



10 Places to see a **GENOVA**

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Welcome to Genova

Genoa, a city rich in history, culture and natural beauty.

This detailed guide will help you discover the main attractions, activities to do, places to visit and useful tips for an unforgettable trip to Genoa.

EXPLORE THE HISTORIC CENTER

Start your visit to Genoa by exploring its charming historic centre, a labyrinth of narrow streets called "caruggi". Lose yourself in the narrow streets and discover the historic buildings, charming squares and ancient churches. Be sure to visit the Cathedral of San Lorenzo, the Palazzo Ducale and the Church of the Gesu.

GENOVA'S AQUARIUM

The famous Genoa Aquarium is a must-see for visitors of all ages. It is the largest aquarium in Europe and is home to a wide variety of marine species. See sharks, sea turtles, dolphins and many other marine animals. Make sure you plan enough time to explore all of the interactive exhibits.

ANCIENT PORT

The Porto Antico is a renovated and lively area that offers a splendid view of the sea. You can stroll along the promenade, visit the Galata del Mare Museum, climb the Lanterna (the lighthouse of Genoa) and enjoy a meal or an aperitif in one of the many restaurants and bars along the harbour.

PALACES OF THE ROLLI

The Palazzi dei Rolli are a group of historic buildings that were part of a prestigious guest accommodation system during the Renaissance. Some of these palaces are open to the public and you can admire the splendid decorations, frescoes and period furnishings.

STRADA NUOVA MUSEUMS

This is another unmissable attraction of Genoa. The Strada Nuova hosts three important museums: the Palazzo Rosso Museum, the Palazzo Bianco Museum and the Palazzo Tursi Museum. Each museum offers a valuable collection of works of art, antique furniture and precious objects.



BOCCADASSE

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the city and head to Boccadasse, a charming fishing neighborhood located along the coast. Its colorful townhouses, pebble beach and picturesque narrow streets will make you fall in love with this place. Savor a delicious gelato or focaccia in one of the local cafés.

CASTELLETTO PANORAMIC LIFT

To enjoy a spectacular view of the city of Genoa, take the panoramic lift of Castelletto. Located in the Castelletto district, this elevator will take you to the top of a hill where you can admire a breathtaking view over the rooftops of Genoa and the sea.

VIA GARIBALDI

Stroll along Via Garibaldi, one of the most elegant streets in Genoa. Here you will find numerous historic buildings, many of which are UNESCO heritage sites. Admire the magnificent architecture and visit the museums located along this street, such as the Palazzo Doria Tursi Museum.

GENOESE CUISINE

You cannot visit Genoa without tasting its typical dishes. Try the famous pesto alla genovese, the focaccia, the farinata (a sort of chickpea crepe) and the delicious local desserts such as almond cake and pandolce. Enjoy a traditional meal in one of the local restaurants or visit the markets to taste the fresh produce.

FERRIES TO THE CINQUE TERRE

Genoa is an ideal starting point for exploring the Cinque Terre, a charming stretch of coast with five picturesque villages. Take a ferry from Genoa to visit Monterosso al Mare, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore. Admire the cliffs overhanging the sea and enjoy the breathtaking landscape.



Remember, Genoa is a city with many ups and downs, so it is advisable to wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to walk. Bring a map of the city with you and take the time to explore the hidden places and less touristy neighborhoods. Have a nice trip to Genoa!



Explore the Old Town



Welcome to the historic center of Genoa, a fascinating labyrinth of historic streets, ancient buildings and cultural sites. This guide will take you through the main attractions and points of interest of the historic center of Genoa.

PIAZZA DE FERRARI



Start your visit to Genoa in Piazza De Ferrari, the beating heart of the city. Here you'll find the stunning De Ferrari Fountain and several historic buildings, including the Carlo Felice Theater and the Stock Exchange Palace. The square is surrounded by elegant shops, cafés and restaurants.



CATHEDRAL OF SAN LORENZO



Head to the Cathedral of San Lorenzo, an impressive Romanesque church that dates back to the 12th century. Admire its ornate facade and visit the interior to discover works of art and precious treasures. Don't miss the Chapel of San Giovanni Battista, with frescoes by the famous Genoese painter Luca Cambiaso.



