



MORE THAN THIS
(GENOVA)

NOT TO BE MISSED IN GENOVA






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GUIDED TOURS OF THE OLD TOWN AND THE PALAZZI DEI ROLLI, UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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01 The Old Town, UNESCO World Heritage Site

Genoa's Old Town is one of the largest medieval old towns in Europe, the largest in terms of population density: an intricate maze of alleyways (*caruggi*) that open into small squares where different smells, flavours, and cultures mingle. Admire the **ancient noble palaces, the little squares, and the beautiful churches** set between **historic stores**, that have been in business for over 100 years, and shops of all sorts. If you look upwards at the crossroads, you will enjoy the magnificent **votive niches**, mostly dedicated to Mary, Queen of Genoa, which were donated by the guilds to light up the alleyways at night. Walk along the old town following the 4 guided tours that cross it: the *Palazzi dei Rolli* (tour 1 red), *In the heart of the Superba* (tour 2 green), the *Medieval City* (tour 3 yellow), the *Via dei Cavalieri* (tour 4 light blue). Discover the **old Medieval City**, from Torre Embriaci to Santa Maria di Castello – the first inhabited centre in Genoa in ancient times; move from

Campopisano to the Church of San Donato and Porta Soprana, retracing some of the most significant pages of the history of the Superba and try to follow the path of the ancient medieval walls.

Visit the **Carmine district (203-A5/6)**, characterised by corners with unusual and evocative names, where time seems to have stood still. From there you can reach one of Genoa's most beautiful panoramic points: **Spianata Castelletto**.

02 The Churches in the Old Town

If strolling to the alleyways of Genoa, you find yourself in front of a church, enter in it with no hesitation: you will discover many hidden artistic and religious treasures. The **Chiesa di Gesù (141-C6)** is an impressive example of the Genoese Baroque. In a blaze of gold, plaster works, polychrome marbles, and frescoes, it displays two masterpieces by Peter Paul Rubens (*the Circumcision* and *the Miracle of Saint Ignatius*) and the *Assumption* by Guido Reni. The **Basilica of Santa Maria di**



Castello (109-C5), with its 15th-century Dominican convent and the museum, is a monumental complex of great prestige. It houses precious paintings, illuminated manuscripts, sculptures, and frescoes, among them the *Annunciation* by Justus von Ravensburg. The **Church of San Donato (156-C6)** is also Romanesque, admire its beautiful octagonal bell tower. Inside, the Church preserves 14th-century panel paintings (Nicolò da Voltri and Barnaba da Modena) and the remarkable Flemish triptych by Joos van Cleve: the *Adoration of the Magi*. The **Basilica of Santa Maria delle Vigne (166-C6)**, founded before the year 1000, features a Romanesque cloister and bell tower. The interiors are mostly Baroque and decorated with 17th- and 18th-century frescoes. The **Church of San Luca (161-B6)** is a small 17th-century jewel built by the Spinola family. The single nave is embellished with frescoes by Domenico Piola. It houses sculptures by Filippo Parodi and the *Adoration of the Shepherds*, a masterpiece by Giovanni Benedetto Castiglione.

il Grechetto. The **Basilica of Santissima Annunziata del Vastato (182-B5)** is especially worth a visit during a bright day when the sun shines on the gildings, the inlaid marbles, the frescoes, and the vertiginous dome by Andrea Ansaldo. The Basilica houses many important works of the Genoese late Renaissance and Baroque (Cambiaso, Guercino, Strozzi, Benso, Piola, De Ferrari, Fiasella), along with the monumental *Last Supper* by Giulio Cesare Procaccini.

03 Porta Soprana and Columbus' House

The gate **Porta Soprana (71-C6)** is one of the main examples of medieval architecture in Genoa. The gate served as an entrance to the city through the so-called Mura del Barbarossa, the walls built to protect the Republic against the expansionistic policy of Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, in 1159. Opposite to the gate stood the ancient Benedictine monastery of Sant' Andrea, whose splendid cloister, with sculpted capitals of the

mid-12th century, survives still today. Nearby, you can visit the **Columbus' House (95-C6)**, an 18th-century reconstruction of the original medieval building (that was destroyed during a bombardment in 1684) where the discoverer of America lived in his youth.

