Traveling with Confidence from the Rome Airport

After your long flight, you will be both tired and eager to see your new home away from home. You are almost there, but first you need to find your way from Fiumicino/Leonardo Da Vinci Airport to Ascoli on the START bus -- the bus company that offers transportation from Rome to Ascoli Piceno. At the bus station in Ascoli Piceno you will meet the UNH in ITALY staff that will escort you to your apartments.

DIRECTIONS

After retrieving your luggage at the airport, you have two options depending on the time of your arrival.

OPTION ONE: From the Airport
There are five trips each day from the Airport to Ascoli. They run at 7:30 AM, 14:10 (2:10 PM), 17:00 (5:00 PM), 18:50 (7:50 PM), 22:15 (10:15 PM). Nearly all flights from the USA arrive in time for you to catch the 14:10. It takes approximately 4 hours and 20 minutes to get to Ascoli. The bus leaves the airport from Terminal C, parking space #12. Occasionally, the START bus company will share the route with another bus company—be sure to ask before you get on the bus. But all the buses leave from the same area so your bus would be nearby.

The 18:50 bus goes direct to Ascoli. For the others you change buses in Porto D’Ascoli: you will be asked to switch to the one that goes to Ascoli (right at the bus stop—you get off one bus and on another). Another 30 minutes and you are there!

The cost of the ticket is about 20 Euros

OPTION TWO: From the Termini Train Station in Rome

If you are too early or too late for the rides from the Airport, you can take the START bus from the station in Rome itself. You go into Rome to the train station (Termini) and go about 5 blocks to the START office on Viale Castro Pretorio 84. From there buses to Ascoli leave at 7:20 AM, 8:30 AM, 13:50 (= 1:50 PM), 15:05 (3:05 PM) 17:00 (= 5 PM), 18:00 (= 6 PM), 20:15 (= 8:15 PM) and 22.50 (10:50). The ride takes about 3 1/2 hours and the cost is about 17
Euros. Some buses are direct. Some require a change in Porto D’Ascoli (see above)

Step 1: From the Airport to the Termini Train Station.

Exit the airport and walk all the way to the right until you get to some parking spaces where buses are parked. There will be several companies that offer transportation to Rome’s Termini Train Station. For example, TERRAVISION offers the ride for 4 Euros online/6 Euros at the bus. It goes direct to Termini and takes a little under an hour.

Here you can check the TERRAVISION bus schedule: http://www.terravision.eu/rome_fiumicino.html

[The Leonardo Express train between Fiumicino Airport and Termini Station in Rome is another option. Tickets cost about 14 euro and the ride lasts about 30 minutes. Once at the airport, you will see signs pointing you toward the train.]

Step 2: From Termini Train Station to the START office

The bus will leave you on Via Marsala, the street on the left side of the Termini Train Station (facing the station). From Via Marsala take a right turn (no other option) on Via Vicenza. Follow Via Vicenza for 7 blocks until you come to Viale Castro Pretorio. Make a left and the bus stop will be on the left side of the street. If you are too tired to walk you might want to take a taxi. The taxi ride should not be too expensive since it is such a short distance (5 Blocks).
Map showing route from Via Marsala to START office.

**Note:** Do not expect to see a bus terminal. Tickets are sold in a simple store with the sign “START” over the front door. The bus to Ascoli will be across the street. The store could be closed when you arrive, but it will open at least half an hour before the departure. The photo below is of the START office.

Go into the START office to purchase your ticket to Ascoli Piceno. Just say: “Vorrei un biglietto per Ascoli Piceno.”
There is no restroom on the bus, though it does make one ten-minute stop at the midway point when it is possible to use facilities and to get a bite to eat. Please contact the office staff if you are delayed—they will be at the Ascoli Train Station (which is also the bus stop) to meet you when your bus arrives to show you to your new home away from home.

Seats are usually assigned on buses in Italy. It is not first-come; first serve. Also if you get car sick, you WILL need Dramamine. The bus crosses the Apennines, the mountains that divide Italy.

If you need something to eat, there are Bars (coffee bars) on both sides of the START office and a great pizza by the slice place (really pizza by weight—you tell them or point out how much you want and they weigh it) around the corner. There are also fast food restaurants, a bookstore that sells English language books, and a grocery store in the Termini train station.

Be careful in and near Termini. It is a high theft area. You are not physically at risk but keep an eye on your luggage, camera, laptop, etc. at all times.

For your own reference, you will find the START bus schedule online here: http://www.startspa.it/uploads/bandi_e_gare/ASCOLI-ROMA-FIUMICINO_2015.pdf

The stops that you are interested in are either FIUMICINO AEROPORT Q2 (the airport) or ROMA (V.Č. PRETORIO) 84 (bus station near Termini) and ASCOLI PICENO (FS).