DUCAL PALACE



Continue your exploration by heading to the Palazzo Ducale, located in Piazza Matteotti. This Renaissance palace was the residence of the Doges of Genoa. Today it hosts art exhibitions, cultural events and offers a panoramic view from its terrace. Explore its frescoed rooms, state rooms and internal courtyards.



CARUGGI DI GENOVA



Lose yourself in the characteristic "caruggi" of Genoa, the narrow streets that make up the heart of the historic centre. These picturesque streets are full of shops, artisan workshops, traditional trattorias and historic cafes. Explore the streets such as Via San Luca, Via degli Orefici and Via Luccoli, immersing yourself in the authentic atmosphere of the city.



PALAZZI DEI ROLLI



The Palazzi dei Rolli are a group of noble palaces that were part of the Rolli system, a list of noble residences that housed prestigious visitors during the Renaissance. Some palaces are open to the public and you can admire their elegant facades and lavish interiors. Some of the best-known palaces include Palazzo Rosso, Palazzo Bianco, and Palazzo Doria Tursi.



CHIESA DEL GESÙ



The Palazzi dei Rolli are a group of noble palaces that were part of the Rolli system, a list of noble residences that housed prestigious visitors during the Renaissance. Some palaces are open to the public and you can admire their elegant facades and lavish interiors. Some of the best-known palaces include Palazzo Rosso, Palazzo Bianco, and Palazzo Doria Tursi.



MUSEO DI STRADA NUOVA



Head to the Strada Nuova Museum, which includes three important historic palaces: Palazzo Rosso, Palazzo Bianco, and Palazzo Tursi. These museums house a large collection of works of art, antique furniture and precious objects. Admire paintings by artists such as Van Dyck, Veronese and Caravaggio, and discover the elegance of Genoese aristocratic homes.



PORTA SOPRANA E LE MURA MEDIEVALI



Take a short detour to visit Porta Soprana, one of the gateways to the historic centre. These ancient medieval walls surrounded Genoa and some sections are still visible. Stroll along the walls to admire the view over the city and imagine its thousand-year history.



VIA GARIBALDI



Conclude your visit to the historic center of Genoa with a walk along Via Garibaldi, an important street of the Renaissance. This street is famous for its sumptuous patrician palaces, many of which have been declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Admire the Renaissance architecture of palaces, such as Palazzo Rosso, Palazzo Bianco, and Palazzo Doria Tursi.



Acquario di Genova





The Aquarium of Genoa is one of the largest aquariums in Europe and a major tourist attraction in the city of Genoa, Italy. It is located in the Porto Antico of Genoa, a renewed and lively area that offers a splendid view of the sea.

The Genoa Aquarium is housed in an impressive modern building, designed by the famous Italian architect Renzo Piano. It is divided into several thematic areas that will allow you to explore a wide variety of marine ecosystems from all over the world.

Inside, you will be able to admire more than 70 tanks and exhibition spaces, which are home to thousands of marine species, including tropical fish, sharks, dolphins, sea turtles, jellyfish, penguins and many other fascinating creatures. There are also interactive exhibits that allow you to learn more about the underwater world and its conservation.

One of the most loved attractions of the Genoa Aquarium is the Vasca dei Delfini, where you can watch breathtaking shows with these intelligent marine mammals. You can also participate in close encounters with sea turtles, observe sharks up close or dive into the amazing world of jellyfish.

The Genoa Aquarium is also committed to marine conservation and research, promoting marine habitat conservation programs and participating in scientific projects.

It is advisable to plan enough time to visit the Aquarium of Genoa, as there are many attractions to explore and shows to see. It's an exciting experience for visitors of all ages and offers a unique opportunity to discover the underwater world and develop a greater awareness of its conservation.



