-visit-the-mab/>

Minimum number 8, Maximum number 20

Maximum number per boat 10 people.

First departure 14:30

Second departure (if more than 10 pax) ~16:00

Duration 90 minutes.

You will be taken by electric boat from the WWF Biosphere reserve near the castle, gliding through the waters while an English speaking guide will tell you about the nature of the area. You will arrive to Santa Croce in the outer reserve and be able to view the castle from the waters of the park.

PLEASE note, as WWF are offering this possibility at a cost which is non-profit, the price is indicative to cover a fixed cost of the English speaking guide and the boat. Depending on numbers the price is likely to be lower, or maybe slightly higher (for example, if all 20 places are sold the price will be 30 Euro/pax, if 10 sign up the price is 40 euro/pax as it is one boat, however if 11 people sign up, then the price unfortunately increases to 55 euro as two boats are required].

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MUSIC CONCERTS

From the 5th to 12th September there is also the Festival of Trieste, a music concert series of classical musical. Here is the webpage (Italian only)

<https://www.societadeiconcerti.it/fest23>

outlining the concerts - Don't forget though that you are invited to the reception on the 7th Sept, so maybe leave that evening free 😊