

Pistoia and its mountains


*Art, nature, traditions,
trails, winter sports, active tourism*

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A nighttime photograph of the Pistoia Cathedral and Palazzo Pubblico. The cathedral on the left is illuminated with green and white lights, highlighting its striped facade and the dome. The Palazzo Pubblico on the right is a large, multi-story building with arched windows and a balcony. The sky is dark blue, and the street in the foreground is lit with warm orange light.

PISTOIA AND ITS MOUNTAINS

Pistoia

Urban poetry



The San Giovanni in Corte Baptistery in Pistoia stands in the Piazza del Duomo – the Cathedral Square – right in front of the cathedral, on the site of the “ancient curtis regia” – medieval term referring to public land. On the next page, the San Zeno Cathedral’s harmonious arched porches.

Protected by the towers and ‘palazzi’ which surround it – as if to hide it from indiscreet eyes – the **Piazza del Duomo** embodies the very essence of Pistoia, a city which has remained authentic in order to preserve its century-old treasures. Step by step, the labyrinth of its medieval lanes – which have very curious ‘descriptive’ names: via Abbi Paziienza – Be Patient Road, Vicolo Brontola – Grumbling Lane, disentangles itself and suddenly reveals one of the most picturesque

piazas in Italy, as it hypnotizes you with the black and white of the **San Giovanni Baptistery** and the **San Zeno Cathedral**. Pistoia is contemplative yet very lively at the same time.

The daily market in **Piazza della Sala** stands in the midst of shops, bars and cafés and is the symbol of a city that has not given up the pleasure of living in the present but that accomodates features of that Tuscan way of living which have become synonym with “the good life”.over the world, synonym with “the good life”.







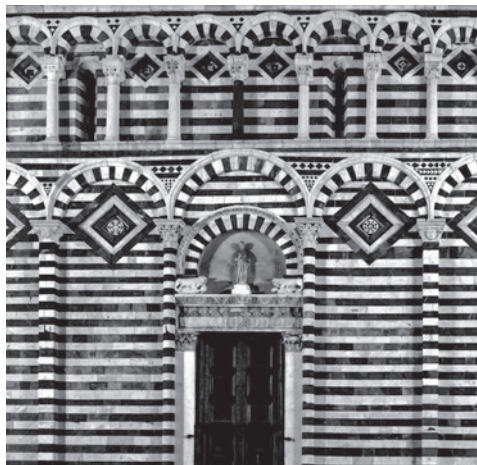
The historic centre of Pistoia offers you surprising glimpses of the city's architecture. From San Giovanni Fuoricivitas you soon reach the Piazza della Sala, a busy meeting place from morning to evening, in the morning with its fruit and vegetable market and in the evening for an aperitif.





There is beauty to be found all over the city: going clockwise, the silver altar of San Jacopo, the dichromate sidewall of San Giovanni Fuoricivitas, the ceramic frieze of the Spedale del Ceppo. The new Palazzo Fabroni Garden, the Museum of 20th century and Contemporary Art, has been inspired by the harmonious geometrical shapes to be seen in the town.

On the next page, "Miracolo", a work by Marino Marini, on display in the entrance hall of the Palazzo Comunale - the Town Hall.







Contemporary art emerges from the city and invades gardens and villas, as, for example, the Fattoria di Celle's large Park, an outdoor art museum, with works by, amongst others, Roberto Barni and Robert Morris. And the Villa La Magia, a Medici family villa, and a World Heritage UNESCO site, holds works, amongst others, by Daniel Buren, Maurizio Nannucci, Anne and Patrick Poirier.





PISTOIA AND ITS MOUNTAINS

Hamlets waiting to be discovered

From the hills to the mountains

Standing in strategic positions, sheltered on the high ground which dominates the surrounding landscape, the hamlets around Pistoia are fascinating places and are rich in history.

On the hills of **Montalbano**, covered with olive groves, **Serravalle Pistoiese** is an ancient medieval fortress, while **Quarrata** is home to the Villa La Magia, a World Heritage UNESCO site.

Climbing up the west side of the Pistoia Mountains, you will come to the villages of **Marliana**, **Popiglio**, **Piteglio** and **San Marcello**, where you


can see the Pedestrian Suspension Bridge. Then on to the medieval hamlet of **Cutigliano**, which has been awarded the Italian Touring Club's Orange Flag, with its Palazzo dei Capitani della Montagna, and further on to Doganaccia skiing area. After Cutigliano, towards Modena, you will find **Abetone**, a well-known skiing resort.

