



POCKET GUIDE TO GENOA  
quick guide to discover the city



lovingenova  
ancient, new, magic, true

en

**2-3** hours

## A FLEETING VISIT TO GENOA

Four 100% Genoese settings, if you only have a couple of hours to spare

### **Via Garibaldi, the power and wealth of the “Siglo des los Genoveses” (the Century of the Genoese)**

This is one of the finest Renaissance streets in the world. Its palazzi, known as the “Rolli”, were splendid patrician homes which the owners were required to make available for royalty and dignitaries visiting the Republic of Genoa.

### **“Castelletto”, a window over the old town**

From the renowned “spianata di Castelletto”, which is accessible by lift from Piazza Portello, you have spectacular views of the *centro storico* extending all the way to the sea.

### **Via del Campo, the singer-songwriters and the unique atmosphere of the alleyways in the *centro storico***

“Via del Campo” is the title of one of the moving ballads written and sung by Fabrizio De Andrè. Access to the street is from the ancient Porta dei Vacca gate, then have a look at the shop windows in Via San Luca until you reach Piazza Banchi and Caricamento.

### **“Passeggiata al Porto Antico”, waterfront promenade**

As you stroll along the old docks and wharfs, the lighthouse and big cruise ships loom into view. A ride on the “Bigo” panoramic lift gives you a new perspective on the city and the Aquarium.

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← Pegli

Nervi and Boccadasse →

**Not to be missed**

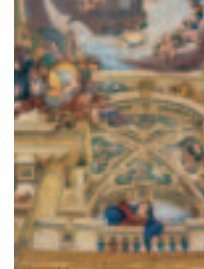
- 1 Palazzo Ducale
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left:  
view of the city  
from Spianata  
Castelletto,  
shops in  
Sottoripa,  
SS. Annunziata  
church fresco

## GENOA, A SPECIAL CITY

Genoa is a city of contrasts, sometimes of extremes.

A city of surprises. For example, it is a city of art yet it is also an industrial centre.

It has Italy's largest port but nearby there are crowded beaches in Corso Italia; glass skyscrapers stand alongside medieval towers, modern offices are located in former palaces that are still largely intact.

It is a "vertical" city on account of the height of the buildings and the lack of space in the warren of tiny alleyways (*caruggi*) and narrow cobbled paths (*creuze*) leading uphill and away from the coast.

It is a city of contrasts also in terms of the light: dazzling when looking out to sea from Castelletto or Righi, dark and slightly threatening in the

core of the old town.

It is a city of contrasts in terms of the colours: the pastel shades of the facades side by side with grey and black slate.

It is a city that has always been a crossroads of cultures and peoples. Genoa is also an impervious and solitary city. A place that takes time to appreciate but then grows on you and rewards you with one thrilling discovery after another.

Genoa's history dates back 26 centuries and legend has it that it was founded by Janus, the two-faced deity that presided over gates and doorways. Indeed, Genoa has always been a "gateway" to civilisation, linking East and West, the Mediterranean and Europe.

Genoa has always been the master of its own destiny.

Allied with the ancient Romans against Carthage, Genoa was sacked and burnt by Hannibal's brother, Magone.

This tragedy has left its mark on collective Genoese consciousness and is reflected in the local dialect: "avere il magone" (*u magun*) means to fall into a state of depression.

The city began its great era of expansion in the year 1000 and became a powerful maritime republic whose commercial influence and military dominion extended over much of the Mediterranean, with settlements as far away as the Black Sea.

Under Andrea Doria, who became Priore Perpetuo in 1528, the Republic of Genoa reached the height of its power: this was the beginning of the "Century of the Genoese" – rich traders,

extraordinary navigators and merchant bankers who financed the mighty Spanish empire ruled by Charles V. A stroll down Via Garibaldi will remind you very much of this past grandeur.

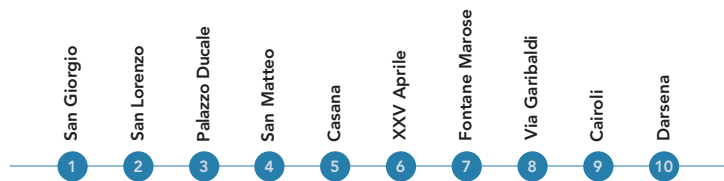
Genoa also played a vital role in the Risorgimento with Mazzini, Mameli and many others. Garibaldi's *Mille*, the 1000-strong expedition to annex Sicily, left from a rock in the suburb of Quarto.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century Genoa developed into a large modern port and became a major industrial city for Northern Italy. Today, it is a centre of technological innovation and high added value service industries as well as a place attracting ever-increasing numbers of visitors. Genoa was "European Capital of Culture" in 2004 and in 2006 its system of "Palazzi dei Rolli e delle Strade Nuove" was declared part of the UNESCO World Heritage List.



left:  
view of the old town,  
Piazza De Ferrari,  
San Lorenzo Cathedral  
below:  
Palazzo Ducale

## PALAZZO SAN GIORGIO, VIA GARIBALDI, DARSENA



*If you are just spending the one day in Genoa we suggest the following walking route through the city centre, including in the main attractions of Genoese art, history and culture.*

The route starts at [1] **Palazzo San Giorgio** next to the sea and the Porto Antico. The Palazzo, which is now the premises of the Port Authority, was originally the headquarters of the Casa di San Giorgio, a syndicate set up to finance the Republic. It comprises the 13<sup>th</sup> century medieval structure and a Renaissance part with a splendid frescoed façade facing the sea. The figure of St George slaying the dragon stands out in the centre. Head from the medieval palazzo to Sottoripa, the old porticoed street with picturesque shops of all kinds,

including eateries selling fried food and focaccia.

