



TOSCANA UNDERGROUND

BEAUTIFUL INSIDE AS OUTSIDE
CAVES • MINES • NECROPOLISES



Toscana Underground





The logo represents an ammonite, a fossil that was once alive and has become an object, a "treasure" to discover, offered to us by the earth. The image is contrasted to such a point that it almost becomes abstract; it is cold and immobile, but at the same time the spiral is a vortex that shows a way, and invites us to delve under the surface.

LEGEND

Services



Bookshop



Picnic area



Bar



Restaurant



Museum



Caravan park



Conference hall



Visiting rules



Special indications



Educational activities

How to get there



By car



By train



By bus



By ferry

Useful Information

Access for the disabled



yes



no



partial

Photography allowed



yes



no



partial

SS main road

SR regional road

SP provincial road

SC municipal road



For further information:
www.turismo.intoscana.it

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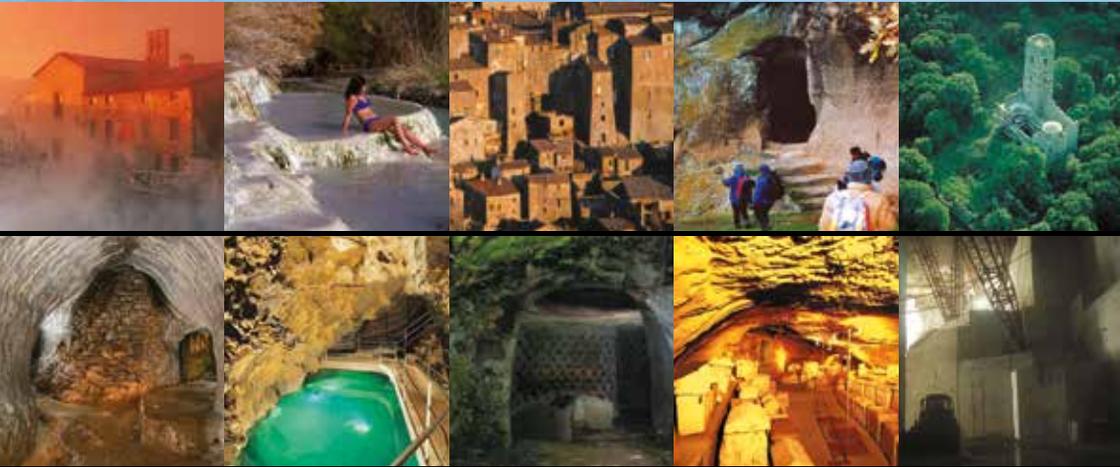
In this book do not hope to find the classic Tuscany as shown in images and postcards of rows of cypress trees and hills of olive groves, because...they're not there. Instead, you can get to know interesting places in our region with one thing in common: they're all underground. Caves, mines, burial sites and underground passages.

Toscana Underground boosts tourism at less well-known spots, such as those that are hidden underground, and hopes to promote protection of the environment, a precious good that needs safeguarding.

The sites are scattered over a large part of the region, and many of them are off the traditional tourist routes. What is more, some have recently been renovated and made safe, or had an infrastructure built around them. We need to make the most of these places, and they deserve to be enjoyed by the public.

They are highly interesting and appealing places which enrich what our area has to offer tourists. They can be an interesting destination not only for enthusiasts, but also for a day out with the family or friends and for educational school trips.





Toscana Underground, A Be

Often the most beautiful things are hidden from the eye – we have to go and look for them, they're not exactly to hand. And when travelling it's a bit like that too. In Tuscany there are places far off (not too far though) the beaten track that only a few people, Tuscans included, know about; fascinating, amazing places that still leave the imagination to run riot.

Then someone realised that this world wrapped in the shadows is just as marvellous as the things that shine in the light of day: and this is how **Toscana Underground**. This guide features these secret places: nature in all its extraordinary and extemporary splendour, with its karstic caves, and underground places that tell of man's history and work, such as necropolises, mines and ancient aqueducts.



Beautiful Region Inside and Out

The **Toscana Underground** metro descends deep down, resurfaces, and then disappears from view again. There are four types of station scattered around a large part of the region:

- Caves of Natural and Prehistoric Interest, Cave Therapy;
- Mines, Mining and Industrial Archaeology;
- Necropolises and Tufo Civilisations;
- Underground Passageways and Aqueducts .

There is such a variety of places to visit that they can attract varied visitors: people on day trips, sports lovers, history and archaeology enthusiasts and school trips.

The first stop for **Toscana Underground** is at the caves, diving deep down in no less than 53 areas in the region. The cave map of Tuscany counts 1,597 caves, with a total of 270 kilometres of natural galleries. Karstic phenomena – caves, dolines, springs, blind valleys – cover around 1200 km² of the region (5% of the whole territory) and are of remarkable importance for water supplies; the richest spring in Tuscany – the Frigido - bursts up in the Apuan Alps, releasing an incredible amount of water (1,550 litres per second).

The Apuan Alps also host Monte Corchia, the most extensive cave system in Italy with around 60 kilometres of galleries and obruks, and the Paolo Roversi abyss, descending 1,249 metres, making it the deepest cave in Italy and the 21st deepest in the world.

Some of these marvels are equipped for tourists, such as the three large karstic cavities in the Apuan Alps: Grotta del Vento in Garfagnana, Grotte di Equi Terme in Lunigiana and Antro del Corchia in Versilia. The work to make the caves safe, carried out while respecting the subterranean environment, and the technology used, mean that they can be visited by a vast amount of people without jeopardising the delicate biological balance. These caves are an unusual and exceptional laboratory for schools, where pupils can effortlessly learn about geology, chemistry and biology.

In addition, the natural cavities also preserve fragile ecosystems, and are the ideal habitat for strange species of plants and animals. An example is the Grotta del Sassocolato in Castell'Azzara (Grosseto) with its conspicuous colony of bats.

In some caves, excavation work has uncovered remains of animals and traces of human presence from the Palaeolithic Age.

The second stop is at the mines and mining museums, opening the doors to another aspect of the underground world and to the metallurgy industry, whose history is still not well-known today, despite it having involved many communities over the centuries.

There are important mineral beds (iron, lead, copper and mercury) in various areas in Tuscany – the island of Elba, the Campigliese area, the Metalliferous Hills, Monte Amiata and the Apuan Alps – and many have been exploited since ancient times, as can be seen by the numerous traces of mining activities from Etruscan times. In the 13th century, the first mining code in Europe was drawn up in the Grosseto area of Tuscany, or Massa Marittima to be precise, known as Massa Metallorum in the Middle Ages.

The third stop for **Toscana Underground** is at other types of site: tombs, houses, cellars and stalls for animals.

The encounter between man and nature has given life to spectacular landscapes in this case too.

In the Maremman hinterland, the Vitozza rock settlement at San Quirico di Sorano is practically a village dug out of the tufo rock: the dwellings have been modelled out of the rock, as have the mangers and storehouses; only the church, fortress and castle are built above ground.

Non the less fascinating are the Etruscan burial grounds that are dotted throughout the area of Sovana (Grosseto).

The last stop for **Toscana Underground** is at the drainage galleries dug to collect and take water inside town walls. The famous “Bottini” unwind over more than 25 km under the heart of Siena. Built during the Middle Ages and Renaissance, they are still in working order today.

Similar tunnels can be found in other towns, such as Massa Marittima and Chiusi (Siena).

This guide brings together just some of the many underground places in our region; many more are currently being restored and will soon be accessible to tourists. Versilia is getting organised to open the former Edem mines to visitors. These mines were open until 1990, mining barium and iron. In the Parco di Cavriglia the Buca delle Fate cave, the only purely karstic feature in the province of Arezzo, is currently in the final stages of being made safe to visit.

And there are lots more places waiting to be discovered.

In a world as globalised as ours, where satellite photos allow us to see every single part of our planet, we could think that every corner of the earth has already been explored. This is true for the surface, but under the surface it is a different story. In fact, perhaps not everybody knows that there is a sport, the only one that allows you to visit places where no human being has ever set foot before, even just a few miles away from your home: potholing. It may seem incredible, but new caves are discovered every year in Tuscany, some of which surprisingly large; just think that the number of caves censured grew from 837 in 1989 to 1,597 in 2003. Just like rock climbing, a lot of care and experience is needed if you are going to try out potholing; so it is important that you contact one of the numerous potholing groups in Tuscany which organise beginners courses under the guidance of qualified personnel to introduce you to this fascinating sport.

Therefore, it just remains to us to wish you “buon viaggio” in **Toscana Underground!**

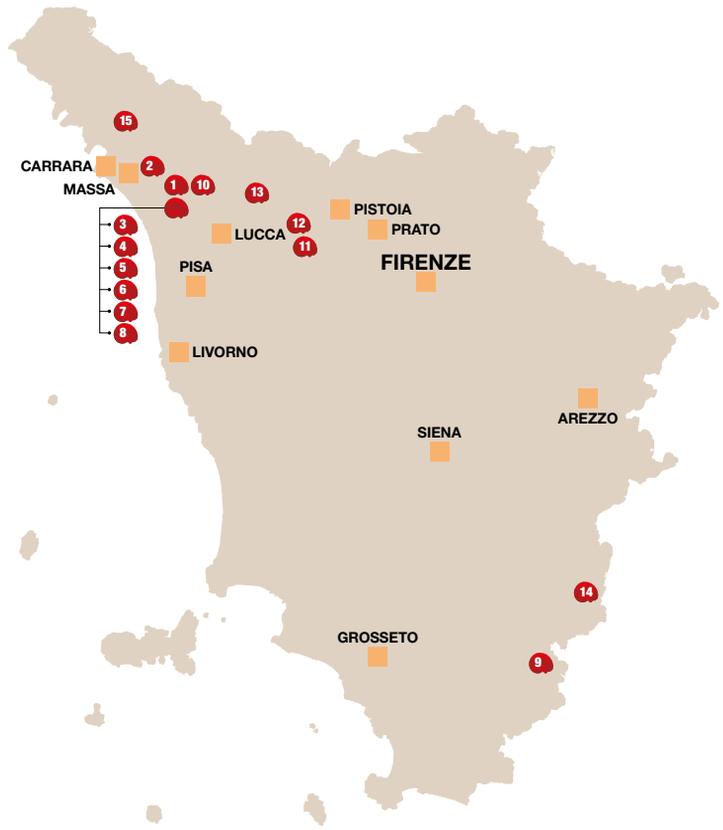


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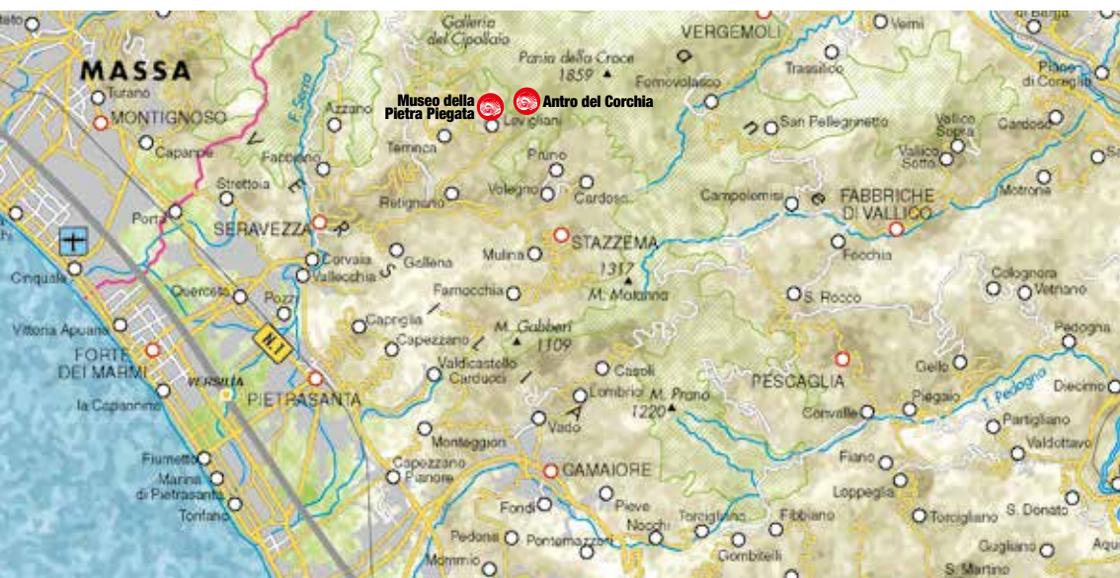
And driven by my hankering curiosity, anxious to see the enormous amount of varied and strange shapes contrived by nature, and while roaming among the shady rocks, I came across the entrance to a large cave; I was amazed at this spectacle, not knowing that such a thing existed, and bent over by the cramp in my kidneys with my tired hand resting on my knee, and my right hand shading myself from the sun, I twisted from side to side, squinting to see if I could make out anything inside, but I could not as it was so dark. And in this state, I immediately felt two things, fear and desire: fear before the threatening, dark cave, and the desire to see if there were any miraculous things inside...

Leonardo da Vinci

Caves of Natural and Prehistoric Interest, Cave Therapy

Tuscany has one of the richest underground heritages in Italy: more than 1,200 km² of its territory can boast extensive cave systems. A speleological survey of Tuscany has classified more than 1,500 caves in 53 different areas of the region, ranking it third in Italy, just behind Sardinia and Friuli-Venezia Giulia. What is more, the cave system of Monte Corchia is the largest in Tuscany and the 51st largest in the world. A true, hidden wealth, which deserves as much acknowledgement as the treasures on ground level.





Antro del Corchia

Via Nord, 27
Levigliani di Stazzema (LU)

Info

Antro del Corchia
www.antrocorchia.it

www.antrocorchia.it
info@antrocorchia.it

Parco Regionale
delle Alpi Apuane

www.parcapuane.it
info@parcpuane.it

www.versiliainfo.com
www.luccaterre.it

Opening times

Morning and afternoon. A calendar of the opening days can be seen on the web site www.antrocorchia.it; opening on request only on days not marked on the calendar.
Summer: also open at night.

Antro del Corchia

Levigiani di Stazzema (LU)

Cave of Naturalistic Interest
altitude 860 m



The Monte Corchia cave system in the Apuan Alps regional park is the largest cave system in Italy and one of the biggest in Europe. With five million years of geological history behind it, its over 60 km of galleries plunge 1200 m into the earth. Although exploration of the cave, the third deepest in Italy, began in the 1800s, it was only in 2001 that the public at large was able to admire the majestic columns of stalactites and stalagmites, the shields, hardpans and also the underwater formations such as the “cave pearls”. The work to provide access to the cave was carried out so as to respect the subterranean environment, which is extremely sensitive and delicate: by way of an example, the lighting system, consisting of diffused lights dotted along the trail, is regulated so that it only turns on when visitors pass through in order to lessen the effects on the underground world. In addition, there are three monitoring posts to constantly control the microclimate.

Guided tours

In Italian, English, German,
French, Spanish.

Tour routes

2 km, well-lighted and
equipped, 2h
Trail on boardwalks, steps and
natural ground.

Services



The cave has a constant temperature of +7.6°C, therefore we recommend that you bring suitable clothing (jumper, comfortable shoes); rubber-soled shoes and sweaters can be hired.

Useful Information



This tour is not recommended for people who have mobility problems as the route includes around 1800 steps.





The Tour

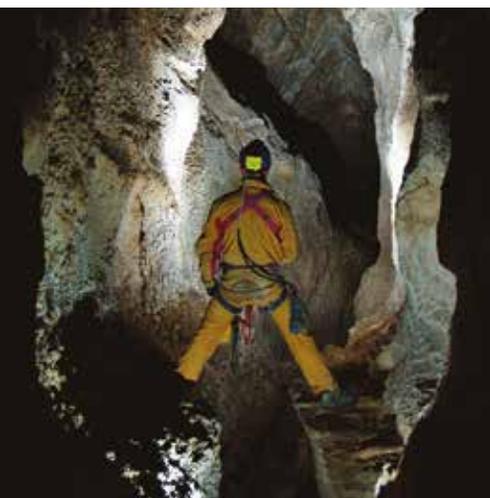


Once you arrive in the village of Levigliani di Stazzema, a shuttle bus will take you to the entrance of the Antro del Corchia, created in an abandoned marble quarry, 860 m above sea level. Then you follow an artificial tunnel for around 170 m until you get to the actual cave entrance. On the right, looking as if it is checking who enters, is the “Gendarme”, a short, cone-shaped stalagmite formation. You pass through the “Galleria Franosa” (landslide gallery), and

come to the “Galleria degli Inglesi” (English gallery). Here you can gaze upon the red, rust, white and brown colours of the formations: it is no coincidence that it was called the “Galleria dipinta” (painted gallery) before being named the “English gallery” in honour of the potholers who discovered it.

The silence of the mountain is broken by a small waterfall that falls from a tall chimney; in the “Galleria del Venerdì” (Friday gallery) an imposing stalactite is shaped like an eagle with its wings spread. We pass by the

shallow waters of the “Laghetto del Venerdì” (Friday lake); and zigzag through the closely-packed fossil formations of the “Foresta Pietrificata” (petrified forest) until we come face to face with the natural marvel of the “Galleria delle Stalattiti” (gallery of stalactites). However beautiful, it is difficult to compare it to other underground milieus: there is a large pillar that looks as if it is trying to hold up the whole vault by itself. From the ceiling, the formations overlap and descend the walls to dive into small pools of water.





Please respect the visiting rules.

How to get there



From Forte dei Marmi: Arni SP 10 road in the direction of Castelnuovo di Garfagnana to Levigliani.

- A12 Genoa-Livorno motorway, Versilia exit; then Arni SP 10 road in the direction of Castelnuovo di Garfagnana to Levigliani.

- From Castelnuovo di Garfagnana: SP 13 road to Levigliani.



15 km from the Seravezza-Querceta-Forte dei Marmi railway station on the Turin-Genoa-Rome line.



Vaubus Clap, Pietrasanta-Castelnuovo di Garfagnana route to Levigliani, 4-5 trips a day. From Levigliani shuttle bus to the entrance of the Antro del Corchia (service included in the ticket price).

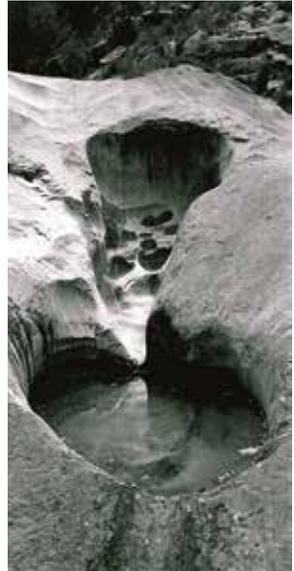
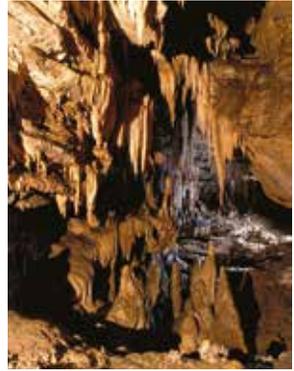
The Surrounding Area

Marmitte dei Giganti (cavities formed by water erosion near the Galleria del Cipollaio), Isola Santa-

Stazzema (LU); the Romanesque parochial church of Santa Maria Assunta, Stazzema (LU); Museo storico della resistenza-Parco nazionale della pace (Museum of the resistance movement—the national park for peace), Sant’Anna di Stazzema (LU); Museo dei bozzetti-sketches museum, Pietrasanta (LU).

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Marmitte dei Giganti



The Pietra Piegata Museum

Levigliani di Stazzema (LU)

Museum

The Pietra Piegata Museum, in the village of Levigliani di Stazzema, in the Apuan Alps, tells the secret its inhabitants know since centuries: “piegare”, which means ingeniously fold the noblest and purest stone of the area, marble. The museum collects proofs of an ultra-millennial civilization that survived thanks to the presence of marble and the ability to work it. Here, in different sections, are collected some relevant examples of stone manufac-



turing: sacred art, coloured marbles of the Apuan Alps, instruments used in medicine and pharmacy and furnishing. On the third floor, a special archaeology section collects pottery finds and other materials found in various tombs dating back the

3rd-2nd century b.C., early before the Roman conquest of the area, which were part of a large cemetery of the Liguri Apuani population.

Museo della Pietra Piegata

Via 4 novembre, 70
Levigliani di Stazzema (LU)

Info

Museo della Pietra Piegata

info@antrocorkhia.it
www.antrocorkhia.it

Parco Regionale
delle Alpi Apuane

www.parcapuane.it
info@parcapuane.it

www.luccaturismo.it
www.luccaterre.it

Opening times

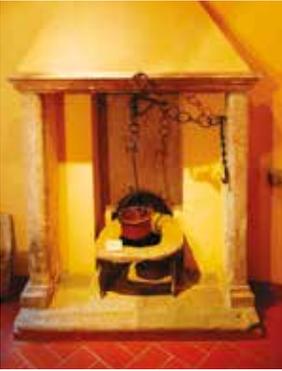
Morning and afternoon. An annual calendar of the opening days can be found on the website www.antrocorkhia.it; opening on request only on days not marked on the calendar.

Guided tours

In Italian, English, German, French, Spanish.

Useful Information





 Please respect the visiting rules.

How to get there

 From Forte dei Marmi: Arni SP 10 road in the direction of Castelnuovo di Garfagnana to Levigliani.

- A12 Genoa-Livorno motorway, Versilia exit; then Arni SP 10 road in the direction of Castelnuovo di Garfagnana to Levigliani.

- From Castelnuovo di Garfagnana: SP 13 road to Levigliani.

 15 km from the Seravezza-Querceta-Forte dei Marmi railway station on the Turin-Genoa-Rome line.

 Vaibus Clap, Pietrasanta-Castelnuovo di Garfagnana route to Levigliani, 4-5 trips per day. From Levigliani shuttle bus to the entrance of the Antro del Corchia (service included in the ticket price).

The surrounding area

Marmitte dei Giganti (cavities formed by water erosion near the Galleria del Cipollaio), Isola



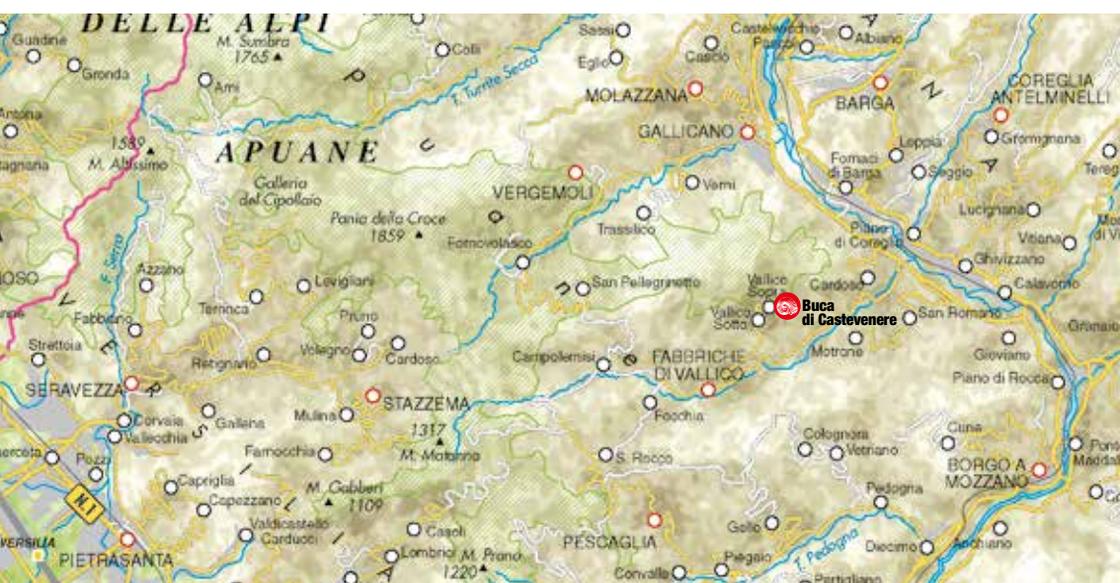
Santa-Stazzema (LU); the Romanesque abbey of Santa Maria Assunta, Stazzema (LU); Museo storico della Resistenza - Parco nazionale della pace Museum of the Resistance movement - the National park for peace of Sant'Anna di Stazzema (LU).

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Buca di Castelvenere

Fabbriche di Vallico-Vallico Sopra

Info

Buca di Castelvenere

garfagnana@tin.it
www.parcapuane.it

www.luccaturismo.it
www.luccaterre.it

Opening times

The Grotta di Castelvenere is not a touristic site but it is nevertheless opened to public, if adequately equipped for speleology. It has a large opening, like a cave, which narrows after 20 metres and then divides in two different directions. It has a horizontal development, slightly uphill, of about 500 metres. It has a perpetual water spring.

Guided tours

Upon reservation, educational activities on the environment and the underground world are organised for schools.

Buca di Castelvenere

Garfagnana (LU)

Cave and sacred place

The Grotta di Castelvenere is on the southeast side of the Monte Penna di Cardoso, in the valley of the Turrîte Cava stream, right tributary of the Serchio river. It is in the municipality of Fabbriche di Vallico and dates back to the Eneolithic period.

The cave is also known with the name “Buca di Castel-tendine”. Several findings, which proved the cave was attended as a sacred place, were collected during an archaeological campaign in the 20th century. Certainly, the holiness of the place was conferred by the stream that flows directly in the cave, believed to have benefits for health and feminine fertility. Among the findings, of Etruscan and Roman period, today collected and exhibited in the National Museum of Villa Guinigi, in Lucca, and in the Archaeological Museum of Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, some Etruscan bronze statuettes are very important.

Tour routes

The trail to the cave, signal CAI 111, starts from Vallico Sopra and continues for 1 h in a slight slope around the Mount Penna. The entrance to the cave is on a narrow plain, reachable with a steep track, with some steps, which needs to be covered carefully.

