



RAPALLO

TOURIST GUIDE



COMUNE DI RAPALLO

BETWEEN THE MOUNTAINS AND THE SEA
it's always a wonderful surprise!



Welcome to Rapallo

RAPALLO, WITH ITS HALF-MOON GULF, IS A SPECTACULAR COASTAL TOWN LYING BETWEEN THE MOUNTAINS AND THE SEA ON THE LIGURIAN RIVIERA. VISITORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD COME TO RAPALLO TO EXPERIENCE ITS NATURAL BEAUTY, CULTURAL RESOURCES AND RICH HISTORIC PAST. THANKS TO THE ENCHANTING AND BREATHTAKING PANORAMA OF THE OLD TOWN ALONG THE WATERFRONT, ITS TEMPERATE CLIMATE YEAR-ROUND AND THE WIDE VARIETY OF SPECIAL EVENTS SCHEDULED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, RAPALLO OFFERS AN UNPARALLELED BEAUTY AND AN EXCELLENT QUALITY OF LIFE.

FROM THE INCOMPARABLE COASTLINE THE GREEN HILLS ARISE COVERED BY OLIVE TREES, ACACIAS AND MARITIME PINES, EMBRACING THE COLOURFUL ARRAY OF FRESCOED HOUSES AND SHELTERING THE TOWN FROM THE COLD NORTHERN WINDS.

AS A RESULT, THE BAY HAS A WONDERFUL CLIMATE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, WITH BRIGHT DAYS AND EXTRAORDINARY LANDSCAPES. THE MUNICIPAL AREA, WHICH IS PART OF PORTOFINO'S MOUNT REGIONAL PARK, REPRESENTS A REAL CONCENTRATION OF THE LIGURIAN NATURE FROM BOTH A NATURALISTIC AND A HISTORICAL-ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE.

RAPALLO NOWADAYS IS A PERFECT SYNTHESIS BETWEEN TRADITION AND INNOVATION: IN THE OLD TOWN, BOUNDED BY THE RAILWAY BELT, NEW STREETS ALTERNATE WITH THE OLD NARROW "CARUGGI" AND MODERN BUILDINGS COME TOGETHER WITH THE ANCIENT FISHERMEN'S HOUSES, RESTORED TO THEIR ORIGINAL BEAUTY.

THE HISTORICAL CENTRE IS A TIME MACHINE WHICH TAKES YOU BACK THROUGH THE AGES ALONG NARROW ALLEYS, SHREDS OF HISTORY, CENTURIES-OLD PORTICOES, PAINTED HOUSES. TODAY VISITORS CAN ADMIRE MEMORIES OF THE PAST ESPECIALLY ALONG THE VITTORIO VENETO PROMENADE, WHERE HOTELS AND CAFES EVOKE THE ELITIST AND COSMOPOLITAN PHASE OF RAPALLO'S LONG HISTORY AS A SEASIDE RESORT.

THE GOLF COURSE



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Member of





What to see

RAPALLO'S NATURAL BEAUTY LIES IN ITS BAY SURROUNDED BY GENTLE HILLS, ITS WINDING NARROW PEDESTRIAN STREETS - THE SO CALLED "CARUGGI", WHICH CROSS THE TOWN CENTRE - AND ITS PORTICOES, WITH COLUMNS AND ARCHES, ONCE USED AS STOREHOUSES FOR BOATS. THE HISTORICAL CENTRE IS A UNIQUE AGGLOMERATION OF OLD BUILDINGS, CLUNG TOGETHER LIKE A DEFENSIVE WALL AGAINST PIRATE ATTACKS, AND IT GUARDS INESTIMABLE TREASURES, FROM THE ANCIENT CASTLE TO THE CATHEDRAL, WITHOUT FORGETTING THE CIVIC TOWER AND THE "PORTA DELLE SALINE", THE ONLY GATE STILL SURVIVING.

