



NOT TO BE MISSED IN GENOA
the beauty of a city in 15 places



GENOVA
MORE THAN THIS



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Old Town

Genoa has one of the largest historical centres in Europe made up of an intricate tangle of alleyways, called *caruggi*, that often open up unexpectedly onto small squares where different smells, tastes and cultures mix and mingle. In this place, where time appears to have stopped, visitors can admire ancient buildings and beautiful churches set between stores that have been there for over 100 years and shops of all sorts. If you look upwards at any one crossroads, your eye will rest upon some magnificent miniature shrines, which were donated to the city by the ancient guilds and used to light up the streets at night. *[Guided tours and audio-guides are on sale at the IAT - Tourist Information Offices].*

Via Garibaldi and the Palazzi dei Rolli

At the time when Genoa was a Republic, the 'Rolli' were lists of prominent stately homes belonging to noble Genoese families who were available, the honour of doing so

being allotted by publicly drawing lots, to host distinguished guests travelling through Genoa on State visits. In 2006, 42 out of the over 150 Genoese *palazzi* became UNESCO World Heritage Sites. *[Guided tours are on sale at the IAT - Tourist Information Offices].* Some among the most beautiful Rolli buildings are in **Via Garibaldi**, once known as Strada Nuova, literally New Street. Among these are **Palazzo Rosso**, **Palazzo Bianco**, and **Palazzo Tursi** – all part of a same museum tour and all housing extraordinary works of art dating back



to between the 15th and 19th centuries. In addition to its modern set up designed by Franco Albini, **Palazzo Rosso (19-B6)** still has the feel of a home-museum. Most rooms in the Palazzo Rosso were decorated by some of the most prominent painters of the Genoese School, such as De Ferrari, Piola and Guidobono, and house pieces of historical furniture and art collections belonging to the Brignole-Sale family. The art collections include pieces by Genoese artists such as Strozzi, Grechetto and De Ferrari; by Italian artists, such as Veronese, Reni and Guercino; and by foreign artists, such as Dürer, Van Dyck and Rigaud. Having been set up by Franco Albini and re-opened to the public in 1950, **Palazzo Bianco (18-B6)** is the main picture gallery in Liguria, exhibiting paintings by Flemish artists (Memling, David, Rubens, Van Dyck), Italian artists (Lippi, Caravaggio, Procaccini), and Genoese artists (Cambiaso, Strozzi, Fiasella, Piola, Magnasco). The exhibition ends with the *Repentant Magdalene* by

from the left: A view of the old town centre, the old harbour area, the Aquarium
below: Palazzo Rosso

Canova. Formerly known as Palazzo Grimaldi and later on owned by the Doria family, Dukes of Tursi, **Palazzo Tursi (16-B6)** is one of the grandest among the stately homes of Genoa. Palazzo Tursi and Palazzo Bianco are connected by way of a garden and share the same exhibition route. The rooms of Palazzo Tursi house pieces of decorative art, such as tapestries, furniture and Ligurian pottery, as well as collections of coins, weights and measures from the ancient Republic of Genoa and the renowned Guarneri del Gesù violin that belonged to Niccolò Paganini. *[Open Tuesday to Friday from 9 am to 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 7 pm; closed on Monday].*

The Aquarium and the old harbour area or porto antico (112-B4/B5)

Built inside the ancient dock-lands and redesigned by architect Renzo Piano in 1992, this area is now the city's most popular tourist attraction. Populated by seals, dolphins, sharks, penguins and fish of all

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from the left: Palazzo Ducale, San Lorenzo Cathedral, Church San Pietro in Banchi
Below from the left: Porta Soprana, Boccadasse, Tomb Oneto at the Monumental Cemetery of Staglieno

kinds and colours, the *Acquario di Genova* is one of the largest and most visited in Europe. The aquarium offers wonderfully interesting discovery tours of the enchanting depths of the sea world that are well worth trying.