Services

Possibility of tours with guides of the Apuan Alps Natural Park and environmental guides, upon request for groups.

Useful Information



The cave can be visited only with speleological equipment. Trekking gear is recommended.





How to get there

 From Lucca:
 - SP2 Ludovica for 30 km in the direction of Castelnuovo Garfagnana Turritecava, crossing with Fabbriche di Vallico. SP37 for 7 km until Fabbriche di Vallico, crossing with San Luigi. 5 km on the municipal road until the beginning of the trail CAI 111. 1h walking.



 Nearest train station Fornaci di Barga on the line Lucca-Aulla

 CTTNord bus service (on working days only)

The surrounding area

Watermill of Fabbriche di Vallico
 Monte Matanna
 Alpine pasture of San Luigi Monte Gragno and Monte Palodina
 Canyon Rio Selvano
 Grotta del Vento (Fornovolasco)
 Adventure Park of Battiferro (Fornovolasco)

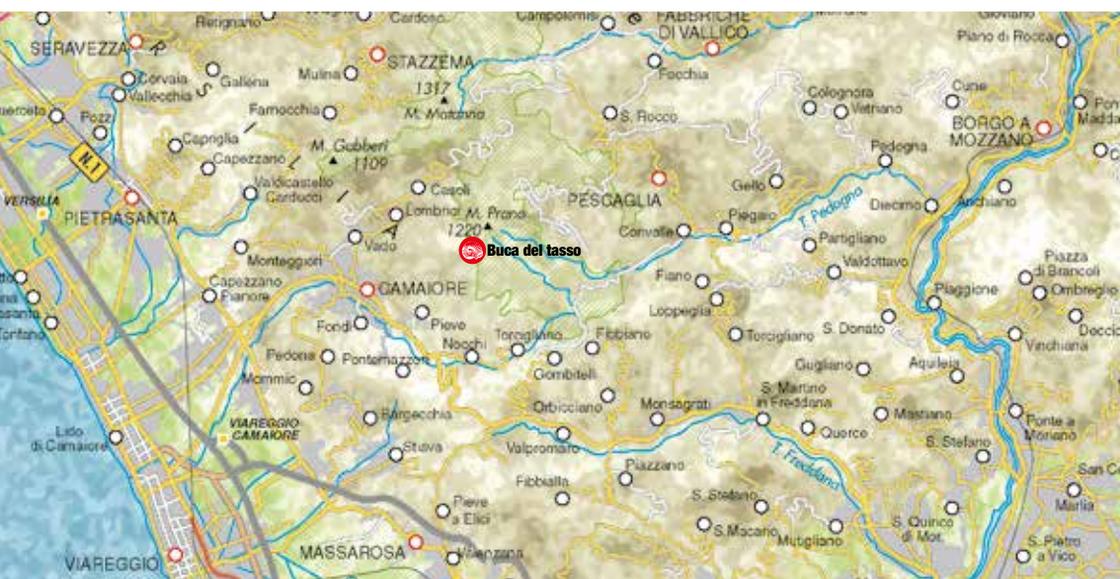
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Buca del Tasso

Metato
Camaiore

Info

Civico Museo Archeologico
di Camaiore

www.comune.camaiore.lu.it
museo@comune.camaiore.lu.it

www.luccaturismo.it

www.luccaterre.it

Opening times

The cave is always accessible, without ticket, because the entrance is directly on the trail.

Buca del Tasso

Metato-Camaione (LU)

Prehistoric cave

Buca del Tasso, in the village of Metato, municipality of Camaione, is a small cave on the left of the Carpigna stream, where were found stone instruments of Palaeolithic period and animal bones, mostly of the cave bear. The most relevant discovery was a child femur of the species *Homo Neanderthalensis*, a really extraordinary result because it is the only Neanderthal bone ever found in Tuscany. The archaeological campaign affirmed that the cave was frequented during the medium Palaeolithic, about 40.000 years ago. Today, the cave is hard to reach. A selection of these materials is in the Museum "A.C. Blanc" in Viareggio, while the cast of the thigh bone (the original is at the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnology of Florence) is shown in the Archaeological Museum of Camaione.

Guided tours

In Italian and English. Guided tours with an archaeologist for school children and groups. Tours have to be booked at the Archaeological Museum of Camaione.

Useful Information



Trekking gear is recommended.



Educational activities are organized for schools.



The cave is an archaeological site. Anyone causing damage to the cave will be punished by the law.

How to get there



From North: A15 Parma-La Spezia motorway, then A12, Viareggio exit; then SP1 in the direction of Camaiole and SC in the direction of Metato. Walk on the trail of Monte Riglione or Pianelle until crossing Rio dei Colli; turn right and take the steep trails to the cave.

Alternatively, A12 motorway, Versilia exit; then SS357 Via Sarzanese until Capezzano Pianore, then SP1 in the direction of Camaiole and SC in the direction of Metato. Walk on the trail of Monte Riglione or Pianelle until crossing Rio dei Colli; turn right

and take the steep trail to the cave.

From South: A11 Firenze - Lucca motorway, then A12, Viareggio exit; then SP1 in the direction of Camaiole and SC in the direction of Metato. Walk on the trail of Monte Riglione or Pianelle until crossing Rio dei Colli; turn right and take the steep trail to the cave.



Train station of Viareggio, Turin-Genoa-Rome line.



Lazzi-Vaubus, Viareggio-Ospedale Versilia-Camaiole-Casoli line; daily service for Camaiole and Casoli.

cheologico (archaeological museum); Museo di Arte Sacra (religious art museum). At Candalla (LU): watermills, olive oil mills and other preindustrial works along the Lombricese stream; the former Barsi ironworks.

The Surrounding Area

At Camaiole (LU): the abbey of San Pietro; the collegiate church of Santa Maria Assunta; the parochial church of Santi Stefano e Giovanni; the Romanesque church of San Michele; Civico Museo Ar-



Monteggiori

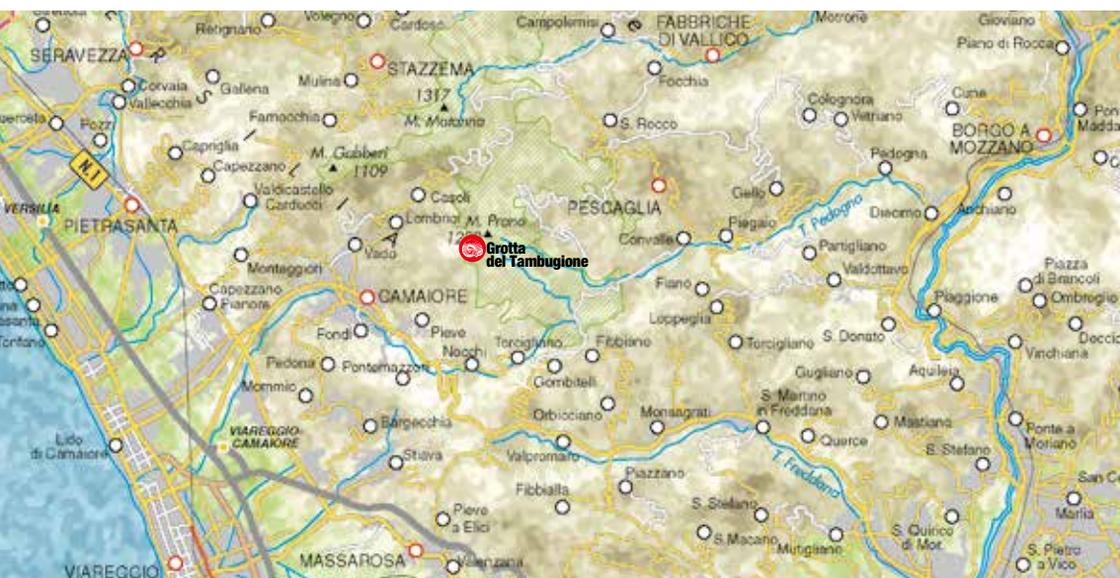
**Next stop
for *Toscana Underground***

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Candalla



Grotta del Tambugione

Metato
Camaiore (LU)

Info

Grotta del Tambugione
Civico Museo Archeologico di Camaiore

www.comune.camaiore.lu.it
museo@comune.camaiore.lu.it
www.luccaturismo.it
www.luccaterre.it

Opening times

The cave is always accessible, without ticket, because the entrance is directly on the trail for Grotta all'Onda. Inside, the floor is almost flat.

Grotta del Tambugione

Metato-Camaione (LU)

Prehistoric cave

The Grotta del Tambugione is an interesting cave on the west slope of Monte Ciurlaglia, above the village of Metato and near the quarry of Schizzolino in the area of the Southern Apuan Alps. Large entrance, 12,50 meters, and depth 24, it has a large hemispherical vault. It was discovered and revealed by the archaeologist Nevio Puccioni in 1915; inside, were found human bones of six different people, 4 adults, a young and a child, together with poor grave goods such as fragments of pottery, some blades and stone arrow points. It can be reached with a trail that crosses the village of Candalla, the waterfall of Taccone, the old village of Casoli and the mine of grey marble of Schizzolino.



Guided tours

In Italian and English. Guided tours with an archaeologist for school children and groups. Tours have to be booked at the Archaeological Museum of Camaione.

Tour routes

About 40 minutes.

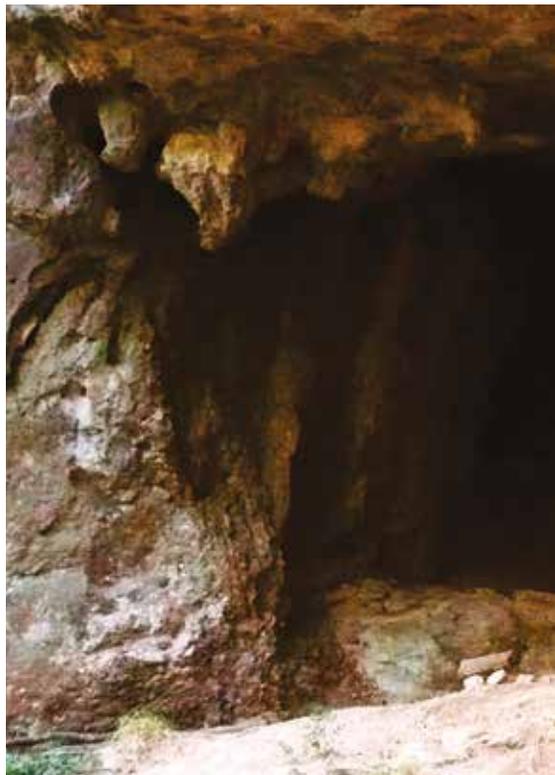
Useful Information



Trekking gear is recommended.



Camaiore



Educational activities are organized for schools.



The cave is an archaeological site. Anyone causing damage to the cave will be punished by the law.

How to get there



From north: A15 Parma-La Spezia motorway, then A12, Viareggio exit then, SP1 in the direction of Camaiore, then SC in the direction of Metato. Walk on the trail to Casoli, Passo della Penna, then turn right following the uphill trail to the cave, after the mine of Schizzolino.

Alternatively, A12 motorway, Versilia exit, then SS357 Via Sarzanese to Capezzano Pianore, then SP1 in the direction of Camaiore, then SC in the direction of Metato. Walk on the trail to Casoli, Passo della Penna, then turn right following the uphill trail to the cave, after the mine of Schizzolino.



Train station of Viareggio, Turin-Genoa-Rome line.



Lazzi-Vaubus, Viareggio-Ospedale Versilia-Camaiore-Casoli line; daily service for Camaiore and Casoli.



The Surrounding Area

At Camaiore (LU): the abbey of San Pietro; the collegiate church of Santa Maria Assunta; the parochial church of Santi Stefano e Giovanni; the Romanesque church of San Michele; Civico Museo Archeologico (archaeological museum); Museo di Arte Sacra (religious art museum). At Candal-la (LU): watermills, olive oil mills and other preindustrial works along the Lombricese stream; the former Barsi ironworks.

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Lido di Camaiore



Grotte della Penna

Camaiore (LU)

Info

Grotte della Penna

Civico Museo Archeologico di Camaiore

www.comune.camaiore.lu.it

museo@comune.camaiore.lu.it

www.luccaturismo.it

www.luccaterre.it

Opening times

The cave is always accessible, without ticket, because the entrance is directly on the trail.

Grotte della Penna

Camaione (LU)

Prehistoric caves

Monte Penna, one of the most famous peaks of Appennino Ligure, is the ideal destination for both summer and winter tours. From the top you can admire the east coast of Liguria and the valleys near Parma. Near Metato, along trails and mule tracks, in an attractive natural environment, there are two small caves, very near. In the right one, with an entrance of 13 meters, were found pottery fragments, two carved calcium pieces and a stone sliver, dating back the Eneolithic; perhaps the cave was a temporary shelter for the prehistoric man, about 5.000 years ago.



Guided tours

In Italian and English. Guided tours with an archaeologist for school children and groups. Tours have to be booked at the Archaeological Museum of Camaione.

Tour routes

About 30 minutes.

Useful Information



Trekking gear is recommended.



Educational activities are organized for schools.



The cave is an archaeological site. Anyone causing damage to the cave will be punished by the law.

How to get there



Form north: A15 Parma-La Spezia motorway, then A12, Viareggio exit, then SP1 in the direction of Camaiore, then SC in the direction of Metato. Walking along the trail from Metato to Casoli until Passo della Penna where the caves are.

Alternatively, A12 Versilia exit, then SS 357 Via Sarzanese to

Capezzano Pianore, then SP 1 in the direction of Camaiore, then SC to Metato. Walking along the trail from Metato to Casoli until Passo della Penna where the caves are.

From South: A11 Firenze-Lucca motorway, then A12, Viareggio exit, then SP1 in the direction of Camaiore, then SC in the direction of Metato. Walking along the trail from Metato to Casoli until Passo della Penna where the caves are.



Train station of Viareggio, Turin-Genoa-Rome line.



Lazzi-Vaubus, Viareggio-Ospedale Versilia-Camaiore-Casoli line; daily service for Camaiore and Casoli.

The Surrounding Area

At Camaiore (LU): the abbey of San Pietro; the collegiate church of Santa Maria Assunta; the parochial church of Santi Stefano e Giovanni; the Romanesque church of San Michele; Civico Museo Archeologico (archaeological museum); Museo di Arte Sacra (religious art museum). At Candalia (LU): watermills, olive oil mills and other preindustrial works along the Lombricese stream; the former Barsi ironworks.



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for *Toscana Underground***

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Roccia dei Pennati

Greppolungo
Camaiore (LU)

Info

Roccia dei Pennati
Civico Museo Archeologico di Camaiore

www.comune.camaiore.lu.it
museo@comune.camaiore.lu.it
www.luccaturismo.it

www.luccaterre.it

Opening times

The cave is always accessible, without ticket, because the entrance is directly on the trail.

Roccia dei Pennati

Greppolungo- Camaione (LU)

Rock engravings

Roccia dei Pennati is about 580 meters above sea level, over the village of Greppolungo and under Monte Gabberi. It is a great calcium rock, found by the Archaeological Group Camaione, slightly raised, manually polished and with 11 billhooks drawn on it. The billhook is a traditional cutting tool, with a short handle, a large blade of about 30/40 cm and a curved end. These ancient instruments, in use since the iron age, maybe related to the god Selvans/Silvanus, were used by the Liguri Apuani people who lived on the mountains around Camaione. The “billhook rocks” are widespread on the Apuan Alps and there are many traces of them.



Guided tours

In Italian and English. Guided tours with an archaeologist for school children and groups. Tours have to be booked at the Archaeological Museum of Camaione.

Tour routes

About 40 minutes.

Useful Information



Trekking gear is recommended.





Educational activities are organized for schools.



The cave is an archaeological site. Anyone causing damage to the cave will be punished by the law.

How to get there



From north: A15 Parma-La Spezia motorway, then A12 Viareggio exit, then SP 1 in the direction of Camaione, then SC to Greppolungo. Walking on the uphill trail to Metato.

Alternatively, A12 Versilia exit, then SS 357 Via Sarzanese to Capezzano Pianore, then SP 1 in the direction of Camaione, then SC to Greppolungo. Walking on the uphill trail to Metato.

From south: A11 Firenze-Lucca motorway, then A12 Viareggio exit, then SP 1 in the direction of Camaione, then SC to Greppolun-

go. Walking on the uphill trail to Metato.



Train station of Viareggio, Turin-Genoa-Rome line.



Lazzi-Vaubus, Viareggio-Ospedale Versilia-Camaione-Casoli line; daily service for Camaione and Casoli.

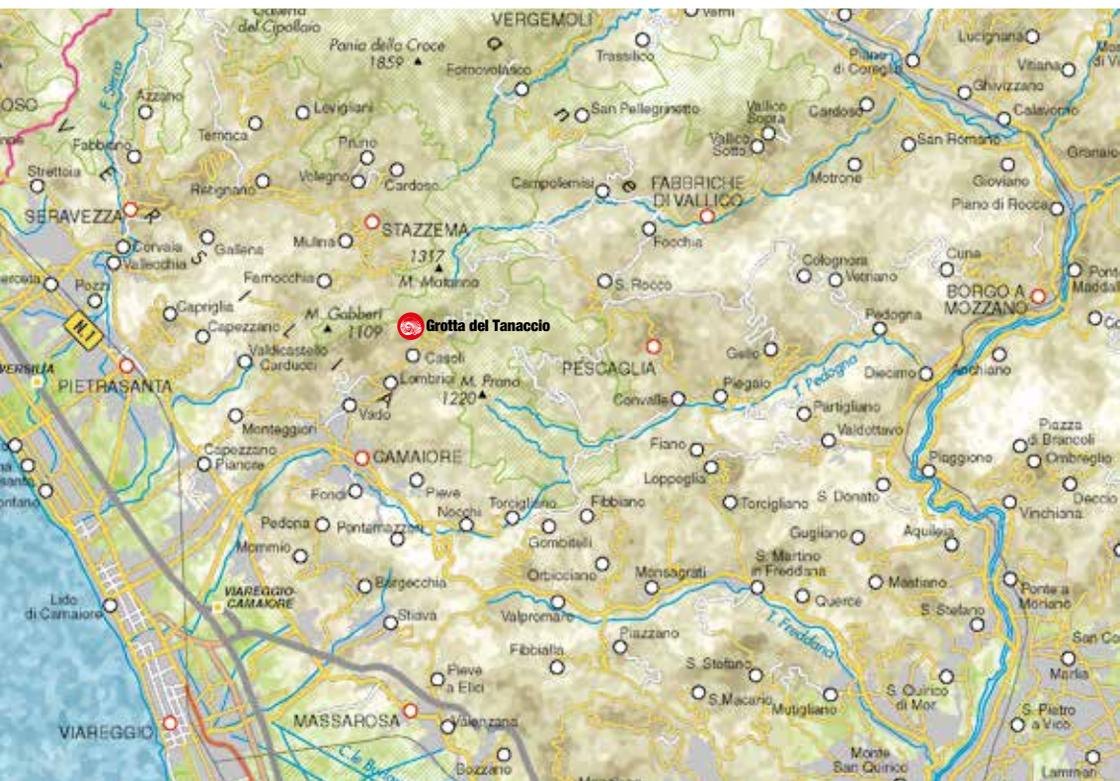
The Surrounding Area

At Camaione (LU): the abbey of San Pietro; the collegiate church of Santa Maria Assunta; the parochial church of Santi Stefano e Giovanni; the Romanesque church of San Michele; Civico Museo Archeologico (archaeological museum); Museo di Arte Sacra (religious art museum). At Candal-la (LU): watermills, olive oil mills and other preindustrial works along the Lombricese stream; the former Barsi ironworks.

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Grotta del Tanaccio

Casoli
Camaiore

Info

Grotta del Tanaccio
Civico Museo Archeologico di Camaiore

www.comune.camaiore.lu.it
museo@comune.camaiore.lu.it
www.luccaturismo.it

www.luccaterre.it

Opening times

The cave is always accessible, without ticket, because the entrance is directly on the trail.

Grotta del Tanaccio

Casoli- Camaione (Lu)

Prehistoric cave

Along the slopes of Monte Gevoli, peak of the southern Apuan Alps in the area of Camaione, on the side of a great rock that looks like a large cliff, there is the Grotta del Tanaccio, with its large entrance. Its main feature is the presence of a great calcium stone developed from stalactite that reminds of a stone throne. In the cave, were found tools and human bones of four different people of the Eneolithic; two were children. The cave can be reached by several trails from Camaione.



Guided tours

In Italian and English. Guided tours with an archaeologist for school children and groups. Tours have to be booked at the Archaeological Museum of Camaione.

Tour routes

About 1 h.

Useful Information



Trekking gear is recommended.



Educational activities are organized for schools.



The cave is an archaeological site. Anyone causing damage to the cave will be punished by the law.

How to get there



From north: A15 Parma-La Spezia motorway, then A12 Viareggio exit, then SP 1 in the direction of Camaiore, then SC in the direction of Casoli Tre Scogli. Walking on the trail to Foce di San Rocchino and Monte Gabberi; before the little church of San Rocchino turn left and follow the trail to the cave.

Alternatively, A12 Versilia exit, then SS 357 Via Sarzanese to Capezzano Pianore then SP 1 in the direction of Camaiore, then SC in the direction of Casoli Tre Scogli. Walking on the trail to Foce di San Rocchino and Monte Gabberi; before the little church of San Rocchino turn left and follow the trail to the cave.



Train station of Viareggio, Turin-Genoa-Rome line.



Lazzi-Vaubus, Viareggio-Ospedale Versilia-Camaiore-Casoli line; daily service for Camaiore and Casoli.



The Surrounding Area

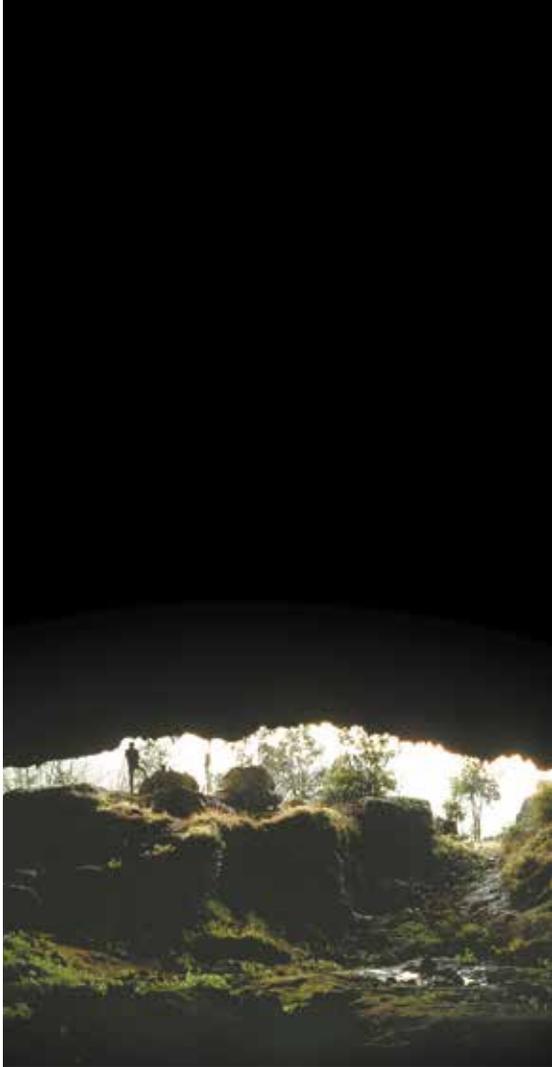
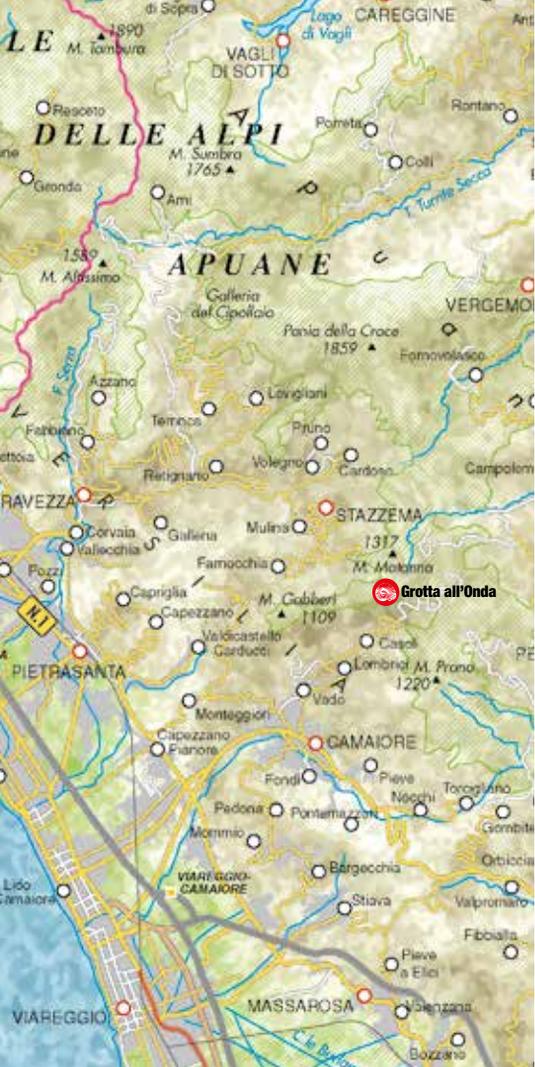
At Camaiore (LU): the abbey of San Pietro; the collegiate church of Santa Maria Assunta; the parochial church of Santi Stefano

e Giovanni; the Romanesque church of San Michele; Civico Museo Archeologico (archaeological museum); Museo di Arte Sacra (religious art museum). At Candalaria (LU): watermills, olive oil mills

and other preindustrial works along the Lombricese stream; the former Barsi ironworks.

