What to see around Pavia: 5 Terre - 225 km

Liguria is one of the smallest Italian regions, but its territory is home to villages of rare beauty that have made lovers, poets and visitors from all over the world dream.

Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore, five small villages, all with different characteristics, each more beautiful and colorful than the other, overlooking the crystalline Ligurian Sea. It is no coincidence that in 1997 UNESCO named them a World Heritage Site. But there is another thing to appreciate this magnificent stretch of coast for: it is possible to visit all five villages even in one day

Why the name Cinque Terre?

The Cinque Terre are called this because each of them is a small world in itself. You have to consider that when they were born the connections between them were mostly non-existent. The inhabitants moved between one and the other along steep mountain paths, or, when possible, using the sea. The fact that they were mostly isolated and each with its own characteristics meant that since ancient times they were thought of as real lands. The word "land" makes us think of distant territories, to be explored, but also of

the sense of belonging to one's own territory, one's own land. Never was a name more appropriate.

Start your visit from Riomaggiore, the first of the Cinque Terre coming from La Spezia (just under 10 minutes by train). As soon as you arrive at the station, take the tunnel that will take you to the center of the town and then continue towards the sea, admiring the small port, the colored houses and push yourself to the beach of Grossi at the end on the left. Then go back to lose yourself a bit among the alleys going up towards the upper part.

Not to be missed:

- Small port
- Walk to the beach
- Main alley (Via Colombo)
- Church of San Giovanni Battista

Estimated time: 1 hour.

Take the train back to Manarola. Here too, as soon as you get off the train, take the tunnel that takes you to the center of the town, go up to the square of the church of San Lorenzo where you can admire the wonderful view and then go down to the small port, going back up towards the cemetery to take the typical photo of Manarola, unmissable. Manarola is smaller than Riomaggiore, of which it is administratively a fraction.

Not to be missed:

- Marina di Manarola
- Panoramic view from under the cemetery
- Main alley (Via Discovolo)
- Church of San Lorenzo

Estimated time: 50 minutes.



Return to the station and take the train to Corniglia, the central land. Here it is worth the effort and go up to Corniglia along the Lardarina and its 300 steps (alternative shuttle). Corniglia is a little gem, perhaps the least known of the Cinque Terre. Visit the church of San Lorenzo, then walk along the main alley to Largo Taragio and continue to the panoramic terrace of Santa Maria.

Not to be missed:

- La Lardarina
- Church of San Lorenzo

- Main alley (Via Fieschi)
- View of Manarola

Estimated time: 40 minutes.



It's time to take the train back to Vernazza, again with the shuttle or from the stairs. The station is directly in the village, start walking down towards the sea admiring the village, up to the church of Santa Margherita d'Antiochia. In Vernazza you have to get lost a bit in the alleys and go up to the Doria castle and above the church, some say it is the most beautiful of the Cinque Terre.

Not to be missed:

- Church of Santa Margherita di Antiochia
- Main alley (Via Roma then Via Visconti)
- Doria Tower

Estimated time: 1 hour and 30 minutes.

And finally we take the train back to Monterosso, with the station in the Fegina area. It is the most touristic and largest village. Here we take it a little more easily, we take a nice walk along the seafront to the historic center, we go down to the beach, we visit the church of San Giovanni Battista, the beautiful historic center with restaurants and shops, maybe we also go up the Cappuccini hill to enjoy the tranquility of the convent. Not to be missed:

- Fegina Beach and seafront
- Historic center
- Church of San Giovanni Battista

Estimated time: 2 hours

You can visit the Cinque Terre in 6 hours, counting the return train journey to your destination and the waiting times for the train (the travel times between the villages are just a few minutes).