Other worthy attractions in the same area are the Bigo panoramic elevator, the Biosphere and the *Città dei Bambini*, a museum-cum-play area for children aged between 2 and 14. The Luzzati Museum, located inside what used to be the Town Gate known as Porta Siberia, is dedicated to the work of the famous Genoese stage designer Lele Luzzati. *(The aquarium is open daily throughout the year).*

The harbour area and boat trips

A boat trip (about 1 hour and 10 minutes) inside Genoa harbour will show you the most interesting and peculiar aspects of one of Europe's largest working harbours. A boat trip is ideal if you would like to get a different, more privileged view of this enchanting city by sweeping the coast from the old harbour to Pegli, a residential area to the west, its ancient buildings and churches, hilltop forts, the airport and Genoa's landmark lighthouse, known as the *Lanterna*. *(Trips depart daily from next to the Aquarium, in the old harbour).*

Palazzo Ducale (51-C6)

Genoa's main cultural hub, Palazzo Ducale offers a year-round calendar of events, featuring arts exhibitions, congresses, thread-based talks and creative workshops. Once the seat of the government of the Republic of Genoa since the 1500s, the building has a medieval block, where the Grimaldina Tower stands, and a central part erected between the 16th and the 17th centuries. Badly damaged by fire, it was rebuilt in the Neoclassical style during the 18th century. A tour of the dungeons is well worth it. Among others, the renowned Genoese composer Niccolò Paganini and freedom fighter Jacopo Ruffini were imprisoned here. *(Torre Grimaldina: information on opening hours is available at any IAT office or on the website www.palazzoducale.genova.it).*

Chiesa del Gesù (141-C6)

This church is also known as *Chiesa dei Santi Ambrogio e Andrea*. The original building was constructed during the 6th century by the Bishop of Milan fleeing Langobard persecutions. The present church dates back to the 16th century and belongs to the Jesuit Order. A fine example of Genoese Baroque, this building houses *The Circumcision and the Miracle of Saint Ignatius* by Rubens as well as Guido Reni's *Assumption*.

Porta Soprana and Christopher Columbus' House (71-C6)

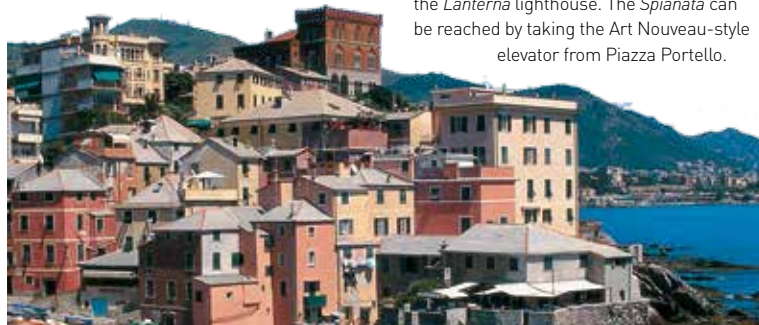
The Porta Soprana Gate is also known as Saint Andrew's Gate from the nearby hilltop monastery knocked down in 1904. The Gate opens out into the so-called *Barbarossa Walls*, which date back to the 12th century and were meant to protect the freedom of the Republic from the Emperor's expansionist aims. Not far from the **Porta Soprana** is the **museum-house of Christopher Columbus (95-C6)**: this is an 18th-century reconstruction of the building where the discoverer of America lived, as the original was bombed by the French in 1684. A 12th-century cloister belonging to the ancient monastery of Saint Andrew stands next to Columbus' house. *(Information on opening hours is available at any IAT office).*

San Lorenzo Cathedral (126-C6)

Built between the 12th and 14th centuries, the sides and side portals of the cathedral are in the Romanesque style, while the façade is Gothic. Through the centuries, the cathedral has undergone several changes that have altered the style of the interior. The largest of the side chapels is dedicated to Saint John the Baptist, patron saint of the city of Genoa. Dating back to 1465, this chapel is in the Renaissance style. The side chapels at the head of the aisles and the chancel date back to the 16th and 17th centuries. An unexploded bomb from the Second World War stands at the end of the right hand side aisle. The rooms which are adjacent to the Sacristy house the **Museum of the Treasure of San Lorenzo**, set up by Franco Albini in 1956. The museum houses relics and works of sacred art from the 12th to the 18th century. *(Church opening time: 8-12 am and 3-7 pm. Museum opening time: 9-12 am and 3-6 pm; closed on Sundays and holidays).*

Piazza Banchi

Close to the town's most important harbour area, this square was first used



as a farmers' market. In the 12th century the area was taken over by merchants for the exchange of their goods and by the houses of patrician families. During the 13th century, the square was used by bankers, who conducted their currency exchange business out in the open. In order to supply them with a sheltered place to work in, the **Loggia dei Mercanti (101-C6)** was built in the 16th century, according to designs by Andrea Ceresola, called Vannone. From