Next stop for *Toscana Underground*

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The Apuan Alps Archaeology and Mining Structure	112



Grotta all'Onda

Casoli - Camaione (LU)

Info

Civico Museo Archeologico di Camaione

www.comune.camaione.lu.it

museo@comune.camaione.lu.it

www.luccaturismo.it

Opening times

The cave is always accessible, without ticket, because the entrance is directly on the trail.

Grotta all'Onda

Casoli - Camaiore (LU)

Cave of Naturalistic and Prehistoric Interest
altitude 708 m

After around one hour's walk along an easy CAI marked path through the oak woods of Monte Matanna, you will be able to make out the natural sound of small waterfalls trickling down the outside walls of the Grotta all'Onda: a prehistoric cave, measuring around 40x60 m, an ancient shelter for man, and today a subject of scientific research. The first inhabitants of the cave were the Neanderthals (*Ho-*

mo neanderthalensis) who left behind their flintstone hunting tools and the bones of their catches; it was used as a seasonal dwelling by *Homo sapiens*, while the farmers and shepherds of the Neolithic period and the Copper Age stayed here for long periods.

The cave structure is also interesting in geological terms, as it shows evidence of the most significant sedimentological and palaeoclimatic events starting from

about 170.000 years ago. Grotta all'Onda is not the only prehistoric dwelling that you come across in the area of the Lombricese stream: there are also others, such as the Bronze Age shelters, a medieval site and numerous works from the pre-industrial age. Currently there is work underway to make these sites into an archaeological and natural park.



Guided tours

In Italian and English. Guided tours with two guides, a naturalist and an archaeologist, for school children and groups. Guided tours for the blind. Visits should be booked at the Civico Museo Archeologico (archaeology museum) in Camaiore.

Services



Useful Information



Trekking gear is recommended.



The Lombricese stream in the valley



Educational activities are organised for schools.



The cave is an archaeological site. Anyone causing damage to the cave will be punished by the law.



How to get there



From the north: A15 Parma-La Spezia motorway, continue on the A12 motorway and exit at Viareggio, then take the SP 1 road in the direction of Camaione, and the SC road in the direction of Casoli until you reach Tre Scolli. From here, follow the CAI marked route no. 2/112 to Grotta all'Onda. Alternatively, exit the A12 motorway at Versilia and take the SS 357 Via Sarzanese road to Capeziano Pianore. Then take the SP 1 road in the direction of Camaione, and the SC road in the direction of Casoli until you reach Tre Scolli. From here, follow the CAI marked route no. 2/112 to Grotta all'Onda.

- From the south: A11 Florence-Lucca motorway, continue on the A12 motorway and exit at Viareggio. Then take the SP 1 road in the direction of Camaione, and the SC road in the direction of Casoli until you reach Tre Scolli.

From here, follow the CAI marked route no. 2/112 to Grotta all'Onda.



Viareggio railway station, Turin-Genoa-Rome line.



Lazzi-Vaubus, Viareggio-Ospedale Versilia-Camaione-Casoli route; 39 trips a day for Camaione, 9 for Casoli and 2 for Tre Scolli.

The Surrounding Area

At Camaione (LU): the abbey of San Pietro; the collegiate church of Santa Maria Assunta; the parochial church of Santi Stefano e Giovanni; the Romanesque church of San Michele; Civico Museo Archeologico (archaeological museum); Museo di Arte Sacra (religious art museum).

At Candalla (LU): watermills, olive oil mills and other preindustrial works along the Lombricese stream; the former Barsi iron-works.

Next stop for *Toscana Underground*

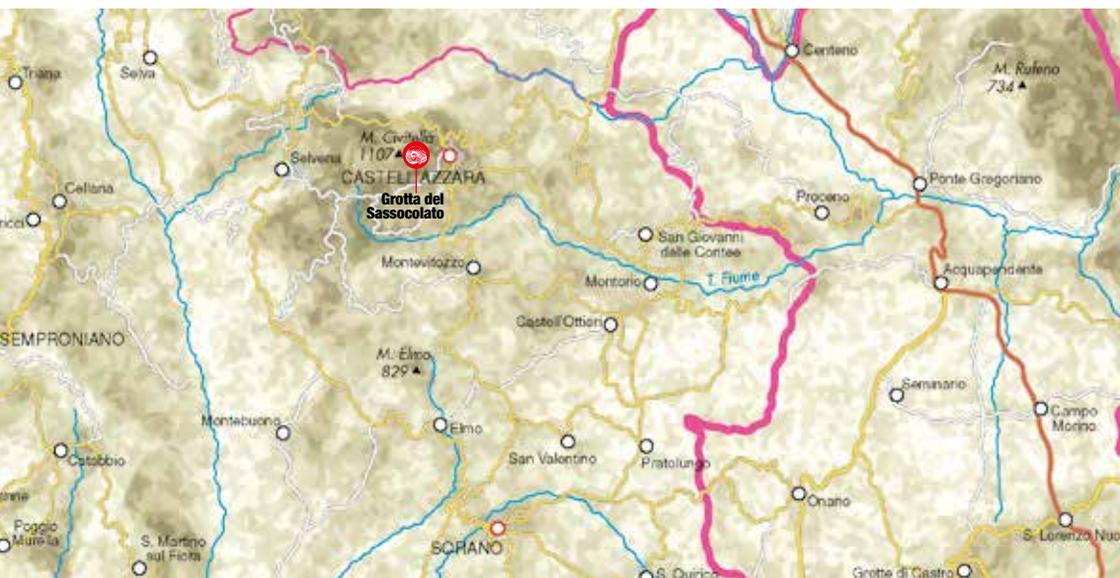
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**Mill along the
Lombricese
stream**





Grotta del Sassocolato

Castell'Azzara (GR)

Info

Comune di Castell'Azzara

Unione dei Comuni Montani
Amiata Grossetana

www.museidimaremma.it
www.cm-amiata.gr.it
www.castellazzaraonline.it

Opening times

From 10th April to 10th November. Also open for special events.

Guided tours

In Italian and English.

Tour routes

There are two trails:
Route 1: 45 min, easy;
Route 2: 3 h, difficult.

Grotta del Sassocolato

Castell'Azzara (GR)

Cave of Naturalistic Interest

altitude 900 m

From the village of Castell'Azzara, follow the signs up towards Poggio delle Forche, a rocky spur clearly visible from the village; after walking around one kilometre, you will get to Grotta del Sassocolato, named after the numerous beautiful formations that descend the inside walls of the cave. It is a natural cavity of tectonic, marine and karstic origin. While the cave is mainly straight, in some places the level falls and rises significantly; to aid visitors, there are steps in these points. When you visit the cave you can learn something more about the underground world and, above all, some of its inhabitants. One of the features of the cave is the presence of a large colony of different species of bats which number 2000/2500 specimens in the summer. The cave has special personnel to look after the site, who also have the important task of preserving these creatures.



In order not to disturb the underground wildlife, groups of visitors are limited to 15 people. The cave can be visited with qualified guides. The tour can also be linked to excursions to other caves, mining galleries and Etruscan tombs. Telephone for information and booking.

Services



Useful Information



Trekking gear and potholing equipment is recommended.



Educational activities on the environment and the underground world are organised for schools.



Please do not crowd the passageways or talk in a loud voice.



Please respect the visiting rules.



How to get there



Cassia SS 2 road, at Ponte a Rigo take the turn off for Castell'Azzara; from Castell'Azzara,

follow the convenient asphalted road (500 m).

- From the Tyrrhenian coast: follow Pitigliano-Sorano-Castell'Azzara or Grosseto-Arcidosso-S. Fiora-Castell'Azzara; at Castell'Azzara, follow the convenient asphalted road (500 m).

- From the north: A1 motorway, Chiusi exit.

- From the south: A1 motorway, Orvieto exit.



45 km from the Chiusi-Chianciano railway station, Florence-Rome line.

45 km from Orvieto railway station.



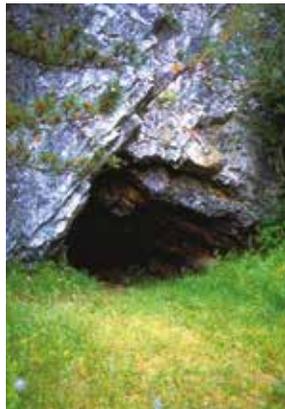
RAMA Grosseto bus service, Grosseto-Arcidosso-Castell'Azzara route (it joins the Florence-Grosseto route and the Siena-Abbadia San Salvatore-Piancastagnaio route), 2 trips per day.

- RAMA Grosseto bus service, Castell'Azzara-Pitigliano-Orbetello line or Castell'Azzara-Acquapendente (Viterbo) route, 1 trip per day.

The Surrounding Area

Villa La Sforzesca, Castell'Azzara (GR); Parco Museo delle Acque

Castell'Azzara

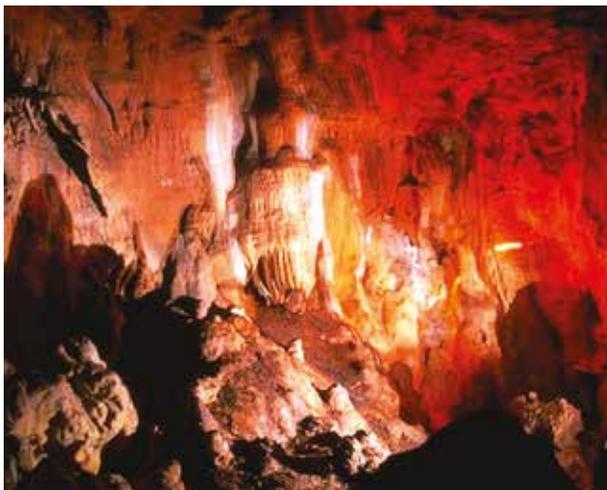




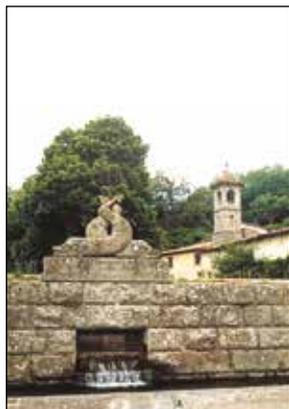
(water park/museum), Santa Fiora (GR); Museo delle Miniere di mercurio del Monte Amiata (Monte Amiata mercury mines museum), Santa Fiora (GR); Parco faunistico dell'Amiata (Amiata animal park), Arcidosso (GR).

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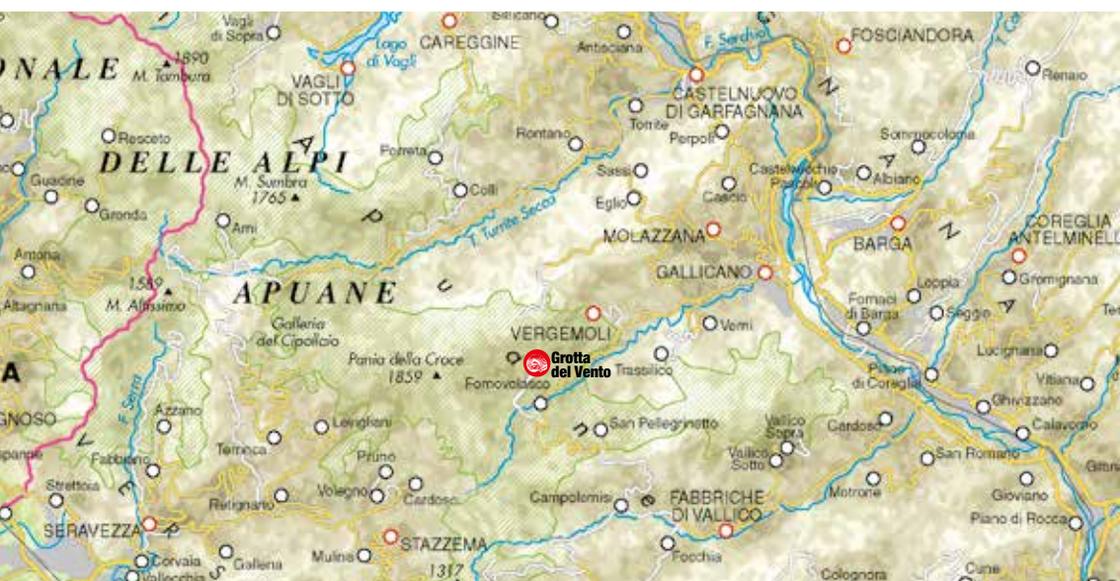


Santa Fiora



Panorama of Monte Amiata





Grotta del Vento

Loc. Grotta del Vento Vergemoli (LU)

Info

Grotta del Vento

info@grottadelvento.com

www.grottadelvento.com

Parco Regionale delle Alpi Apuane

www.parcapuane.it • info@parcapuane.it

Ufficio informazioni di Ghivizzano (LU)

Opening times

Every Sunday and all public holidays, week days from 1st April to 1st November and from 26th December to 6th January:

Route 1: 10.00 am, 11.00 am, 12.00 pm, 2.00 pm, 3.00 pm, 4.00 pm, 5.00 pm, 6.00 pm;

Route 2: 11.00 am, 3.00 pm, 4.00 pm, 5.00 pm;

Route 3: 10.00 am, 2.00 pm.

Weekdays from 7th January to 31st March, from 2nd November to 24th December:

Route 1 only:

10.00 am, 11.00 am, 12.00 pm, 2.00 pm, 3.00 pm, 4.00 pm, 5.00 pm, 6.00 pm.

Grotta del Vento

Loc. Grotta del Vento
Fornovolasco-Vergemoli (LU)

Cave of Naturalistic Interest
altitude 642 m



Grotta del Vento is situated in the province of Lucca, in one of the wildest parts of the Apuan Alps regional park.

The origin of its name, meaning the windy cave, is self-evident: the cave takes its name from the strong air currents that flow through it caused by the difference between the outside and inside temperatures (there is a constant inside temperature of +10.7 °C).

People have known of this

current since the 17th century, as the cave was used to keep food cool. Instead, exploration and systematic study of the cave dates from the beginning of the 20th century.

The cave was opened to the public in 1966. Painstaking efforts have always been made to look for solutions that can keep the extremely delicate microclimatic, meteorological and biological balances unaltered: for example, the lighting is

switched on by sensors only when visitors are present. These efforts have gained their just reward: the quality of the environment has been certified by the French association of tourist caves (ANECAT) and inserted in the “four star” category.

Guided tours

In Italian and English (all year);
German (from April to October);
French and Spanish (in summer)

Tour routes

There are three easy trails:

Route 1: 1h, 700 m.

Route 2: 2h, 1500 m.

Route 3: 3h, 2200 m.

Services



Useful Information



Photography is allowed during breaks in the tour; however, when there are a lot of visitors, photography is not allowed. Use of tripods is banned. Disabled persons in wheelchairs can access the first 100 metres.

For logistical and safety reasons, access is only permitted when there are few visitors and disabled visitors can be accompanied.

Handicapped persons who do not use a wheelchair can access the whole of the first route.

The cave has a constant temperature of +10.7°C, therefore we recommend that you bring suitable clothing (jumper, rubber-soled, sports shoes).



Vetricia plateau



Calomini hermitage



Le Panie



The Tour

The brilliance of the bright formations, the beauty and shades of the colours and the extraordinary variety of morphological features make the Grotta del Vento a marvellous natural encyclopaedia of the subterranean world. You go through siphons, galleries smoothed by water, chambers adorned with “spaghetti” hanging from the roof, alongside streams and lakes; you admire millenary stalagmites and stalactites until you reach a shaft of around 90 metres in the innermost part.

There are three trails to visit the cave, exploring three quite different parts; the third, and most complete, is the longest trail in Italy.

The first and flattest route goes through a series of entrancing chambers with

an extraordinary abundance of multi-coloured limestone formations (stalactites, stalagmites, columns and shields). After going up a steep flight of steps you get to the edge of the 50-metre-deep “Baratro dei Giganti” (Giants’ Chasm), where the second route starts.

You go down into the “Sala delle Voci” (Chamber of Voices), where the echoes create disturbing acoustic illusions, to carry on towards the “Salone dell’Acheronte” (Hall of Acheron), where three small waterways form a reasonably-sized underground river which foams and rushes through the hall during periods of heavy rainfall. On the way back, you follow a gallery carpeted with small grey formations of hardened silt, reminiscent of extensive fir woods.

The third route adds a visit to an area rich in the pur-

est of limestone formations, many of which are generated by splashes and drops of water falling on the stalagmites. The path climbs along the vertical walls of an imposing shaft almost 90 metres high, which contains a mighty waterfall during flooding till it comes to an extremely narrow subterranean canyon.



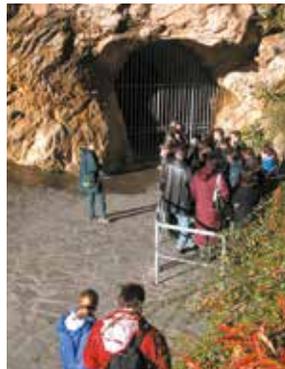
Ponte del Diavolo



Monte Forato



Grotta del Vento entrance



 There are two open-air teaching routes, one on how the mineral forms were used in the past, and the other on resurgences. Teachers are given photographic materials and detailed descriptions. At the entrance there is a permanent mineral and fossil exhibition.

 Please respect the visiting rules.

How to get there

 From Lucca: SS 12 road to Ponte a Moriano, then follow the road to Borgo a Mozzano-Galliciano, from here take the turning for Fornovolasco-Grotta del Vento.

- From Florence: A11 motorway, Altopascio exit; from here follow the signs for Porcari-Marlia to Ponte a Moriano, then follow the road to Borgo a Mozzano-Galliciano, from here take the turning for Fornovolasco-Grotta del Vento.

- From Forte dei Marmi: SP 13 road to Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, then follow the road to Galliano, from here take the turning for Fornovolasco-Grotta del Vento.

- From Milan: A1 motorway to

the Parma junction, then take the A15 motorway until just before La Spezia, follow the A12 motorway until the A11 motorway junction, exit the A11 at Lucca est; then take the SS 12 road to Ponte a Moriano, then follow the road to Borgo a Mozzano-Galliciano, from here take the turning for Fornovolasco-Grotta del Vento.

- From Reggio Emilia: SS 63 road to Castelnuovo ne' Monti, then follow the signs to Ligonchio-Passo Pradarena-Piazza al Serchio-Castelnuovo di Garfagnana-Galliciano, from here take the turning for Fornovolasco-Grotta del Vento.

- From Genoa: A12 motorway, Viareggio-Camaione junction and continue on the A11 motorway, Lucca est exit; then take the SS 12 road to Ponte a Moriano, then follow the road to Borgo a Mozzano-Galliciano, from here take the turning for Fornovolasco-Grotta del Vento.

 14 km from the Barga-Galliciano railway station, Lucca-Aulla line.

 There is no public transport that reaches the Grotta del Vento. At the Grotta del Vento it is possible to book:

- a car or minibus service, leaving from the Barga-Galliciano station at 9.15 am and returning at 2.00 pm (+€ 5.00 per person);

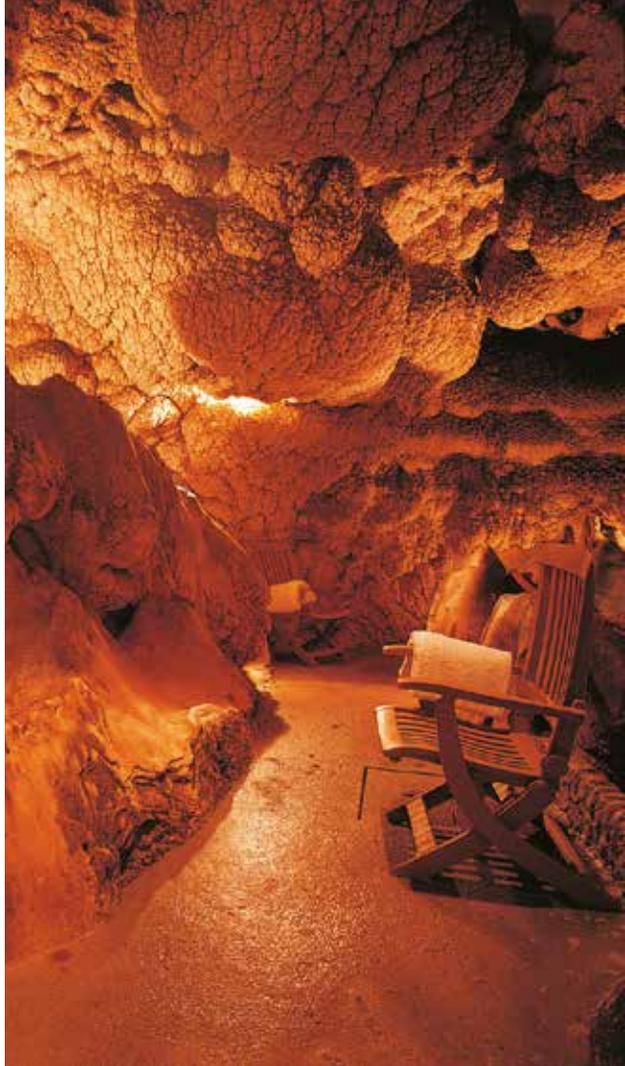
- a shuttle service reserved to groups of more than 20 people (+€ 4.50 per person).

The Surrounding Area

Apuan Alps: Monte Forato, Massiccio delle Panie, Vetricia plateau; Calomini hermitage, Vergemoli (LU); picturesque area of San Pellegrinetto, Vergemoli (LU); Ponte del Diavolo medieval bridge in Borgo a Mozzano (LU).

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Grotta Giusti

Via Grotta Giusti, 1411
Monsummano Terme (PT)

Info

Grotta Giusti Natural Spa Resort

www.grottagiustispa.com
info@grottagiustispa.com

Opening times

Open mornings and afternoons all year round.

Grotta Giusti

Monsummano Terme (PT)

Cave with Therapy Facilities

Grotta Giusti formed thousands of years ago in the calm of the age-old park at Monsummano Terme. The third largest cave in Europe, it is so enchanting that the composer Giuseppe Verdi defined it “the eighth wonder of the world”. However, its beauty is not the only reason for guests to dedicate part of their time to it. Its three caverns form a real and proper natural Turkish bath – the temperature ranges from 24 °C in the Paradiso cavern, passing through Purgatorio to reach 34 °C in the Inferno cavern. The warm damp vapours, rich in mineral salts, favour a process of purification and detoxication which allows you to regain your psychological and physical balance, as well as giving you an immediate sensation of well-being.

Inside the complex you can find an outdoor therapeutic spa pool (+35 °C) with a waterfall and hydromassage (open all year), a well-being centre, spa centre (mud therapy, ozonising baths, inhalation cures, hydromassage).



Services

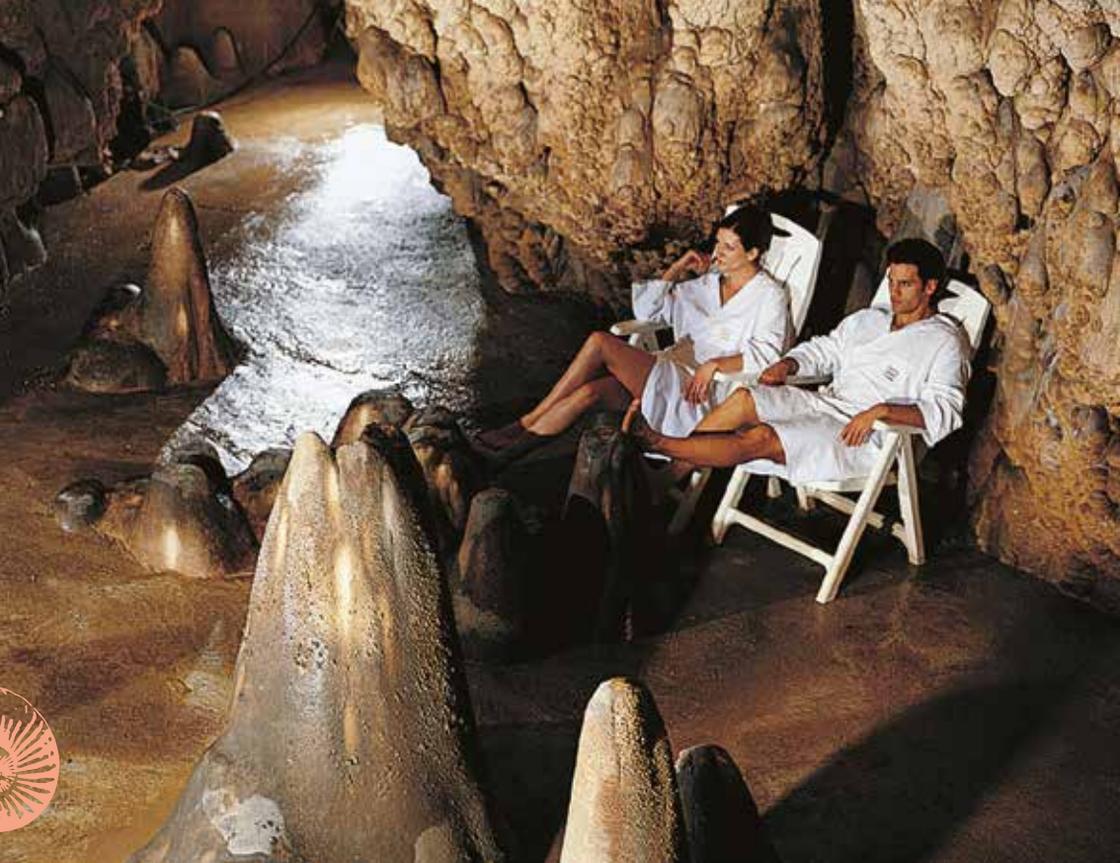


Useful Information



The air temperature ranges from +24° to +34 °C.

Guests have a changing room at their disposal; the tunic, dressing gown and flip-flops are provided by Grotta Giusti.



⚠ Entrance is only permitted to those using the spa facilities. Medical contraindications.

