



## **Genoa and the Province**

A difficult city and territory, but for this same reason they are fascinating and unforgettable.

Art, culture, nature, sea and mountains are displayed in a unique context. Small charming quiet villages, by the sea along the Riviera, contrast with the big city, the largest historic centre in Europe, with noble palaces nowadays listed by UNESCO.

A unique context, to be visited and lived, to be slowly discovered, relished walking with an experienced guide.



### **Genoa Half Day**

A short stroll through the largest historic centre in Europe, discovering the “caruggi” (the typical narrow streets in the old city). Starting point da piazza De Ferrari - with the Opera House Carlo Felice and the liberty stock-exchange. A few steps and we find the Ducal Palace, ancient seat of the city government - now used for temporary art exhibitions - and the Jesuit Church, rich baroque building hosting works by Guido Reni and Rubens. Not far away, is the medieval Soprana Gate, Columbus Home and the Cathedral, gorgeous gothic-romanesque church, where tradition wants the Holy Graal to be preserved. In the neighbourhood is the medieval square S. Matteo, a typical example of genoese noble quarter.

Onwards to piazza Campetto and Via degli Orefici, an area of ancient fascination, rich in workshops and old confectioners’.

The tour takes to Banchi, once thriving marketplace and seat of the ancient moneychangers, today overlooked by the typical church of S. Peter, with painted facade, and livened up by the numerous stalls.

The tour is nearly to its end, with S. George palace, where it is said the notable prisoner Marco Polo dictated his Milione. Right opposite is the Expo', the Old Port, restored by Renzo Piano in 1992, nowadays the most touristic area in the city, with the Aquarium, the Bigo and the Citta' dei Bambini (Children's town).

It is possible to extend the visit with a short panoramic bus tour, leading to the viewpoint Castelletto and to the sea promenade.



## Genoa Full Day

The full day gives travellers a better and more in depth idea of the city.

It is possible to reach the suburbs by bus: the sea promenade, with a photo stop at Boccadasse, once a fishermen village; then onwards to the panoramic spot of Castelletto through the residential quarter of Albaro, rich in ancient noble villas.

On foot guests visit the gothic-romanesque cathedral of S. Lawrence, with its wonderful frescoes and the famous chapel of S. John the Baptist. Then on to piazza De Ferrari with the Opera House and the School of Arts. At a short distance is the Jesuit church, astonishing example of baroque, preserving works by Rubens and Guido Reni. Here rises the Ducal Palace too, ancient seat of the city government and now used for temporary art exhibitions. A gentle slope leads to the medieval Soprana Gate and Columbus House. A few steps away is the noble Piazza S. Matteo. Onwards to piazza Campetto and Via degli Orefici, an area rich in ancient charm and old old confectioners'.

The tour takes to Banchi, once thriving marketplace and seat of the ancient moneychangers, today overlooked by the typical church of S. Peter, with painted facade, and livened up by the numerous stalls.

S. George palace cannot be let out, where it is said the notable prisoner Marco Polo dictated his Milione. Right opposite is the Expo', the Old Port, restored by Renzo Piano in 1992, nowadays the most touristic area in the city, with the Aquarium, the Bigo and "Città dei Bambini".

The walk continues along Via S. Luca, another road of noble residence, to reach the richly frescoed S. Siro church, inside is a great Annunciazione by Gentileschi.

Another brief slope and the most monumental street in the city is right in front: Via Garibaldi. Noble street par excellence, its palaces and gardens offer one of the best examples of the 1500 and 1600 in Genoa.

It is possible to extend the tour with a visit to a museum or an exhibition.

At least a break is forseen for lunch at one of the many trattorias of the old city or a short break for a panino or a stuffed vegetable cake.



## **Riviera Half Day**

Just half an hour drive from the city, is the Riviera. Half a day here menad discovering some of the most typical villages along the Ligurian coast: Portofino, Santa Margherita Ligure, Rapallo, Sestri Levante, Camogli.

An ideal visit comprises only two of the above mentioned villages, travelling by ferry or private boat. The view from the sea must not be missed to enjoy and understand this territory at its best.

Every village has a distinct charm, with its tiny colourful huses, the fin-de-siecle sea promenades and the big hotels and villas.

