



Genoa and the Rolli Palaces

UNESCO world heritage palaces in the heart of Genoa



Turismo

Sistema Turistico Locale
del Genovesato



Sistema Turistico Locale del Genovesato

*Consortium for the enhancement
and promotion of the Genoa
area's tourist offerings*

Palazzo Ducale
Piazza Matteotti 9, Genoa
Ph. +39 010 557.40.95
Fax +39 010 557.48.57
info@stlgenovesato.it
www.stlgenovesato.it



Regione Liguria

Co-financed with regional funds ex l.r. 28/2006



Comune di Genova



Provincia di Genova

Texts: Sistema Turistico Locale (STL) del Genovesato

Photographs: City of Genoa Archives, Archives of M&R Comunicazione,
Archives of the Parco Naturale Regionale dell'Antola, Archives of the Parco
Naturale Regionale del Beigua, Archives of the STL Genovesato

Cartographer and Publisher: M&R Comunicazione

© 2010 This publication was brought to you by the Sistema Turistico Locale del Genovesato

Contents

A Genoa of Your Own	2
Weekend - Art&Rolli	4
Weekend - Walking Back in Time	10
Map and Routes	16
A Week to Discover Genoa	18
Focus:	
Gastronomy	29
Traditions and Special Events	31
STL Genovesato Projects	32



A Genoa of Your Own

Art, history and fun in the heart of the City of the Rolli Palaces



This is an invitation to those who don't know our city to come find a Genoa of your own. In Genoa, every time you change your viewpoint, you discover a completely different city. Look up as you walk through the narrow medieval streets of the old city, the **Centro Storico**,

and the heights of the buildings will make you dizzy. Densely packed together in the Middle Ages, they leave only a strip of sky visible over your head. But your eyes will linger on the colorful frescoed façades, great windows that give glimpses of paintings on the ceilings, and

the elaborate corner altars that face out above the crossroads of dark and narrow alleyways. From the sea, from a boat, the port of Genoa arches around you. Pastel colored buildings with arcades line the harbor starting from the *ripa maris* which follows the sea, to fade off into the distance, leaving a vision of the old port, the **Porto Antico** - newly redesigned by Renzo Piano - and the commercial port with its cranes at work, and containers like a puzzle of colors. Genoa can be seen from above. From **Spianata Castelletto**, reached by public elevator in less than five minutes from the center, the city is a labyrinth of roofs of gray slate-the characteristic "soft" stone from nearby quarries in the Gulf of Tigullio-interspersed with stone towers and bell towers that rise up above the city. There is a surprising amount of bright green, gardens whose existence cannot be guessed from street level, and the blue Mediterranean is ever in the background. Higher up the hills is **Righi** with its forts, and a unique view of the entire city, the valleys and the sea. In Genoa the landscape isn't the only thing that varies. History has left its traces in layers. Every step takes you into a different epoch, a different style. In the dense medieval enclave-Genoa's old city, or Historic Center, one



of the world's four biggest cities in the 1300s-sudden Renaissance palaces emerge. The 42 **Palazzi dei Rolli**, all UNESCO World Heritage Sites, date to the 1500 and 1600s. With their frescoes inside and out, along with twenty other museums, and exhibitions and events in **Palazzo Ducale** and at the modern Trade Fairgrounds on the Sea, the **Fiera del Mare**, Genoa is a living city of art. A walk-through museum under the sky. Genoa, city of the sea, culture, and fun. We offer you itineraries for two weekends in the city. The first for those who love art and history. The second dedicated to families and relaxation. If you decide to spend a week to get to know the city better, you will find that Genoa will surprise you. And you can explore easily on foot or by public transport.

Weekend Art&Rolli

Touring Genoa's UNESCO World Heritage Sites - the Rolli Palaces

THE OLD CITY

- *Piazza della Nunziata*
- *Via Lomellini*
- *Via San Luca*
- *Piazza San Matteo*
- *Piazza De Ferrari and Piazza Matteotti*
- *Via San Donato*
- *Via San Lorenzo*

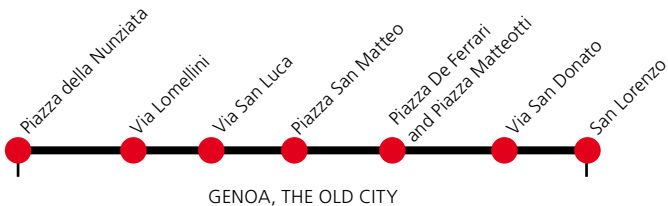
PALAZZO DUCALE AND THE THEATRES

- *Exhibitions*
- *Opera House Carlo Felice*
- *Theatres*

THE PALACES OF THE ROLLI

- *Piazza Fontane Marose*
- *Via Garibaldi and the Museums of Strada Nuova*
- *Via Balbi and the Royal Palace*