04 Piazza De Ferrari and Palazzo Ducale

Genoa's main square is named after Duke Raffaele De Ferrari, a benefactor of the city. In the middle of the square stands a majestic bronze fountain, built in 1936. On one side of the square are the **Teatro Carlo Felice (191-C6)** and the **Accademia Ligustica di Belle Arti (111-C6)**, both designed by Carlo Barabino in the 19th century. On the other, the 20th-century **Palazzo della Regione Liguria** and the **Palazzo della Nuova Borsa (54-C6)**, in Art Nouveau style. The square is also bordered by the side façade of the **Palazzo Ducale (51-C6)**, the cultural hub of the city, that hosts international art exhibitions,

conferences, meetings, and educational activities. Once the residence of the Doge, the building has a medieval core (the **Torre Grimaldina**) and a central part designed by Andrea Ceresola, *il Vannone*, between the 16th and 17th centuries. Badly damaged by a severe fire, it was partially reconstructed in Neoclassic style at the end of the 18th century. Also worth visiting are the **prisons** where, among others, the famous Genoese composer Niccolò Paganini and the patriot Jacopo Ruffini, were jailed. Do not miss the **Salone del Maggiore Consiglio**, and the beautiful **Cappella del Doge**.

05 Piazza San Matteo and Piazza Banchi

From Palazzo Ducale, in Piazza De Ferrari, you can reach **Piazza San Matteo**. Visiting this square is like stepping back in time. Piazza San Matteo is a perfectly preserved medieval noble settlement, a symbol of the private power of a great Genoese family. Indeed, all the palaces in the square, with their





characteristic black and white stripes, and the Gothic **Church of San Matteo (171-C6)**, with its cloister, belonged to the Doria family. In the crypt, you can still see the sword and the tomb of Andrea Doria, who, in the mid-16th century, commissioned a Renaissance renovation of the church interior.

Piazza Banchi took its name from the money-changers stalls (*banchi*) that used to be placed under the porticoes of the palaces of the square. In 1595, the **Loggia dei Mercanti (101-C6)**, designed by Andrea Ceresola, *il Vannone*, gave an eminent covered office to the bankers and in 1855 it became the first Commodities and Stock Exchange market in Italy. The 16th-century **Church of San Pietro in Banchi (174-C5)** is a curious mixture of the sacred and the profane: a unique example of a religious building placed above commercial shops: the result of a compromise between the family that owned it and the people who wanted to fulfil a vow.

06 San Lorenzo's Cathedral and the Museo Diocesano
Genoa's **Cathedral (126-C6)** dates to the first centuries of the Middle Ages. Today the building, erected between the 12th and the 14th century, features wonderful Romanesque sides and portals, while the stately façade is Gothic. Through the centuries, the cathedral has undergone several changes, leading to a renovation of its interiors' style. **The chapel of the relics of San Giovanni Battista**, the city's patron saint, is a masterpiece of 15th-century art, while the apse and the dome of the cathedral were redesigned by Galeazzo Alessi in the 16th century. In the right-hand nave is a grenade that during WWII broke down the church's roof but didn't explode. You can climb up to the **Cathedral Towers** to discover where the Doge used to attend mass. Climbing further up, you will enjoy a beautiful view of the city. The Cathedral, among many other works, houses, in picturesque underground halls,

the **Museo del Tesoro (132-C6)**, which preserves important relics and valuable works of sacred art from the 12th to the 18th century. In the Museo Diocesano next to the Cathedral, you can admire the precious **Passion clothes** that are considered the forerunners of the **JEANS**.

07 "Vertical Genoa"
Genoa has a peculiar "vertical dimension": its narrow *crêuze*, typical Ligurian paths, climb up the hills surrounding the city. Since the late-19th century, innovative transport facilities have linked the centre to the hills. Nowadays they are efficient means of connection for the Genoese and unique tourist attractions. From Piazza del Portello the Art Nouveau **Castelletto Levante lift (212-B6)** reaches the **Spianata di Castelletto (206-B6)**, one of the city's most spectacular panoramic points. Also offering spectacular views are the **Zecca-Righi funicular (221-B6)**, the combined horizontal-vertical **Montegalletto lift (215-A4)**, and the **Granarolo rack railway (219-A3)**. The **Sant'Anna funicular** takes you to the **Antica Farmacia di Sant'Anna**, operating since 1650 inside the convent of the Discalced Carmelite friars and specialised in herbal and galenic pharmacy.