It's not far from here to the start of [2] **Via San Lorenzo**, which links the Porto Antico area to Piazza De Ferrari, the main square of the city. Halfway up the street lies the majestic cathedral, a masterpiece of Gothic art built on a pre-existing Romanesque structure with black and white stone stripes. Inside is the treasure of San Lorenzo and the "Sacro Catino", said by some to be the Holy Grail. Via San Lorenzo leads to Piazza Matteotti, where the landmark is the imposing neoclassical façade of [3] **Palazzo Ducale**, the historic headquarters of the doges and now the city's dynamic cultural centre. Nearby, the Church of Gesù in Piazza Matteotti contains paintings by Rubens and Guido Reni. Piazza De Ferrari with its large fountain is the symbolic heart of the city. If you look around the square

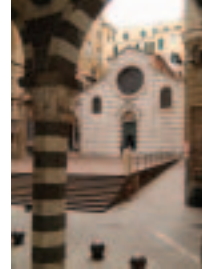


### Worth a visit PALAZZO DUCALE

This is the cultural, historical and monumental heart of the city. Built at the behest of the government of the Republic at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it has a medieval part – as you look at the facade from Piazza Matteotti the Grimaldina stone and bricks tower is readily apparent on the left – and a central section with the two broad colonnades that were added around the turn of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the palazzo was rebuilt following a fire. The most noteworthy interiors from the artistic point of view are the chapel and the assembly halls for the Greater and Lesser Councils, which are richly decorated and frescoed.







left:  
Palazzo Spinola  
dei Marmi,  
Church of San  
Matteo,  
Palazzo Tursi  
below:  
Palazzo Tobia  
Pallavicino,  
Golden Gallery

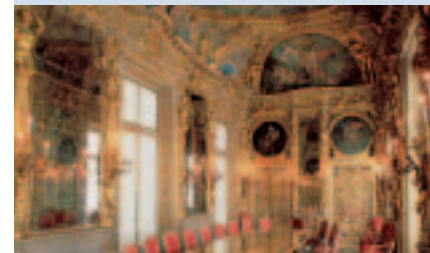
you'll see the former premises of Compagnia di Navigazione Italia, now the seat of the Ligurian Regional Administration, and the Palazzo della Borsa (the former stock exchange), now used as a venue for cultural events. Other landmarks here are the top of Genoa's main street Via XX Settembre, the Carlo Felice Opera House and the grand painted façade of Palazzo Ducale. From here a number of Genoa's famous *caruggi* lead down to the old town with its churches, houses and delightful little squares like [\[4\] Piazza San Matteo](#). From De Ferrari go down Vico San Matteo till you come to the piazzetta of the same name where the Gothic church stands out with its black and white marble bands; the adjoining palazzi were owned by the Doria family. Go back up to the main square via [\[5\] Vico Casana](#), and you'll find yourself in front of the Carlo Felice Opera House. This

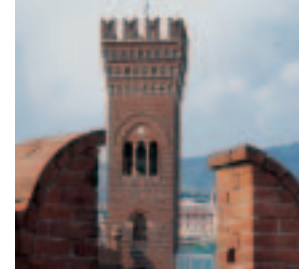
building opened in 1828, the first opera performed being "Bianca e Fernando", composed by Bellini specially for the occasion. The theatre was badly damaged by bombing during World War II and subsequently rebuilt. The auditorium seats up to two thousand people. Next, go down the elegant [\[6\] Via XXV Aprile](#) until you reach [\[7\] Piazza delle Fontane Marose](#). The buildings facing the square include Palazzo Spinola 'dei marmi' with its black and white stripes, Palazzo Ayrolo Negrone with its imposing 17<sup>th</sup> century façade and Palazzo Interiano Pallavicini with its delicate fresco decoration. If you cross the Piazza you come to [\[8\] Via Garibaldi](#), called Strada Nuova in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, a veritable treasure trove with a string of superb palazzi known as the "Rolli", splendid private residences that the Genoese nobles were required to

make available for royalty and dignitaries visiting the Republic. The "Rolli" were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2006. Three palaces on Via Garibaldi – Palazzo Tursi, Palazzo Rosso and Palazzo Bianco – have been turned into art galleries. The *Musei di Strada Nuova* – as they are known – form the one set exhibition route and constitute an extraordinary artistic heritage; they are well worth a visit. From the top of Palazzo Rosso there is a fine view of the roofs of the old town. After Via Garibaldi, have a look at the pretty Piazza della Meridiana and head to [\[9\] Via Cairoli](#). Worth visiting in Piazza della Nunziata is Santissima Annunziata del Vastato referred by Montesquieu as "the most beautiful church in Genoa". Now you can go back towards the sea and follow Via Fontane down to the [\[10\] Darsena](#).