Five minutes away from Genoa's main train station, Stazione Principe, and Genoa's old port, Porto Antico, is **Piazza della Nunziata**, the starting point for our weekend tour of the architecture and artistic beauty of Genoa. Facing onto the piazza, the white **Chiesa dell'Annunziata** holds some of the most representative art work of the 17th century artists who made Genoa's "**Golden Century**" of painting so famous. Inside you will find De Ferrari, Strozzi and Carlone side by side with later paintings by Castello, Piola, and Guidobono. Caravaggio, Rubens, and Van Dyck also add to the beauty of the church. The famous French philosopher, Montesquieu, on a visit to Genoa in the 1700s



declared the Annunziata to be "the most beautiful church in the city". Charles Dickens underlined this in his *Images of Italy*, where he speaks of the splendor and the variety of the churches in Genoa, saying, "the church of the Annunziata was built, like many others, by a noble family, [and] it is so finely decorated and painted with gold [that it] seems like a giant enameled snuff box." Piazza della Nunziata lies at one end of **Via Lomellini**, an elaborate pedestrian street which leads into the old city, (called by Italians, Centro Storico or Historic Center). On Via Lomellini you will find the late-Baroque oratory, Oratorio di San Filippo (1662), which often has concerts, and the house where Italian patriot, **Giuseppe Mazzini**, was born, now the Museum of the Unification of Italy, **Museo del Risorgimento**. Via Lomellini ends at Piazza di Fossatello. To the right is **Via**



del Campo, made famous in the songs of native Genoese singer-songwriter, **Fabrizio De André**, and to the left, shopping street **Via San Luca** with low cost third-world immigrant shops mixing with refined Italian boutiques. Half-way down Via San Luca is the tiny piazza of the Church of San Luca that holds *Natività*, a masterpiece by Giovanni Benedetto Castiglione also known as "Grechetto". The street ends in Piazza Banchi where Italy's first Stock Market was created in 1855 in the arched **Loggia delle Mercanzie**, and the lovely multicolored pastels of the **Church of San Pietro di Banchi** rise out of the shops at street level below it. The story of the two levels of the church reflects the nature of the Genoese: the noble Lomellini family wanted to put the area to commercial use, the pious wanted a church, so the shops are below and the church

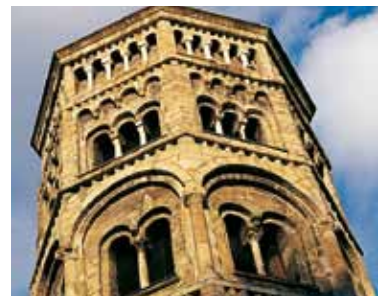


above. From Piazza Bianchi the Street of the Goldsmiths, Via degli Orefici, leads into Piazza Campetto, which holds the beautiful **Palazzo Imperiale**

many exceptional exhibitions and international events. Crossing through the open and vaulted ground floor of Palazzo Ducale leads to a large square,

a triple order of bipartite and tripartite openings. Retracing our steps we turn left at the piazza to head for the Italian gothic **Cathedral of San Lorenzo** on

To relax after heavy sight-seeing, this area is full of interesting bars offering aperitivi with snacks, and typical restaurants. After dinner Carlo Felice has



with its Museum of the Quality Artistic Artisan and shops. Vico San Matteo starts here, to end shortly after in Piazza San Matteo, surrounded by narrow palaces-belonging to the Doria family in the Middle Ages-and its picturesque church, **Chiesa di San Matteo** in Romanesque-Gothic style which hold frescos by Gian Battista Castello and Luca Cambiaso. The cobbled street along the side of the church leads up towards the geographic center of Genoa, **Piazza De Ferrari**, which holds the Opera House, **Teatro dell'Opera Carlo Felice**, and the **Palazzo Ducale**, which in addition to its beautiful architecture hosts

Piazza Matteotti. Go down the monumental stairway and to your left is the church, **Chiesa del Gesù** which holds Rubens' *The Circumcision* and *The Miracle of Saint Ignatius*, along with an *Assumption* by Guido Reni. The church is a spectacular example of Genoese baroque. Directly across from the stairway of Palazzo Ducale, on the other side of Piazza Matteotti a small cobbled street begins to wind away into the old city. This is Salita Pollaiuoli which will take you past art galleries and "Rive Gauche" style shops to the Romanesque church, **Chiesa di San Donato** with its classic octagonal bell tower decorated with carvings and

wide cobbled **Via San Lorenzo** whose distinctive black stone and white marble striped bell towers rise high above the street. Inside are works by Luca Cambiaso, Lazzaro Tavarone and Gaetano Previati embellished by a multitude of marble columns of many styles and origins donated by Genoese ships after their voyages. The cathedral holds the ashes of St. John the Baptist, patron saint of the city, and its museum holds the Sacro Catino, which some say is the Holy Grail. The neighboring **Museo Diocesano** shows painted panels of the oldest jeans material in the world ("jeans" derives from Genes, the French name for Genoa).

the best acoustics of any Italian opera house, and there are many theatres to choose from: Teatro della Corte and Duse for prose, the Teatro della Tosse for experimental works, Politeama Genovese for variety shows, and the lovely old Teatro Gustavo Modena also called dell'Archivolto - a bit out of the way in Sampierdarena - has been cited by the the Ministry of Culture as a Teatro Stabile. The next day is dedicated to the palaces of the new street, **Strada Nuova**, which was new and startlingly innovative in the 1500s. Many of the Rolli Palaces, the **Palazzi dei Rolli**, are located here. The name "Rolli" derives from the piece

of parchment which listed the most luxurious palaces of the nobles in the city, who were accordingly under obligation to host (at their expense) any passing king or dignitary on official visit to Genoa. Forty of these luxurious palazzi are listed as Unesco World Heritage Sites. Starting from the Piazza of the Sea Fountains, **Piazza Fontane Marose**, take a good look at Palazzo Spinola of Marble with its typical white and black



marble bands, then turn in the opposite direction where a wide and elegant street leads away from the piazza. Now called **Via Garibaldi**, New Street was the talk of Europe in the 1500s, and Rubens came to draw its palaces for his book. All are on the Rolli list, all are worth visiting. Just to