Portofino is no doubt the most famous of all, with its small central square where

you can often meet celebrities strolling by and its church perched on top of the hill where from you can enjoy an astonishing view over the gulf. Right close by is Santa Margherita Ligure, built around two bays and at the centre the gorgeous Villa Durazzo Centurione with its charming garden. For those who love shopping, Rapallo is the right destination. Its historic centre and high street offer shops for any taste and budget. Further away from Genoa are Chiavari, a small medieval town with elegant porticoes in black stone, and Sestri Levante, maybe less renowned, but not less fascinating than the other destinations, with its wonderful bays and sandy beaches, among the few in Liguria.



## **Riviera Full Day**

The full day excursion enables to enjoy the slow and relaxed pace of these tiny villages, to discover the fascination of the gozzi, the typical fishing boats of the area, to stroll along the piers in Portofino, maybe chasing celebrities, to visit ancient medieval abbeys such as S. Salvatore dei Fieschi and S. Fruttuoso. A journey by ferry for at least a short while is compulsory to really enjoy this lush and varied coast.

From Portofino it is possible to reach the bay of San Fruttuoso in not even half an hour sail: it is a small isolated bay where the ancient Abbey rises, built sheer on the sea.

Close by, but on another bay, is Camogli: a village still preserving the charm of the old fishermen villages. Here, early in the morning, fishing boats still reach the shores and it is still possible to enjoy the atmosphere of the village of the old days.

The road from Camogli to Rapallo is Ruta. It winds up along the hill and offers gorgeous panoramic spots, nothing to envy to the more famous French Corniche. For those who love less renowned places, Zoagli and its promenade shouldn't be

missed: the main square, with its old bathing establishments lets people savour the atmosphere of a time past and the promenade, carved in the rocks sheer on the sea, rivals the Via dell'Amore in charm and views.

The more famous Santa Margherita and Rapallo cannot be missed, just like the small medieval town of Chiavari.

In short, this territory offers an incredibly wide choice: coast and hinterland, sea and countryside, medieval historic centres, fishermen and farmers side by side with boutiques and stars.



## **Musical Genoa**

### **A fascinating tour under the sign of great music \*.**

Discovering the historic centre of Genoa through the places where great musicians once lived or passed.

Starting from the Expò area we reach Piazza Banchi, site of a famous murder, that of the famous Stradella, assassinated for an affair of the heart.

Then onwards to Campetto, where we find an historic café, Klainuti. Here Giuseppe Verdi loved to have his café.

Again on to reach the cathedral and the Grimaldina tower, historic jail of the city which hosted one of the most famous Genoese, Nicolò Paganini.

We proceed to admire the Ducal palace and reach the opera theatre Carlo Felice\*\*. It is possible to visit its concert hall.

Close by is the 19th century Galleria Mazzini, where artists and intellectuals used to meet till the early 20th century.

The visit goes on to Via Garibaldi, one of the most monumental in the city, beloved by many musicians, among them was Wagner.

The tour could end with an optional visit to Palazzo Tursi\*\*\*, where Paganini's violin is still preserved.



## Literary Genoa

An itinerary to discover the places of 19th century painters and writers For the occasion of the great exhibition organized at Palazzo Ducale, "Mediterraneo. From Courbet to Monet and Matisse", GuideGenova offers the great chance to discover the old town through the eyes of those who experienced it as a great traveller. Witnesses of that Grand Tour which used to lead great artists to Italy.

After enjoying the masterpieces in Palazzo Ducale, the tour reaches some of the places loved by the great: Rousseau, Balzac, Dickens, Twain, Gogol and Nietzsche though an itinerary joining the fascination of a time gone by to the visit of some of the main monuments in the city: the cathedral, the old harbour, Via Garibaldi with its gorgeous palaces, today World Heritage.



## Parks and Gardens

Savouring the mediterranean atmosphere of the city and the Riviera, visiting the gardens and parks of the grand noble villas is a chance not to be missed.

Half day, full day and several days itineraries lead us to discover some of the hidden treasures of the area, entering famous and less renowned gardens.

It is possible to visit some historic gardens right in the city centre: that of Palazzo del Principe, a splendid 16th century residence, and those of Via Garibaldi, which made the street famous already back in the 17th century and thanks to which it has received the prestigious title of World Heritage in 2007.

It is also possible to spend a day in the Riviera in the gorgeous villas of Santa Margherita Ligure, Portofino and Sestri.