08 Corso Italia and Boccadasse
Genoa's seaside promenade **Corso Italia (30-L2/L4)**, flanked by bars, restaurants, and beaches, is popular among families and sportsmen. The easy and pleasant promenade reaches **Boccadasse (29-L4)**, a suggestive Ligurian fishing village that still preserves its timeless charm. Today, Boccadasse is well-known for its ice-cream parlours and typical fish restaurants. From the Belvedere you can reach a small beach and then the Capo di Santa Chiara, from which the view sweeps over the entire coastline, the Golfo Paradiso, up to the Portofino Promontory.

09 Nervi, Nervi's Promenade, the Parks, and the Museums
Thanks to its mild and pleasant weather, Nervi has been the

favourite holiday destination for many rich European families since the 19th-century. Today, Nervi boasts the romantic **Anita Garibaldi promenade (31-M10)**, the **Gropallo Tower**, and an extensive system of parks belonging to the Gropallo, Serra, and Grimaldi Fassio historic villas. The villas house important modern and contemporary art museums: the **Galleria d'Arte Moderna (13-M10)**, the **Raccolte Frugone (16-M11)**, and the **Wolfsoniana (17-M10)**. Inside an aristocratic early-20th-century mansion is the **Museo Luxoro (15-M11)**.

10 Staglieno Monumental Cemetery
Considered one of the most beautiful and fascinating cemeteries in Europe, today the Staglieno Cemetery is a real open-air museum (**18-N5**). Designed in Neoclassic style by Carlo Barabino in 1835, it preserves, in its Pantheon, the collective memory of illustrious Genoese. The **Boschetto Irregolare**, inspired by Romantic gardens, houses the tomb of Giuseppe Mazzini and numerous graves of Risorgimento patriots. Under the galleries and the porticoes are hundreds of funerary sculptures, works by important 19th- and 20th-century artists (Orengo, Varni, Monteverde, Scanzi, and many others).

11 The Palazzi dei Rolli, Via Garibaldi, the Strada Nuova Museums, the Sale Paganiniane
At the time of the ancient Republic of Genoa, the *Rolli* were lists of the richest Genoese families' mansions. From these lists, the palaces that would have the honour of hosting important foreign dignitaries during State visits were drawn by lot. In 2006, 42 among the over 150 palaces were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Some of the most prestigious Rolli palaces are in **Via Garibaldi (B6)**, formerly known as **Strada Nuova (New Street)**. Palazzo Rosso, Palazzo Bianco, and Palazzo Tursi, part of the Strada Nuova Museums, preserve an extraordinary artistic heritage. **Palazzo Rosso (19-B6)** is a house museum: its halls, decorated by prominent painters of the Genoese school (De Ferrari, Piola, Guidobono), feature historic furniture and art collections of the Brignole-Sale family, with works by Genoese artists (Strozzi, Grechetto, De Ferrari), Italian (Veronese, Reni, Guercino), and foreign ones (Dürer, Van Dyck, Rigaud). **Palazzo Bianco (18-B6)** is an art gallery that boasts precious paintings

by Flemish (Memling, David, Rubens, Van Dyck), Spanish (Zurbarán, Murillo), Italian (Lippi, Caravaggio, Procaccini, Veronese), and Genoese painters (Cambiaso, Strozzi, Fiasella, Piola, Magnasco). Through a garden, the Strada Nuova tour continues to **Palazzo Doria Tursi (16-B6)**, one of the most renowned residences and today the seat of the municipality. The museum wing hosts the *Repentant Magdalene* by Canova, along with pieces of decorative art (tapestries, furniture, Ligurian ceramics) and a collection of official coins, weights and measures of the Republic of Genoa. The **Sala Paganini** houses the famous **Cannone**, the favourite violin of the eminent musician Niccolò Paganini, made by Guarneri del Gesù in 1743. Two other Palazzi dei Rolli are today important museums and preserve frescoes, sculptures, paintings, furniture, and fittings of the noble families who lived there: Palazzo Reale and Palazzo Spinola. The **Palazzo Reale (30-A5)** is a great 17th- and 18th-century mansion that belonged first to the Balbi and the Durazzo families and later to the Savoy family (hence the name *Reale* – royal). The Palazzo Reale displays works by Van Dyck, Tintoretto, Strozzi. The **Galleria Nazionale di Palazzo Spinola (36-B6)** holds a very extensive collection of the major Genoese, Flemish, and European artists (Rubens, Van Dyck, Antonello da Messina, Grechetto, Valerio Castello).