mention a few: **Palazzo Tobia Pallavicini**, the second on the left has a Rococo Golden Gallery of extraordinary beauty, the work of Lorenzo De Ferrari, and is now the headquarters of the Genoa Chamber of Commerce. A bit further down on the other side of the street, is **Palazzo Nicoloso Lomellini** with elaborate stucco decoration on its façade, but its dark vaulted opening on the street frames a huge fountain outside the palace

at the back, a lovely ninfeo, with bright green ferns sticking up through the gray stone. Next come the **Palace-Museums of Strada Nuova**. **Palazzo Tursi**, now City Hall, also hosts a permanent exposition of decorative arts, including tapestries, furniture, ceramics,

and Ligurian textiles, not to mention the violin belonging to famous composer and native son, **Niccolò Paganini**. And at the end of the new street are **Palazzo Rosso** and **Palazzo Bianco**, the Red and the White Palaces, donated to the city by the Brignole-Sale family. Palazzo Rosso shows their antiques and their art collection, including paintings by Van Dyck, Dürer, Guercino, and Reni, and a beautiful view over the city from its upper floor glass gallery. Palazzo Bianco has a collection of Genoese, Italian and Flemish paintings from the 1400s to the 1700s. The extension of Via Garibaldi is Via Cairoli, which was originally created to allow more nobles to build



fancy palaces outside the old city. It leads us once again to Piazza della Nunziata, which leads into Via Balbi, the street of the University of Genoa and the Royal Palace, **Palazzo Reale**. Once the palace of the noble Balbi family, it was the residence for the King of Italy when he came to Genoa. Inside are paintings and antiques, outside, the terrace is paved in an intricate mosaic of black and white sea pebbles. The university buildings also date to the 1600s and include a baroque marble stairway that was the marvel of Europe, leading up to hanging botanical gardens.

Weekend Walking Back in Time

The medieval alleyways of the Old City

ADVENTURE AND FUN ON THE SEA

- *Galata and the Commenda*
- *Porto Antico, Museo Luzzati and La città dei bambini e dei ragazzi*

THE OLD CITY BETWEEN HISTORY AND LEGEND

- *The Cathedral of San Lorenzo*
- *Torre Grimaldina and the prisons*
- *Porta Soprana and the House of Columbus*
- *Campo Pisano*
- *the Executioner's House*

PALACES AND A PANORAMIC VIEW OF GENOA

- *Villa del Principe*
- *Via Garibaldi and the Museums of Strada Nuova in the Palaces of the Rolli*
- *Spianata Castelletto*

The history of Genoa is tied to the sea. And so, we will start our weekend of fun and



adventure in Genoa from the old pier, the Vecchia Darsena, where the Maritime Republic of Genoa would build and sail the galleons of its fleet. The pier's oldest building was recently transformed by Spanish architect, Vasquez Consuegra, into the Museum of the Sea, **Galata Museo del Mare**. The museum tells a different story on each floor. The innovative hands-on high-tech exhibits lets



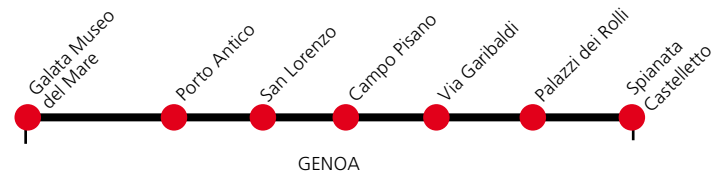
© Ph. Merlotto/Infografica



© Ph. Merlotto/Infografica

you board a galleon from the 1600s, experience a squall off the coast of Cape Horn (in the Hall of Storms, the **Sala della Tempesta**), pilot the steamboat belonging to the Emperor Franz Joseph (in the Hall of the Steamboat, **Sala del Piroscampo**), and find what life was like on board an oceanliner, the Rex, traveling to New York, as you immigrate to America. The museum also has the Mirador roof terrace exposition space that explains all about Genoa as you gaze down on the city. Sit down here, rest, admire the native plant displays, and read the panels suggesting what to see next. Captions under the windows that frame the real places you can visit will help

you decide. This unusual birds-eye view with explanations gives you a quick idea of what the city has on offer. It is also possible here to download onto your cell phone or an Ipod the itinerary you have chosen. Another part of the museum lies in the waters in front of the entrance, the **S518 Nazario Sauro** is the largest submarine in the Italian navy, and visitors can actually go inside and check it out. Following the waterfront along the pier leads to the old port, **Porto Antico**, which was renovated for native son, Christopher Columbus' 500th Anniversary of the Discovery of America, by another native son, world famous architect, Renzo Piano. This area holds-



proceeding in order from west to east-Europe's largest aquarium, the **Acquario di Genova**; the **Biosfera**; the panoramic elevator called the **Bigo**; the 16th century fort called Porta Siberia, which now houses **Museo Luzzati** dedicated to the works of illustrator, Emanuele Luzzati; and the big yellow rectangular buildings on the pier which juts out into the water, once housing the Cotton Warehouses, **Magazzini del Cotone**, but now housing many other things, including exhibits, and a children's science center, **La città dei bambini e dei ragazzi**, the first in Italy, offering over 90 interactive displays that teach biology, physics, technology, and communication to satisfy children's hunger for knowledge. To satisfy children's (and adults') hunger for local snacks, just cross the square, passing the frescoed building showing St. George killing the dragon in pinks, greens, and beiges, to the arched covered passageway along the port, the **Sottoripa**, at the edge of the medieval old city. Here you can follow your nose to find Genoese focaccia, tiny shops frying fish and *panissette* (made from chick pea flour), and *sciamadde*, selling salty pies filled with local vegetables. The arcades will also lead you

to Via San Lorenzo, the wide cobblestone pedestrian street that goes up to the **Cathedral of San Lorenzo**. A bomb fell through the roof of the cathedral's right nave during a World War II attack in 1941, but the fact that it did not explode was seen by many as a sign of divine protection. Another legend relates to the imposing



marble stairway leading up from Piazza San Lorenzo. Past the sculptured marble lion on the right as you go up, is a small dog carved into the capital. It is told that during the final construction of the cathedral in the XIV century, one of the sculptors lost his dog. So he carved its image into stone. Today the sculpture has been worn down over the centuries by passers-by who pet

the stone dog.