1855 onwards, the *Loggia* became the seat of the first Stock Exchange in Italy. The **Church San Pietro in Banchi (174-C5)** stands to the right of the Loggia and is a unique example of a place of worship placed above business premises. This peculiar mix of sacred and profane was the result of a compromise between the Lomellino family who wished to use the area for business purposes and the population of the district who needed to build a church in order to fulfil a vow. *(The church opens daily from 10 am to 7 pm).*

Piazza De Ferrari

It is the main square in Genoa with its monumental fountain built in 1936. Designed in 1821 by Carlo Barabino, together with the nearby **Carlo Felice Theatre (191-C6)** and the **building of the Accademia Ligustica di Belle Arti** (Ligurian Academy of Fine Arts) **(111-C6)**, the square is also limited by one side of the **Palazzo Ducale**, whose main entrance opens out laterally onto Matteotti Square, by the **Palazzo della Regione Liguria** (Liguria Regional Administration House) built in 1920 and by the New Stock Exchange, or **Palazzo della Nuova Borsa**, built in 1912.

Piazza San Matteo (171-C6)

This square dates back to the early Middle Ages and is a prominent example of urban aristocratic settlement. It is lined with buildings whose façades are clad in distinctive black and white stripes. Along with its 14th century church and adjoining cloister, Piazza San Matteo once belonged to the powerful Doria family, who played a key role in the history of the Republic of Genoa. Andrea Doria was born in the *palazzo* on the corner and his remains rest in the crypt of the church.

Spianata di Castelletto (Belvedere Montaldo) (206-B6)

This wonderful viewpoint offers some of the most scenic views in town, overlooking the rooftops of the old town, the port and the *Lanterna* lighthouse. The *Spianata* can be reached by taking the Art Nouveau-style elevator from Piazza Portello.

Corso Italia and Boccadasse

Corso Italia is Genoa's main seaside promenade, popular with families, joggers and skaters alike. It is dotted along its entire length with bars and restaurants, some of which lie on the scenic terraces of private beaches. Rising high on the left of the Promenade, at its very beginning, is the **Church Santi Pietro e Bernardo** alla Foce, with paintings by Genoese baroque artists. Further along, on the right, is **San Giuliano**

Abbey (18-L4) with paintings from the 1500s. Corso Italia ends at **Boccadasse (29-L4)**, a fishing village full of local charm. From the scenic viewpoint, walk down along the *creuzza* (narrow alleyway) to the small beach. From here carry on to **Capo di Santa Chiara (4-L5)** for lovely views of the coastline, all the way to Portofino. Today Boccadasse is best known for its ice-cream parlours (*gelaterie*) and typical fish restaurants.

Nervi

This residential area in the easternmost portion of Genoa was a favourite destination of the European aristocracy between the late 19th and the early 20th centuries. Much of its charm is in its seaside walk, *Passeggiata Anita Garibaldi (31-M10)*, which runs across the top of the rocky seashore, and its park, which encompasses the gardens of three villas: Villa Gropallo, Villa Serra, and Villa Grimaldi Fassio. Today the villas house prominent museums: the **Modern Art Gallery (13-M10)** *(open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am to 7 pm)*, the **Frugone Art Collections (16-M11)** *(open Tuesday through Friday, 9 am to 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 7 pm; closed on Monday)*, with paintings from the late 19th century, and the **Wolfsonian Collection (17-M10)** *(open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 6 pm; closed on Monday and Tuesday)*, which is mostly dedicated to modern applied arts. The **Luxoro Museum (15-M11)**, a mansion dating back to the early 20th century, is in the Nervi-Capolungo neighbourhood. *(Open Tuesday through Friday, 9 am to 1 pm; closed on Sunday and Monday).*

The Monumental Cemetery of Staglieno (18-N5)

This cemetery is considered to be one of the most beautiful and interesting in Europe, a proper outdoor museum. Planned by architect Carlo Barabino in 1835, it contains the **Cappella dei Suffragi** or **Pantheon**, which preserves the memory of great Genoese figures. The **Boschetto Irregolare**, whose design was inspired by Romantic gardens, is home to the graves of Giuseppe Mazzini and other heroes of the Risorgimento, while hundreds of monuments by sculptors of international renown and dating back to the 19th and 20th centuries are found along the galleries and porticoes that make up the core of the original cemetery. The most notable include *"The Nut Seller"* by Lorenzo Orengo, the Braccilli Spinola Memorial by Santo Varni, the Oneto Memorial by Giulio Monteverde and the Carpaneto Memorial by Giovanni Scanzi. *(Open daily from 7.30 am to 4.30 pm; for information about guided tours contact our tourism offices (IAT)).*