## Worth a visit VIA GARIBALDI

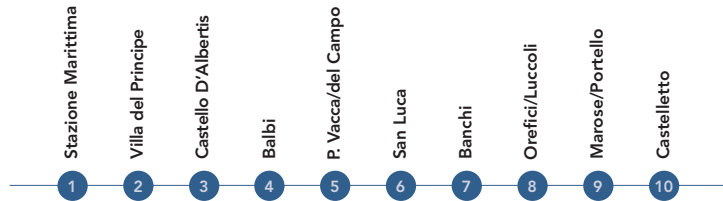
Once called Strada Nuova and Via Aurea (Golden Street) on account of its splendid showpiece palazzi, this street is one of the most impressive examples of 16<sup>th</sup> century European urban residential planning. In 1622 Rubens surveyed the buildings and published drawings of them so that they would serve as an architectural model for the well-to-do of Antwerp. Symbolising Genoa's economic and financial power in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, today these splendid buildings, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2006, are used as museums, galleries, offices and private homes.





left:  
Stazione  
Marittima,  
Nettuno  
fountain,  
Castello  
d'Albertis  
below:  
Porta dei Vacca

## VILLA DEL PRINCIPE, OLD TOWN, CASTELLETTO



*If you have already spent a day in Genoa (see 24 hours), we recommend this additional walking route that combines the maze of alleyways in the centro storico with breathtaking views thanks to the lifts that will take you up above the port and the old town.*

The route begins at the **[1] Stazione Marittima**, the passenger terminal where the big ships have always left from. The landmark here is the Lanterna (Genoa Lighthouse), while behind you towards the west is the splendid **[2] Villa del Principe**. Construction work on this building was begun in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by Andrea Doria; the finished product gave the city a palace that was unique in terms of Italian Renaissance architecture. The gardens surrounding the palazzo slope down

to the sea and centre around the fountain of Neptune. On your way to Piazza Principe train station you can admire the monument to Christopher Columbus. A detour 'upwards' using the Montegalletto lift will take you to the **[3] Castello D'Albertis**, a neo-Gothic construction built around 1890 by the sea captain Enrico Alberto D'Albertis. Today the Castello houses the Museo delle Culture del Mondo. The adjoining gardens afford a fine view of the port. When you go back down into town, you come out at the beginning of **[4] Via Balbi**, a 17<sup>th</sup> century street where much of the University is located. Worth visiting is Palazzo Reale, the official residence of the Savoys in Genoa from 1824 with its rich furnishings and gardens that open onto the port. Nearby is Piazza dei Truogoli di Santa



### Worth a visit PORTA DEI VACCA

The gate that dominates the entrance to Via del Campo from the west was built in 1155 to meet the threat of invasion by the Emperor Barbarossa; the latter demanded loyalty and tribute from all Italian cities. Genoa more or less agreed to give the loyalty, but not the tribute. The city mobilised against the Emperor and in just eight days succeeded in erecting the walls that ended at Porta dei Vacca. Where the local citizens were unable to make the fortifications high enough in such a short space of time, temporary use was made of masts and forecastles from ships.





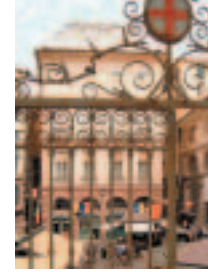


Brigida, a delightful little square with recently restored troughs where women used to do the washing. Proceed to Piazza della Nunziata, then go down to the sea along Via Fontane and through **[5] Porta dei Vacca** as you enter the heart of the old town. This gate, which has two semicircular towers connected by an archway, once afforded access to the area within the city walls and leads to Via del Campo, made famous by the singer-songwriter Fabrizio De Andrè. Via del Campo has several of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century palazzi dei "Rolli". From Piazza Fossatello a short stop in Via Lomellini will allow you to visit the church and oratory of San Filippo Neri and the former home of Mazzini. Your route takes you along the lively and crowded Via **[6] San Luca**; in the nearby Piazza Pellicceria don't miss the Galleria Nazionale di Palazzo Spinola, a splendid example of a patrician home. Inside, there are

masterpieces by the greatest Genoese Baroque painters including Strozzi, Piola and Rubens. On the left-hand side of Via San Luca is the lovely little church of the same name, which dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century as do the frescoes by Piola. The street leads to **[7] Piazza Banchi**, one of the prettiest squares in the *centro storico* with stalls selling flowers, second hand books and records. On the left is the Loggia della Mercanzia, which is now enclosed by glass and used for exhibitions; built in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, it was the site of Italy's first stock exchange in 1855. Also dominant is the colourful Church of San Pietro in Banchi, which combines the sacred and the profane: the Lomellini intended to use the area for commerce but the local people wanted a church to be built in accordance with a vow made during the plague of 1577.



A compromise was found and shops were built on the ground floor under the church. Your route takes you along **[8] Via Orefici**, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century a wealthy residential area and home of the goldsmiths' corporation, and **[8] Via Luccoli**, lined with smart shops and fine buildings. Just before you get there, in Piazza Campetto and Soziglia, are two of the oldest Genoese commercial establishments: Romanengo's confectionery shop and the Klainguti café. Cross over **[9] Piazza Fontane Marose** and you come to Piazza Portello where the lift to Castelletto at the end of a corridor carved out of the hillside will take you up to **[10] Spianata di Castelletto**, the best lookout in the city, affording panoramic views of the whole of the old town, the port, the sea and the surrounding hills.