At the top of Via San Lorenzo is a big square, Piazza Matteotti, with another monumental stairway leading up to the Palazzo Ducale, whose tall tower, **Torre Grimaldina**, was a prison during the Renaissance, and can be visited today. The street continues to rise towards two other massive stone towers,



which once guarded the city gate, **Porta Soprana**, one of the four entries into the walled city in the Middle Ages. Built in the IX century, it was "renovated" two hundred years later, in 1150, to accommodate the new city walls built to defend against the Emperor Barbarossa. The brick pedestrian street, Vico Dritto Ponticello, that passes through the gates leads into the more

modern part of the city, passing the **House (and Museum) of Christopher Columbus** and the ruins of the cloister of the monastery of St. Andrew. Both Columbus' house and the towers of Porta Soprana can be visited on weekends. Now walk uphill along Via Ravecca to reach Piazza Sarzano with the **Museum**

of Sant'Agostino. Then walk downhill heading towards the sea to **Campo Pisano**, a quiet little piazza hemmed in by houses and paved in black and white sea pebbles to form a mosaic depicting the three caravels of Columbus. Its name dates to the XIII century when 9,000 prisoners were brought here from the Maritime Republic of Pisa, the Maritime Republic

of Genoa's arch-rival, after their defeat at Meloria. Then walk along one of the old city walls, Mura delle Grazie, to pass in front of the house of the most efficient executioner in the history of the Genoese Republic, the **Casa del Boia** dates to the XI-XII century, and is now a museum with arms, armor, and costumes of the Middle Ages. At the bottom of the street is **Piazza Caricamento**, the huge square in front of Porto Antico, embellished with **Palazzo San Giorgio**, a medieval building that once housed one of the first banks in Europe. Half the palazzo has remained medieval, the other half has a Renaissance façade depicting St. George. A little "train" and a tourist bus both offer tours of Genoa from here that circle around the old city that we have just covered.

Guided tours to visit the Rolli Palaces also leave from this piazza. Genoa abounds in sumptuous palaces, since the great wealth of the city was divided among the nobles and not concentrated in the hands of one king. They are fascinating to visit, and therefore are the theme of our second day in Genoa. In sight of the Maritime Station from which the cruise boats leave, or alternately, a five-minute walk down the road from Principe train station, is **Villa del Principe**. Built by Andrea Doria, the most famous leader of the Genoese Republic, as his residence in the 1500s, the palace and its gardens are a Renaissance delight. Inside are gorgeous frescoes, tapestries, and often major art exhibitions. Another palace that looks over the port is the Royal Palace,