12 The Porto Antico, the Aquarium, and the Museo del Mare
The ancient port area, redesigned by Renzo Piano in 1992, is today the city's touristic centre. Here is the **Aquarium (112-B4/B5)**, one of the largest in Europe. Genoa's Aquarium is a must-see: seals, dolphins, sharks, penguins, and fish in all shapes and colors will make you live a unique and exciting experience into the depths of the sea. Try also the **Bigo (201-C5)** panoramic elevator and visit the **Biosfera (113-C5)**, a spectacular sphere of glass and steel with a tropical forest inside. Mirroring into the water of the old dock (the Darsena) is the **Galata Museo del Mare (119-B4)**, the largest and most innovative Mediterranean maritime museum, with the submarine *Nazario Sauro* moored just in front. Nearby is the **Commenda di San Giovanni di Prè (99-A4)**, a Romanesque complex consisting of two overlapping churches and a medieval hospital that was destined for pilgrims and crusaders on their way to the Holy Land.

13 The Lanterna (Genoa's lighthouse) and the Villa del Principe

Considered the symbol of the city, Genoa's lighthouse, the Lanterna, with its 77 meters height is one of the biggest lighthouses in the Mediterranean and one of the oldest lighthouses still in operation in the world. A special 800 meters path, running alongside the 17th- and 19th-century walls, leads to the tower, where you can visit the fascinating **Museo della Lanterna (74-D1)**. Climb the 172 steps until the first terrace and you will be rewarded with a magnificent panorama of the port, the city, and the whole Gulf of Genoa. The **Villa del Principe, Andrea Doria's palace**, is one of Genoa's main historical villas. The villa was built in the 16th century in an area that, at the time, was outside the city walls. Conceived as a private residence for the Genoese prince-admiral Andrea Doria, who received sovereigns and diplomats from all nations there, it was not registered as a Palazzo dei Rolli being a suburban villa outside the city walls. From his palace, just outside the gate of San Tomaso, and towards Capo di Faro, where the Lanterna stands, Andrea Doria kept his influence over the city while remaining far from the Palazzo Ducale, at the time the centre of the oligarchic power that ruled the Republic of Genoa. Still owned by the Doria Pamphilj heirs, the Villa del Principe and its park are now open to the public.

14 Villa Durazzo Pallavicini, Villa Duchessa di Galliera and the Museo Archeologico
In Pegli the 19th-century park of **Villa Durazzo-Pallavicini (2-G5)** is a sublime example of a Romantic historical garden. The tour of the park is conceived according to a "scenographic narrative": the itinerary evokes a theatrical play winding between temples, caves, lakes, waterfalls, huts, and centuries-old trees. Between February

and April do not miss the extraordinary blossoming of the ancient camellias. Inside the Villa Durazzo-Pallavicini, the **Museo di Archeologia Ligure** displays the Palaeolithic tombs from the Arene Candide Cave and artifacts from the pre-Roman necropolis of Genoa. The Park and the Villa can be easily reached by train or, in the summer season, by the **boat Navebus (232-C5)** that links the Porto Antico to the Pegli district, in the western part of the city. With this short boat trip through one of the largest ports in Europe, you will enjoy the enchanting panorama of Genoa from a privileged perspective: from the sea. In the western part of the city, the Voltri district boasts the largest historical park of Liguria (32 hectares and 28 km of paths): **Villa Duchessa di Galliera (6-G1)**, built by the Brignole – Sale Marquises and the end of the 17th century, welcomed nobles and visitors from all over Europe. It offers many different atmospheres: from the Italian garden to the Romantic wood, from a 18th-century theatre to a neo-Romanesque castle with artificial waterfalls, up till the ancient Sanctuary of the Madonna delle Grazie with the tombs of the Dukes of Galliera.

15 Fortifications and the Historic Aqueduct
The **Parco delle Mura (27-N5)**, a vast protected natural area on the hills surrounding the city, includes several fortifications built between the 17th and 19th centuries. Around them are hiking and biking trails offering splendid panoramic views over Genoa and the inland valleys. The Park can be easily reached from the Old Town by the **Zecca-Righi funicular (221-B6)** or the historic **Genova-Casella railway (231-A9)** that from Piazza Manin reaches the hinterland. For the hiking lovers, the Roman **Historic Aqueduct (17-N5)** is today a 28 km pedestrian path that winds through the Bisagno Valley. Crossing the canal bridge and the siphon bridges is a thrilling experience.