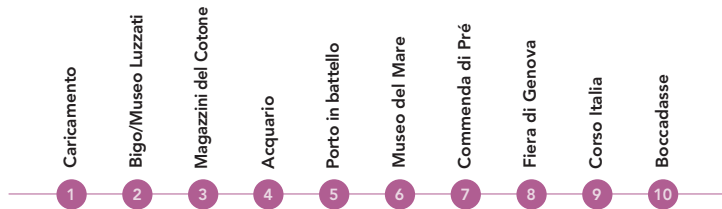
left:  
Spianata di  
Castelletto,  
Palazzo Spinola  
di Pellicceria,  
Piazza Banchi  
below:  
detail of door  
frame,  
Via San Luca





left:  
Porto Antico  
and the Bigo  
below:  
the Darsena  
and Sottoripa

## PORTO ANTICO, CORSO ITALIA AND BOCCADASSE



*If you have already spent two days in Genoa (see 24 and 48 hours), we recommend an entire day on the coast: the Porto Antico with the aquarium and other attractions in the morning, followed by an afternoon stroll along the waterfront promenade to the seafaring hamlet of Boccadasse.*

Your morning route starts at **[1] Caricamento**. As you leave Palazzo San Giorgio behind you, you enter the Porto Antico, the old port and goods area, which was “returned” to the city and revitalised thanks to Renzo Piano’s urban redevelopment plan as a spin-off from the 1992 Expo. It’s worth taking a ‘ride’ on the **[2] Bigo**, a revolving panoramic lift designed to resemble an old cargo derrick, affording fine views of the port and the rooftops of the old town. Head east to the Porta Siberia gate, designed in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by Galeazzo Alessi and now the premises

of the **[2] Museo Luzzati** dedicated to the work of Emanuele Luzzati. Your route takes you next to the **[3] Magazzini del Cotone**, former cotton warehouses located on the tip of the peninsula at the end of the old pier, opposite the lighthouse and next to the marina full of megayachts: this is one of the best vantage points from where you can appreciate the beauty of the city on the water.

Inside the Magazzini del Cotone is La Città dei Bambini e dei Ragazzi, Italy’s first and biggest science centre for children aged from 2 to 14. With 11 theme areas and 96 multimedia exhibits, visitors can make “great and small” discoveries enhancing their understanding and awareness of science and technology by means of an experience that is fun, educational and interactive.

Opposite the Magazzini del Cotone on Ponte Spinola, you come to the Genoa **[4] Aquarium**, the biggest of

### Worth a visit DARSENA

The darsena, or docks, represented the commercial and military core of the city. This was where the cargo ships used to come and go in a constant hive of activity and it was also the shipyard for the building and repair of the Genoese galleys, the most feared vessels in the Mediterranean.





its kind in Europe with the greatest variety of marine ecosystems. Seals, dolphins, penguins, sharks, caimans, piranha, fish of every shape and shade will accompany and thrill you on your journey of discovery as you explore the rich diversity of aquatic life. A walk along Ponte Spinola as far as Isola delle Chiatte is very pleasant. The orange tugs stand out on account of their colour.

[5] **Port boat trips** are available and will take you on a guided tour of the Port of Genoa. In the summer months you can go further afield: to Camogli, Portofino and the Cinque Terre. Following the coastline westwards, you go past the Galeone dei Pirati, the marina and the fishing vessels and come to the [6] **Galata - Museo del Mare**, the first Mediterranean maritime museum, which traces the history of seafaring from early rowing boats to the great transatlantic liners by means of multimedia and

interactive exhibits, including life-size replicas of the actual vessels. This museum, the Submarine Nazario Sauro, the Commenda and the Museo Navale in Pegli constitute the *Mu.Ma*, a combined series of exhibitions dedicated to the sea and seafaring. Continuing on the walk, the Romanesque complex of San Giovanni di Pré e della [7] **Commenda** is worth a visit. This former hospice-convent built of stone with loggias open to the sea and the beautiful bell-tower once offered accommodation for knights, merchants and pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land. It has now been converted into a Theatre-museum dedicated to the medieval history of Genoa.

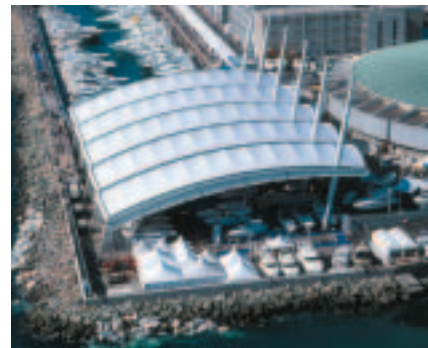
The afternoon route starts at the [8] **Fiera di Genova**, the fair ground and exhibition area which hosts the International Boat Show every year. This is the start of [9] **Corso Italia**, the seafront promenade of the Genoese.