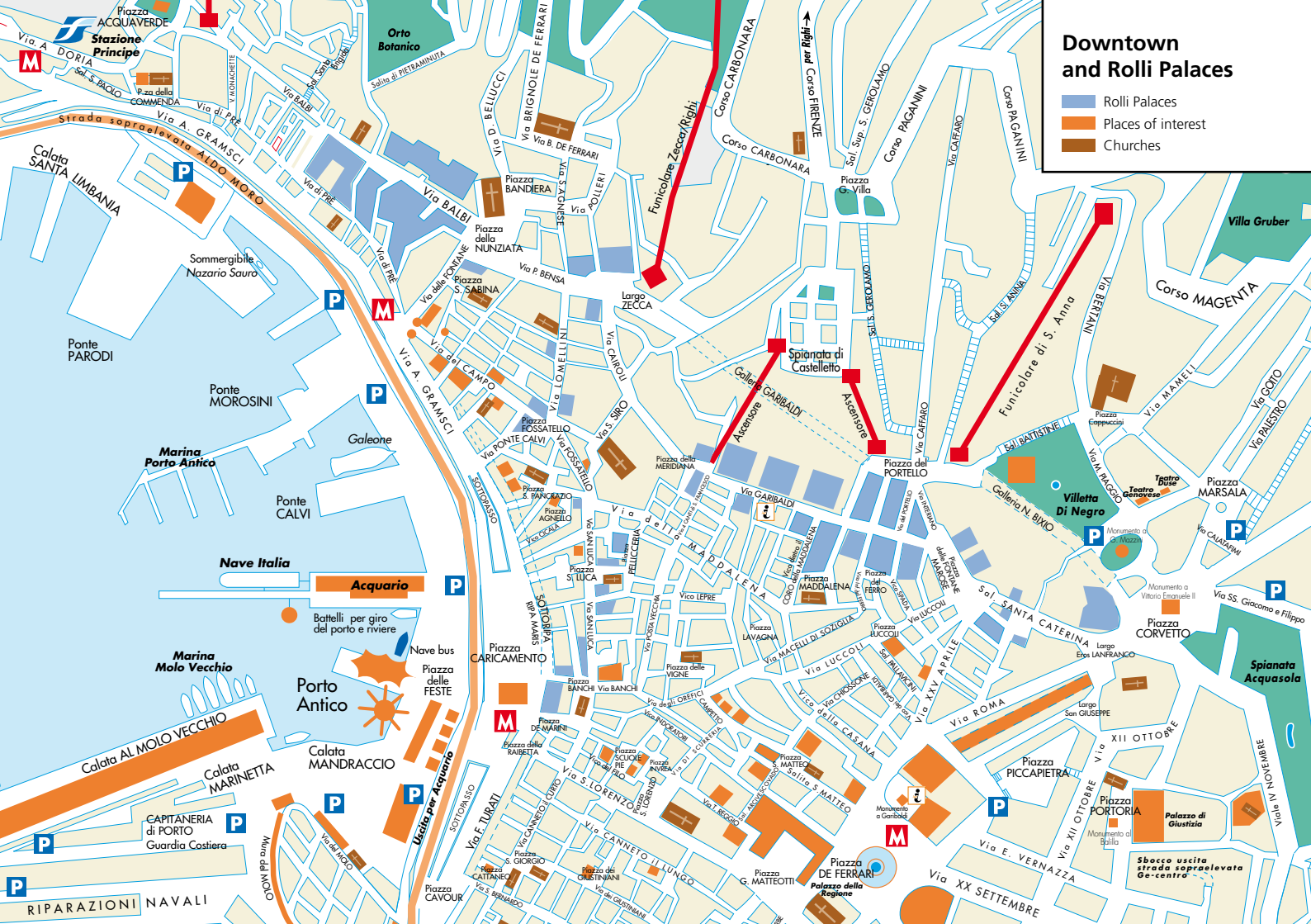


Palazzo Reale, which is best reached from Via Balbi, the street in front of Principe train station. Many of the **Palazzi dei Rolli** (see pages 7-9) are located along New Street, **Strada Nuova**. From **Piazza Fontane Marose**, at the end of Via Garibaldi, turn sharply left to reach Piazza Portello. To either side are dark turn-of-the-century tunnels taking the street under hills of buildings, but straight in front of you is a large old-fashioned glass entryway. This leads to a long tiled pedestrian

tunnel with old photographs of Genoa on its walls, ending at a public elevator. The **ascensore di Castelletto** is used by locals to commute up to the residential quarter above the city center, where an incredible view of the city and its port can be had for less than half the price of a bus ticket. Its panorama inspired the poem by **Giorgio Caproni**, "When I decide to go to paradise, I want to go by the elevator of Castelletto. In the hours of the night, stealing a bit of time from my rest."

Downtown and Rolli Palaces

- Rolli Palaces
- Places of interest
- Churches



A Week to Discover Genoa

A city, like a novel, divided into many chapters



The Old City and the Newer City

The medieval old city of Genoa is Europe's biggest, reflecting the fact that in the 1300s Genoa was one of the world's four largest cities. A labyrinth of narrow alleyways, bordered by the port, their character is still preserved intact after all these centuries.

Thousand year old **Commenda di Pré**-with its beautiful arched Romanesque façade, across from the newly renovated Museum of the Sea-was a hospice for pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land. Today their faces are projected onto the gray stone walls to tell their stories in interactive exhibits.

Via Pré heads east along the waterfront toward the tall crenellated stone towers that guard one of the gates to the city, **Porta dei Vacca**, erected in 1155 to defend Genoa from the Emperor Barbarossa. Through the city gates on **Via del Campo**-made famous by



singer-songwriter, Fabrizio De André-leads into a maze of cobblestone pedestrian shopping streets that wind through the old city. Via San Luca, the Street of the Goldsmiths, **Via degli Orefici**, **Piazza Campetto**, elegant pastry shops and old bars with glided mirrors, trendy fashion boutiques and low cost immigrant shops that make you think of Delhi. Palazzo Imperiale has *Liguriastyle.it*, a center of Ligurian artisan excellence, neighboring **Piazza Sozziglia** leads to **Via Luccoli**, with shops selling goods, tailors making shirts. It all ends at the Piazza Fontane Marose, where cars and buses bring you back to the 21 century. **Via XXV Aprile**

goes to **Piazza De Ferrari**, Genoa's geographic center, but turn sharply left just before the Opera House, Teatro Carlo Felice, to walk up the most expensive street In the city, **Via Roma**, which ends only too quickly in **Piazza Corvetto**, with an equestrian statue of Italy's first king surrounded by colorful flowers, two theatres-**Teatro Duse** and **Politeama Genovese**-and another elegant old-fashioned bar just beyond which is a wrought iron and glass roofed gallery that runs parallel to Via Roma. Galleria Mazzini, the pedestrian street protected from the elements, leads back to the modern Opera House (Italy's best, in terms of



acoustics). Now turn left and head down **Via XX Settembre** a long arcaded shopping street, especially popular with the young, whose mosaic paving is done in Art Nouveau designs. Pass under the massive stone arch of triumph, (actually a bridge with cars passing on top), to an old iron building, the food market, **Mercato Orientale**, whose stalls sell fresh produce, cheeses, breads. The street ends in a huge square, **Piazza della Vittoria**, with a train station (Genoa Brignole) at one end, an Arch of Triumph (honoring fallen soldiers) in the middle, and on the hillside closest to the sea, three huge caravels of Columbus drawn on a green lawn in red

and white flowers. Nearby is **Teatro della Corte** and slightly further, the Trade Fairgrounds of the Sea, **Fiera del Mare**, which hosts the Euroflora and the Genoa International Boat Show, the Salone Nautico. Back to Piazza de Ferrari, and the area on the other side of Palazzo Ducale leads to a night life spot, **Piazza delle Erbe**, full of trendy bars and outdoor cafés. From here Via San Donato leads to **Stradone Sant'Agostino** with **Teatro della Tosse**, and to Piazza Sarzano and the **Museum of Sant'Agostino**, an old medieval monastery that now houses sculpture and Ligurian painting from the X to the XVIII century. A panoramic

bridge goes to the hill of **Carignano** with the majestic **Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta**, described by the famous French writer, Stendhal, as "a masterpiece of gravitas and nobility". From the Church



of Carignano, Via Fieschi goes down to **Piazza Dante**, where another city gate, Porta Soprana, divides the old city from the new. In the shadow of its two stone towers lies the house where Christopher Columbus, who discovered America, was born over 500 years ago.