Entrance prices to the Genoa Aquarium may vary according to age, the type of ticket and any special offers in progress. Below I provide you with an estimate of the standard ticket prices (updated at the time of my training in September 2021), but I recommend that you check the most recent prices on the official website of the Acquario di Genova or contact them directly for updated information:

Adults (from 13 years of age): starting from 22 Euros.
Children (from 4 to 12 years): starting from 18 Euros.
Children under 3 years: free admission.

The Genoa Aquarium also offers reduced rates for students, senior citizens and families.

The opening hours of the Genoa Aquarium may vary according to the season and special events. Below I provide you with a general indication of the opening hours, but I advise you to check the most up-to-date hours on the official website of the Acquario di Genova before your visit:

During most of the year:

From Monday to Friday: opening at 9:00 and closing between 18:00 and 20:00, depending on the period.

Saturday, Sunday and holidays: opening at 9:00 and closing between 19:00 and 21:00, depending on the period.

During peak seasons or special events, hours may be extended.

I recommend that you arrive at the Genoa Aquarium a little earlier than closing time to have enough time to explore all the areas and exhibitions without rushing.

Remember that hours may vary, so it is always advisable to check the updated opening hours on the official website of the Acquario di Genova or contact the aquarium directly for precise information on opening hours during your visit.

For all the updated info visit the website:
www.acquariodigenova.it

Old Port





The Old Port of Genoa is a port area located in the city of Genoa, Italy. It is one of the main tourist attractions of the city and an important cultural and leisure centre. The Porto Antico underwent extensive redevelopment in the 1990s, led by the architect Renzo Piano, which transformed an industrial area into a modern tourist and cultural complex.

This area offers a variety of attractions, including:

Genoa Aquarium: As previously mentioned, the Genoa Aquarium is one of the main points of interest in the Porto Antico. It is one of the largest aquariums in Europe and is home to a wide variety of marine species.

Biosphere: It is a large glass sphere that houses a tropical ecosystem with exotic plants, animals and insects. It is a unique experience to get close to nature and the tropical environment.

Bigo: It is a crane-shaped structure located on the Porto Antico pier. It offers a panoramic view of the city and the sea and can be used to take spectacular photos.

Galata Museum: It is a museum dedicated to the maritime history of Genoa. It houses interactive exhibitions, ship models, historical artifacts and offers an interesting overview of the city's maritime tradition.

Events and shows area: The Porto Antico regularly hosts events, concerts, theatrical performances and cultural events. You can find a calendar of events on the Porto Antico official website.

Restaurants, bars and shops: Along the Porto Antico, you will find a wide choice of restaurants, bars and shops. You can enjoy the local cuisine, go shopping or just relax with a view of the harbour.

The Porto Antico is also the departure point for ferry excursions to the Cinque Terre and other destinations along the Ligurian coast.

In summary, the Porto Antico of Genoa is a lively and renewed port area that offers a combination of cultural attractions, leisure spaces, restaurants and shops. It is an ideal place to spend time while visiting Genoa and enjoy the city's maritime atmosphere.

Palazzi dei Rolli





The Palazzi dei Rolli are a set of historic buildings located in the city of Genoa, Italy. These palaces were part of a unique system called "Rolls", which was an official list of aristocratic residences designated to house high-ranking visitors during the period of the Republic of Genoa between the 16th and 17th centuries.

The Rolli system was a hospitality practice that allowed the Genoese nobility to welcome important guests, such as monarchs, ambassadors, dignitaries and other prominent personalities. Palaces designated as Rolli were required to provide adequate accommodation and services for these distinguished visitors. The Palazzi dei Rolli are characterized by rich Renaissance and Baroque architecture, and many of them are concentrated along the main streets of the historic center of Genoa. These buildings represent the elegance and splendor of the Genoese aristocracy of the time.

In 2006, the Palazzi dei Rolli in Genoa were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are about 42 palaces included in the Rolli list, including Palazzo Rosso, Palazzo Bianco, Palazzo Doria Tursi and many others. Some of these palaces are open to the public as museums, allowing visitors to admire the beautifully decorated interiors, works of art and opulent state rooms.

A visit to the Palazzi dei Rolli offers a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the history and art of Genoa, discovering the heritage of the Genoese nobility and their hospitality towards the illustrious guests of the time.