How to get there

🚗 A11 motorway, Montecatini Terme exit; follow the signs for Monsummano Terme and then for the Grotta Giusti Terme Hotel (2 km from Monsummano Terme).

🚆 4.4 km from the Montecatini-Monsummano railway station, Florence-Pisa line.

🚌 Lazzi bus service, Montecatini-Monsummano Terme route.
- From Montecatini Terme: shuttle bus service for Grotta Giusti

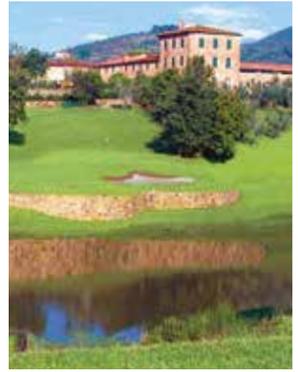
guests (booking required). In the high season, 4 return trips per day.

The Surrounding Area

Museo della Città e del Territorio, town and territory museum in Monsummano Terme (documents on the discovery and benefits of the cave); Museo Leonardo da Vinci, Vinci (FI); Parco di Collodi, Pinocchio theme park and the Villa Garzoni gardens in Collodi-Pescia (PT); Padule di Fucecchio (FI).

Next stop for *Toscana Underground*

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Grotta Maona	58
Grotte di Bagni Caldi	60



Vinci



Padule di Fucecchio



Grotta Maona

Via Maona, 23
Montecatini Terme (PT)

Info

Grotta Maona

www.grottamaona.it
info@grottamaona.it
www.comune.montecatini-terme.pt.it
www.grotte.toscana.it

Opening times

From 1st April to 15th October:
9.00 am–12.00 pm; 3.00 pm–6.00 pm.

Guided tours

In Italian and English.

Tour route

There is an easy trail: 20 min.

Services



Useful Information



The cave cannot be accessed by wheelchair users or with pushchairs.

The cave has a constant temperature of +15°C, therefore we recommend that you bring suitable clothing (rubber-soled shoes, jumper, waterproof jacket).

Grotta Maona

Montecatini Terme (PT)

Cave of Naturalistic Interest

Giardini
di Villa
Garzoni
a Collodi



Grotta Maona is worth a stop-off on the road that leads from Montecatini Terme to the original old centre of the town, Montecatini Alto. Indeed, this millenary natural cave is the only one in Italy with two wells: from the entrance well you go down into the 20 m deep, 200 m long cavity, and, after going through galleries with an atmosphere similar to Dante's *Inferno*, where nature and the trickling water have patiently designed cascades of stalactites and forests of stalagmites, you come back up into the sunlight from the second well, so you do not have to retrace your footsteps.



Please respect the visiting rules.

How to get there



A11 motorway, Montecatini Terme exit; follow the signs for Montecatini Terme and then for Montecatini Alto.



Montecatini Terme railway station.



From Florence: Lazzi bus service, direct route to Montecatini Terme.

- From Montecatini Terme: Montecatini Alto bus, trips once an hour, everyday.

The Surrounding Area

Museo Leonardo da Vinci, Vinci (FI); Parco di Collodi, Pinocchio theme park and the Villa Garzoni gardens in Collodi, Pescia (PT); Montecatini spas.

Next stop for *Toscana Underground*

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Grotte di Bagni Caldi
Piazza San Martino, 11
Bagni di Lucca (LU)

Info
Bagni di Lucca Terme J.V. & Hotel

www.termebagnidilucca.it
terme@termebagnidilucca.it

Grotte di Bagni Caldi

Bagni di Lucca (LU)

Cave with Therapy Facilities

altitude 150 m

Bagni Caldi is an old village with a long spa tradition: it was frequented and loved by famous figures such as Lord Byron, Eugenio Montale and Henry James. Here, among woods of fir and chestnut trees, there are two natural steam caves, Grotta Grande and Grotta Paolina, named after Napoleon's sister. Grotta Paolina is the smaller of the two, but also the most charming. As the internal temperature of the cave changes from one part of the body to another – it is warmer at torso level and lower at the extremities – people with circulation problems can benefit from the positive effects of the waters without tiring their legs. The waters in the cave contain sulphur, bicarbonate and calcium and are indicated for curing a great deal of disorders, especially problems caused by rheumatism and stress.



Opening times

From March to January: mornings only.

Also open in the afternoons during summer and for public holiday and festivity weekends.

Services



Useful Information



The water temperature is +54 °C, and the air temperature +38°/+45 °C.

Medical assistance inside the spa centre.

Barga



⚠ Entrance is only permitted to those using the spa facilities.

How to get there

 From Lucca: Brennero SS 12 road in the direction of Abetone; in Ponte a Serraglio, 24 km from Bagni di Lucca, take the road for the Bagni di Lucca spas.

- From Florence: A11 Firenze-Mare motorway, Lucca exit, then Brennero SS 12 road in the direction of Abetone; in Ponte a Serraglio, 24 km from Bagni di Lucca, take the road for the Bagni di Lucca spas.

- From Milan: A1 motorway to Parma, then the A12 La Spezia-Livorno motorway, at Viareggio take the link road for Lucca, Lucca exit, then Brennero SS 12 road in the direction of Abetone; in Ponte a Serraglio, 24 km from Bagni di Lucca, take the road for the Bagni di Lucca spas.

 3.5 km from the Bagni di Lucca-Fornoli rail-

way station, Pisa-Lucca-Aulla line.

 Vaibus, Lucca-Bagni di Lucca-Abetone route, 4 trips per day, bus stop 500 m away.

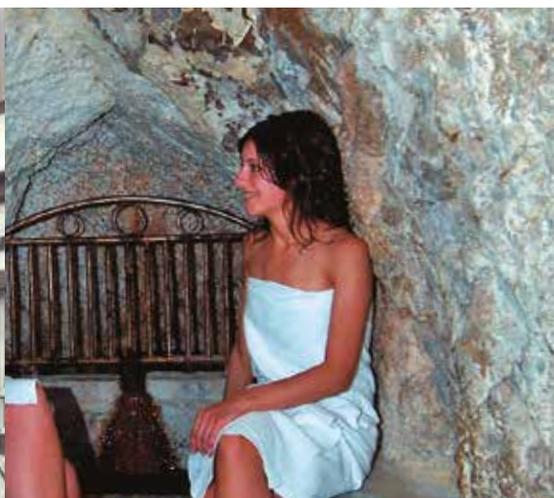
The Surrounding Area

Museo Casa Pascoli, museum dedicated to the poet Pascoli, Castelvecchio Pascoli-Barga (LU).

A few minutes away from Lucca you can find elegant, aristocratic villas: Villa Torrigiani Santini, Villa Reale di Marlia, Villa Mansi, Villa Bernardini, Villa Grabau and Villa Oliva.

Next stop for *Toscana Underground*

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Museo Casa Pascoli, Castelvecchio Pascoli

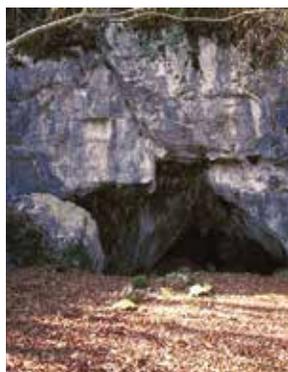


Villa Torrigiani Santini



Villa Oliva





**Parco Archeologico
Naturalistico di Belverde**
Strada della Montagna
Belverde - Cetona (SI)

Info
Museo Civico
per la Preistoria del Monte
Cetona

museo@comune.cetona.siena.it
www.comune.cetona.siena.it
www.terredisiena.it

Opening times
From July to September: 9.00
am-1.00 pm and 4.00 pm-7.00
pm (closed on Mondays).
From October to June: upon res-
ervation only, for groups of 10
people or more.

Guided tours
In Italian, English, German,
French, Spanish, Dutch.

The Belverde Archaeology and Nature Park

Belverde - Cetona (SI)

Cave of Naturalistic and Prehistoric Interest
altitude 550-600 m

Not far from the village of Cetona, you can visit the Belverde archaeological and nature park. Here you can unite the pleasure of finding out about history and archaeology with immersing yourself in a practically uncontaminated landscape of tall ilex woods. An oasis that you can enjoy on foot, with the help of a guide, through corridors, halls, underground passages and swallow holes – all well equipped and illuminated by a light-activated electrical system. The cavities have formed in the blocks of travertine over thousands of years, and when you explore them, you really do take a step back into the past. Some of them were chosen as burial grounds and religious sites as archaeological research, which started in the first half of the 1900s and still goes on today, has shown. For example, there is evidence that Grotta Lattaia was used for religious purposes as votive objects from the Hellenistic period have been found here – reproductions of babies in swaddling clothes, pottery shaped like breasts, miniature vases and



Tour routes

There are two easy trails:
Route 1: 50 min, 800 m
(Antro della Noce-Antro del Poggetto-Grotta di S. Francesco-amphitheatre-observatory-Riparo del Capriolo-the S. Maria in Belverde settlement);
Route 2: 2h, 1600 m (Service centre-observatory-Muraglione-Riparo dei Carpini Riparo del Capriolo, continues as Route 1).

Services



Useful Information



We recommend that you wear suitable clothing (comfortable, sports shoes).



bronze coins. The belief that if mothers drank the water that drips from the walls while breastfeeding then its magical power would help them produce more milk was still alive in the 1930s. Instead, Grotta di San Francesco, the largest cave on the site, is named after Saint Francis, who is said to have stayed here.

You can go through three connected cavities on the path that leads to the Franciscan hermitage of Santa Maria: Antro della Noce, Antro del Poggetto and Tombetta della Strada; ancient traces of human presence have also been found here. Also linked to the park is the prehistory museum, the Museo Civico per la Preistoria del Monte Cetona, which documents the different phases of human settlements in the territory, from the Palaeolithic Age to the end of the Bronze Age.

Chianciano



 Please respect the visiting rules.

How to get there

 A1 Florence-Rome motorway, Chiusi exit; continue on the SS road until Cetona, then the SP road until you reach the Service Centre, then the SC road (not asphalted) until the caves.

 7 km from the Chiusi-Chianciano Terme railway station, Florence-Rome line.

 La Ferroviaria Italiana (Lfi) bus service until Cetona, Chiusi-Cetona route.

The Surrounding Area

Museo Civico Archeologico, archaeological museum, Chianciano Terme (SI); Museo Civico Archeologico, archaeological museum, Sarteano (SI); spa facilities at Chianciano Terme, Montepulciano and San Casciano Bagni (SI); Castelluccio di Pienza (SI).

Sarteano, Etruscan Tomb of the Infernal Quadriga



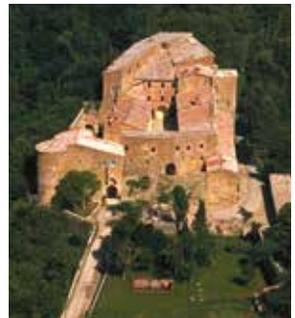
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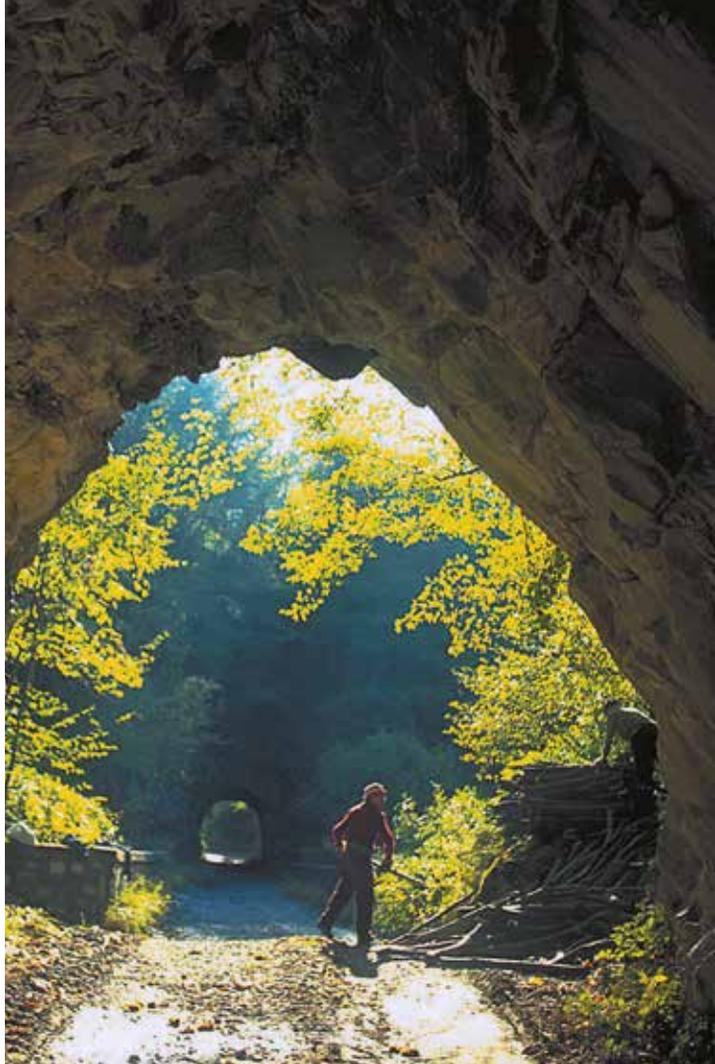
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Winged Goddess, Chianciano Terme archaeological museum

Castelluccio di Pienza





**Parco Culturale
delle Grotte di Equi**
Equi Terme - Fivizzano (MS)

Info
www.grottediequi.it
Centro servizi turistici del
Comune di Fivizzano

www.comune.fivizzano.ms.it
info@comune.fivizzano.ms.it

- Parco Regionale delle Alpi
Apuane

www.parcapuane.it
info@parcapuane.it

Opening times

From July to September: Saturday
and Sunday 10.30 am-7.00 pm;
from Monday to Friday 10.30 am-
12.30 pm and 2.30 pm-7.00 pm.
Open at night on the days around
15th August.

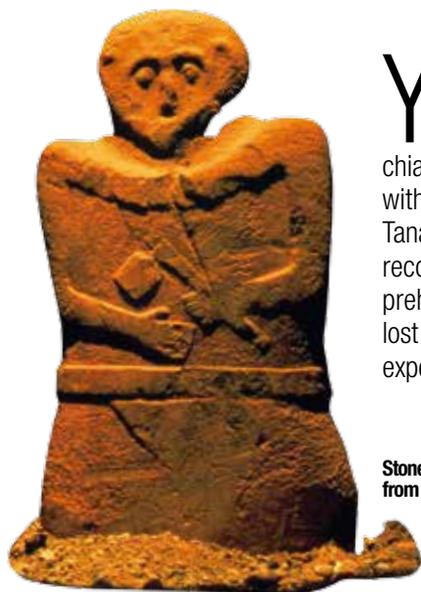
The caves are open in May and
June, but we recommend that
you phone the Comune di Fiviz-
zano tourist office for information
on opening times.

The caves can be visited from
October to April, but only upon
reservation.

The Grotte di Equi Cultural Park

Equi Terme - Fivizzano (MS)

Caves of Natural and Prehistoric Interest
altitude 262 m



Stone stele/statue
from the Lunigiana area

You arrive at the Equi caves from Equi Terme, an old spa village in the Apuan Alps. Inside the park, you can enter one of the three cavities - la Buca, le Grotte or la Tecchia; or follow the Solco di Equi trail along a natural canyon with insect-eating plants, to find a small burial cave called Tana della Volpe, or the fox's den; or step back in time in the reconstruction, inside the archaeological park, of everyday prehistoric life and find out what life was like for our long-lost forefathers; in addition, it is also possible to take part in experimental archaeological activities.

Tour routes

There are three easy trails:
Route 1 "Buca": 20-25 min, 500 m;
Route 2 "Grotte": 45-50 min, 1300 m;
Route 3 "Tecchia": opening soon.

Guided tours

In Italian, English, German, French and Dutch.

For school children and reserved parties only: guided tour of the cave museum too.

Useful Information



We recommend that you wear suitable clothing (comfortable, sports shoes).

Services





Buca and Grotte di Equi

The itinerary starts at the Buca or hole, which was already known in the 1700s. The path leads up to a terrace overlooking a vertical drop cleaved into the mountain, where various species of birds, including the golden eagle, build their nests. Then it continues into a labyrinth of rooms, galleries and passageways with fossil formations.

From the Buca you can access a cavity that is still in formation, le Grotte, or the caves, adorned with stalactites, stalagmites and all sorts of natural formations. There is also a “potholing part”, currently not open to the public, rich in karstic elements. Only animal remains, and

no human traces, have been found inside the cave, as they have probably been taken away by the waters of the underground springs.

At present, the internal walkway that links the Grotte to the Tecchia is currently being completed. The outside path is steep with a vertical drop into the Faglii brook. It is dangerous and we recommend that you do not follow it.

Tecchia di Equi

An ancient shelter for men and animals: objects and animal remains tell the story of this cave, which started 40,000 years ago and continued until the Middle Ages. Archaeologi-

cal research at the beginning of the 1900s brought to light stone and bone objects that belonged to Neanderthal hunters and not just skeletons of wolves, foxes and marmots, but also of animals that are not to be found in the area's fauna today, such as the *ursus speleus* (cave bear), lion and leopard. Instead, evi-

Castello dell'Aquila, castle of the eagle





dence of funeral rites and burials from the Copper Age tell us that the cave was used later as a burial ground.

 Teaching activities are organised on nature, history and archaeology.

 Please respect the visiting rules.



The Lucido valley



How to get there

 From Aulla and Fivizzano: take the “del Cerreto” SS 63 road, at Cormezzano follow the Garfagnana SR 445 road to Gragnola, then carry on towards Equi Terme. - A15 Parma-La Spezia motorway, Aulla exit, then take the “del Cerreto” SS 63 road, at Cormezzano follow the Garfagnana SR 445 road to Gragnola, then carry on towards Equi Terme. - From Castelnuovo di Garfagnana: SR 445 road (for around 42 km), then turn left onto the SP 10 road in the direction of Equi Terme.

 Equi Terme railway station, Aulla-Lucca line.

 Massa Carrara CAT bus service, Aulla - Fivizzano, route no. 33, 10 trips per day.

The Surrounding Area

Centro di educazione ambientale, environment education centre in

The hamlet of Equi



Vinca (MS); Centro per la conservazione della biodiversità, biodiversity conservation centre in Frignoli di Sassalbo (MS); Codi-ponte Romanesque parochial churches (MS), Casola Lunigiana (MS), parochial church of San Lorenzo, Minucciano (LU); the Equi spas (MS); Museo delle Stele stone steles museum in Piagnaro castle, Pontremoli (MS).

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- 16** *The Siele Mine*
- 17** *The Mercury Mines*
- 18** *The Cornacchino Mines*
- 19** *The Massa Marittima Mining Museum*
- 20** *The Montecatini Val di Cecina Mining Museum*
- 21** *The Abbadia San Salvatore Mining Museum*

- 22** *The Montieri Archaeology and Mining Park*
- 23** *The San Silvestro Archaeology and Mining Park*
- 24** *The Island of Elba Mining Park*
- 25** *The Gavorrano Mining and Nature Park*
- 26** *The Apuan Alps Archaeology and Mining Structure*



Not even the best of artists has any conception that a single marble block does not contain within its excess, and that is only attained by hand that obeys the intellect.

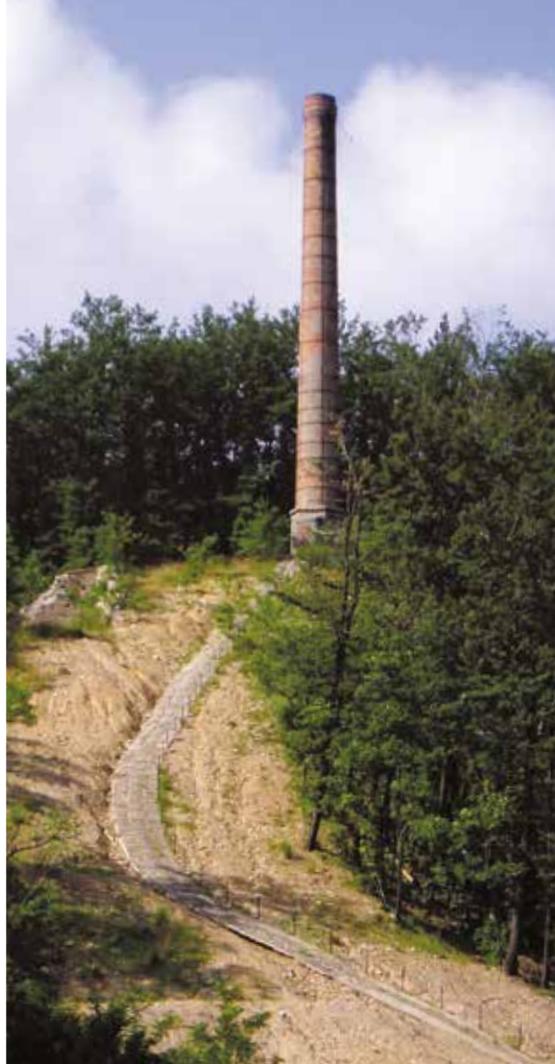
Michelangelo

Mines, Mining and Industrial Archaeology

There are mineral beds scattered all over Tuscany: from the Apuan Alps to the Metalliferous Hills, from Mount Amiata to the island of Elba and the area of Campigliese. Throughout the ages, our region has been accompanied by mining activities: Etruscan ships, laden with red haematite extracted from the island of Elba, docked in the bay of Baratti; medieval castles were erected to protect the metalliferous areas. Today, you can relive the working day of a miner in the underground passages, some of which were still operating in the 20th century, on foot or on board a mini-train.

Instead, those who are not lovers of the dark can take part in excursions to open-cast quarries and imposing shafts that shoot up towards the sky, or wander around the remains of Etruscan mines and “industrial” buildings.





Miniera del Siele

Riserva Naturale del Pigelleto
Piancastagnaio (SI)

Info

Parco Nazionale Museo Minerario del Monte
Amiata

www.parcoamiata.com
segreteria@parcoamiata.com

www.terresiena.it

Opening times

Open all year. Guided tours with ex-miners.

The Siele Mine

Pigelleto Natural Reserve
Piancastagnaio (SI)

Archaeological Mining Area



Mining on Monte Amiata dates back to ancient times: the Etruscans used cinnabar (the mineral that mercury is extracted from) to paint earthenware and frescoes in tombs, digging up to 40 m into the earth to extract it. The largest deposits are located in Santa Fiora, Castell’Azzara, Abbadia San Salvatore and Piancastagnaio. In modern times, the Siele mine started to be used for industrial ends towards the

middle of the 1800s. Siele was a complex site comprising both mines (galleries and shafts) and plants for working the mineral. In the early 1900s, a village grew up around the site, with houses, schools and a church. After a period of great expansion, also due to orders from the war industry, mining activity ceased in 1973: it was the third largest mine in the world after Almadén (in Spain) and Abbadia San Salvatore (see pg. 60).

Today the plant has been cleared up and partially restored as part of Monte Amiata’s historical and cultural heritage.

Tour route

There is an easy 6h trail (or 4h with return by bus).

Useful Information



Trekking gear is recommended.





The Tour

The Siele mine is inside the Pigelleto natural reserve (“pigello” is the name the people of Amiata give to the white fir, a majestic tree that can reach heights of 50 m). The walking trail crosses the reserve until it arrives at the mining village, where you can visit the cinnabar processing plant and the miners’ houses.



The inside of the former offices of the Siele mine hosts classrooms and teaching labs.



Chiusi-Chianciano Terme, Grosseto and Orvieto Scalo railway stations. Continue from here by bus.



The nearest bus stop to the reserve is at Saragiolo, in the municipality of Piancastagnaio.

How to get there



Cassia SS 2 road to Piancastagnaio; then follow the signs for Castell’Azzara, Santa Fiora and Riserva Naturale del Pigelleto (the signs for the reserve are brown).
- From the Tyrrhenian coast: follow the route Pitigliano-Sorano-Castell’Azzara or Grosseto-Arcidosso-S. Fiora-Castell’Azzara; then follow the signs for the Riserva Naturale del Pigelleto (the signs for the reserve are brown).

- From Orvieto Scalo: SIRA bus service (this takes you to Saragiolo without having to change).

- From Chiusi: La Ferroviaria Italiana (LFI) bus service to Bisarca; continue from here with the RAMA bus service to Saragiolo.

- From Grosseto: RAMA bus service to Saragiolo.

- From Siena and Florence: RAMA bus service to Saragiolo.