City of Renaissance and Baroque

New Street (Strada Nuova), and the Rolli Palaces (Unesco World Heritage Sites) were the talk of Europe when they were built at the start of the Renaissance. Marveling at the wide street filled with palaces, Flemish painters came to draw their images, which epitomized the splendor and the power of the Republic of Genoa under the guidance of astute Andrea Doria. Thanks to commerce, native Genoese industry, and banking-with loans to all the kings of Europe, but especially Spain-the period between 1536 and 1640 became known as **el siglo de los Genoveses**, which in Spanish means the Century of the Genoese. You can easily relive the atmosphere of the times here today in Genoa, because the conservative nature of the Genoese means that little has been changed. New Street,

is now called, Via Garibaldi, Even Newer Street, Via Cairoli, but you can walk down them today and admire the frescos and stucco decoration on the palaces, laid out in plan as an atrium followed by a courtyard, monumental stairway, then landscaped garden. The palaces spread along the borders of the old densely built medieval city to Via Balbi, Via Lomellini and Via San Luca, as the noble families—who shared the city’s immense wealth among themselves because Genoa has never had a king-rivalled each other in pomp and majesty. Most can be visited, many are now museums. Special highlights are the Museums of Strada Nuova, including present day Genoa’s City Hall, and the **Galleria Nazionale di Palazzo Spinola** in Piazza Pellicceria, which is a lovely surprise buried in the heart of dense closely packed medieval buildings. It



houses the antiques, ceramics, sliver, and art collection of the Spinola family. Palaces that are not normally open to the public can be visited on the “Rolli Days”, but the **Sala Viaggiatori di sguardo**, in **Palazzo Ducale** offers an audio-visual guide and a virtual tour that are always available for interactive viewing.

The “Seas” of Genoa

Genoa has many different seas to explore. There is the sea of the busy commercial port, filled with tall cranes unloading big ships from all over the world. There is the sea of the tourist port bustling with holiday-makers on the huge cruise ships, and cars lining the docks

to board ferryboats that ply the Mediterranean. Then there is **Porto Antico**, the old port which has become a new “entertainment” port with **steamboats** giving a tour of the harbor, or leaving on excursions for Portofino or the Cinque Terre, whale-watching expeditions (there is a Whale Sanctuary off the coast where the whales come to feed), or night-time cruises to see fireworks reflected in the waters of Riviera towns like Recco, Sori, and Rapallo. The STL, Sistema Turistico del Genovesato, is promoting the one hour trip on the Genoa-Camogli shuttle boat service to take tourists and commuters out to this lovely fishing village at the

foot of Portofino Mountain. The municipal bus service, Amt, also has a bus-boat that for the price of a bus ticket takes you from **Piazza Caricamento** in front of Porto Antico, to **Molo Archetti** in the western suburb of **Pegli**, giving a panoramic view of Genoa’s tall mountainous coast. On the other side of the city center is the sea of beaches. Wide palm-lined **Corso Italia**, has a tiled pedestrian promenade that lets joggers, strollers, cyclists, and roller-skaters follow the shoreline, just a few meters above the waves. It ends at the sea of the typical Ligurian fishing village, in this case, **Boccadasse**, with its dense wall of pastel houses overlooking the boats



pulled up on the pebble beach. Further to the east, on the edge of town is **Nervi**, whose breath-taking promenade, **Passeggiata Anita Garibaldi** skirts the cliffs, with waves crashing on the rocks below you, and the purple silhouette of Portofino across the waters. This is one of the most beautiful spots on the Riviera. It starts at the tiny harbor, and ends on a small pebble beach

speak of the relationship between the city and the sea, from “Creuza de Mà” (Alleyway of the Sea, sung in dialect), to “The Old City” which describes the low life around the port in the fifties, and hopes for their redemption. And then, Genoa has a sea of history. Of the many historic sea events that have taken place here, perhaps the most

The Museums in the Villas and Their Parks

Many of the patrician villas of Genoa with their large parks and beautiful interiors are museums. **Villetta Di Negro**, for example, whose huge gothic park occupies the whole hillside next to central Piazza Corvetto, houses Europe’s biggest museum of Japanese art, **Museo d’Arte Orientale Edoardo Chiossone**

1800s, arms, armor, ceramics, lacquered and enameled objects, polychrome prints, musical instruments, theatre masks, textiles, bronzes and even big sculpture, and is considered to be the most important collection of Japanese art outside of Japan. Featured at the museum are masterpieces by Harunobu, Utamaro and Hokusai. The Japanese atmosphere of the



surrounded by pastel fishermen’s houses at **Capolungo**. Then there is the sea of song. Italy’s most famous singer-songwriter, Fabrizio De André, hailed from Genoa. His songs

important was Garibaldi’s departure from the Rock of Genoa-Quarto with one thousand soldiers to conquer Sicily and unify Italy, 150 years ago.

with pieces Edoardo Chiossone collected when he ran the Japanese Mint under the Meiji in the 19th century. It holds collections of Japanese painting dating from the 1100s to the

museum contrasts with the “Gothic” landscaping of the park, with nymphaeum fountains, walk-through grottoes, ponds, and a huge artificial waterfall that can be seen from the city



streets on the other side of the hill. The park was a memorable landmark in Genoa admired by many famous visitors, including Lord Byron, De Stael, Manzoni, and Canova.