Built between the wars and renovated in the 1990s, its wide pavements are full of people all day every day walking, cycling and rollerblading. On the left-hand side as you walk up Corso Italia you can see the splendid villas and palazzi in Albaro; on the horizon in the distance is the Monte Portofino headland. From Corso Italia there are steps leading down to the most popular Genoese private beach clubs. Along the seafront you come to the Abbey of San Giuliano, testimony to the original coastal settlement, and then the Church of Sant'Antonio da Padova, high above the famous fishing village of [10] **Boccadasse**, one of the jewels of Genoa. This former hamlet is now part of the city and very popular on account of its little pebble beach, fishing boats and brightly coloured typical Ligurian houses.



left:  
Genoa  
Aquarium,  
Galata Museo  
del Mare,  
Commenda and  
San Giovanni di  
Pré church  
below:  
Fiera di Genova,  
Boccadasse







left:  
Cloister of  
Sant'Andrea,  
Museo E.  
Chiossone,  
Carlo Felice  
Opera Theatre  
below:  
Nervi, the GAM

## TOWN CENTRE, WEST COAST, EAST COAST AND THE HILLS



*If you have already spent three days in Genoa (see previous walking routes), we recommend a few more days to spend in town and on both Genoese Rivieras.*

### IN TOWN

[1<sup>st</sup> extra day]

In **Piazza Dante**, a stone's throw from Piazza De Ferrari, is Porta Soprana, which was erected in 1155 as part of the Republic's defensive walls against Frederick Barbarossa. Nearby is the Romanesque cloister of Sant'Andrea and

the house of Christopher Columbus, who was born in Genoa in 1451. Proceeding along Via Ravecca and **Piazza Sarzano** you will come to Piazza Sant'Agostino, where the church and museum namesake are located. Next, go up the hill to the Romanesque basilica of **Santa Maria di Castello**. "Casa Paganini" (an International Research Centre) in Piazza Santa Maria in Passione is worth the detour. Then go down to the Church of **San Donato**, a Romanesque masterpiece with an octagonal bell-tower. Cross over **Piazza delle Erbe**, which is a popular meeting point for young people, go back to Piazza De Ferrari and up **Via Roma**, lined with neoclassical palazzi and

elegant Art Nouveau shops. Alternatively, go through the late 19<sup>th</sup> century arcade called **Galleria Mazzini**, parallel to Via Roma, with glass and metal roofing. At the top of the street you come to Palazzo Doria Spinola and, straight after, **Piazza Corvetto** with the bronze equestrian statue of Vittorio Emanuele II. Higher up on the left-hand side of the square is a monument to Giuseppe Mazzini as well as Villetta Di Negro, which houses the **Museo di Arte Orientale Edoardo Chiossone**, Chiossone being a 19<sup>th</sup> century Genoese engraver who travelled widely and assembled a large art collection.

### NERVI AND THE EAST COAST

[2<sup>nd</sup> extra day]

Nervi, the city's last suburb to the east, is famous for its **Park** by the sea and for the **passeggiata** Anita Garibaldi, the seafront promenade which winds around the headland and is built into the rock face. Heading back towards Genoa



### Worth a visit I MUSEI DI NERVI

Located in the splendid villas on the grounds of the park, the museums in question are the GAM - Galleria d'Arte Moderna, the Frugone collection, the Museo Giannettino Luxoro and the Wolfson collection. They comprise artworks and other exhibits from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.





left:  
Camogli,  
Villa Pallavicini,  
Forte Sperone  
below:  
Piazza della  
Vittoria

you come to the little Nervi **harbour**; if you go in the other direction, the path winds its way round the rocks to Capolungo.

You can continue on by car on the Aurelia road or by train; after **Bogliasco, Sori, Pieve** and **Recco**, which is well known for its "focaccia al formaggio", you come to the delightful fishing village of **Camogli**. From here you can take a boat trip to the marvellous **Baia di San Fruttuoso** inlet and the idyllic resort of **Portofino**.

## PEGLI AND THE WEST COAST

[3<sup>rd</sup> extra day]

In Pegli, a residential suburb on Genoa's Western Riviera, you should not miss the **seafromt promenade** and the **Villa Pallavicini** with its extraordinary landscaped park.

Heading away from the coast you come to the sanctuary of **Nostra Signora della Guardia** while further westward is the tourist resort of **Arenzano**, which is also one of the gateways to the **Parco**

**del Monte Beigua** nature reserve.

## THE RIGHI FUNICULAR

[4<sup>th</sup> extra day – morning]

You can spend part of your last day exploring the city from the hills at **Righi**; where a funicular runs from Largo della Zecca in the city centre. At your arrival you can have breathtaking views of the Gulf of Genoa and you can also walk further up and join the path linking the forts of Genoa – the system of fortifications designed to repel attacks from below, which was begun in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and extended during the next two centuries. The line of walls and forts, which is the longest in the world after the Great Wall of China, was never actually put to the test.

## TOWN

[4<sup>th</sup> extra day – afternoon]

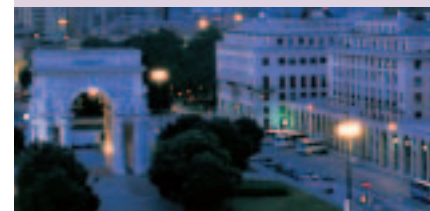
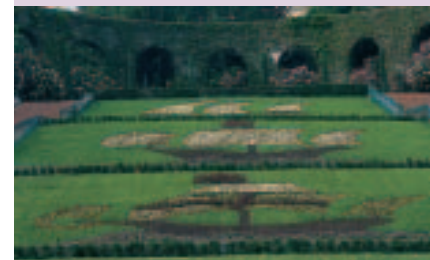
The afternoon can be dedicated to 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Genoa. Leave from **Stazione Brignole** and go up

