

What to see around Pavia: Ideas for a day trip

GENOA - 145 KM About 2 Hours by Car

The charm of this city squeezed between the mountains and the sea, fragmented between past and present, a crossroads of different peoples and cultures (it is no coincidence that the medieval name of Genoa is Janua, or “door” in Latin), has struck writers, poets and singer-songwriters, who in their verses have recounted its beauty, its contrasts, its hidden soul. First of all Fabrizio de André, who is celebrated today with a small but wonderful museum in Via del Campo 29. Although Genoa is best known for its Aquarium, the ancient maritime republic encloses within its walls wonderful testimonies of its glorious past but also bold and modern works that have made it a sort of capital of modern Italian architecture.



Thus, walking around the city you can admire noble palaces and ancient churches, lose yourself in the maze of characteristic alleys (caruggi) in which the nucleus of the old city is organized, visit interesting museums, let yourself be surprised by the symbols of the new Genoa, leaning towards the future but superb guardian of an ever-present past.

Proof of the city's maritime vocation is its lighthouse, commonly called "the Lantern", which has always been the symbol of Genoa. 77 meters high, the historic tower stands on the remains of a 40-meter hill, so it is approximately 177 meters above sea level.

Built to signal ships entering the port but also to control movement within it, the tower was built in the fourteenth century on the site where a lighthouse operating with a wood system (bonfires) had existed since 1128.

In 1326 the first oil lantern was installed and in 1340 the municipal coat of arms was painted on the lower part of the tower.

Its current appearance is the result of the reconstruction carried out in the sixteenth century and despite the interventions following the war events and lightning, the Lanterna presents itself as it did then: a tower with two slender volumes superimposed with a gallery at the top of each of them (the first terrace is reachable), an internal staircase of 172 steps, a small lantern inside which the lighting elements are located. Attached to the tower is the Lanterna Museum, a multimedia museum dedicated to the city and the provincial territory, reachable with a walk of about 800 meters that from the Ferry Terminal runs along the old walls up to the lighthouse.

Opening hours and ticket prices for the Lanterna di Genova

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday and holidays 10 am-6 pm (last admission 5:30 pm)

Closed: Monday

Ticket price: €8. Or €15 with the Genova Museum Card which includes 28 city museums and public transport.

How to get there: On the port of Genoa. On foot from the ferry terminal.

By bus or metro, Buozzi 2/Metrò Dinegro or Dinegro/Terminal Traghetto stop.

The historic center of Genoa



Core of the Old City, a place full of history and charm that after years of abandonment and degradation has finally been restored and returned to the city.

To discover the charm of ancient Genoa you have to walk on foot and enter the "caruggi", the picturesque alleys of medieval origin, and the characteristic creuze (narrow streets set between the walls), get lost among the beautiful streets flanked by noble buildings and the harmonious squares (Piazza delle Erbe, Piazza San Donato) overlooking ancient churches (San Donato, San Matteo)

It is no coincidence that a large part of the historic center has been declared a World Heritage Site. There are many sites of historical interest such as the Castrum, or the first urban settlement of the city dating back to the Roman and Etruscan period, the architectural heritage is of great value with the famous Palazzo Spinola and Palazzo Ducale, two magnificent city buildings through which the splendor of the ancient maritime republic lives again.

There is also no shortage of opportunities for entertainment, as the entire historic center is full of characteristic inns where you can taste typical Genoese dishes, historic bars, venues where bands perform every evening, and centuries-old shops that conquer and fascinate with their old-world charm.

The Aquarium of Genoa

The Aquarium is the main tourist attraction in Genoa.

Inaugurated in 1992 in the area of the Old Port, the one in Genoa is the largest Italian aquarium and the second in Europe, after the one in Valencia.

A visit to the Aquarium is a fun and exciting experience as it offers the opportunity to learn about aquatic fauna by "walking" in the most fascinating seas and waters in the world.

The route between the various pavilions of the Aquarium winds through over 70 exhibition tanks where you can also observe sharks, seals, turtles, penguins, and the informative areas that integrate the visual experience with scientific notions.

The new Cetacean Pavilion designed by Renzo Piano was recently inaugurated to admire the friendly marine mammals both from an underwater perspective, thanks to the underground tunnel, and from a perspective from above that allows you to watch the dolphins out of the water.



Opening hours and ticket prices for the Genoa Aquarium

Opening hours: 9 am to 6 pm - **Closed:** Monday

Ticket price: €27 adults - 4 – 12 years €19. Free 0 – 3 years.