HOWEVER, ART IS EQUALLY AT HOME IN THE STREETS WHERE YOU WOULD LEAST EXPECT IT, WITH SMALL WALL NICHES CONTAINING EXQUISITE RELIGIOUS STATUES OR ICONS AND SCULPTED MARBLE OR SLATE PORTALS. WHAT STRIKES THE VISITOR IS HOW EVERY SMALL CHURCH BOTH IN TOWN AND IN THE VILLAGES HIDES A TREASURE, WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED. THERE IS REALLY SO MUCH THAT IS WORTH A VISIT, EVEN JUST A BRIEF ONE!

OFFSEASON IS THE BEST PERIOD TO DISCOVER THE HIDDEN BEAUTIES OF THIS CORNER OF LIGURIA: THE SEASIDE IS NOT SO CROWDED, WANDERING AROUND THE OLD TOWN AND THE LITTLE VILLAGES SURROUNDING RAPALLO IS A PLEASANT EXPERIENCE, WHILE TREKKING ON MANY PANORAMIC TRAILS (THE SO CALLED "CREUZE") ALONG THE CRESTS OF THE HILLS OFFERS AN AMAZING VIEW THAT RANGES FROM THE TWO RIVIERAS TO GENOA'S HINTERLAND, FROM THE APUAN ALPS ON THE EAST TO CAPE MELE ON THE WEST.

THE CABLEWAY

"RAPALLO - MONTALLEGRO" CABLEWAY

A BREATHTAKING VIEW ON THE WHOLE GULF
7 MINUTES TO REACH MONTALLEGRO SANCTUARY
THE ONLY CABLEWAY IN LIGURIA

OPEN ALL YEAR, MONDAY TO SUNDAY

DEPARTURES EVERY HALF HOUR

PH. +39.0185 -52341 - +39.0185.239017

E-mail: funivia.rapallo@doganaccia2000.it

LOWER DEPARTURE STATION

PIAZZA SOLARI, 2 -RAPALLO (GE)

RESERVED FREE PARKING FOR VISITORS



1 THE ANCIENT CASTLE ON THE SEA

Built on a cliff surrounded by the sea, at the end of the promenade, and connected to the mainland by a narrow bridge, the Castle is the symbol of Rapallo, closely linked to the history and the legends of the town. It was built in 1549, after the sack of Rapallo by the Turkish ships, guided by the notorious pirate Dragut. In the years it was used for different purposes and also as a prison for a long time; after the recent restoration, nowadays it is the venue of the most important exhibitions and conventions in town. During the traditional fair in July, it is lit by a fake fire during spectacular fireworks.



2 THE TOWN HALL

The present location of the Town Hall was once the main hospital, close to the Church of the Augustins. The Swiss mercenaries of Carlo VIII sacked it in 1498 and stole from the church a canvas of Perin del Vaga. In the XVII century the building was used as a stage for profane plays, censored by the Genoese Senate, and during the French revolution as an army camp.

In the XIX century the building became again a hospital until the definitive restoration to its original structure, after which it was chosen as the seat of the Municipality.



3 ST. GERVASIO AND PROTASIO CATHEDRAL

The origin of the church dates back to the end of the 4th century. During the centuries, the church underwent many changes, from Romanic and Gothic influence to a more classical Lombard one, so nowadays it has a characteristic mix of styles. It features a marble neoclassical façade with a bronze portal by Arrigo Minerbi and Pietro Bolis (1957). The two central panels show the Virgin Mary holding an icon to her chest which she will leave to the people of Rapallo. The bell tower was built by the architect Storace in 1753 and successively decorated. The interior, divided into three aisles, hosts many works of art.