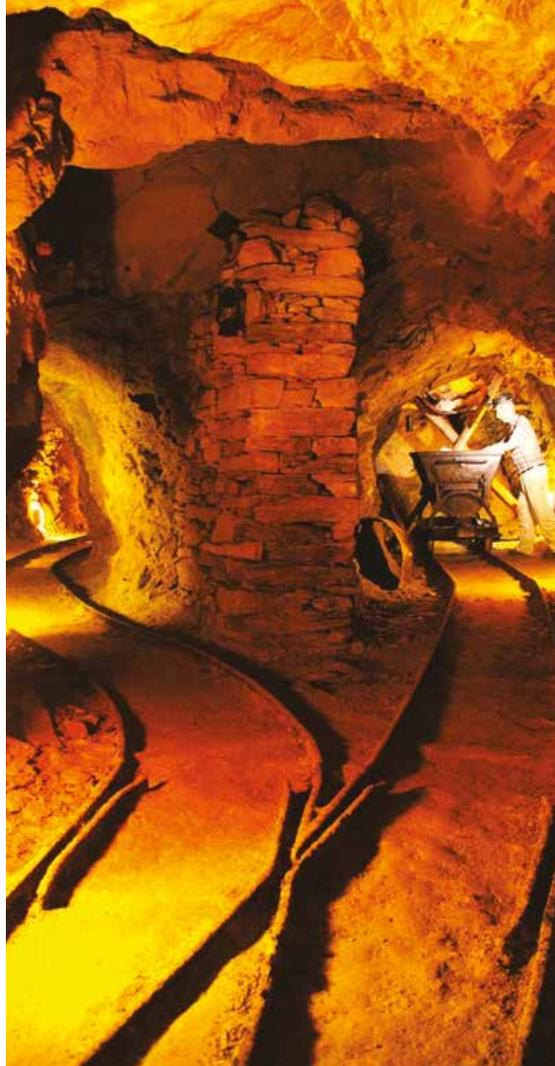
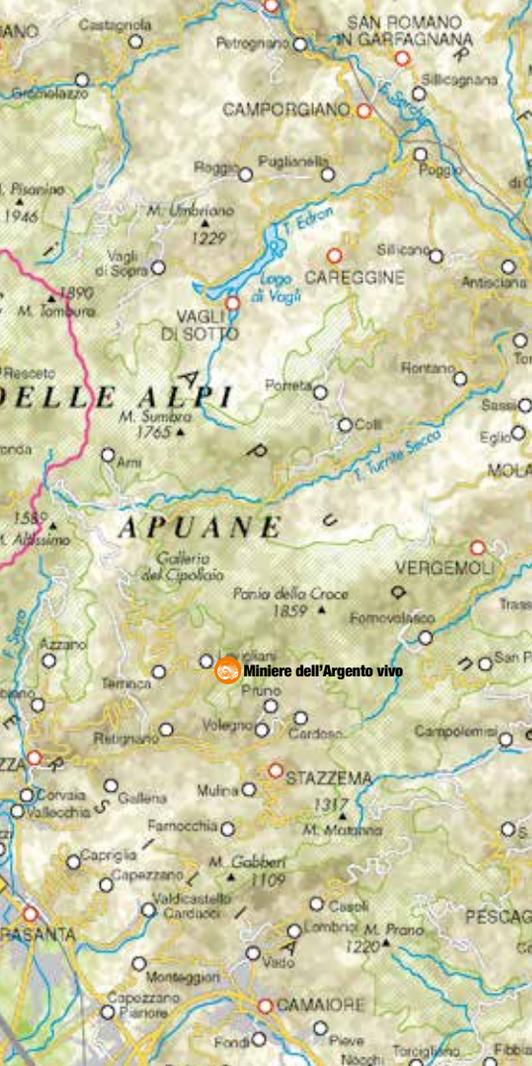
The Surrounding Area

Villa La Sforzesca, Castell'Azzara (GR); Parco Museo delle Acque, water park/museum, Santa Fiora (GR); Museo delle Miniere di mercurio del Monte Amiata, Monte Amiata mercury mines museum, Santa Fiora (GR).

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Miniere dell'argento vivo

Via Nord, 27A
Levigliani di Stazzema (LU)

Info

Miniere dell'argento vivo

info@antrocorchia.it
www.antrocorchia.it

Parco Regionale
delle Alpi Apuane

www.parcapuane.it
info@parcapuane.it

www.versiliainfo.com
www.luccaterre.it

Opening times

Morning and afternoon. An annual calendar of the opening days can be seen on the website www.antrocorchia.it; opening on request only on days not marked on the calendar.

The Mercury Mines

Levigliani di Stazzema (LU)

Mines

The ancient Mercury Mines, in the area of Levigliani di Stazzema, are the most ancient in Northern Tuscany, used since the Middle Ages to obtain the red pigment used in the grand ducal dyeing houses of Florence. The minerals mostly extracted were cinnabar and pyrite, together with natively liquid mercury, a unique feature, as this material was usually obtained from the manufacturing of cinnabar. The guided tour is about 1 hour on an equipped trail of about 800 meters, discovering the ancient veins, from the "Roman Mine" to the longer "Cavetta". Different sulphides of mercury, zinc, iron and bismuth, cinnabar and metacinnabar can be admired, as far as really rare minerals such as *grumiplucite*, a new mineral kind, here recently found and illustrated for the first time.



Guided tours

In Italian, English, German, French, Spanish

Tour routes

Total length: 600 m.

Total time, with stops: about 1 h

Services



Useful Information



- Inside temperature is about 14° C
- We recommend to wear rubber-soled shoes and a sweater



How to get there

Museum

 From Forte dei Marmi: Marina SP, then Arni SP road in the direction of Castelnuovo di Garfagnana to Levigliani di Stazzema.
 - A12 Genoa-Livorno motorway, Versilia exit; then Marina SP and Arni SP road in the direction of Castelnuovo di Garfagnana to Levigliani di Stazzema.
 - SS 1 Aurelia to Querceta di Seravezza, then Marina SP and Arni SP road in the direction of Castelnuovo di Garfagnana to Levigliani di Stazzema.
 - From Castelnuovo di Garfagnana: SP 13 to Levigliani di Stazzema.

 16 km from the Forte dei Marmi railway station on the Genoa-Pisa line.

 Vaibus, Seravezza-Castelnuovo di Garfagnana line.

Archaeological and Mining Area

 SS1 Aurelia to Querceta, then Marina SP to Seravezza, then SC della Montagna to Pieve della Cappella.
 - A12 Genoa-Rosignano motorway, Versilia exit, Marina SP and SC della Montagna to Pieve della Cappella.
 - From Castelnuovo di Garfagnana: SP 13 and Marina SP to Seravezza, then SC della Montagna to Pieve della Cappella.

 8 km from the Forte dei Marmi railway station on the Genoa-Pisa line.

 Vaibus, Pietrasanta-Seravezza-Azzano line.

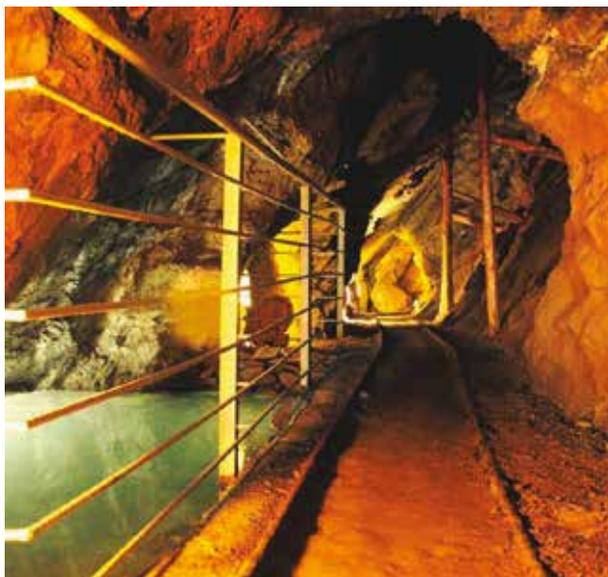
The Surrounding Area

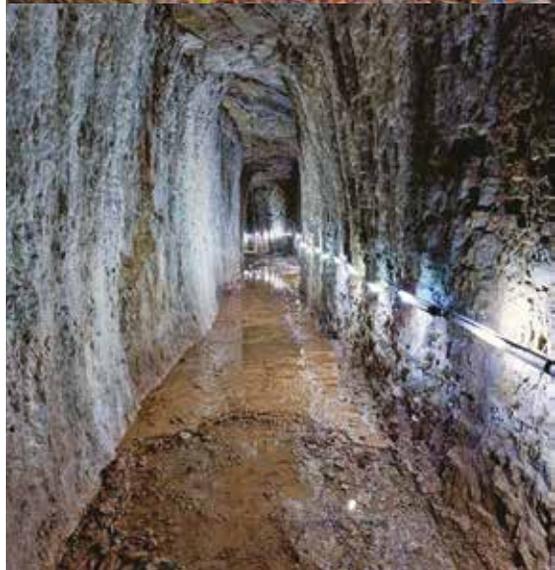
The Monte Corchia Marble Mines of Levigliani di Stazzema (LU); several trails in Apuan Alps Regional Park.



Next stop for *Toscana Underground*

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The Pietra Piegata Museum	16
Buca di Castelvenere	18
Buca del Tasso	22
Grotta del Tambugione	26
Grotte della Penna	30
Roccia dei Pennati	34
Grotta del Tanaccio	38
Grotta all'Onda	42
Grotta del Vento	50
The Grotte di Equi Cultural Park	68
The Apuan Alps Archaeology and Mining Structure	112





Miniere del Cornacchino

Cornacchino
Castell'Azzara (GR)

Info

Miniere del Cornacchino
Località Cornacchino
Castell'Azzara (GR)

info@castellazzaraonline.it
www.castellazzaraonline.it
www.museidimaremma.it

www.parcoamiata.com

Guided tours

Upon reservation

Useful Information



Educational activities on the environment and the underground world are organised for schools.

⚠ Please do not crowd the passageways or talk in a loud voice.



Please respect the visiting rules.

How to get there

🚗 SS 2 Cassia, Località Ponte a Rigo detour for Castell'Azzara; from Castell'Azzara paved road (500 metres).

- From Tyrrhenian coast: direction Pitigliano-Sorano-Castell'Azzara or Grosseto-Arcidosso-S.Fiora-Castell'Azzara paved road (3.500 metres).

The Cornacchino Mines

Castell'Azzara (GR)

Mines

The Cornacchino Mine, on the southern slopes of the volcanic Monte Amiata, in the area of Castell'Azzara, takes its name from Cornalino, or Cornalina, a coloured silicon stone really wanted from Etruscans and Greeks. The mine, which was part of a cinnabar vein, was opened from 1877 to 1919 and it is considered one of the worst mine of the Amiata area: in its very narrow galleries, from which the material was extracted only by hands, children and women were often employed to enter and dig in the small tunnels. Today, galleries have been recovered and can be visited in total safety. They can be reached from a trail that starts from Località Quercia Gobba and arrives to the two mining galleries, known as Galleria Ritorta, through 500 meters of forest.



- From north: A1 motorway, Chiusi exit.
- From south: A1 motorway, Orvieto exit.



45 km from Chiusi-Chi-
anciano railway station, Flo-
rence-Rome line.
45 km from Orvieto railway sta-
tion



Rama Grosseto bus, Gros-
seto-Arcidosso-Castell'Azzara
line (connected with the Firen-

ze-Grosseto and Siena-Abbadia
San Salvatore-Piancastagnaio
line), 2 trips per day.

- Rama Grosseto bus, Castell'Az-
zara-Pitigliano-Orbetello or Cas-
tell'Azzara-Acquapendente (VT)
lines, 1 tri per day.

The Surrounding Area

Villa la Sforzesca, Castell'Azzara
(GR); Parco Museo delle Acque
(water park/museum), Santa Fiora
(GR); Monte Amiata Mercury

Mines, Santa Fiora (GR); Parco
faunistico dell'Amiata, animal
park, Arcidosso (GR).

Next stop for *Toscana Underground*

Grotta del Sassocolato	46
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The Abbadia San Salvatore Mining Museum	92



Museo della Miniera di Massa Marittima

Via Corridoni
Massa Marittima (GR)

Opening times

Open mornings and afternoons all year round.
Summer: also open at night.
Closed on Mondays.

Info

Servizio Musei Cooperativa Colline Metallifere
(prenotazioni, visite guidate)

www.coopcollinemetallifere.it
musei@coopcollinemetallifere.it

The Massa Marittima Mining Museum

The Grosseto Metalliferous Hills Technological and Archaeological Park
Massa Marittima (GR)

altitude 400 m

You can get to the Museo della Miniera mining museum, housed in the heart of the galleries that bore around 700 m into the travertine of the hill above the historical centre of the town, on foot in just a few minutes from the cathedral square in Massa Marittima. These galleries, in part natural and in part dug during the Middle Ages to use the stone for building work, were extended during the Second World War and used by the local population as air raid shelters. It was former miners themselves who set up the museum to recreate their working environment: from the wood deposit needed to reinforce the galleries to the explosives deposit, from the canteen supervisor's cabin to the inclined shafts and the ore chutes. In some stretches the various reinforcement systems can be seen: from the classic wood reinforcements to those using metallic net, to brick walls with planks of wood between concrete ashlar. The working methods have also been reconstructed: the "filling" method, that is, excavating the



Guided tours

In Italian, English and German.

Tour route

There is an easy trail: 1h, 700 m.

Services



For logistical reasons, it is not possible to visit the inclined shaft or the miners' canteen.

Useful Information



We recommend that you bring suitable clothing also in summer (anorak, sweater).

The miner's hat is provided by the management at the mine entrance.



mineral, and then filling the part just emptied at the same time, and the “collapsing the roof” method, that is, by taking down the reinforcements and therefore making part of the gallery collapse once the extraction stage has finished. There is also room for numerous tools and machines donated by the mining companies and the miners themselves: wagons for transporting the workers and material, excavators and pneumatic drills.

With a separate ticket, or

using the joint mining museum ticket, it is possible to visit the Museo di Arte e Storia delle Miniere mining art and history museum, again in Massa Marittima: with wood tools, pick axes, acetylene lamps, helmets, wooden clogs, boots and history of the mine planning techniques.

 Special activities are organized for children in summer.

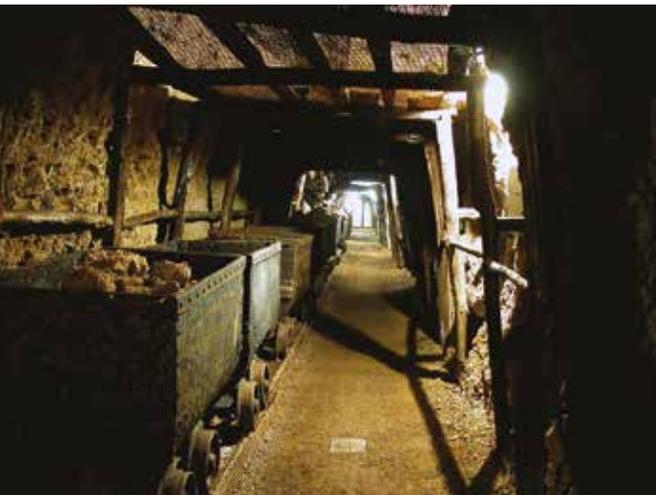
 It is forbidden to take off helmets and stray from the guide during the visit.

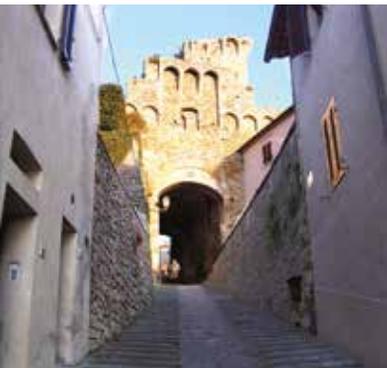
It is possible to book guided tours in Massa Marittima and the surrounding area to discover medieval storehouses, underground passages and shafts at the Museo della Miniera mining museum:

Parco dei Pozzini Medievali, medieval shafts park; the Serrabottini archaeological and mining trail; Caverne della Camilletta (stone extraction); passageway under Cassero Senese; Galleria della Bifora (artificial cavity consisting of a gallery, a shaft and a room dug in the Middle Ages); Forni dell'Accesa fusion plants (building complex for metallurgical production used in modern times); Marsiliana-Pian del Lago drainage gallery; Cavernette del Castello di Perolla (rock settlement of medieval ori-



Caverna della Camilletta





gin comprising 30 small caverns on different levels); Grotta Prato and Grotta Spinosa (karstic cavities used during the Copper Age as burial places); Grotta Verde (karstic cavity with several chambers); Grotta and Dolina del Frate (karstic cavity that opens up in a collapse doline with a waterway inside).

How to get there

 From the north: A12 Genoa-Livorno motorway, Rosignano exit; then the Aurelia SS 1 road, Follonica est exit; then follow the signs for Massa Marittima.
- From the south: Rome-Civita-vecchia motorway; then the

Aurelia SS 1 road in the direction of Grosseto, Follonica est exit; then follow the signs for Massa Marittima.



Follonica railway station, Pisa-Rome line.



RAMA FMF bus service, Follonica-Massa Marittima route (1 trip every hour); Siena-Massa Marittima (3-4 trips per day).

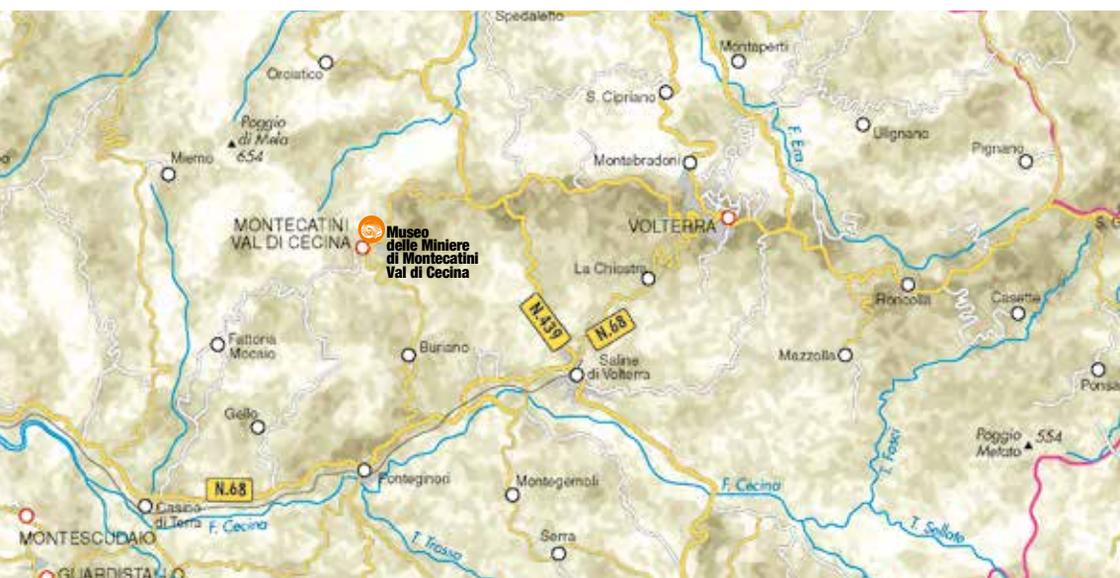
The Surrounding Area

Museo del ferro e della ghisa, iron and cast iron museum, Follonica (GR); Porta del Parco Minerario, mining park, Monterotondo Marittimo (GR).

Next stop for *Toscana Underground*

The San Silvestro Archaeology and Mining Park	100
The Gavorrano Mining and Nature Park	108
The Fonti dell'Abbondanza Gallery	144
The Montecatini Val di Cecina Mining Museum	88
The Montieri Archaeology and Mining Park	96





Museo delle Miniere di Montecatini V.C.

- Centro di documentazione
Piazza Garibaldi, 1
Montecatini Val di Cecina (PI)
- Area e strutture minerarie
Loc. La Miniera
Montecatini Val di Cecina (PI)

Info

Museo delle Miniere di Montecatini
Val di Cecina

www.volterratur.it
Comune di Montecatini
Val di Cecina

www.comune.montecatini.pi.it
montecatini@comune.montecatini.pi.it

www.pisaunicaterra.it

Opening times

From 1st February to Easter: Sun-
days 3.00 pm-6.00 pm.

From Easter to 2nd November:
Saturdays, Sundays and public
holidays 11.00 am-1.00 pm and
3.00 pm-7.00 pm; from Wednes-
day to Friday 3.00 pm-7.00 pm.

Rest of the year: upon reservation
only.

The Montecatini Val di Cecina Mining Museum

Montecatini Val di Cecina (PI)

Archaeological Mining Area
altitude 510 m

The mining area in the Val di Cecina has a long industrial tradition. The mines – which were operative until 1907 – were exploited by the Etruscans, the Medici and the Grand Duchy of Tuscany; they had their heyday in 1888 when the Società Montecatini was established (this then became Montedison), named after the town.

The Museo delle Miniere mining museum, housed in the 14th-century Palazzo Pretorio, bears witness not only to the industrial civilisation but also the social rights won by the miners: in the town of Montecatini Val di Cecina, in the mid-1800s regulations were drawn up for young workers, assistance was given to widows and orphans, teaching was guaranteed for the miners' children and a welfare fund and school for girls were set up.

The museum's document centre houses the historic archive of the activities that made Caporciano the richest copper mine in Europe between 1827 and 1907: publications on the



Guided tours

In Italian, English and French.

Tour routes

There are two easy trails:

Visit 1, galleries: 20 min,
100 m;

Visit 2, mining area: 45 min,
1100 m.

Services



For logistical reasons, only the first part of the gallery can be visited.

Useful Information



The management provides a helmet and waterproof jacket for the gallery visit.

underground resources and administrative papers (wage registers, records, correspondence) and technical documentation (maps and gallery profiles, drawings of machines, equipment and buildings).

In addition, the museum also gives an overview of the great many underground resources Val di Cecina has, and their uses: copper, rock salt, the snow-white stone alabaster, lignite and the sulphur springs. It is possible to see the splendid mosaics made using chalcedony (a variety of microcrystalline quartz) and the museum's rich collection of minerals.

The visitor trail also includes the Caporciano mining area – with the shaft known as Alfredo (the main copper extraction site), the mine entrance (with the administration offices, the inclined shafts and the galleries) and

the Muraglione dam, built for the mine's water requirements.

 There are teaching laboratories on the mining professions.

 Please respect the mining museum regulations.

How to get there

 From the north: A1 motorway, Scandicci exit; FI-PI-LI main road to the Pontedera exit; then the SR 439 road in the direction of Volterra.

A12 motorway, Rosignano exit; then the SR 68 road in the direction of Volterra.

- From the south: Aurelia SS 1 road, Cecina exit, then the SR 68 road in the direction of Volterra.

 From Cecina to Saline di Volterra, 4 trips per day.

 CPT bus service: Volterra-Montecatini route, 5 trips per day;

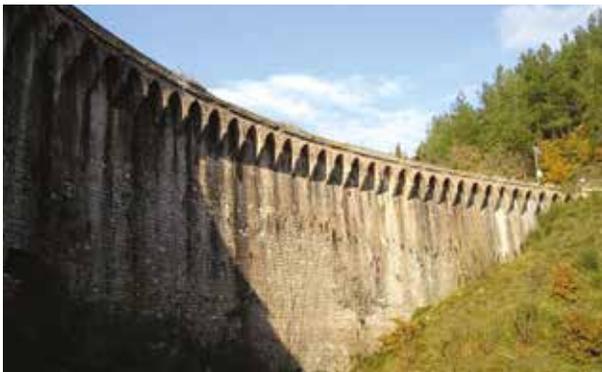
- Sita bus service: Cecina-Saline di Volterra route, 6 trips per day.

The Surrounding Area

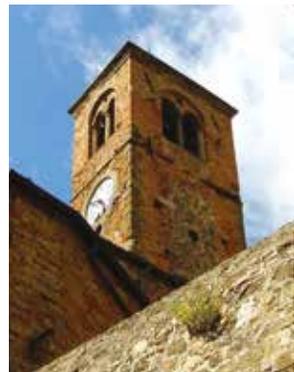
Museums and archaeological area, Volterra (PI); Museo della Geotermia, geothermal museum and geothermal area, Larderello (PI); Rocca Sillana, fortress, Pomarance (PI); Museo Casa Bicocchi museum, Pomarance (PI); Val di Cecina nature reserves.

Next stop for Toscana Underground

The Massa Marittima Mining Museum	84
The Montieri Archaeology and Mining Park	96
The San Silvestro Archaeology and Mining Park	100
The Gavorrano Mining and Nature Park	108
The Fonti dell'Abbondanza Gallery	144



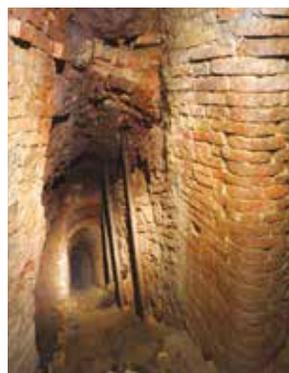
Muraglione dam



Montecatini Val di Cecina, bell tower



Montecatini Val di Cecina,
Palazzo Pretorio





**Museo Minerario
di Abbadia San Salvatore**
Piazzale R. Rossaro, 2
Abbadia San Salvatore (SI)

Info
Consorzio Terre di Toscana

www.terreditoscana.net
info@terreditoscana.net

Comune di Abbadia San
Salvatore
Ufficio turistico
www.terresiena.it

Opening times
From 15th June to 1st November
and for the Easter and Christmas
festivities and public holiday
weekends: every day, 9.30 am-
12.30 pm and 3.30 pm-6.30 pm.
Open on request only at other
times of the year.

The Abbadia San Salvatore Mining Museum

Abbadia San Salvatore (SI)

altitude 820 m

The Parco Museo Minerario di Abbadia San Salvatore mining park and museum is located in the Monte Amiata mining area which for a long time was one of the most important cinnabar (the mineral that mercury is extracted from) deposits in the world. Today, the park and museum contain much evidence of the area's industrial past, remembering its former well-being, but also the sacrifice, struggles and suffering.

The Museo Minerario mining museum, housed in the old clock tower building, hosts a rich collection of minerals, equipment, work tools and photographs that tell the story of mercury and of the communities whose stories are closely linked to it: from the Neolithic populations, the Etruscans and the Romans, to the modern age.

It is possible to visit the inside of a gallery depicting the miners' working environment on board a mini-train.

Guided tours

In Italian, English and German.

Services

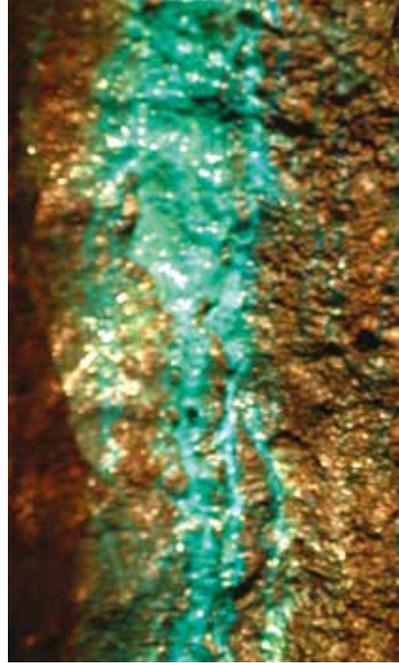


Useful Information



There is no access to the gallery at this moment in time.