How to get there: At the port of Genoa.

Bus: lines no. 1, 12 and 13 with terminus in front of the Aquarium;

Metro: San Giorgio stop;

FS: from Genova P. Principe station on foot for 15 minutes or with bus no. 1 to P.zza Caricamento. From Genova Brignole station buses no. 12 and 13 to P.zza Caricamento.

Via Garibaldi and Strada Nuova Museums in Genoa

Included among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the beautiful Via Garibaldi, the “Strada Nuova” of the mid-16th century, also known as the “Via Aurea” for the splendor of its buildings (the Cambioso and Carrega-Cataldi palaces are splendid) is home to the unique museum route dedicated to ancient art that connects the three historic municipal residences: Palazzo Rosso, Palazzo Bianco and Palazzo Doria Tursi.

Palazzo Rosso in Genoa

In the first palace, a seventeenth-century residence of the Brignole – Sale, the historic furnishings and art collections that the noble family gathered over more than two centuries are preserved. On display are works by Van Dick, Veronese, Guercino, Strozzi, Dürer.



Palazzo Bianco in Genoa

Palazzo Bianco houses a valuable collection of Italian painting (don't miss the Ecce homo by Caravaggio), Flemish (Rubens, Van Dick, Memling), Dutch (Steen), French (Vouet) and Spanish (Murillo) from the 16th to the 18th century.

Palazzo Tursi in Genoa

Finally, the aristocratic Palazzo Tursi, in addition to hosting the Mayor's reception rooms, presents a notable exhibition of decorative art (ceramics,

tapestries) and houses the "Cannone", the famous violin by Paganini built in 1734 by the luthier Bartolomeo Giuseppe Guarneri and the "Maddalena Penitente" by Canova

Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday, from 9.00 to 19.00, Saturday and Sunday from 10.00 to 19.30. - **Closed:** Monday.

Ticket price: €15 with the Genova Museum Card which includes 28 city museums and public transport.

How to get there: Via Garibaldi, in the center of Genoa.

Bus: Piazza Fontane Marose stop – Piazza Portello stop

Metro: Piazza De Ferrari stop

The Palazzi dei Rolli in Genoa

The Palazzi dei Rolli are nothing other than the beautiful residences of the Genoese nobility that between the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries offered hospitality to illustrious people passing through the city.

The residences (over one hundred) that the Republic of Genoa had designated for this purpose were included in special lists (Rolli degli Alloggiamenti pubblici) that were updated periodically.

Based on their architectural value and their sumptuousness, the Palaces were divided into three categories (bussoli) to each of which was associated with a certain category of guest: first bussolo for cardinals, princes and viceroys; second bussolo for feudal lords and governors; third for princes and ambassadors. Since 2006, forty-two of these prestigious palaces "articulated in sequence atrium - courtyard - staircase - garden and rich in internal decorations", have been recognized by UNESCO as "World Heritage Sites" as



"expression of a singular social and economic identity that inaugurates the urban architecture of the modern age in Europe".

A walk through the streets Balbi, Garibaldi, Lomellini and San Luca will lead you to discover these historic homes and a rich past that has made hospitality a cultural model. The buildings can be visited during the Rolli Days that the Municipality of Genoa organizes on almost every weekend.

Cathedral of San Lorenzo in Genoa

The majestic and solemn Cathedral of San Lorenzo was built starting from the 9th century and was remodeled until the 16th century, which explains the juxtaposition of different architectural styles both on the outside and inside. In 1118 the church was consecrated by Pope Gelasius II.

The city cathedral presents itself to the visitor with its beautiful Gothic facade in Genoese style (13th century) with French influences as demonstrated by the arrangement of the portals and the central rose window. The lateral sides with the two portals date back to the Romanesque period while the dome (designed by Galeazzo Alessi) and the bell tower are from the 16th century.



The Diocesan Museum of Genoa

Between the Cathedral and the Palazzo Ducale, there is the Diocesan Museum with archaeological remains and sacred objects. But it is worth a visit above all for the textile section with significant examples of the production that made Genoa famous throughout Europe.

Above all, a look at the Clothes of the Passion is a must, painted in 1538 on linen fabric dyed with indigo blue, basically the so-called Genoa canvas, that is, the famous jeans that everyone believes are American!

Opening hours: every day from 8 am to 12 pm and from 3 pm to 7 pm.