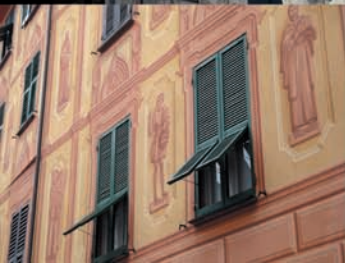
4 THE CIVIC TOWER AND SAINT STEPHEN CHURCH

Saint Stephen's Church is the oldest rural church of the original village: it was built in fact before the year one thousand on the primitive residential area. Nowadays it is governed and maintained by the "Mortis et Orationis" Confraternity, called the "Blacks" Brotherhood like its garments colour, that obtained the church during the 17th century, and that gave it the name "Blacks Oratory". The Civic tower was built in 1473 next to Saint Stephen's Church as a symbol of civil freedom and it is the oldest civil monument in town. According to a 12th century document, it was where justice was administered and town life was decided.



5 THE WHITE ORATORY

The Whites' Oratory, built during the 16th century is so called because of the garments colour of the Brotherhood governing it. It has a single aisle and a small bell tower and holds many pieces of art: a few Ligurian processional crucifixes; an 18th century organ within a baroque structure; a wooden statue by Maragliano (St. Sebastian), highly interesting because of its anatomic perfection; a painting named "Madonna col bambino e santi", whose author remains unknown (Domenico Piola or Domenico Fiasella).



THE HISTORICAL CENTRE

Painting the houses with bright colours is a characteristic of the whole Ligurian region. In Rapallo, many houses are ornate with frescos, using a particular technique handed down for generations. The fashion of "fake windows" has an historical explanation, as it started in the XVIII century to avoid the "tax on the windows" imposed by the Republic of Genoa. Slate is another symbol of Liguria: the black stone, which comes from the mines of the nearby Fontanabuona Valley, has been used in architecture since ancient times and in the historical centre many beautiful decorated doors remain. Slate is also used for characteristic roofs and for small handicrafts.



RAPALLO TOWN HALL

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www.comune.rapallo.ge.it
iat@comune.rapallo.ge.it



USEFUL NUMBERS

• POLICE PHONE NUMBERS for Emergency call (+39) 112 or 113

CARABINIERI DEPARTMENT +39 0185.50603
NATIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT +39 0185.23271
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT +39 0185.51384

• FIRE SERVICE IN RAPALLO for Emergency call (+39) 115

DEPARTMENT OF RAPALLO +39 0185.52222

• TAXI - CABS +39.0185.55858 • +39 0185.54474 • +39 0185.55868 • +39 0185.56048

• RECOVERY SERVICE IN RAPALLO - ACI PH: +39 0185.262305

• EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS for Emergency call (+39) 118

• RAPALLO "N.S. MONTALLEGRO" HOSPITAL +39 0185.329111

• AMBULANCE SERVICE IN RAPALLO

CROCE BIANCA RAPALLESE +39 0185.230000
P.A. VOLONTARI DEL SOCCORSO +39 0185.262626



LOCAL PHARMACY (SEE MAP)

• "CARLO RIVA" TOURIST PORT - PH. +39 0185.68 91 (www.portocarloriva.it)

• BOAT SERVICE - PH. +39 0185.284670 (www.traghettiportofino.it)

THE MONASTERY OF CLARISSE

6

It is a 17th century monumental building, deconsecrated in 1912. Part of the previous Church of Santa Chiara di Montefalco and of the relative convent are used today for cultural purposes: the ancient chapel has been transformed in a 250-seat theatre, the Auditorium of the Clarisse. The parish church marble altar, built in 1772, was moved to the Saints Gervasio and Protasio's Cathedral. The rest of the complex houses the "Attilio e Cleofe Gaffoglio" Museum that contains precious jewellery, ivory, porcelains, sculptures and paintings (info: call.+39 0185.234497).

VILLA TIGULLIO WITH THE LACES MUSEUM AND THE INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY

7

Villa Tigullio is the ancient house of the Spinola family. It is surrounded by a green park and it lies on a wide field, with a magnificent view of the Tigullio Gulf and Portofino Cape. It houses the International Library, with its rich collections of precious volumes and historical local newspapers, and the Lace Museum, containing an exceptionally broad range of rare and precious laces. The lace craftsmanship is a tradition of our town, where women have been making laces since the XIII century and where the lace production reached its peak in the XVI century (info: call.+39 0185.63304).