Another Genoese world traveler and collector at the turn of the century was sea captain, D'Albertis, whose castle on the hill above the port, **Castello D'Albertis**, now displays his ethnic collections in the **Museo delle Culture del Mondo**.

The grounds here are worth visiting for the spectacular view and for the public elevator ride to reach it-the **Ascensore di Montegalletto** leaves Via Balbi as a single train car, then suddenly in the middle of the tunnel is lifted into the air to reach the castle. Inside, displays from all over the world have been artistically set up by Genoese designer and sculptor, Massimo Chiappetta.

From the panoramic terraces of the castle, you can look out over the port, dominated by its tall medieval lighthouse, the Lanterna. A symbol of Genoa, it also has its own museum in its park, **Parco Urbano della Lanterna**. The promenade here is panoramic as well as interesting as it crosses on the old city walls and offers views



of the busy port and the Gulf of Genoa.

To the west beyond the Lanterna are the more industrial suburbs of Genoa, but include residential Pegli. This is the site of two palaces turned into fascinating museums. Just behind the train station is **Villa Centurione-Doria**, housing the naval **Museo Navale**, with boats and rare documentation dating from the Middle Ages to modern times. Another huge park covering the hillside above, **Parco Durazzo-Pallavicini** is landscaped on an Opera theme, with strange oriental-style buildings and water features, and the patrician villa that houses the Archeological Museum, which displays an amazing real grave of a "prince" from the Ice Age, found on the Riviera.

On the opposite, eastern, side of Genoa, is the old fishing village of Nervi, which has a series of lovely villas in huge parks on Nervi's promenade along the cliffs on the sea. In the Villa Saluzzo Serra, there is a **Gallery of Modern Art**; Villa Grimaldi Fassio houses the **Frugone Collection**, with art work from the 1600s to the present; **Museo Luxoro** is dedicated to the decorative arts; and the **Wolfsoniana**, donated to by Mitchell Wolfson, displays his collection of glass, silver, paintings, furnishings and sculpture from the 1800s and 1900s. In Carignano, above the sea near the center of Genoa is 18th century **Villa Croce**, with a **Museum of Contemporary Art** which frequently features international artists, along with its permanent collection of over





3,000 works by both Italians and foreigners from between 1939 and 1980.

The Vertical City

Genoa is a vertical city. Its mountains rise steeply out of the sea. As a result its famously tight-fisted inhabitants have learned to make every square centimeter count with respect to their land. To do so, the resourceful Genoese designed a public transport system around elevators and cable cars. Tourists love the public elevator, **Ascensore Portello-Castelletto**, that goes up to Castelletto, the elegant residential quarter above the city center, and offers an incredible view of the port and the city. **Ascensore Montegalletto-Castello D'Albertis** travels horizontally on tracks from the

start of Via Balbi (by Principe train station) and then suddenly goes straight up 23 floors to the castle perched above the port. The **cable car** that connects Piazza Zecca (the Square of the Mint) to the hilltop forts of **Righi**, gives a good view of the city, going higher than Castelletto, and provides access to the trails along the crests of the mountains, connecting the centuries-old **forts** that were used to defend the city against Napoleon. There is also a new **Adventure Park** in this area in the trees high above the sea.



Focus Gastronomy



Genoese cuisine is full of a flavor that emphasizes the land and the sea, accentuated by the use of herbs and native plants. Simple dishes, made by combining a few quality ingredients. Vineyards here are limited to the steep rocky terrain that makes grape-growing difficult-but what is produced is excellent. The whites - **Vermentino**, **Pigato**, **Coronata** from the **Valpolcevera**, and wine from the Cinque Terre - are delicate. **Orneasco** and **Rossese di Dolceacqua** are good reds. **Sciaccetrà** made in the Cinque Terre is perfect for dessert. Since Genoese specialties have spread across the world, visitors

to Liguria cannot go home without trying the originals. **Focaccia** came from Genoa, but the real thing is not packaged in plastic and sold in supermarkets. Focaccia must be eaten fresh out of the oven. Genoese bakeries are continually pulling out huge sheets of golden focaccia, cutting it to size for waiting customers. Golden brown and crunchy on the outside, soft on the inside, it is made with extravirgin olive oil. **Pesto** too comes from Liguria. The real pesto is not just any green sauce. The real pesto is made from basil leaves, from Ligurian basil, which thanks to the rocky soil and sea breezes, grows small



leaves, that do NOT taste of mint. It is traditionally ground in a mortar, to which pine nuts, garlic, marine salt, goat cheese, parmesan cheese, and extravirgin olive oil are added. Pesto here is often used on fresh pasta, such as **trofie** and **trenette**.

Then there are all the less well known Ligurian gourmet delights. A nut sauce made with a mortar and pestle is used on **pansoti**, a rounded ravioli filled with herbs (including nettle) and cheese. **Farinata** is a sort of salty fried pancake made from

chick pea flour. Ligurians also love salty pies stuffed with leafy vegetables like mustard greens, and another variation on theme, the **Pasqualina** Easter pie made with whole hard-boiled eggs baked into it. **Cima** (a meat "sack" stuffed with vegetables, herbs, and egg) and **cappon magro** (a 16th century local delicacy with layers of crackers soaked in vinegar between layers of fish and crustaceans, all garnished with parsley sauce) are extremely popular in restaurants.