Museum: Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 12 pm and from 3 pm to 6 pm.

Ticket price: Cathedral free.

Museo del Tesoro: €6

Museo Diocesano: €6

€15 with the Genova Museum Card which includes 28 city museums and public transport.

How to get there: Historic center. Piazza San Lorenzo.



The Old Port of Genoa

This area was once the center of Genoese mercantile activity. After the reconversion carried out by Renzo Piano on the occasion of the Columbiadi (celebrations of the five hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America) in 1992, the Piazza di Genova on the Mediterranean has become a place dedicated to tourism and leisure.

The Biosfera, the steel and glass bubble on the water designed by Piano that reproduces

a tropical environment with a wide variety of tropical plants, but also
The transformation of these places, however, has not only occurred with the creation of modern works but also by bringing old port buildings back to life, including the ancient Magazzini del Cotone which today house cultural and recreational facilities such as the Città dei bambini, the largest space in Italy dedicated to play, science and technology, for children and teenagers between 2 and 12 years of age.

Via del Campo and the places of de André

Who has never heard “Via del Campo” by Fabrizio de André?
The famous song tells of one of the places in Genoa historically dedicated to prostitution, with the story of a “graziosa” who offers her services in an apartment on this street.

In this street, where today many tourists pass by absentmindedly, there was a record shop owned by Gianni Tassio, a friend of De André who for decades spread his music and displayed all the original album covers in the window. After his death and the management of his wife, today the shop has become a Museum of Via del Campo 29 red.



Obviously there are other places in Genoa linked to de André: starting from the Pegli neighborhood, in via De Nicolay 12, where a plaque commemorates the house where Faber was born.

The Sant’Ilario neighborhood in Genoa

Another symbolic place is the Sant’Ilario neighborhood, where “Bocca di Rosa” is set, the song that together with “Canzone di Marinella” is the most famous by Fabrizio de André.

The old station mentioned in the song is no longer in use but you can see the sculpture that pays homage to the song. In Piazza Cavour, instead, near the fish market you can hear the voices of the group of vendors and Genoese that de André recorded in Crêuza de mä.

Opening hours and ticket prices for the Via del Campo Museum

Thursday-Sunday 10:30-12:30/15:00-19:00

Closed: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Ticket price: free

Boccadasse



If time permits, we recommend taking a walk of about 1 KM from Foce, through Corso Italia that between panoramic points, beaches and Liberty villas leads straight to the village of Boccadasse.

This small inlet of colorful houses, fishing boats, restaurants and bars on the sea resists the siege of concrete, preserving its appearance of a seaside village with an ancient atmosphere. The village is dominated by the Church of Sant’Antonio da Padova, full of votive offerings

left by seafarers who escaped shipwrecks and drownings.

From the belvedere in front you can enjoy a wonderful view of the village and the coast. From here you take Via Aurora, a typical Ligurian “crêuza”, a downhill alley that leads to the village of Boccadasse.

It seems that the name derives from the fact that the Asse torrent flowed into the sea here or from the Genoese “Bocca d’Asino”. An evocative place, loved by photographers and artists from all over the world, Boccadasse is also the place described by Gino Paoli in the song “La Gatta”.

How to get to Boccadasse

On foot along Corso Italia.

Bus: number 31 from Genova Brignole station

Double-decker tourist bus from the center of Genoa.

The Spianata di Castelletto

A beautiful view of Genoa can be admired from the Spianata di Castelletto, high above the city. Let's start with the name: here, until 1849, there was the Castelletto Fortress that the Genoese wanted to demolish because it was a strategic point from which to bomb and control the city in case of enemy occupation. The destruction of the castle freed the view of the entire city: the slate roofs typical of Genoa, the port, the sea and the hills behind. The three ways to reach the Spianata are as fascinating as the destination itself.



The Monumental Cemetery



It is not often that a cemetery is included in the tourist itineraries of a city: yet the one in Genoa is worth a visit. It is no coincidence that it is called the Monumental Cemetery, for the beauty of its architecture.

The idea that led to the construction of the cemetery, as we know it today, is the meeting of two different concepts and typologies of cemetery: a place of collective memory, as the Enlightenment thought dictates, and a place of personal reflection on death, as the most romantic tradition dictates.