Palazzo Rosso: About 10-12 euros for full museum admission, with possible reduced rates for students, senior citizens and groups.

Palazzo Bianco: About 10-12 euros for full museum admission, with possible reduced rates for students, senior citizens and groups.

Palazzo Doria Tursi: About 5-7 euros for full museum admission, with possible reduced rates for students, senior citizens and groups.

Other Rolli palaces: Some palaces could only be visited during special events or guided tours organized by specific bodies or associations. In these cases, the prices may vary and depend on the organization managing the visit.

Museums of New Road





The Strada Nuova Museums in Genoa are a complex of museums located along Via Garibaldi, one of the main streets in the historic center of Genoa. This museum complex is made up of three historic palaces, known as Palazzo Rosso, Palazzo Bianco and Palazzo Doria Tursi.

Palazzo Rosso: It is one of the most important and impressive buildings of the Strada Nuova Museums. Inside it houses a rich collection of works of art ranging from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century. You will be able to admire paintings by Italian and international artists, including Van Dyck, Veronese, Caravaggio, Guercino and many others. The building is also famous for its sumptuous interiors, with frescoes, period furnishings and an impressive marble staircase.

Palazzo Bianco: It is another important building of the Strada Nuova Museums. Inside you will find a large collection of works of art covering a period from the 13th to the 18th century. Among the exhibited works there are paintings by Italian and foreign artists such as Tintoretto, Veronese, Rubens, Van Dyck and many others. The building is also known for its elegant architecture and frescoed rooms.

Palazzo Doria Tursi: This building houses part of the Strada Nuova Museum and is famous for some of its peculiar characteristics. One of its highlights is the "Sala del Consiglio", where a treasure of Genoa is exhibited, the famous "La Lanterna", a large copper marine lantern. Furthermore, the palace houses a collection of ancient musical instruments and important historical documents, such as a copy of the Italian national anthem.

The Strada Nuova Museums are an unmissable stop for art and history lovers who visit Genoa. Each building offers a precious collection of works of art and fascinating historical environments. You can buy a combined ticket to visit all three museums or choose to visit them individually, depending on your preferences and the time available.

Boccadasse





Boccadasse is a picturesque neighborhood located along the coast of Genoa, Italy. It is one of the most evocative and loved places in the city, famous for its traditional and charming character.

Boccadasse is located about 3 kilometers east of the historic center of Genoa, and is easily accessible by public transport or on foot along the seafront promenade.

The neighborhood develops around a bay with a small port, characterized by a pebble beach and a row of colorful fishermen's houses. The houses are painted in bright pastel shades, creating a quaint and unique atmosphere.

The name "Boccadasse" derives from the Genoese dialect term "bûga d'äse", which means "donkey's mouth", probably referring to the shape of the bay which resembles the mouth of a donkey.

Besides its architectural beauty, Boccadasse also offers a wide range of restaurants, trattorias, bars and ice cream parlors where you can enjoy traditional Ligurian cuisine and delicious homemade ice creams.

You can stroll along the beach, enjoy the sea view, or take a stroll through the labyrinth of the neighborhood's narrow streets, admiring the characteristic colorful houses. It is an ideal place to relax, enjoy the authentic atmosphere and take unforgettable photos.

Boccadasse is also a starting point for pleasant excursions along the coast, such as the panoramic walk up to the Sturla district or the path that leads to Capo Santa Chiara, from which you can admire a magnificent view of the Ligurian coast.

In summary, Boccadasse is a charming seaside neighborhood that enchants visitors with its traditional charm, colorful houses and relaxed atmosphere. It is an ideal place for a romantic walk, to savor Ligurian cuisine and immerse yourself in the beauty of the sea and the Genoese coast.

Elevator of Castelletto





The Spianata Castelletto lift, also known as the Montegalletto lift or the Castelletto lift, is a vertical means of transport located in the Castelletto district of Genoa, Italy. It is an icon of the city and offers a spectacular panoramic view of the city, the port and the Ligurian Sea.