On the other side of the mountain, winding up around hairpin bends which from Passo della Collina can take you on to Bologna, you reach the Valle della Limentra where another medieval hamlet with a very romantic name is to be found **Sambuca Pistoiese**.







A large, moss-covered boulder sits in a forest stream. The water is clear and flows over the rocks. The background is a dense forest of tall trees with green foliage. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a dappled light effect. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

PISTOIA AND ITS MOUNTAINS

Nature

An essential breath of air



Photo Leonardo Cantarelli

All need to do is leave the centre of Pistoia to find yourself walking through forests and along freshwater streams that lead you to turquoise-coloured water pools. With its breathtaking views, characteristic little hamlets and its busy skiing resorts, the Pistoia side of the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines offers you the experience of a holiday in the mountains yet only a


short way away from town. There you can enjoy close contact with nature and you can try your hand at one of the many activities that the area can offer you, in summer, too. Just set off walking, crossing crystal clear brooks, old stone bridges, along paths for walking, cycling and horse riding, in order to find relief from the summer heat, in the peace of the forests and natural reserves.

Above, one of the panoramic views of the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines.

Next to this, the Pedestrian Suspension Bridge which connects the two sides of the Lima Stream between Mammiano Basso and Popiglio, in the district of San Marcello Piteglio.

On the right, the Ghiacciaia della Madonnina, part of the Ecomuseum of the Pistoia Mountains.





PISTOIA AND ITS MOUNTAINS

Walking paths and trails

Pistoia, a place for walkers
and modern pilgrims



PK. 2505



Photo Brabara Gizzi

To set off on a walk along an ancient path once used by pilgrims, is not only a spiritual experience but is also an intelligent and respectful way of entering, on tiptoe, the culture and traditions of the hamlets and villages that are to be found along the way.

Nowadays in this area - traditionally a passage for wayfarers and pilgrims - enthusiastic walkers come across other walkers, greeting them with a nod of the head, and can pass along the five historical routes that cross it: the **Cammino di San Jacopo**, a small Way of Santiago

that connects Tuscany's most beautiful art cities; the **Cammino di San Bartolomeo** passing between the two sides of the Apennines; the **Via Francesca della Sambuca** along the ancient railway line, the Porrettana; the **Via Romea Germanica Imperiale** which crosses over other trails; and the **Via Romea Strata**, one of the most important routes across Europe.

They all come to meet at Pistoia, the point of departure and arrival of an experience where you can discover your own interior self as well as the surrounding nature.

The 5 routes which pass through Pistoia.

- **Cammino di San Jacopo**
- **Cammino di San Bartolomeo**
- **Via Francesca della Sambuca**
- **Via Romea Germanica Imperiale**
- **Via Romea Strata**



Foto Nedo Ferrari



Foto Maurizio Pini





PISTOIA AND ITS MOUNTAINS

To live and enjoy nature

Energia e adrenalina tutto l'anno





Here, there is not only nature to contemplate in order to regenerate yourself in the peace and quiet of the mountains, but there is also the chance to explore – putting to the test your own resistance – and to search for brand new adventures. In summer, surrounded by a lush and verdant nature, beech and fir forests offer you respite from the heat, while walks – from the easiest to the most demanding – often mean that you can pick mushrooms, blueberries, and other wild berries along the way.

And even if you are not expert in **downhill** adventures – the breathtaking downhill MTB descent – a **mountain bike** can become an important friend for all the family, an eco-friendly and enjoyable way of exploring the area.

In winter, the Pistoia Mountains are the reign of those who love winter sports. The skiing complex of Doganaccia and Abetone-Val di Luce offers you the chance to do alpine and cross-country **skiing**, **snowboard**, **snow-bike**, **snowshoes**, **kite-snow**, and many more.

Nordic walking, trekking, down-hill, rafting, adventure routes: there are so many activities you can do to enjoy and experience nature in a truly active way



Pistoia and Montagna Pistoiese

Abetone Cutigliano
Aglia
Marliana
Montale
Pistoia
Quarrata
San Marcello Piteglio
Sambuca Pistoiese
Serravalle Pistoiese





NZE

● AREZZO

ENA

SETO

Pistoia



Tuscany



Pistoia and Montagna Pistoiese

Abetone Cutigliano
Agliaia
Marliana
Montale
Pistoia
Quarrata
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Sambuca Pistoiese
Serravalle Pistoiese

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