

## A floating bridge in the heart of a historic city

Rimini, Italy



*The new bridge in the foreground with the ancient Ponte de Tiberio behind*

In 2019, Walcon Marine Italia completed a sensitive installation in the heart of the historic Italian city of Rimini, involving the design and build of a floating bridge linking the two banks of the ancient Canal de Ponente.

Its purpose, to provide a new and safe route for foot and bicycle traffic across the canal. From it, residents and tourists can now also enjoy unparalleled views of the neighbouring 2,000-year old Ponte di Tiberio (Tiberius Bridge), one of the city's top tourist attractions and which to this day continues to be used by vehicles crossing the canal.

The new Walcon foot bridge is 36 metres in length and was fabricated using three heavy duty System 21 pontoons. Each of these is 12 metres in length and three metres wide and supported by five large floats, giving a live load of at least 300 kilos per square metre. The decking is Siberian larch wood.

An additional and significant feature of the design is that it can also be opened. Held in place at each end by a hinged guide around a steel pile driven into the canal bed, the bridge can be detached from either bank and swung open to lie alongside the opposite bank when needed.





Access to and from the pontoons is via a system of ramps and articulated gangways that allow easy passage for those with restricted mobility as well as strollers and bicycles.

The floating bridge is part of a wider project to redevelop the area around the Ponte di Tiberio basin with the intention of making it the centre of the city's cultural scene.

Creating an urban space for artistic and cultural experimentation that slopes down to the canal and its bridges lies at the heart of this project.

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*The close-up image below shows one of the wheelchair and stroller-friendly ramps down to the water level where the bridge is then accessed via an articulated gangway*



Founded in 1963, Walcon Marine is the market leader in the design, construction and installation of marinas, yacht harbours and berthing facilities for leisure, commercial and official purposes around the world. As probably the longest established and most experienced company in its field, Walcon Marine is a global organisation with manufacturing facilities in the UK, Australia and Dubai. Today its pontoons can be found installed in over 30 different countries on five continents.

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