**Via San Vincenzo**, a pedestrian precinct lined with shops and bars. You come out at the top under the **Ponte Monumentale** in **Via XX Settembre**. Hidden from view above Via XX Settembre but a must-see, Santo Stefano dates back to the 10<sup>th</sup> century and is striking on account of its utterly harmonious simplicity. Via XX Settembre links Piazza De Ferrari to the Brignole area and is the main street of Genoa, flanked by splendid late 19<sup>th</sup> early 20<sup>th</sup> century palaces; this is also the city's shopping high street. As you go down towards Brignole the pedestrian precinct formed by Via Cesarea, **Via Galata** and Via Malta is also popular with shoppers. From here, it's only a short walk to the huge **Piazza della Vittoria**, Genoa's biggest square; in the middle is the arch, while down at the seaward end are the picturesque landscaped gardens with Columbus's three **caravels** formed entirely out of flowers by gardeners working for the Municipality of Genoa.

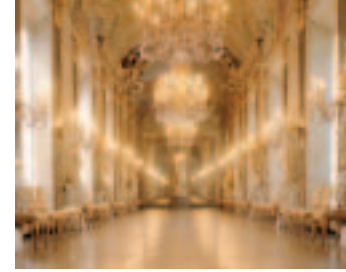


## Worth a visit PIAZZA DELLA VITTORIA

One of the best examples of rationalist architecture in Italy, Piazza della Vittoria was designed by Piacentini in 1923. The porticoed buildings on the sides of the square have bas-reliefs from the fascist period. In the middle is the arch built in 1930 commemorating those who gave their lives in World War I.







left:  
Palazzo Rosso,  
Palazzo Tursi,  
Palazzo Reale

## MUSEUMS AND THE PALAZZI DEI ROLLI

Strada Nuova, now called Via Garibaldi, houses an extraordinary artistic heritage in the heart of the city. The Museums of Palazzo Rosso, Palazzo Bianco and Palazzo Tursi combine to form an internally logical and unparalleled exhibition, a veritable treasure trove with fine art works displayed in a uniquely beautiful architectural setting. They go hand-in-hand with two other buildings – Palazzo Spinola and Palazzo Reale – which are stately homes and museums rolled into one. The city's maritime tradition is underlined by the first set of exhibitions dedicated to the sea and seafaring; called *Mu.Ma*, this comprises the Galata - Museo del Mare at the Darsena, the Submarine Nazario Sauro, the Commenda and the Museo Navale in Pegli.

Worth a special mention is the Museo d'Arte Orientale Chiossone, the most important collection of its kind in Europe. Located amidst the greenery of the park in Nervi is the exhibition complex devoted to 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century art and consisting of the Galleria d'Arte Moderna, the Frugone Collection, the Museo Giannettino Luxoro and the Wolfson Collection. The Palazzi dei "Rolli" (from the word "rotoli", the parchment scrolls on which the noble Genoese palazzi were listed by category according to their level of splendour) are a set of more than 120 palaces that were set aside as accommodation to be allotted to visiting crowned heads, ambassadors, important traders and ecclesiastical authorities. On 16 July 2006, 42 of these buildings were declared a

UNESCO World Heritage Site. The most well known are located in Via Garibaldi and the old town. The city's cultural heritage is enhanced by many church buildings, ranging from the Romanesque to the Baroque and constituting a unique artistic legacy: Santa Maria di Castello, San Donato, the Church of Gesù, the San Lorenzo Cathedral, the churches of San Matteo and San Luca.

### MAIN GENOESE MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

#### Art

- Musei di Strada Nuova, Palazzo Rosso, Palazzo Bianco, Tursi *Via Garibaldi*
- Museo di Sant'Agostino *Piazza Sarzano*
- Galleria Naz. di Palazzo Spinola *Piazza di Pellicceria*
- Villa del Principe *Piazza del Principe*

- Museo d'Arte Contemporanea *Villa Croce*
- Musei di Nervi GAM, Frugone Collection, Giannettino Luxoro, Wolfson Collection *Nervi*

#### Seafaring and Ethnography

- Galata Museo del Mare *Darsena, Porto Antico*
- Museo-teatro della Commenda *Piazza della Commenda*
- Museo Navale *Pegli*
- Museo delle Culture del Mondo *Castello D'Albertis Corso Dogali*
- Museo d'Arte Orientale E. Chiossone *Villetta Di Negro*

#### History and Science

- Museo del Risorgimento *Via Lomellini*
- Museo Civico di Storia Naturale *Via Brigata Liguria*



left:  
Carlo Felice  
Opera Theatre,  
Paganini's  
violin,  
Teatro della  
Corte

## OPERA, THEATRE AND CINEMA

Genoa is a city of theatre, cinema and the performing arts in general.

### Opera and Theatre

The Teatro Carlo Felice is Genoa's Opera House. Opened in 1828, it was completely rebuilt after being heavily bombed during World War II. As well as opera, the theatre also stages a wide variety of concerts and ballets; there are about a hundred performances every year. The Teatro Stabile di Genova was founded in 1951 and is the city's main theatre group. It manages the bill at the Teatro della Corte, which was built in the 1980s in the Brignole area, and the season at the Teatro Duse in Corvetto, while also taking touring productions all over Italy. Two other important playhouses are

the Politeama Genovese, which was established in the second half of the 19th century, and the Teatro dell'Archivolto, which puts on the program at the Teatro Modena – the only teatro all'italiana in the city – and at other venues on the western side of Genoa.