For dessert try **sacripantina**, **canestrelli**, **pandolce** (Genoese sweet bread with raisins and candied fruit), or another world traveler, the sweet, anise-flavored rusks that in Genoa are called **biscotti del Lagaccio**, and now are imitated all over the world.



Traditions and Special Events

February

- **The Fair of Sant'Agata**

March

- **Pesto World Championships**
(2010 and every 2 years)
- **Fiera Primavera (Spring Fair)**

April

- **Euroflora**
(2011 and every 5 years)
- **Slow Fish**
(2011 and every 2 years)

May

- **Genova in Festa**

June

- **SUQ, Festival delle culture del Mediterraneo**
- **Festival Internazionale di Poesia (International Poetry)**
- **Terroir Vino**
- **Festival of St. John the Baptist**
- **Mondo Mare festival**
(June/July)

- **Festival Musicale del Mediterraneo**
(June/July)

July

- **Genoa Film Festival**
- **PortoAnticoEstate Spettacolo**
(July/August)

September

- **Notte Bianca (all night festivities)**

October

- **International Boat Show**
- **Biennale of the Mediterranean**
(2010 and every 2 years)
- **Festival of the Sciences**
(October/November)

November

- **In Scala**
(Fair of Model-Making)

December

- **Genoese Crèches**
(December/January)
- **"O Confeugo"**



STL del Genovesato Projects

“UNESCO AND THE ROLLI PALACES”

- “Guided routes: Rolli Palaces, Strade Nuove, and the Old City”
by STL Genovesato and the City of Genoa
- “Video guide: Rolli and the Old City”
by Genova Palazzo Ducale Fondazione per la Cultura
- “Rolli Days”
by Genova Palazzo Ducale Fondazione per la Cultura in collaboration with STL Genovesato and with the participation of Itinera, Associazione Palatifini and territorial operators
- “Communication and Promotion of the Genovesato”
(brochures, folders, website, news, fairs, etc.)
by STL del Genovesato

**INFO POINT AND
TOURIST SERVICES SALES POINT
STL DEL GENOVESATO**

Aquarium Ticket Office
Porto Antico - Genoa
Ph. +39 010234.53.38 - Fax +39 010234.55.05
accoglienzaturistica@incomingliguria.it



**Tourist Information
and Services Office
(I.A.T.)**

GENOA

Visitor Centre - IAT Garibaldi

Palazzo delle Torrette - Via Garibaldi 12R
Ph. +39 010 557.29.03 - 727.51
Fax +39 010 557.24.14
genovaturismosedede@comune.Genoa.it

IAT De Ferrari

Porticato Teatro Carlo Felice
Largo A. Pertini 13
Ph. +39 010 860.61.22
Fax +39 010 860.64.76
genovaturismodeferrari@comune.Genoa.it

IAT Aeroporto Cristoforo Colombo

Via Pionieri e Aviatori d'Italia - Piano arrivi
Ph. and Fax +39 010 601.52.47
genovaturismoaeroporto@comune.Genoa.it

ARENZANO

Lungomare Kennedy
Ph. and Fax +39 010 912.75.81
iat@comune.arenzano.ge.it

BOGLIASCO GOLFO PARADISO

Via Aurelia 106
Ph. and Fax +39 010 347.04.29
iat@prolocobogliasco.it

CAMPO LIGURE (summer only)

Valli Stura e Orba
Via della Giustizia 5
Ph. and Fax +39 010 92.10.55
prolococampo@yahoo.it

CASELLA (summer only)

Stazione ferroviaria
Ph. +39 010 968.21.28
iat@comune.casella.ge.it

Punto Informazioni Turistiche

GORRETO (summer only)

c/o Comune - Via Capoluogo
Ph. and Fax 010 954.30.22
info@gorreto.org

TORRIGLIA

Via Nostra Signora
della Provvidenza 3
Ph. +39 010 94.41.75
Fax +39 010 945.30.07
info@parcoantola.it

USCIO

c/o Pro Loco
Via Vittorio Veneto 100
Ph. +39 0185 91.101
prolocouscio@libero.it

USEFUL NUMBERS

AIRPORT

Flight information: +39 010 60.43.565/650.17.15

HIGHWAYS

Travel info: 840.04.21.21

BOATS

Liguria Via Mare Boat Services:

+39 010 26.57.12 +39 010 25.67.75

Maritime Transport Golfo Paradiso:

+39 0185 77.20.91

Maritime Services Golfo del Tigullio:

+39 0185 28.46.70

Maritime Station:

+39 010 24.12.361/393

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Urban Bus Lines - AMT: 800 08.53.11

Regional Bus Lines - ATP: +39 010 54.67.44.10

Train: Genoa - Casella: +39 010 83.73.21

Radio Taxi Genoa: +39 010 59.66

Itinerary Guide Series

- The Genovesato
 - The Sea
 - Apennines and Valleys
-

The Top Ten Places to see!

- The Old City
- Via Garibaldi and UNESCO's Palaces of the Rolli
- The medieval Piazza of San Matteo
- Palazzo Ducale and the Torre Grimaldina
- Via San Lorenzo, the Cathedral, Palazzo San Giorgio
- Commenda di San Giovanni di Prè
- Campo Pisano and the Museum/Monastery Sant'Agostino
- Via del Campo of singer-songwriter fame
- The Elevator of Castelletto and scenic viewpoint Montaldo
- The Carlo Felice Opera House