How to get there

 Cassia SS 2 road, follow the directions for Abbadia San Salvatore.

- A1 motorway, Chiusi-Chianciano exit, then the Cassia SS 2 road, follow the directions for Abbadia San Salvatore.

 25 km from the Chiusi-Chianciano railway station, Rome-Florence line.

 LFI-RAMA bus service, Abbadia San Salvatore-Chiusi Scalo route.

- RAMA bus service, Abbadia San Salvatore-Grosseto route.

The Surrounding Area

Museo di oggetti sacri, museum of religious artefacts, Abbadia San Salvatore (SI); Rocca di Tentennano fortress, Castiglione d'Orcia

(SI); Rocca di Radicofani fortress, southern extreme of the Val d'Orcia (SI); Parco Museo delle acque, water park/museum, Santa Fiora (GR); Museo delle Miniere di mercurio del Monte Amiata, Monte Amiata mercury mines museum, Santa Fiora (GR); Parco faunistico dell'Amiata, animal park, Arcidosso (GR).



Rocca di Tentennano fortress



**Next stop
for Toscana Underground**

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Rocca di Radicofani fortress





Parco Archeominerario di Montieri

La porta del Parco è situata presso il Teatro Comunale di Boccheggiano
Via Tasso, 3
Boccheggiano (GR)

Info

- Ufficio turistico di Montieri

turismomontieri@tiscali.it

- Teatro Comunale di Boccheggiano

turismo.boccheggiano@tiscali.it

Parco Tecnologico e Archeologico delle Colline Metallifere Grossetane
Piazza Dante, 35 - 58100 Grosseto

parcominerario@provincia.grosseto.it
www.parcocollinemetallifere.it

www.terresiena.it

The Montieri Archaeology and Mining Park

The Grosseto Metalliferous Hills Technological and Archaeological Park
Boccheggiano (GR)

Archaeological Mining Area
altitude 820 m

The history of the territory of Montieri (Mons Aeris, copper mountain) is embedded in its deposits of copper, iron, lead and silver. Although excavation of these minerals has profoundly altered the landscape of woods and streams with mines and foundries, the area still retains its beauty.

The medieval castles of Montieri, Gerfalco, Travale and Boccheggiano were built to protect the copper and silver deposits as well

as the extraction and processing activities.

In the 1500s, Vanoccio Biringuccio of Siena ran a foundry for iron along the Merse river. In the 1600s, Giovanni Arduino, the great Venetian geologist, started digging for minerals and built some foundries for the production of copper and vitriol (iron sulphate) in Cagnano-Carbonaie, by a branch of the river Merse. Boccheggiano defended its mining ways for a long time, continuing to extract copper



until the last century. After copper mining was ended, in various mines the era of extracting pyrite began. One of these mines was the Miniera di Campiano, which closed down in 1994. Today the only underground riches that are exploited in the municipality of Montieri are the sources of geothermal energy in the area of Travale.



Opening times

Open all year round, on request only.

Guided tours

In Italian and English. The price varies for single visitors and for groups. Telephone for information.

Tour route

There is an easy 1000 m trail.

Useful Information





Le Roste

If you go along the Massa Marittima-Siena provincial road, on the stretch in the municipality of Montieri that follows the River Merse you can see numerous remains of plants for extracting and processing copper: the mines, shafts, roste (large piles of red-coloured slag), the washing plants and the telfer for transporting the metal.

You can follow the whole water-metal process: from the Merse mine, where the mineral was extracted, washed and crushed, you carry on towards the river where the copper was transported on a decauville railway to be piled

up and roasted in the open air. It is also possible to visit the water draining galleries under the remains of the enormous red heaps.

Ancient Mines in Poggio Mutti

Not far away, just a little to the north, near Gerfalco, and more precisely in Poggio Mutti, we recommend excursions among the ancient and medieval copper, lead and silver mineral extraction sites, so you can learn about the geological features, the methods for singling out the deposits, the extraction methods and organisation of mining work in the pre-industrial age.

How to get there

 From Grosseto/Livorno: Aurelia SS 1 road, Scarlino exit; continue on the SS 439 road in the direction of Massa Marittima; at Pian dei Mucini follow the SS 441 road in the direction of Siena. A few kilometres after Gabellino there is a fork for Montieri; follow the River Merse until you reach the archaeological mining site which can be seen on the left.

- From Siena: SS 441 Massa Marittima-Siena road; follow the River Merse until you reach the archaeological mining site which can be seen on the right.

 Follonica railway station, Rome-Genoa line.

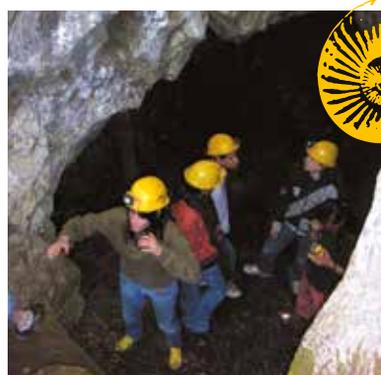


The Surrounding Area

Museo del ferro e della ghisa, iron and cast iron museum, Follonica (GR); Museo di Arte e Storia delle Miniere, museum of the art and history of mining, Massa Marittima (GR); Porta del Parco Minerario, mining park in Monterotondo Marittimo (GR).

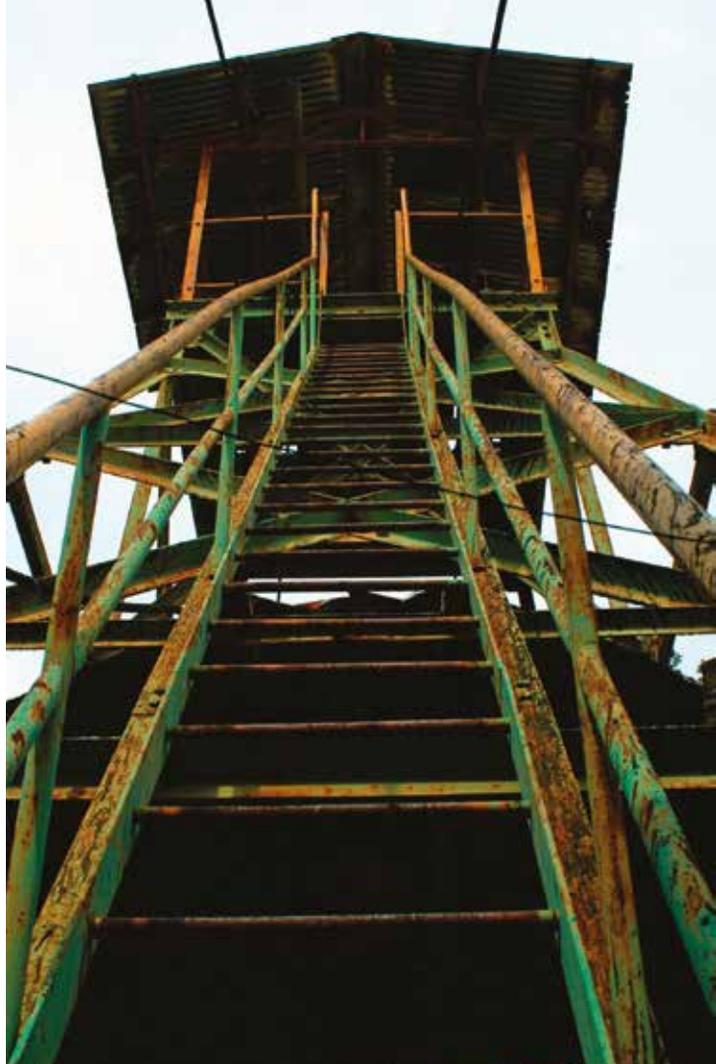
Next stop for *Toscana Underground*

- The Massa Marittima Mining Museum 84
- The Gavorrano Mining and Nature Park 108
- The Fonti dell'Abbondanza Gallery 144



Abbey of San Galgano





Parco Archeominerario di San Silvestro

Via San Vincenzo, 34 B
Loc. Temperino -
Campiglia Marittima (LI)

Info

- Parchi della Val di Cornia

www.parchivaldicornia.it
parchivaldicornia@parchivaldicornia.it
www.valdicorniaturismo.it

Opening times

In June and September: mornings and afternoons,
every day except Mondays.

Open every day in July and August (also sometimes
open at night).

From October to May: Saturday and Sunday morn-
ings and afternoons only; on week days for groups
and schools upon reservation only. Closed from 8th
to 26th December.

The days when the park is open may change from year
to year. For information telephone +39 0565 226445.

The San Silvestro Archaeology and Mining Park

Loc. Temperino - Campiglia Marittima (LI)

Archaeological Mining Area

Amongst the lush vegetation in the San Silvestro park, we come across many paths linking archaeological and mining history from Etruscan, medieval and contemporary times. At the entrance to the park you can visit the Miniera del Temperino mine, used in Etruscan and modern times, or take the Via delle Ferruzze and see the remains of the mining railway bridge from the beginning of the 1900s, the Buca della Faina Etruscan mine, and many more shafts and open-cast quarries. From Via delle Ferruzze you can go off on Via dei Filoni Porfirici that climbs up the slopes of Poggio all'Aione until it reaches one of the peaks. Here you can stop off and let your gaze wander over the Cornia river plain to the sea. If you continue on Via dei Lanzi, you arrive at the medieval mining village of Rocca San Silvestro: in the castle there are still the old ovens for baking bread, oil mills, shops, houses, reservoirs and the nobleman's house. Once you have gone through the Valle dei Manienti, with its remains of medieval mines and ancient marble quarries, you



Guided tours

In Italian, English and German.

Services



For logistical and safety reasons, access is reserved to the Museo Mineralogico e Archeominerario, the Museo della Storia Sociale dei Minatori and the miners' mini-train that goes through the Lanzi-Temperino gallery.

Useful Information

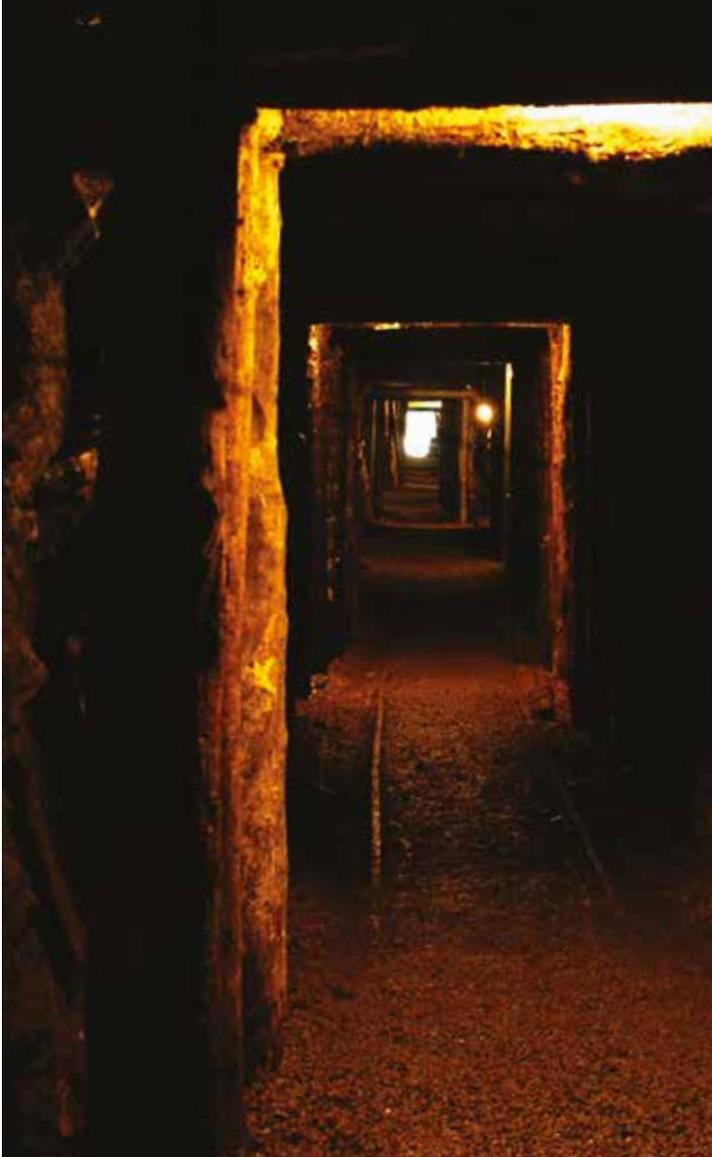


We recommend that you wear trekking gear.

reach the “Etruscan Mines” workers’ village built at the beginning of the 1900s.

If you want to go as far as Campiglia Marittima, follow Via delle Fonti, which takes its name from the remains of the ancient aqueduct on arches that provided the town of Campiglia Marittima with water until not long ago. Inside the park, you can also find the Museo Mineralogico e Archeominerario (Mineral, archaeological and mining museum), which displays materials from the excavations of Rocca di San Silvestro as well as a collection of minerals from the area on display.

Starting in July 2006, a train will take visitors through a mining gallery from the exit of the Temperino mine to Valle dei Lanzi, which Rocca di San Silvestro looks down onto. In addition, it will be possible to visit the miners’ social history and mining machines museum in Pozzo Earle.





 Please respect the rules in force for protected areas.

 Parchi bus service (ATM), in spring from Tuesday to Sunday upon reservation.

Tour routes

There are eight trails:

1. Miniera del Temperino mine: 40 min, 360 m, easy;
2. Lanzi-Temperino gallery (opening in July 2006): 20 min, 980 m, with miners' mini-train, easy;
3. Via del Temperino: 30 min, easy;
4. Via delle Ferruzze: 1h 30 min, difficult;
5. Via dei Lanzi: 1h 40 min, medium;
6. Via dei Filoni Porfirici: 1h, difficult;
7. Via dei Manienti: 1h 30 min, difficult;
8. Via delle Fonti: 1h, easy.

How to get there

 Aurelia SS 1 road, San Vincenzo nord, San Vincenzo sud, Piombino-Campiglia Marittima exit and follow the signs for Campiglia Marittima.

 10 km from Campiglia Marittima railway station, Rome-Genoa-Turin line.

The Surrounding Area

Parco costiero di Rimigliano coastal park, San Vincenzo (LI); Parco costiero della Sterpaia coastal park, Piombino (LI); Parco naturale di Montioni natural park, Suvereto (LI); Parco forestale di Poggio Neri forest park, Sassetta (LI).

Next stop for *Toscana Underground*

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**Parco Minerario
dell'Isola d'Elba**
Via Magenta, 26
Rio Marina (LI)

Info

Parco Minerario dell'Isola d'Elba

www.parcominelba.it
info@parcominelba.it
www.visitelba.it

Opening times

Spring, summer: mornings and
afternoons.
Autumn, winter: on request only.

The Island of Elba Mining Park

Rio Marina (LI)

Archaeological Mining Area



The park offers a great deal of enticing ways to discover the “land of iron”: trails on foot or by mountain bike in the silent Valle dei Mulini; a trail in the Ginevro underground gallery in Capoliveri, dug into the rocks and without any wood supports; excursions to the open-cast quarries in Rio Marina and Rio Albano. And, to round off the visit, we recommend that you stop off at the Museo dei Minerali e dell’Arte Mineraria minerals and art of mining museum

(Rio Marina), the Museo dei Minerali “Alfeo Ricci” mineral museum (Capoliveri) and the Museo Archeologico del Distretto Minerario mining district archaeological museum (Rio nell’Elba) which help you to understand – with collections of minerals, archaeological finds, reconstructions of the original mines, films and photographs – the history of this island: from the Copper Age to the Middle Ages, to the present day. In addition, there are also

two guided tours in Rio Marina:

- “Cercando i Minerali” (Looking for Minerals): a visit to a mining site with the possibility to look for, keep and collect samples of minerals;
- “Trekking in Miniera” (Trekking in the Mines): visit to the main mining sites.



Guided tours

In Italian, English and German.

Tour routes

There are three easy trails.

Services



Useful Information



Trekking gear is recommended.



How to get there

 Piombino is the nearest port. The island of Elba is connected to the mainland by the Toremar and Moby Lines ferry companies. In the low season, there are 15 trips a day. From May to September there is a trip every half hour. The crossing lasts around 40 min for Rio Marina, and 1h for Portoferraio. With the Toremar hydrofoil you can reach the port of Cavo in 15 min.

In high season it is advisable to book.

 Genoa-Livorno motorway, Rosignano exit; continue on the Livorno-Grosseto main road to Venturina. From here you can reach Piombino in a few minutes. - Bologna-Florence-Pisa-Livorno motorway, Rosignano exit; continue on the Livorno-Grosseto main road to Venturina. From here you can reach Piombino in a few minutes.





- Rome-Grosseto motorway, continue on the Aurelia main road until the Venturina-Isola d'Elba exit.



Connecting trains for Piombino Marittima from Campiglia station, on the Genoa-Rome line.

The Surrounding Area

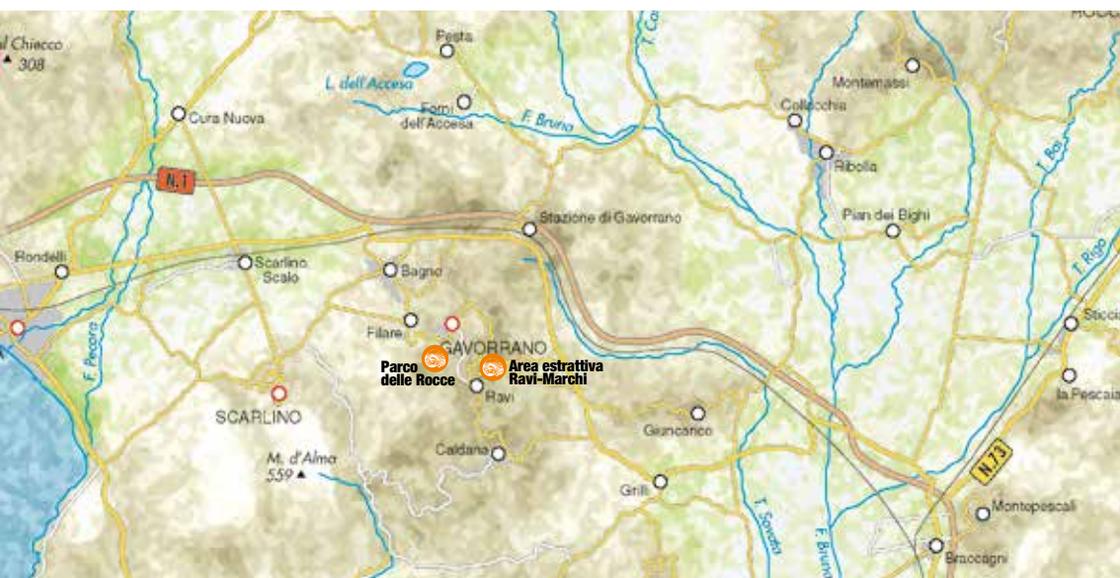
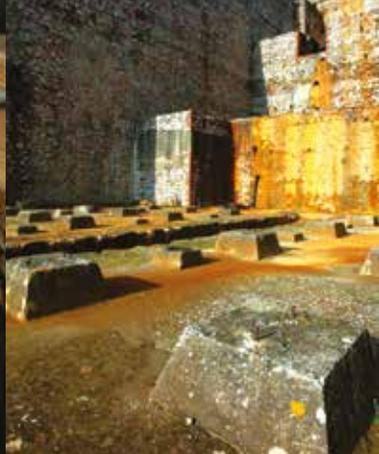
I Mulini Napoleonic villa, Portoferraio (LI); Pisan tower (XII cent.), Marciana Marina (LI); Castello degli Appiani, Marciana (LI).



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Parco Minerario Naturalistico di Gavorrano

Loc. Ex Bagnetti
Gavorrano (GR)

Info

Parco Minerario Naturalistico di
Gavorrano

www.parcominerario.it
parcogavorrano@tiscali.it

Comune di Gavorrano

Parco Tecnologico e
Archeologico
delle Colline Metallifere
Grossetane
Piazza Dante, 35 - 58100
Grosseto

parcominerario@provincia.grosseto.it
www.parcocollinemetallifere.it

Opening times

Summer: open mornings and afternoons every day. Also open at night on Saturdays, Sundays and when there are performances at the Teatro delle Rocce theatre. Spring and autumn: open Saturday and Sunday mornings and afternoons only. During the week, open for groups upon reservation. Winter: Sunday mornings and afternoons only. During the week, open for groups upon reservation.

The Gavorrano Mining and Nature Park

The Grosseto Metalliferous Hills technological and archaeological park
Loc. Ex Bagnetti-Gavorrano (GR)

Archaeological Mining Area
altitude 234 m

A few kilometres away from the Gulf of Follonica, on the slopes of Monte Calvo, one of the most important pyrite mines in Europe was still active until a few decades ago. Nowadays, the whole mining basin of Gavorrano, the old buildings and stone quarries have been restored and converted into the large Parco di Gavorrano museum complex. The complex is divided into two main areas: Parco delle Rocce, with the gallery museum and theatre, and the Ravi-Marchi mining area. In order to relive a miner's working day, you can venture into the 20th-century mine, which today is a museum: you go from the changing rooms to the lamp room, and then descend underground. Here you can see the explosives store, with the equipment and material for blowing up the rocks, and the gallery reinforcement systems. The journey is made even more exciting thanks to the reconstruction of mining work scenes, including the miners' break times, and the images, audiovisual material, old photos, sounds and lights that seem to come from the past.

Guided tours

In Italian, English, German and French.

Tour routes

There are three easy trails:

1. Museo Minerario mining museum, housed in a gallery: 1h, 300 m;
2. Miniera Ravi Marchi mine: 1h, 600 m;
3. Trail in Parco delle Rocce park, also without guides: 1h, 800 m.

Services



Access is reserved to the Welcome Centre and the Museo Minerario mining museum.

Notizie utili







Inside the park you can spend pleasant hours walking in the abandoned limestone quarries or watching performances at the Teatro delle Rocce theatre, an enchanting open-air structure built in a small semi-circular quarry.

In the Ravi Marchi mining area, among the remains of the plants, you can follow the “pyrite way” from the underground exit through the extraction shaft to the last sifting before being loaded on the conveyor belt towards the telfer.



There are five teaching laboratories:

- Casting metal in the ancient world;
- A day as a geologist (geological trekking and laboratory for identifying rocks and minerals);
- Laboratory of word-of-mouth history (interviews and videos of ex-miners);
- Wood laboratory (making miniatures of mining tools);
- “Il mulo da otto il ciuco da dieci” (theatrical performances in the mine).

How to get there

 Aurelia SS 1 road, Gavorrano exit; continue along the SP 83 road in the direction of Gavorrano. Just before the village you can see the metallic tower of a mining shaft (Pozzo Roma): the park entrance is on the opposite side of the road.

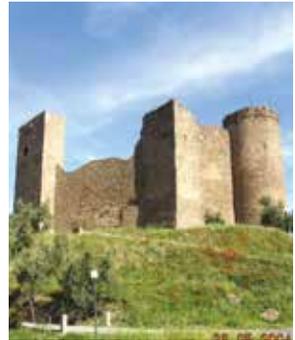
 10 km from Follonica railway station, Rome-Genoa line.

 RAMA bus service, Follonica-Gavorrano route, 4 trips per day.

The Surrounding Area

Excursions to the caves in the municipality of Gavorrano (Grotta dell’Artofago, Buca delle Fate); Museo Archeologico del Castello Minerario Medievale, archaeological and medieval mining museum, Castel di Pietra, Gavorrano (GR); Museo del ferro e della ghisa, iron and cast iron museum, Follonica (GR); Porta del Parco Minerario, mining park in Monterotondo Marittimo (GR).

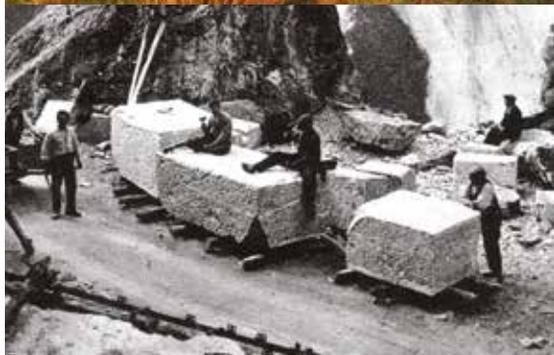
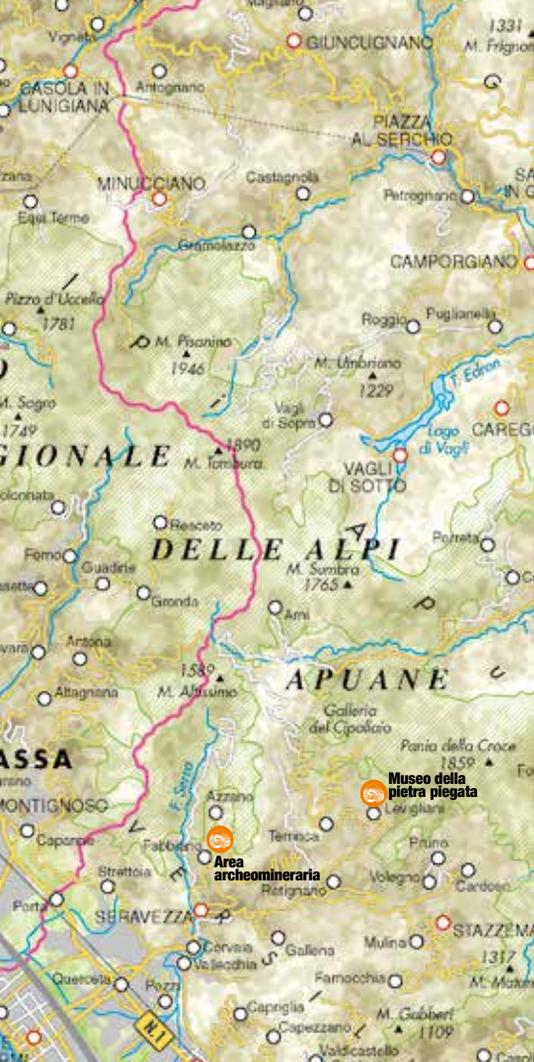
Castel di Pietra



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Sistema Archeominerario delle Alpi Apuane
 Museo della pietra piegata
 Via IV Novembre, 70
 Levigliani di Stazzema (LU)

Info
 Parco Regionale delle Alpi Apuane
 Biglietteria dell'Antro del Corchia

www.parcapuane.it
www.archeominerario.it
info@antrocorchia.it

Opening times
Museum
 Every day in the months of July and August and over the Christmas holidays, over weekends in the months of April, May, June, September and October and by request in other periods. Archaeological mining area: all year round.