The tombs of illustrious figures of Genoa

Obviously Staglieno is also famous for the tombs of illustrious figures, both Italian and foreign. Fabrizio de Andrè, Giuseppe Mazzini, Nino Bixio, Fernando Pivano are just some of the most well-known names in the cemetery in Genoa.

A place of inspiration that fascinated figures such as Nietzsche, Guy de Maupassant, Mark Twain and Evelyn Waugh who visited Staglieno while passing through Genoa.

Some of the routes concern not only famous people, but also tombs with pets, those with flowers.

Opening hours and how to get to the Monumental Cemetery of Genoa:

Opening hours: every day 7.30am – 5pm

December 25th and Easter: 7.30am – 1pm

Closed: January 1st and 6th, Easter Monday, June 24th, August 15th, December 26th.

How to get there:

By car: Motorway: Genova Est exit

By bus: Line 13 – 14 – 34 – 48

By train: Brignole Station + bus line 14

Principe Station + bus line 34

The Genoa - Casella Train

The Casella train in Genoa is a must-see for fans of traveling on historic locomotives. The train runs for about 25 kilometers of narrow-gauge tracks, departing from the center of Genoa near Piazza Manin from the station of the same name and arriving in Casella, a destination that many Genoese prefer for their trips out of town. During the trip you will admire the green hills surrounding Genoa, so arm yourself with a camera and enjoy the landscapes from the window. The Casella train passes through valleys and small towns including Sant'Olcese and other inland municipalities before reaching the terminus.



Casella is worth a food and wine stop in one of its trattorias, we particularly recommend the Antica Trattoria del Bado in via Canova, a rustic restaurant that offers traditional Ligurian dishes and has excellent reviews.

This attraction is recommended for families with children who are enthusiastic about riding the train, but also for lovers of trekking and nature excursions. In fact, from the various stops of the locomotive, hiking trails start such as the trek to the Forts of Genoa from the Campi Station lasting about 4 hours or the walk to the Historic Aqueduct lasting an hour starting from the San Pantaleo Station which is the first stop of the Casella train.

Speaking of carriages, the luckiest ones will travel on the historic carriages with wooden interiors making a real leap back in time, complete with explanations from the railway volunteers.

Timetables and tickets for the Casella – Genoa train

How to get there:

From the Genoa P. Principe station: line 34, Piazza Manin stop

From the Genoa Brignole station line 49, Giardino/Montegrappa stop. Short walk to Piazza Manin

Operating hours

The timetables can be found on the official website of the attraction:

<https://www.ferroviagenovacasella.it/geca/orari/>

Ticket price: from 3 to 4.50 euros depending on the zone.

Round trip ticket 3 people 20 euros

Round trip ticket 4 people 21 euros

24-hour ticket 14 euros

Tickets can be purchased both on site and online, an option we recommend to avoid the risk of finding the ticket office closed once you arrive on site.

The Zecca - Righi funicular



If Genoa has some pleasant surprises in store, the Zecca Righi funicular is certainly one of them. The system connects Largo Zecca in the city center near Via Garibaldi, with Righi, a hilly neighborhood located 300 meters above sea level.

In our opinion, the trip on the funicular is an experience not to be missed because it allows you to admire Genoa from another point of view. The journey is already exciting in itself, but it is once you reach the top that the spectacle becomes rewarding. Stop to admire the view of Genoa and you will understand why it was nicknamed "La Superba": at your feet the historic

center, the port, the Lanterna and the roofs of the city. The most evocative moment of the day to go up to Righi? At sunset when the atmosphere is unparalleled.

The Sanctuary of the Madonnetta and the Nativity Scene

Getting off at the Madonnetta station, you can reach the Sanctuary of the Madonnetta with the famous "Perennial Nativity Scene", a reconstruction of scenes from life in medieval Genoa.

The Zecca Righi Funicular is a great way to spend a couple of hours in Genoa as a tourist, but not only. If you are passionate about nature walks, you will certainly appreciate the Righi for the network of paths that allow you to go on excursions in the area on foot and by mountain bike, in all seasons.

We particularly recommend trekking to the Forts of Genoa, preferably done in spring or summer to enjoy it at its best. At the Righi you will also find the Adventure Park, the Astronomical Observatory and various places where you can stop to taste some good Ligurian cuisine.

Zecca – Righi Funicular timetables and tickets

How to get there:

From Largo Zecca, a short distance from Via Garibaldi

Operating hours

Departures every quarter of an hour every day from 6:40 am to midnight.