In the heart of the old town is the Teatro della Tosse, which has three auditoriums built around the old Church of Sant'Agostino. Smaller theatre groups include the Teatro Garage and the Teatro Cargo. The Teatro del Piccione and the Teatri dei Burattini stage performances specifically for children.

Classical music plays an important part in the cultural life of the city thanks to the activity of the conservatory dedicated to the

Genoese virtuoso violinist and composer Niccolò Paganini and to the "Casa Paganini", a centre of international excellence blending musical composition and technological research.

### Cinema

There are more than 50 cinema listings in Genoa, including the multi-screen complex in Porto Antico and Uci Cinema Fiumara in the Fiumara shopping mall on the western side of the city as well as many movie theatres in the centro storico and city centre.

In July each year the city hosts the Genoa Film Festival.

### Main festivals and annual events

- La Notte Rosa (March)
- La Notte dei Musei (May)
- SUQ, festival delle culture del Mediterraneo (June)
- Il Festival Internazionale della Poesia (June)
- Il Genova Tango Festival (June)
- Il Festival Musicale del Mediterraneo (June/July)
- Il Genova Film Festival (July)
- Il GoaBoa Festival, (July)
- La Notte Bianca (September)
- Il Premio Paganini o La Paganiniana (September/October)
- Salone Nautico Internazionale (October)
- Il Festival della Scienza di Genova (October/November)
- Circumnavigando Festival (December)



left:  
Genoese  
focaccia,  
trofie and pesto

## FOOD & WINE

Authentic Genoese cuisine is a classic example of the Mediterranean diet. Vegetables are a staple and are served up in endless varieties in the famous local tarts. Genoese pesto and walnut sauce are regulars when it comes to the first course, while seafood dominates the menu for the main course. The olive oil is light, the herbs are fragrant, the vegetables and salad are tasty. The local basil gives Genoese pesto a colour and taste like no other. Fresh fish includes whitebait, anchovies, bream and bass. The old town in particular has scores of reasonably priced eateries, but there are also plenty of exclusive restaurants in superb settings by the sea and up in the hills of the immediate hinterland.

### Wine

As regards wine, there are whites from both Ligurian Rivieras – called *Vermentino*, *Pigato* and *Cinqueterre* – while *Ormeasco* and *Rossese di Dolceacqua* are fine reds. *Bianchetta Genovese* from Val Polcevera has recently made a reappearance. *Sciacchetrà* from the Cinque Terre is a dessert wine.

### Tarts and focaccia

Genoese specialties include a large variety of vegetable tarts, such as the one made with artichoke or the popular *torta pasqualina*: light, flaky puff pastry with a chard, cheese and egg filling. Other traditional peasant fare in Liguria comes in the form of *farinata*, a kind of chickpea

pancake, and of course the famous focaccia, sometimes flavoured with various toppings.

## SOME TYPICAL DISHES

### Trofie al pesto

Genoese pesto is made with basil, garlic, pine nuts, sea salt, pecorino, parmesan and oil, although everyone in Genoa has their own particular recipe and no two are the same. Pesto is the ideal accompaniment not only for *trofie di pasta fresca* (home made fresh pasta) but also for *trenette* (a kind of *vermicelli*).

### Pansoti in salsa di noci

The creamy sauce in question is made from ground walnuts, with a sprinkling of marjoram. This is the dressing typically used for *pansoti*, *ravioli* stuffed with vegetables, herbs and ricotta.

### Cappon Magro

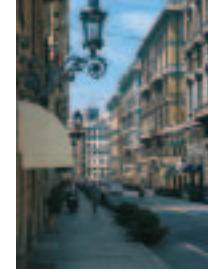
This very elaborate dish dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. A mixture of fresh fish and vegetables is served on a bed of ship's biscuits and covered in a parsley sauce.

### Cima

This is a cold stuffed veal pocket filled with pieces of meat, vegetables and aromatic herbs; the preparation of this dish is an elaborate ritual that takes time and devotion. It is cooked in broth and left to cool.

### Dolci

Genoese sweets include *pandolce*, laced with candied fruit and nuts, the rich *sacripantina* cake, *canestrelli*, which are round short-bread biscuits, and the crunchy Lagaccio biscuits mentioned by the poet Montale.



left:  
Mercato  
Orientale,  
Via XX  
Settembre,  
Via Roma

## SHOPPING

Genoa is a great place for shopping. The centro storico has a unique atmosphere and is a good place to start. In Sottoripa or Via dei Macelli you will find quaint establishments selling tripe, poultry and baccalà, or salt cod, as well as all kinds of goods, the best local specialities and exotic imported items. For gift items, clothing, homeware and more besides, Via San Luca and Via Luccoli are two popular shopping streets in the old town.