The Apuan Alps Archaeology and Mining Structure

Museo della Pietra Piegata of Levigliani di Stazzema (LU)

Cappella archaeology and mining area
Fabiano di Seravezza (LU) / altitude 440 m

The area of the Apuan Alps has a long mining history, and the goal of the Sistema Archeominerario delle Alpi Apuane (archaeology and mining structure of the Apuan Alps) is to make it known to the public and make the numerous mining sites accessible. Currently it is possible to visit the Cappella archaeology and mining area near Stazzema, and the Museo della Pietra Piegata (Marble museum) in Levigliani. The archaeology and mining ar-

ea is laid out below the parochial church of San Martino alla Cappella, between the sample extraction sites and small quarries of Bardiglio marble, slag heaps, dry-stone walls, square blocks and other signs of the mining activity carried out here between the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century.

The levigliani stonework museum retrieves documents and evidence of quarrying and processing especially of apuan marbles, from the

time of the etruscans to the present day. There is also a collection of ancient and modern marbles, the historic archive of the naturalist and marble entrepreneur Emilio Simi (1820-1875), as well as a room dedicated to the archaeological finds in the Levigliani necropolis in the Ligurian Apuan Alps (III-II cent. BC).



Guided tours

Museum: in Italian and English.
Archaeology and Mining Area: explanation panels in Italian and English.

Tour route

Archaeology and Mining Area:
There is an easy trail: 1h, 850 m.

Services



Access to the first floor only.

Useful Information

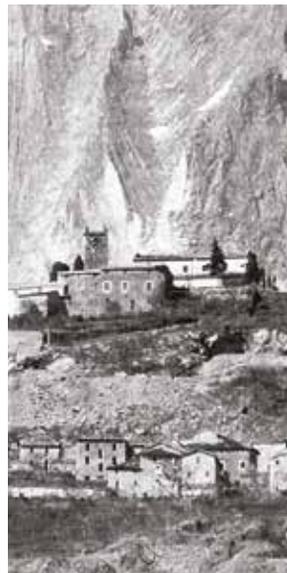
Museum



Archaeology and Mining Area



We recommend that you wear trekking gear for the visit to the archaeology and mining area.



How to get there

Museum

 From Forte dei Marmi: the SP “di Marina” road and then the Arni SP road in the direction of Castelnuovo di Garfagnana to Levigliani di Stazzema.

- A12 Genoa-Livorno motorway, Versilia exit; then the SP “di Marina” road and the Arni SP road in the direction of Castelnuovo di Garfagnana to Levigliani di Stazzema.

- Aurelia SS 1 road to Querceta di Seravezza, then the SP “di Marina” road and the Arni SP road in the direction of Castelnuovo di Garfagnana to Levigliani di Stazzema.

- From Castelnuovo di Garfagnana: SP 13 road to Levigliani.

 16 km from Forte dei Marmi railway station, Genoa-Pisa line.

 Vaibus, Seravezza-Castelnuovo di Garfagnana route.

Area archeomineraria

 Aurelia SS 1 road to Querceta, then the SP “di Marina” road to Seravezza, then the Montagna SC road to Pieve della Cappella.

- A12 Genoa-Rosignano motorway, Versilia exit; then the SP “di Marina” road and the Montagna SC road to Pieve della Cappella.

- From Castelnuovo di Garfagnana: SP 13 road and the SP “di Marina” road to Seravezza, then the Montagna SC road to Pieve della Cappella.



Pieve della Cappella



8 km from Forte dei Marmi railway station, Genoa-Pisa line.



Vaubus, Pietrasanta-Seravezza-Azzano route.

The Surrounding Area

Monte Corchia marble quarries in Levigliani di Stazzema (LU); various walks in the Apuan Alps regional park.

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- 28** *The Baratti and Populonia Archaeology and Mining Park*
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*But whoever it is that has departed, they
have left a pleasant feeling behind them,
warm to the heart, and kindly to the
bowels.*

*David Herbert Lawrence,
"Etruscan Places"*

Necropolises and Tufo Civilisations

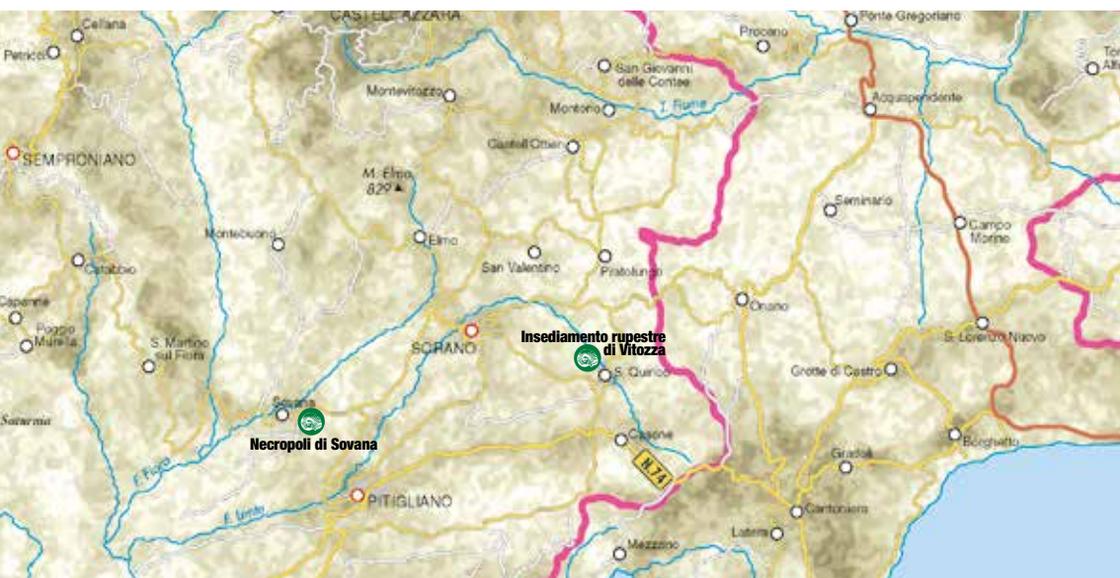
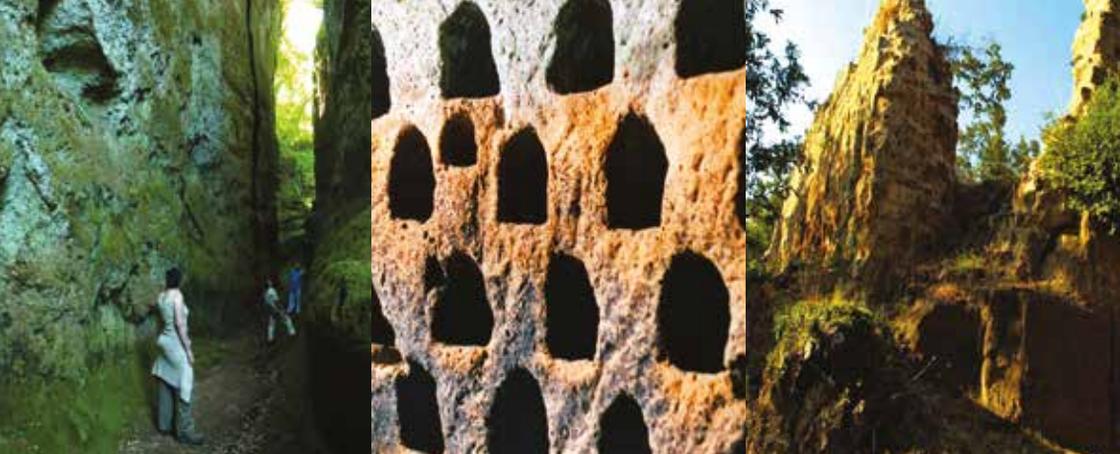
There is a corner of southern Tuscany where the core of the earth, moulded by ingenious hands, has chosen to reveal itself to the light of day; an area formed by "tufo", a soft stone of volcanic origin.

Sculpted into the rock, disconcerting, hidden underground passages, sumptuous tombs and picturesque caves heroically resist, enveloped by age-old dense vegetation.

Meanwhile, lying caressed by the sea breeze are the remains of Populonia, the only Etruscan town situated on the coast, and the main centre for iron in the Mediterranean between the 6th and 4th centuries BC.

Immersed in the silence of these places, we lose all reference of time and space, feeling as if the breath of those who went before us, thousands of years ago, were upon us.





Parco Archeologico "Città del Tufo"

Sovana - Sorano (GR)

Info

Parco Archeologico "Città del Tufo"

www.leviecave.it

info@leviecave.it

info@comune.sorano.gr.it

Opening times

From easter to october every day from 10.00 am to 13.00 pm and from 15.00 pm to 19.00 pm from november to january, open on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

opening hours are subject to changes. it is advisable to view the website: www.leviecave.it

The “Città del Tufo” Archaeology and Mining Park

Sovana – Sorano (GR)

altitude 400 m

Sovana Necropolis

Sovana - Sorano (GR)

Tour route

There is an easy trail: 5h, 3 km.

Etruscan tombs peep out everywhere in Sovana, dug into the tufo slopes that surround the town. Many of them can be reached following the mysterious “quarried” or “cut” paths: enormous, narrow corridors also cut deep into the tufo rock, perhaps linking roads, perhaps for drainage, or perhaps sacred paths for religious rites.

If you embark upon the path that goes off from the San Martino sul Fiora provincial road at the entrance to the town of Sovana, once you have passed the Fologia stream at the point where it forms a pretty little waterfall, you get to the Tomba della Sirena (3rd-2nd century BC): decorating the pediment of the façade is a mermaid enveloping two young boys in her coils. If you continue on the “San Sebastiano” quarried path, you feel smaller and smaller next to the walls towering over 25 m, like Gulliver in the land of giants; and among the ferns and the moss, you will come across a Palaeo-Christian rock oratory.

Services



Useful Information



Only if accompanied.

Trekking gear is recommended.





The “Cavone” is another fascinating gorge. Again looking upwards, you can see how the road has gradually got lower and lower. At the top of the walls you find Etruscan tombs, while half-way up there are medieval niches. On one of the walls time has not cancelled an Etruscan inscription and a hooked cross, the Etruscan symbol of life.

Not far away, in the Poggio Felceto necropolis, you can visit the most famous tomb in the whole area, Tomba

Ildebranda (3rd-2nd century BC), which bears the name of the area’s most illustrious citizen, Pope Gregory VII (his birth name was Ildebrando di Sovana). It is one of the most beautiful examples of a temple tomb. Hewn totally out of the tufo, it is divided into two parts: the funerary monument and the burial chamber. Due to the brittleness of the rock, many architectural elements have been lost, but thanks to the fragments found during the excavations it has been possible to make

an accurate reconstruction: two flights of stairs led up to a high podium, where twelve columns held up a frieze decorated with pictures of animals, plants and humans. A long corridor, the dromos, leads to the cross-shaped burial chamber situated under the monument.

When leaving the town of Sovana from Porta della Rocca on the opposite side of the valley, and going up to the left, you find other tombs, the most famous of which is the Tomba del



**Tomba
Idebranda**

Sovana



Sileno. This tomb has two peculiarities: it is the only circular niche tomb in the area; and, though the last to be discovered, in 1963, it was miraculously intact, with all the funerary items, urns and cinerary remains.

These are just some of the tombs that are dotted about the territory of Sovana: there are a great many, in a range of different architectural styles, including the “dove-cots”, small cells hewn into the tufo, probably used to house the cinerary urns.

 Please respect the regulations in force for archaeological parks.

How to get there

 From Florence: A1 motorway, Orvieto exit; then follow the signs for Castel Giorgio, San Lorenzo Nuovo, Pitigliano, Sovana.

- From Rome via Viterbo: follow the signs for Lago di Bolsena; then follow the signs for Valentano, Pitigliano, Sovana.

- From Rome via Aurelia: SS 1 road Montalto di Castro exit; follow the signs for Canino then for Valentano, Pitigliano, Sovana.

- From Genoa via Grosseto: SS 1 road Albinia exit; then follow the signs for Manciano, Pitigliano, Sovana.

 Idealviaggi, upon reservation.



Via Cava Poggio Cani - Pitigliano



Rock Settlement of Vitozza

San Quirico - Sorano (GR)

Tour route

There is an easy trail: 2h, 2 km.

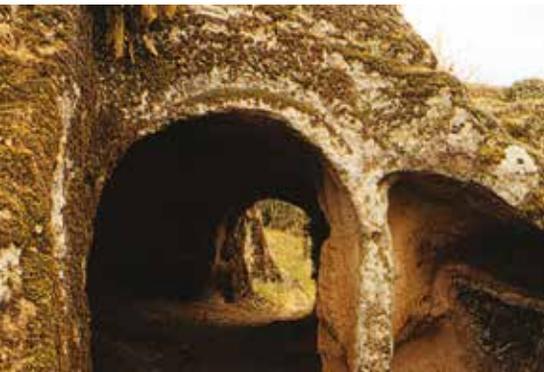


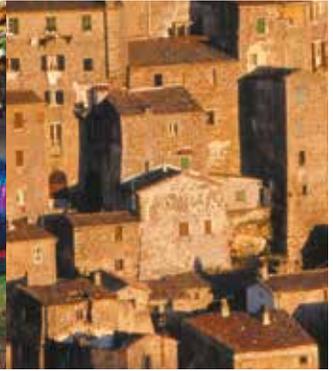
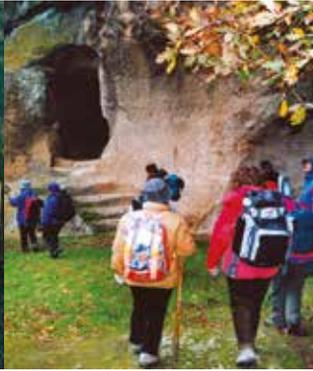
Travellers should leave themselves some time and calmly make their way north of San Quirico di Sorano to explore Vitozza, one of the most interesting and extensive rock settlements in Italy, lived in from the 12th to the 17th centuries.

Bathed by the clear waters of the Lente stream, and hidden by the abundant copse, two hundred caves, the “dovecots”, and the remains of the medieval vil-

lage still survive today. Only the walls, the fortress and the church rise up above the ground; the rest of the buildings have been dug out of the tufo rock: from the stalls for the animals to the storehouses, from the houses to the furniture inside. Some cavities are laid out on several floors, linked by stairs and internal passageways; in the walls are some niches used as storage spaces, wardrobes or lamp stands, while the holes visible at knee height

were used as supports for the bed bases. Today it is easy to visit Vitozza thanks to recent restoration works and excellent signposting.





⚠ Please respect the regulations in force for archaeological parks.

How to get there

🚗 From Sovana: Pitigliano, Sorano, San Quirico di Sorano.
 - From Florence: A1 motorway, Orvieto exit; then follow the signs for Castel Giorgio, San Lorenzo Nuovo, Pitigliano, Sorano, San Quirico di Sorano.
 - From Rome via Viterbo: follow the signs for Lago di Bolsena; then follow the signs for Valentano, Pitigliano, Sorano, San Quirico di Sorano.
 - From Rome via Aurelia: SS 1 road Montalto di Castro exit; fol-

low the signs for Canino then for Valentano, Pitigliano, Sorano, San Quirico di Sorano.

- From Genoa via Grosseto: SS 1 road Albinia exit; then follow the signs for Manciano, Pitigliano, Sorano, San Quirico di Sorano.

🚌 RAMA bus service, 4 trips per day.

The Surrounding Area

Rock settlement of San Rocco, Sorano (GR); Fortezza degli Orsini, fortress, Sorano (GR); ancient spa of Sorano.

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**Parco Archeologico
di Baratti e Populonia**
Loc. Baratti - Piombino (LI)

Info
Parchi della Val di Cornia
www.parchivaldicornia.it

Opening times

From March until June and from September until October: mornings and afternoons every day except Mondays.

Open every day in July and August, also open at night on Saturdays.

From November until February: Saturday and Sunday mornings and afternoons only; from Tuesday to Friday for groups and schools upon reservation only. Closed from 8th to 26th December.

The Baratti and Populonia Archaeology and Mining Park

Loc. Baratti - Piombino (LI)

altitude 0 to 165 m

When you walk along the beach in the gulf of Baratti, your eyes wander up towards the hill where the remains of Populonia rise up from the green mediterranean bush. The Parco Archeologico di Baratti e Populonia archaeological park is a real open-air museum on the Etruscan civilisation. In the San Cerbone necropolis there are tombs from various periods (7th-5th centuries BC): from the burial mounds – such as the monumental, 28-metre-wide Tom-

ba dei Carri – to the niche tombs, such as the Tomba del Bronzetto dell'Offerente, situated right next to the beach. A traveller from the early 1900s would not have been able to see these monuments as the whole area was buried by the iron slag produced by the furnaces that processed the haematite, a ferrous mineral from the island of Elba, in Etruscan and Roman times. Still today, if you follow the Via del Ferro, you can see the buildings for refining the mineral.

Guided tours

In Italian, English and German.
Included in the ticket price.

Tour routes

There are three routes:

1. Via delle Cave:
2h, medium;
2. Via del Ferro:
2h 30min, medium;
3. The San Cerbone necropolis:
1h, easy.

Services



For logistical reasons, access is reserved to the San Cerbone necropolis and the exhibition on the town of Populonia at the park's visitor centre.

Useful Information



Trekking gear is recommended.





If you want to enjoy the view over the large crescent-shaped bay of Baratti, you can go up the Via delle Cave woodland path to the Belvedere. Then, when you come down towards the sea you can find the Necropoli delle Grotte: here, in around the 4th century BC, chamber tombs were dug out of the soft calcarenite. Arranged on several levels, they were accessible from steps that were also dug out of the rock.

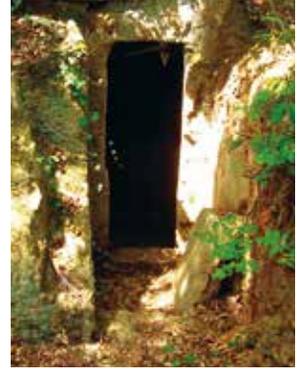
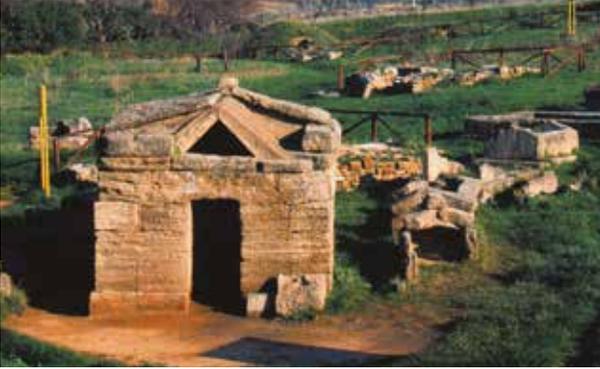
At various points in the past,

the whole Necropoli delle Grotte area was subject to intense quarrying activity to extract the stone that was used to build the main monuments in the town of Populonia.

As of the summer of 2007, the park will also include the summit of the acropolis and the medieval monastery of San Quirico. It will include more trails so that visitors will be able to get a global view of the ancient town and its territory. To put the last piece in the jigsaw puzzle:

most of the objects found in the area of Populonia are on display at the Museo del Territorio di Populonia museum in Piombino (Livorno); the two carts contained in the funerary items in the Tomba dei Carri are instead conserved in the Museo Archeologico Nazionale national archaeological museum in Florence.





 The park's Centro di Archeologia Sperimentale experimental archaeology centre organises laboratories to learn ancient working techniques, amongst which pottery and stone masonry.

 Please respect the rules in force for protected areas.

How to get there

 Aurelia SS 1 road, San Vincenzo nord, San Vincenzo sud, Riotorto-Vignale, Piombino-Campiglia Marittima exit and follow the signs for the park.

 7 km from Campiglia Marittima railway station, Rome-Genoa-Turin line.

 Parchibus bus service (ATM), in spring from Tuesday to Sunday upon reservation.
The Surrounding Area

Parco di Rimigliano coastal park, San Vincenzo (LI); Parco costiero di Sterpaia coastal park, Piombino (LI); Parco naturale di Montioni natural park, Suvereto (LI); Parco forestale Poggio Neri forest park, Sassetta (LI).

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Via Cava di San Giuseppe

Strada Provinciale Pian della
Madonna
Pitigliano (GR)

Museo Archeologico Alberto Manzi

S.P. 127 - Loc. Pantano

Info

iat@comune.pitigliano.gr.it
www.comune.pitigliano.gr.it
www.turismoinmaremma.it.

Via Cava of San Giuseppe

Pitigliano (GR)

Trail dug into the rocks

Pitigliano was one of the most important Etruscan centres on the Maremma hills. In the surroundings there are many remains of that ancient civilization, and one of the most spectacular and suggestive are the Vie Cave, deep trails dug into the tufo rocks; today there are about a dozen.

One of the longest is the Via Cava di San Giuseppe, near the bridge on the Lente river, on the road that connects Pitigliano with Sovana. Along the trail, on the left, there is a necropolis that was in use between the 7th and the 6th century b.C. Then, stuck between two rocks, there is the tabernacle with the icon of San Giuseppe, painted on table by Licia Formiconi. Every year, on the 19th of March, a traditional torchlight procession is

arranged in worship of the saint.

Don't miss the open-air archaeological museum A. Manzi, arranged in two sections: the "Città dei Vivi", with educational models (prehistoric hut and archaic Etruscan house), and the archaeological area "Città dei Morti" – the Gradone (7th-6th century. b.C.) and S. Giovanni necropolis (6th-4th century b.C.; beginning of 3rd century b.C.). Along the trail it is possible to visit the "Tomba degli Sposi" and "Tomba del Guerriero", carefully recreated tombs to represent a solemn Etruscan funeral ceremony. The two "cities" are connected through the via Cava del Gradone, the ancient trail dug into the tufo rock, an evocative way, spiritual, physical and mysterious.

Opening times

It is possible to book guided tours to the settlement and the Vie Cave at the above-mentioned addresses.

Services

Picnic area and large parking
Bookshop and bar inside.

Notizie utili



We recommend to wear comfortable or trekking shoes.





⚠ Please respect the regulations in force for archaeological parks.

How to get there

🚗 From Sovana: Pitigliano, Sorano, San Quirico di Sorano.

- From Florence: A1 motorway, Orvieto exit; follow the signs for Castel Giorgio, San Lorenzo Nuovo, Pitigliano, Sorano, San Quirico di Sorano.

- From Rome via Viterbo: follow the signs for Bolsena lake, then Valentano, Pitigliano, Sorano, San Quirico di Sorano.

- From Rome via Aurelia road: SS 1 Montalto di Castro exit; follow the signs for Canino, then Va-

lentano, Pitigliano, Sorano, San Quirico di Sorano.

- From Genova via Grosseto: SS 1 Albinia exit; follow the signs for Manciano, Pitigliano, Sorano, San Quirico di Sorano.

🚌 Rama bus service, 4 trips per day.

The surrounding area

Rock settlement of San Rocco in Sorano (GR); Fortezza degli Orsini, fortress in Sorano (GR); ancient spa of Sorano (GR).

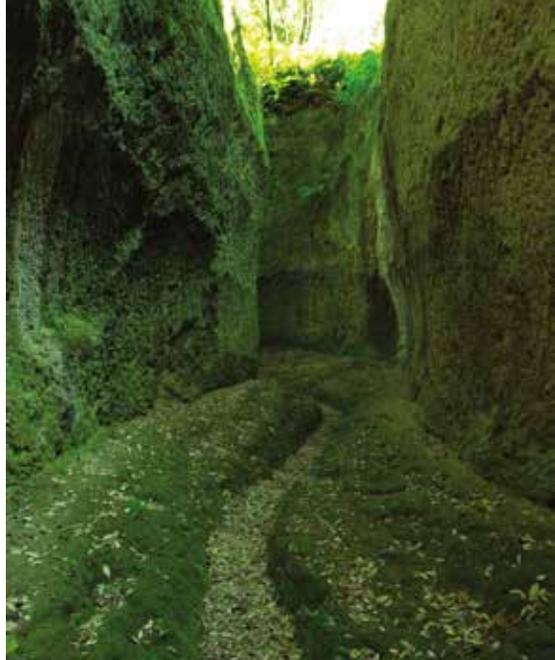
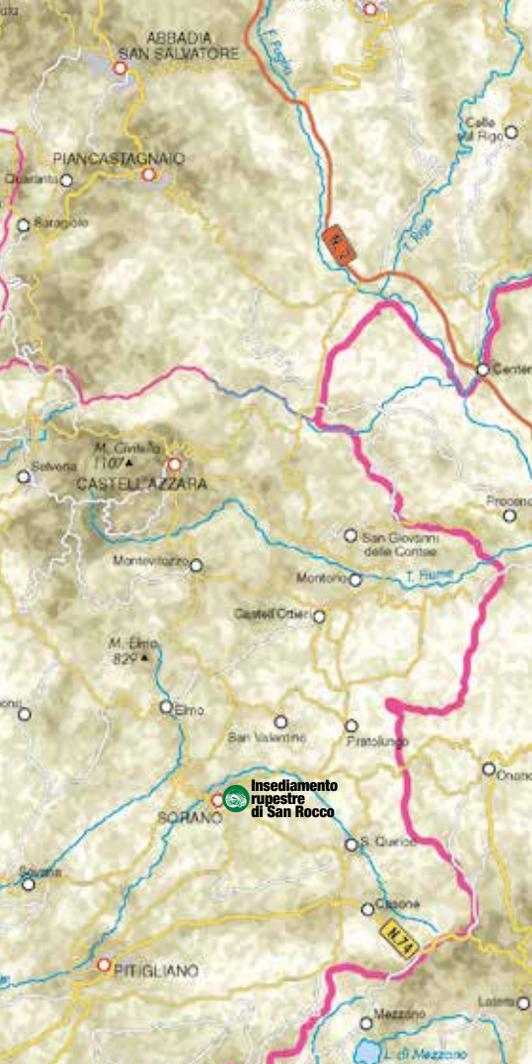
Next stop for *Toscana Underground*

Grotta del Sassocolato	46
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Pitigliano





Insediamento rupestre di San Rocco
Sorano (GR)

Info
Parco Archeologico
"Città del tufo"
SORANO (GR)

info@leviecave.it
www.leviecave.it

Opening times
Open all year.