The lift was built in 1909 and was designed to connect the historic center of Genoa with the highest area of Castelletto. Its main function is to provide convenient and quick access from Piazza Portello, near the historic centre, to the splendid panoramic terrace of Spianata Castelletto.

The Spianata Castelletto lift is an inclined lift that moves along a track perpendicular to the slope of the Castelletto hill. It is powered by a hydraulic system and is considered to be one of the oldest public lifts in Europe still in operation.

the lift, like all cableways and lifts, at the time of writing the guide is totally free every day all day.

Once on board, the lift will take you in seconds from Piazza Portello to the panoramic terrace of Spianata Castelletto, which offers a breathtaking view of the city of Genoa, the port, the sea and the surrounding hills.

The Spianata Castelletto terrace is a popular place to admire the views and take unforgettable photographs. Here you can enjoy a 360-degree view of the city, with its historic buildings, church domes, terracotta roofs and the sea stretching out to the horizon.

The Spianata Castelletto lift is open to the public and offers a unique way to reach one of the most panoramic views of Genoa. It is a recommended experience for visitors who wish to admire the beauty of the city from above and enjoy a privileged point of view on its architecture and the sea.

Via Garibaldi



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Via Garibaldi is one of the main and most prestigious streets of Genoa, located in the historic center of the city. It is also known as "Strada Nuova" or "Via Aurea" and represents one of the best examples of civil architecture of the Italian Renaissance. The road was built in the 16th century as a demonstration of the power and wealth of the Genoese nobility of the time. Originally called "Via Aurea", it was renamed in honor of Giuseppe Garibaldi, the Italian general and patriot, in the 19th century.

Via Garibaldi is famous for its magnificent palaces, which were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2006. These palaces were built by the most important architects of the time and represent an extraordinary example of Renaissance and Baroque architecture.

Among the best-known palaces along Via Garibaldi are:

Palazzo Rosso: It houses a rich collection of works of art, including paintings by Italian and foreign artists from the 16th to the 18th century. The palace is also famous for its frescoed interiors and sumptuous reception rooms.

Palazzo Bianco: Contains a vast collection of period paintings, sculptures and furnishings. Its rooms exhibit works by artists such as Caravaggio, Veronese, Rubens, Van Dyck and many others.

Palazzo Doria Tursi: It is known for hosting the Sala del Consiglio, where there is a copy of the Italian national anthem and a precious collection of ancient musical instruments.

In addition to the palaces, along Via Garibaldi you will also find elegant cafés, shops and boutiques, which contribute to the refined and lively atmosphere.

Via Garibaldi is a mandatory stop for architecture and history lovers who visit Genoa. Walking along this street allows you to admire the beauty of the historic buildings and immerse yourself in the unique atmosphere of the Genoese Renaissance era.

Genoese cuisine





Genoese cuisine is renowned for its delicious dishes full of authentic flavours. Here are some of the typical dishes of Genoese cuisine:

Pesto alla Genovese: Perhaps Genoa's most famous dish, pesto is a sauce made with basil, garlic, pine nuts, extra virgin olive oil, Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, Pecorino cheese, and salt. It is traditionally served with trofie, a short curly pasta, but it can also accompany other types of pasta.

Focaccia Genovese: Focaccia Genovese is a thick, fluffy version of this Italian flat bread. It is sprinkled with olive oil, coarse salt and can sometimes be stuffed with olives or onions. It is perfect to be enjoyed alone or accompanied by cold cuts and cheeses.

Cappon Magro: This dish is a sort of seafood salad made up of layers of boiled and/or marinated fish, vegetables, hard-boiled eggs, shellfish and sauces. It is usually served as an appetizer or main course on special occasions.

Trofie al Pesto: Trofie, a spiral-shaped pasta, are often served with pesto alla Genovese. This combination is a classic of Genoese cuisine and represents one of the most traditional ways to enjoy pesto.

Focaccia di Recco: This is a very popular Genoese specialty. Focaccia di Recco is a thin and crunchy bread stuffed with stracchino cheese. It is a real delight to be enjoyed while still hot and goes perfectly with a glass of white wine.