The funicular journey takes just over 15 minutes. The intermediate stations are: Carbonara, San Nicolò, Madonnetta, Preve and San Simone.

Ticket price: all tickets valid on the urban network (except single-ride tickets for lifts and the Sant'Anna funicular).

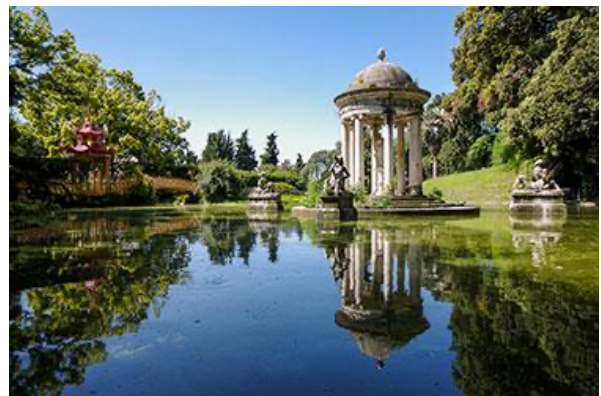
Villa Durazzo Pallavicini

For those visiting Genoa, Villa Durazzo Pallavicini is a must-see. It is located in the western part of the city and is easily reachable by train (Genoa Pegli station stop).

The villa is a typical example of a residence of the Genoese aristocracy and is mainly known for its Park, one of the largest historical gardens in Europe and "The most beautiful park in Italy" in 2017.

It is no coincidence that the visit route inside the Villa Durazzo Pallavicini Park has been structured in three acts, just like a play.

The villa can be visited both independently by following the well-marked signs or by participating in a guided tour, an option that we recommend to fully understand its history, anecdotes and curiosities.



What to see at Villa Pallavicini

The itinerary is suggestive and, depending on the entrance ticket chosen, leads to the discovery of the various attractions: the Sala Verde, originally used as a dining room, the Lago Vecchio, the Sorgente, the Castello del Capitano with a strong symbolic meaning, the Grotte degli Inferi that recall Dante's Inferno and the Giardini di Flora. Walk among centuries-old trees and admire a variety of flowers and plants including rare camellias that during the flowering period make the visit to the Park even more suggestive.

Opening hours and ticket price for Villa Durazzo Pallavicini

Opening hours: the Park is open every day from February 26th to November 1st.

Closed: Mondays. The opening hours are seasonal.

Ticket price:

Weekend and holiday ticket: €13 full price. €6 reduced price for children 7-18 years. €27 family ticket (2 adults + 1 child 7-18 years)

Weekday ticket: €11 full price. €5 reduced for children 7-18 years. €24 family ticket (2 adults + 1 child 7-18 years)

Free: children up to 6 years

GAM Galleria d'Arte Moderna Genova

The Galleria d'Arte Moderna of Genoa (GAM) is part of the Nervi museum complex which also include the Giannettino Luxoro Museum, the Wolfsoniana collection and the Raccolte Frugone.

It is housed inside Villa Saluzzo Serra, a sixteenth-century building that in our opinion is worth a visit on its own, for the beauty of its decorations, furnishings and the context in which it is immersed, within the historic parks of Nervi.

The exhibition rooms of the GAM, divided into three floors, host more than three thousand works of art including paintings, sculptures and drawings made between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries by Ligurian artists and others.

In addition to the spaces dedicated to the permanent collection, the Galleria D'Arte Moderna periodically hosts temporary exhibitions, conferences, concerts, cultural and educational events. There is also a bookshop and a café.

Opening hours and ticket prices for the GAM in Genoa

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm Closed: Monday

Ticket price: Full €6. Reduced €5 (disabled, over 65 EU citizens) - **Free:** from 0 to 18 years old

The GAM is included in the Genova Museum Card

How to get there: Metropolitan train from Genova Brignole or Genova Piazza Principe Bus no. 15 – 17

Snack at the Romanengo confectionery

A sweet interlude. Now that you have arrived here, you cannot miss stopping at the Romanengo confectionery, one of the most illustrious pastry shops in Italy, which opened its doors in the early nineteenth century.

Continue straight, leaving the Loggia della Mercanzia on your left, and after 100 meters you will reach Piazza Soziglia, where you will find the Romanengo shop on your left.

Enter and enjoy the atmosphere of a stately living room where you can taste chocolates, candied fruit, fondants, fruit and flower preserves, dessert sweets, and, in spring and summer, the famous rose syrup.