THE SANCTUARY OF MONTALLEGRO

8

The Sanctuary was built at the top of a hill where the Virgin Mary, beloved Patron Saint of the town, appeared to a peasant in 1557. The Sanctuary hosts an icon, called the "Dormitio Virginis", left from the Virgin Mary in the place where she appeared. The beautiful marble façade was designed by the architect Revelli, the vaults are painted by the Genoese Nicolò Barabino and walls are covered with thousands of ex-votos demonstrating the great devotion of the citizens to the Virgin Mary. The sanctuary can be reached in 7 minutes by cableway, the only one in Liguria, from where you can enjoy a spectacular panoramic view on the gulf at 600mt. altitude.

VALLE CHRISTI ABBEY RUINS

9

The monastery of Valle Christi ruins lie in the hills of S.Massimo, at the back of the town. Parts of the church like the apse, the transept and the spire bell tower survive in a solitary and still intact environment, creating one of the most enchanting views of Rapallo. The complex was built in the 13th century in French-Gothic style. Originally it was owned by Cistercian nuns, then it became property of the Clarisse nuns. Pope Pio V suppressed it in 1568 and it was abandoned. The ruins became public property and now are used as an open air theatre, a picturesque location for important evening plays and concerts in summer.

SAN MICHELE DI PAGANA CHURCH

10

San Michele is a hamlet that lies on a small gulf and includes three small villages: Trelo, Prelo and Pomaro. It is one of the most enchanting places in all the Ligurian coast and its beaches are the best for swimming and lying in the sun in a beautiful landscape. The baroque parish church goes back to the beginning of the XII century and, in the left aisle, holds a canvas by Van Dyck, painted when the artist was compelled to flee from Genoa after a mortal duel: the picture represents the Crucifixion with Saint Frances and Saint Leonard.

THE HAMLETS

Rapallo's territory is varied and pleasant: around the historical centre there is the modern town that reaches the mountainsides surrounding the gulf. On the hills, a complex net of footpaths connects many nice hamlets. These little villages represent a strong bond between the town population and the community traditions. On the coast, enchanting beaches and steep cliffs are idyllic spots amongst the most beautiful of Liguria.



REASONS TO RETURN

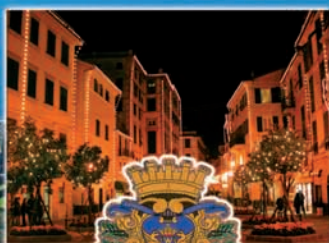
NO MATTER WHAT SEASON YOU PLAN TO VISIT RAPALLO,
YOU WILL FIND AN EXTRAORDINARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
AND THINGS TO DO INCLUDING CONCERTS, FESTIVALS, SPORTING EVENTS,
FAIRS AND MARKETS, PARADES AND MUCH MORE!

MAIN EVENTS

JULY 1ST, 2ND, 3RD SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS
IN HONOUR OF THE VIRGIN MARY
WITH EXTRAORDINARY ANCIENT CASTLE FIRE, UNIQUE IN THE WORLD

• SUMMER CONCERTS ON THE PROMENADE

- EASTER TRADITIONAL FLOWER SCULPTURES AND CRAFTS
- CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS • TRADITIONAL FAIRS IN THE HAMLETS
- SPORTING EVENTS



www.comune.ge.rapallo.it

HOW TO REACH RAPALLO:

• BY CAR:
MOTORWAY A12 GENOA-LIVORNO OR SS.1 AURELIA

• BY TRAIN:
RAPALLO RAILWAY STATION

• BY PLANE:
"C.COLOMBO" GENOA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (GOA) 38 KM