Green anchovies: Fresh anchovies are marinated with a mix of garlic, parsley, capers, vinegar and olive oil, creating an intense and aromatic flavour. They are served as an appetizer or side dish and are a specialty much loved by the Genoese.

Torta Pasqualina: A savory pie typical of the Ligurian tradition, Torta Pasqualina is made up of layers of puff pastry filled with spinach, eggs and cheese. It is baked in the oven and served at room temperature.

These are just some examples of the typical dishes of Genoese cuisine. Ligurian cuisine offers a vast variety of delicious specialities, ranging from first courses to fish-based main courses, from sweets to cured meats. During your visit to Genoa, I suggest you taste these delicacies to discover the authentic flavor of the local culinary tradition.

Ferries to Cinque Terre





Cinque Terre is a collection of five picturesque coastal villages located along the coast of Liguria in the northwestern region of Italy. These villages are Monterosso al Mare, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore. Each of them offers breathtaking landscapes, traditional architecture and a unique atmosphere. Cinque Terre has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of Italy's most famous and beloved tourist destinations. They are characterized by colorful buildings overlooking the sea, terraces of vineyards overlooking the cliffs and scenic paths that connect the villages.

Each village of the Cinque Terre has its own distinctive features:

Monterosso al Mare: It is the largest village in the Cinque Terre and has a beautiful sandy beach. Here you will also find a medieval church and numerous craft shops.

Vernazza: It is considered one of the most suggestive villages, with its natural bay, the castle and the picturesque little harbour. It is also famous for its wine and culinary specialities.

Corniglia: It is the only one of the five villages that does not directly overlook the sea. It is located on a cliff and offers spectacular views over the vineyard terraces.

Manarola: It is one of the most photographed villages, known for its colorful houses that cling to the hillside. It is famous for its hiking trails and the illuminated nativity scene that is set up during the Christmas season.

Riomaggiore: It is the southernmost village of the Cinque Terre and boasts a picturesque small port, a castle and a beach. It is an ideal place to taste the traditional dishes of Ligurian cuisine.

The Cinque Terre are connected by a network of panoramic paths, such as the famous "Sentiero Azzurro", which allows you to explore the coast and the surrounding vineyards. Visitors can also take the local trains that connect the villages, making it easy to get from place to place.

The Cinque Terre offer not only splendid panoramic views, but also opportunities to enjoy the sea, go hiking, explore the local culture and savor the traditional cuisine. It is a magical and fascinating place that attracts visitors from all over the world.



The Cinque Terre can be reached through different modes of transport, including:

By train: The most convenient way to reach the Cinque Terre is by train. The main railway line connecting Cinque Terre is the Genoa-La Spezia line, with stops in all five villages. Trains depart regularly from Genoa, La Spezia and other Italian cities. Tickets can be purchased at train stations or online.

By car: If you prefer to travel by car, you can reach the Cinque Terre by motorway. The closest motorway exits are "La Spezia" if you are coming from the north and "Carrodano-Levanto" if you are coming from the south. From La Spezia station or Levanto, you can take the train or the ferry to reach the Cinque Terre villages.

By ferry: During the summer months, it is also possible to reach the Cinque Terre by ferry. Ferries depart from various locations along the Ligurian coast, such as Portofino, Santa Margherita Ligure and La Spezia. This is a panoramic option that allows you to admire the beauty of the coast before arriving in Cinque Terre.

On foot: If you are a hiking enthusiast, you can reach the Cinque Terre on foot by following the Sentiero Azzurro, a hiking route that connects the five villages. The Sentiero Azzurro offers splendid panoramic views, but it is important to be well equipped and prepared for the excursions.

Once you arrive in Cinque Terre, the villages are easily reached on foot or via the local train service which connects the five villages. You can also use the local bus services to travel between surrounding villages and towns. It's important to keep in mind that the Cinque Terre are very busy, especially during the summer months, so it's advisable to plan your trip in advance and consider buying train tickets in advance to avoid queues and secure a seat.



A few minutes walk from the central railway station, the maritime station and the underground.

Complete with all comforts, beautiful smart and economical.