Decidedly more up-market is Via Roma, probably the most exclusive shopping street in town with prestigious designers and boutiques. Close by is Via XX Settembre where there are familiar high street names, department stores and also the highly

recommended Mercato Orientale (general food market). Other local markets can be found in Piazza Palermo and Piazza Terralba. The streets running off Via XX Settembre – in particular Via San Vincenzo and Via Cesarea, which are lively pedestrian precincts – are lined with shops of all kinds and tend to get very crowded during the most popular shopping hours. You can find typical products at the market stalls in Piazza Matteotti every second weekend of the month while, again in the vicinity of Palazzo Ducale, there is an antique market on the first weekend of each month. If you get the chance you should also pay a visit to the San Nicola market during the Christmas period and the fiera di

Sant'Agata in February. The suburbs of Genoa also have plenty of fine shopping facilities; for example, the Fiumara shopping mall in Sampierdarena and Via Sestri, shopping street in Sestri Ponente.

### Old-time shops

A list was recently drawn up containing 450 shops of historical interest in the city. Highlights include the following:

- Farmacia Papa since 1630  
*Via San Lorenzo 105*
- Pasticceria Pietro Romanengo since 1780  
*Via di Soziglia 74*
- Macelleria Nico (fefa), since 1790  
*Via Macelli di Soziglia 8*
- Farmacia Zerega since 1800  
*Via XXV Aprile 2*
- Tessuti Rivara since 1802  
*Piazza San Lorenzo 36*

- Libreria Bozzi since 1810  
*Via Cairoli 2*
- Sa Pesta Trattoria since 1810  
*Via dei Giustiniani 16*
- Barberia Giacalone since 1820  
*Vico dei Caprettari 14*
- Pasticceria Villa since 1827  
*Vico del Portello 2*
- Tappi Luico since 1827  
*Salita Santa Caterina 17*
- Bar caffè Klainguti since 1829  
*Piazza Soziglia 98*
- Mangini Caffè since 1850  
*Piazza Corvetto*
- Sciamadda, torte-farinata since 1850  
*Via San Giorgio 14*
- Cioccolato Viganotti since 1866  
*Vico dei Castagna 14*
- Finollo Abbigliamento since 1899  
*Via Roma 98*





left:  
Via Garibaldi,  
Porto Antico  
and Palazzo  
San Giorgio  
below:  
Piazza delle  
Erbe,  
Corso Italia

## GENOA BY NIGHT

Genoa by night is particularly attractive; depending on your state of mind, life after dark here offers various options and conveys a range of sensations.

### A night-time stroll among the lights of Genoa

A leisurely stroll down Via Garibaldi after dark will take your breath away. The facades of the historical palazzi with their light effects and profiles in relief are testimony to a timeless beauty. You might like to go up to Spianata di Castelletto for a superb night-time view of the centro storico with the port in the distance in a dynamic interplay of light and shade.

### The bright lights at the Porto Antico

The Porto Antico offers an incomparable night-time spectacle: the lights of the Bigo, the “sfera di Piano” (globe greenhouse), the aquarium, the Mandraccio dock, the Magazzini del Cotone. Plus the buildings, the street lamps, the coloured neon signs, the illuminated decks of the superyachts and the lights of the boats reflected on the water. In front of you is the lighthouse while you can see the lights of the city all around you, stretching up into the hillsides. Nearby there are many pizzerias, restaurants, pubs and cinemas. Thousands of people come to the Porto Antico on summer evenings for concerts and other performances.

### Nightlife and the attraction of the old town

At night the centro storico splits into two. To the right of Via San Lorenzo towards Via Garibaldi and San Luca the atmosphere is more intimate and reserved. The nightspots are small and crowded, somewhat isolated in the maze of alleyways. In contrast, the “rive gauche” in Piazza delle Erbe and throughout the Sarzano area is packed with thousands of young people – the sights and sounds of the city’s dynamic nightlife. The area abounds in restaurants, bars and cafés.

### A romantic stroll in Corso Italia

Genoa’s Corso Italia promenade exerts an irresistible attraction in the evening. In the direction of Boccadasse the lights of Monte Portofino shine in the distance. There are heaps of places where you can have a meal, enjoy an aperitif or a beer, and also dance. At the end is the timeless hamlet atmosphere

of Boccadasse with its brightly coloured houses and fishing boats reflected on the water near the little beach. The waves gently lap the rocks, you can stop for a delicious ice-cream and then head on to the Santa Chiara headland for a view of the lights extending all the way along the coast from one Riviera to the other.







## CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

The city has lots to offer young people, with many attractions (aquarium, Città dei Bambini e dei Ragazzi, seaside), extensive pedestrian precincts in the old town and at the Porto Antico, and the world's best focaccia.

### In town

The Porto Antico attractions include Genoa Aquarium, Città dei Bambini e dei Ragazzi, Biblioteca Internazionale per ragazzi De Amicis, Galeone dei Pirati and Galata-Museo del Mare. This is also the point of departure for trips round the city on the little tourist train. If you're in search of a park, head for the Giardini dell'Acquasola near Piazza Corvetto or the Parco di Villa Croce in Carignano; the villa hosts the Contemporary Art Museum.

### On the coast and in the hills

Overlooking the sea is the Corso Italia promenade. It's great fun to throw stones into the water from the shingle beach at Boccadasse. Just as popular is the seafront walk in Nervi, including the park and its thriving population of squirrels. Sea-lovers will enjoy a boat trip from the Porto Antico – either a harbour tour or an outing to one of the coastal villages. Those who would rather go inland will not want to miss the delightful trip on the narrow-gauge railway line to Casella; the train leaves Genoa from Piazza Manin in the city centre and heads up into the hills passing through hinterland villages.

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