Guided tours
It is possible to book guided tours to the settlement and the Vie Cave at the above-mentioned addresses.

Tour routes
The settlement is part of the "Città del Tufo" Archaeology and Mining Park with the Etruscan Necropolis of Sovana and the rock settlement of Vitozza.

Useful Information



We recommend to wear suitable clothing and trekking shoes; bring water, especially during summer.

⚠ Please respect the regulations in force for archaeological parks.

The San Rocco Rock Settlement

Sorano (GR)

Rock settlement



The rock settlement of San Rocco is on a vast panoramic area in a forest above the medieval village of Sorano and the valley of the Lente river. Sorano, with the marvellous Pitigliano, is part of the “tufo” region, distinguishing for tufo stones, rock settlements, medieval villages and fortresses. The settlement is completely dug into the rock and this astonishes the visitor. Some of the rooms were used, during the Etruscan age, as burial places, others as

houses during the Middle Ages. At the entrance of the settlement there is the church dedicated to San Rocco; inside an altar and above a fresco of Mother Mary with Child. Behind the church, a road leads to the Via Cava di San Rocco, Etruscan trail deeply dug in the tufo rock, very attractive and suggestive.



How to get there

-  From Sovana: Pitigliano, Sorano, San Quirico di Sorano.
- From Florence: A1 motorway, Orvieto exit; follow the signs for Castel Giorgio, San Lorenzo Nuovo, Pitigliano, Sorano, San Quirico di Sorano.
- From Rome via Viterbo: follow the signs for Bolsena lake, then Valentano, Pitigliano, Sorano, San Quirico di Sorano.
- From Rome via Aurelia road: SS

- 1 Montalto di Castro exit; follow the signs for Canino, then Valentano, Pitigliano, Sorano, San Quirico di Sorano.
- From Genova via Grosseto: SS 1 Albinia exit; follow the signs for Manciano, Pitigliano, Sorano, San Quirico di Sorano.

 Rama bus service, 4 trips per day.

The surrounding area

Via Cava di San Giuseppe; Fortezza degli Orsini, fortress in Sorano (GR); ancient spa of Sorano (GR).

Next stop for *Toscana Underground*

The “Città del Tufo” Archaeology and Mining Park **118**
Via Cava of San Giuseppe **128**

- 31** *The “Bottini” Underground Passageways in Siena*
- 32** *The Santa Mustiola Catacombs*
- 33** *The Fonti dell’Abbondanza Gallery*
- 34** *The Labyrinth of Porsenna*
- 35** *The Chiusi Museum*



*But if I here could see the tristful soul
Of Guido, or Alessandro, or their brother,
For Branda's fount I would not give the sight.*

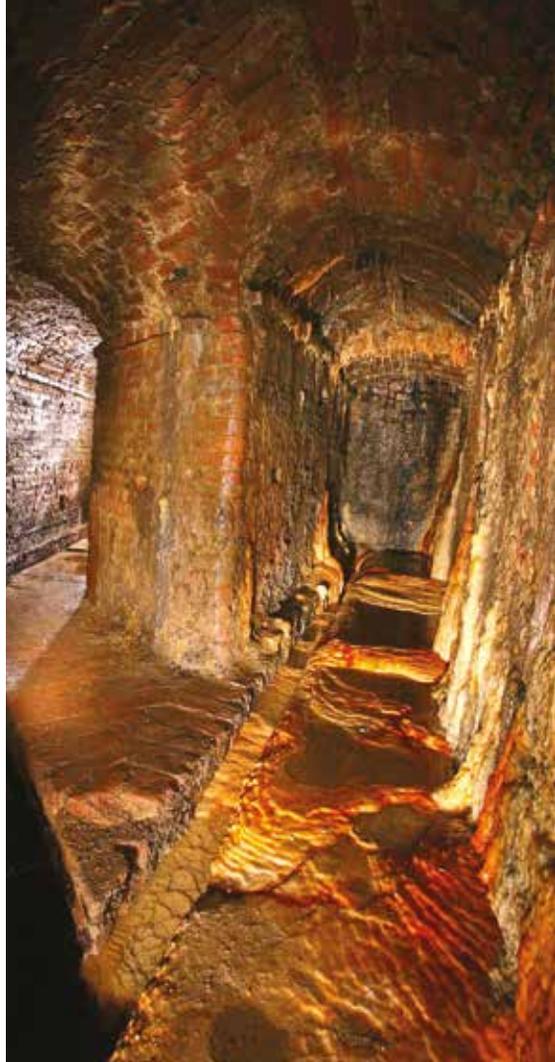
Dante, "The Divine Comedy", Hell, 30

Underground Passageways and Aqueducts

At the Palio on 2nd July or 16th August in Siena, in the middle of the colourful, festive crowd of horses and jockeys, members of the contrade and tourists, who would believe that the water that springs from the splendid Fonte Gaia in Piazza del Campo flows underground in silent passageways? The galleries were dug between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance to quench the city's thirst, an extremely demanding enterprise that recruited specialised workers from the mines of Massa Marittima, Gerfalco, Montieri and Boccheggiano (see "Mines, Mining and Industrial Archaeology", pg. 46).

There are also underground aqueducts in other places in Tuscany: the medieval Fonti dell'Abbondanza gallery in Massa Marittima and the "Labirinto di Porsenna" (labyrinth of Porsenna) in Chiusi. In Chiusi it is also possible to visit Etruscan underground passageways which nowadays house a rich collection of funeral urns and tomb covers from ancient Etruria.





"Bottini" di Siena

C/o Palazzo Comunale
Piazza del Campo, 1
Siena

Info

Informazioni Turistiche I.A.T.
Siena
www.iat.it
www.terresiena.it
siena@terresiena.it

Opening times

Spring and autumn.

The passageways can only be visited if the level of the water is not too high.

The “Bottini” Underground Passageways in Siena

Siena

Urban Underground Waterways

When wandering the medieval streets of Siena, and seeing the water gush up from Fonte Gaia in Piazza del Campo, it is difficult to imagine that underground there is a labyrinth of over 25 kilometres that supplies water to the fountains and wells scattered about the town.

This network of underground aqueducts is called the “Bottini”, from *buctinus*, a term used for the first time in 1226 to indicate the barrel vault of these galler-

ies, usually around 1.80 m high and 0.90 m wide. The aqueduct was mainly excavated from the 12th to the 15th century, to make up for the lack of water. The work incorporated a stretch of passageways, known as the Fontanella, which probably originated from Etruscan times.

Today it is possible to walk along these passageways, with the rain water flowing along a small channel cut into the walkway until it reaches the fountains.

The “Bottini” network consists of two main branches on two different levels: the main Fontebranda branch (7.5 km), which takes water to Fontebranda from Fontebecci and the Chiarenna branch (area north of Siena) at impressive depths; and the main Fonte Gaia branch, which is longer (15.7 km) and runs nearer the surface, feeding the fountain in Piazza del Campo and other places at lower altitudes.

 Visits must be booked a long time in advance (minimum 12 months). Requests must be made to the Comune di Siena - Servizi Idrici - Via di Città, 81, 53100 Siena.

Guided tours

In Italian.

Tour routes

There are two easy trails:

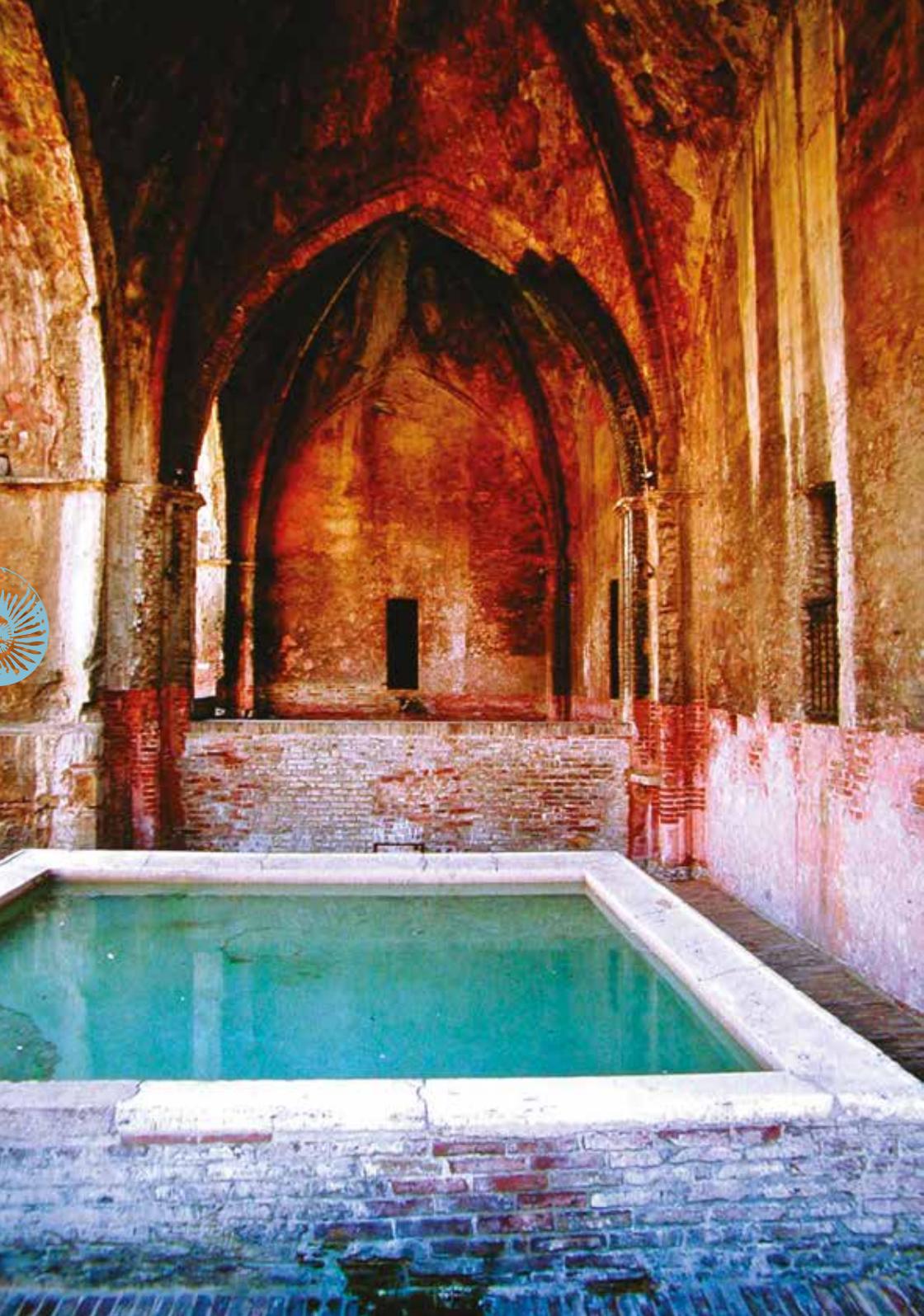
1. The Fonte Gaia main branch (the Fonte Gaia-Fonte Giusta stretch and back): 1200 m;
2. The Fontenuova main branch: 610 m.

Useful Information



We recommend that you wear suitable clothing (possibly with Wellington boots or waterproof shoes if the water level is high). You will also need a torch to light your way.





How to get there

 A1 motorway: from the Firenze Certosa exit take the SS Florence-Siena road; from the Val di Chiana exit of the A1 motorway follow the directions for Siena along the SS 326 road.

 Siena railway station.

 TRAIN; SENA bus services.

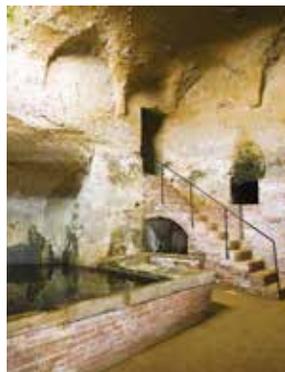
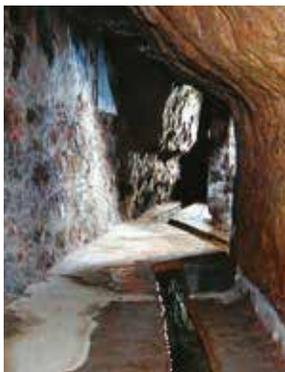
Inside the walls

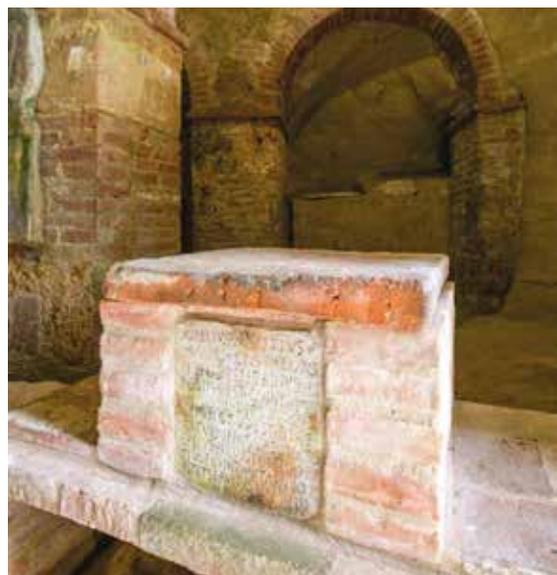
Fonte delle Monache: charming spring dug under the hill for an enclosed community of nuns. For access contact: +39 338 1100772.

Next stop for *Toscana Underground*

The Belverde Archaeology and Nature Park	64
The Santa Mustiola Catacombs	140
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Fonte delle Monache, first ramp





Catacombe di Santa Mustiola

Chiusi (SI)

Info

Catacombe di Santa Mustiola

Strada Provinciale 49

Chiusi (SI)

museocattchiusi@alice.it

www.prolocochiusi.it

www.terredisiena.it

Guided tours

Only upon reservation.

Tour routes

It is possible to book guided tours at the Cathedral Museum and the Labyrinth of Porsenna Piazza C. Baldini (former Piazza Duomo), 7

email: museocattchiusi@alice.it

The Santa Mustiola Catacombs

Chiusi (SI)

Burial site

The Santa Mustiola catacomb is about 2 kilometres from the town of Chiusi, one of the most important cities of northern Etruria, on the road to the lake. The sacred place takes its name from the patron saint of the town and the diocese that was buried here, according to tradition, in the middle of 3rd century and then moved to the Cathedral of San Secondiano.

The main entrance leads to a small church, which maintains the identical charm of the first Christian celebrations; the catacomb is organized in several galleries with the walls marked by inscriptions, symbols and signs. The large part of the burials is inside curved niches; each has two or three remains closed by shingles.

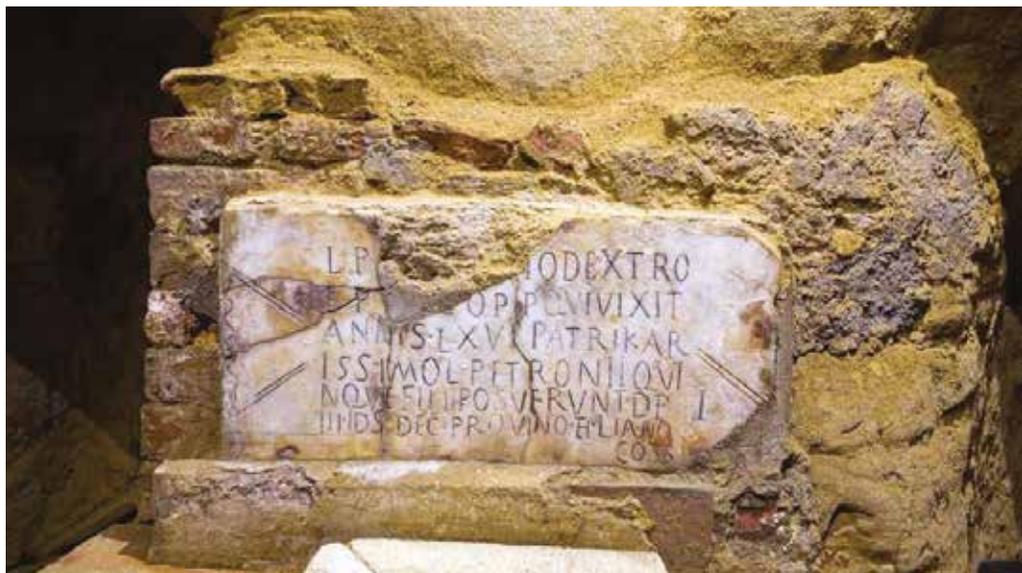
The catacomb can be visited only with guided tours during the opening times of the Cathedral Museum.



Useful Information







How to get there

 By car: A1 motorway Chiusi-Chianciano Terme exit, then in the direction of the town of Chiusi then via Garibaldi, via Torri del Fornello, SP 49 (1,8 km from town centre).

 By train, Chiusi-Chianciano Terme train station; continue by bus to Cimitero Vecchio (Line T61, from railway station).

The surrounding area

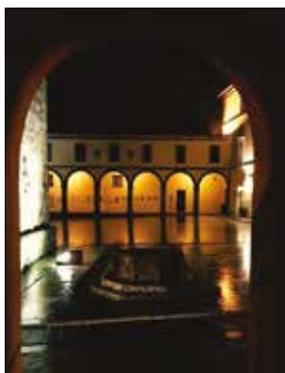
Cathedral Museum and Labyrinth of Porsenna, Piazza C. Baldini (former Piazza Duomo), 7
 mail: museocattchiusi@alice.it; tel. 0578-226490
 Santa Caterina di Alessandria Catacomb – Strada Provinciale 146, 15 Chiusi Scalo
 (Information and reservation as for Santa Mustiola Catacomb).
 Etruscan National Museum and necropolis, via Porsenna 93, Chi-

usi; tel. 0578-20177.
 Archaeological Museum, viale Dante, Chianciano Terme (SI); website: museoetrusco.it; tel. 0578-30471.
 Archaeological Museum and Tomba della Quadriga Infernale, via Roma 24, Sarteano (SI); website: museosarteano.it; tel. 0578-269261.

Next stop for Toscana Underground

The Belverde Archaeology and Nature Park
 The Labyrinth of Porsenna
 The Chiusi Museum

64
148
152





Galleria delle Fonti dell'Abbondanza
Piazzale Mazzini
Massa Marittima (GR)

Info

- Servizio Musei Cooperativa
Colline Metallifere (prenotazioni,
visite guidate)

www.coopcollinemetallifere.it
musei@coopcollinemetallifere.it

- Ufficio informazioni
Massa Marittima

infomassamarittima@lamaremma.info
www.terredisiena.it
www.museidimaremma.it

Opening times

! Visits during special events,
upon reservation only.

The Fonti dell'Abbondanza Gallery

Massa Marittima (GR)

Medieval Water Collection Gallery

During the Middle Ages, underground passages were dug out in the travertine rock upon which the town of Massa Marittima lies to supply water to the Fonti dell'Abbondanza, a building with three large pointed arches, built and decorated in 1265. Its beautiful frescoes were only recently discovered and restored. The most famous is the so-called "fertility" fresco painted in the first arch, portraying a tree with many branches with fruits shaped

like phalluses, symbolising fertility and life.

In the past, the Fonti dell'Abbondanza had a strategic role for the town, especially in the event of a siege, as they were the only springs within the town walls that provided drinking water.

Opening up under the second arch is the underground water collection gallery.

Wells have been dug out in the passageway, which measures approximately 270 m in length and 1.90 m in height, to collect the

water filtered by the rock above; limestone stalactites can be seen on the vault and formations of various shapes and sizes also decorate the floor and the walls.

Guided tours

In Italian. The visits during special events are free.

Tour route

There is an easy trail: 1h, 270 m.

Services

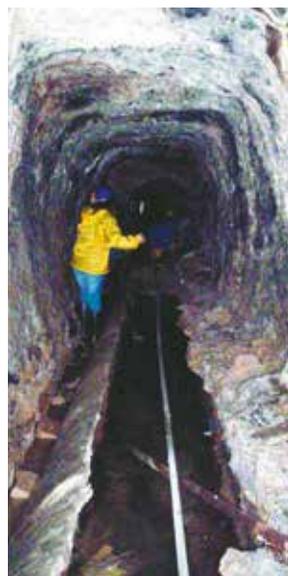
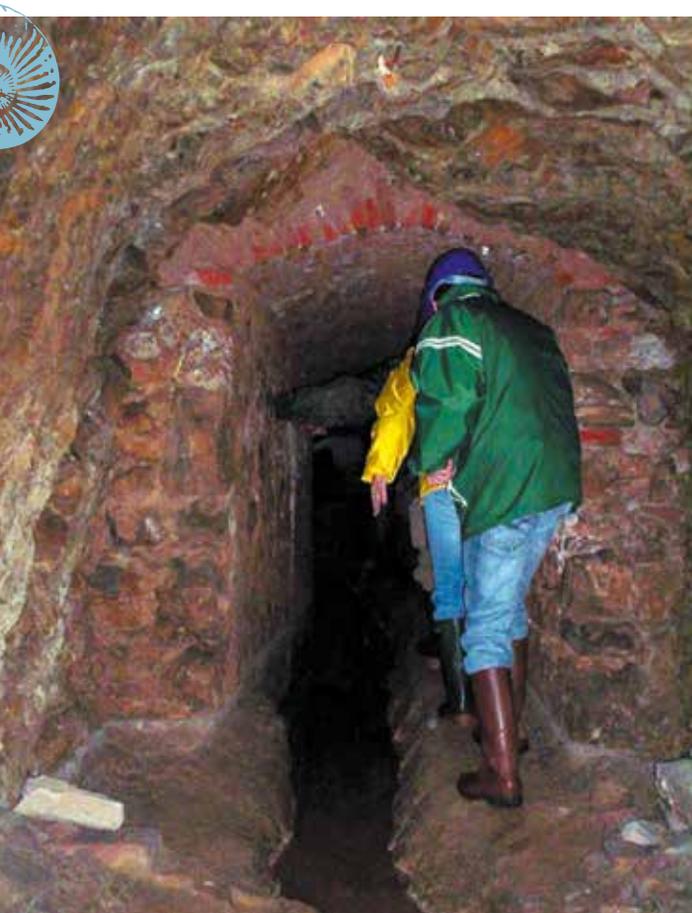
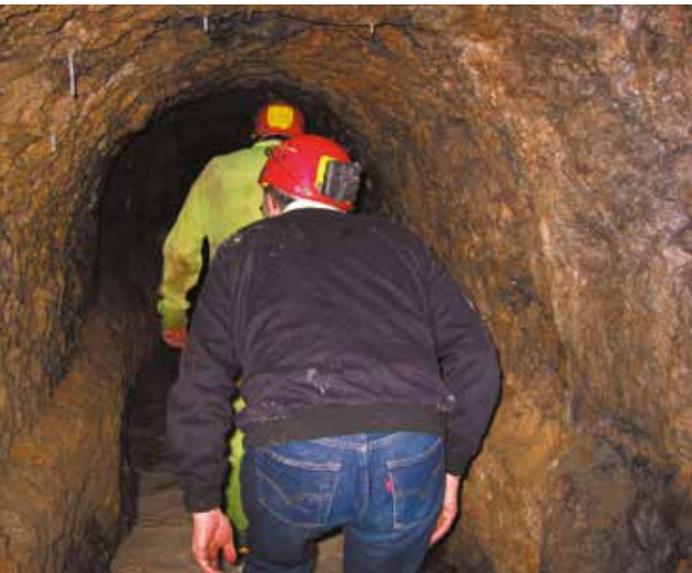


Useful Information



We recommend that you wear trekking gear. A helmet and electric torch are supplied by the tour guides.





! It is obligatory to follow the guides' instructions. The helmet must be worn at all times.



follow the signs for Massa Marittima.

- From the south: Rome-Civitavecchia motorway; then the Aurelia SS 1 main road in the direction of Grosseto, Follonica est exit; then follow the signs for Massa Marittima.

 Follonica railway station, Pisa-Rome line.



 RAMA FMF bus service, Follonica-Massa Marittima route (1 trip every hour); Siena-Massa Marittima (3-4 trips per day).

**Next stop
for *Toscana Underground***

The Massa Marittima Mining Museum	84
The Montecatini Val di Cecina Mining Museum	88
The Montieri Archaeology and Mining Park	96
The Gavorrano Mining and Nature Park	108

The Surrounding Area

Museo del ferro e della ghisa, iron and cast iron museum, Follonica (GR); Porta del Parco Minerario, mining park, Monterotondo Marittimo (GR).

How to get there

 From the north: A12 Genoa-Livorno motorway, Rosignano exit; then the Aurelia SS 1 main road, Follonica est exit; then



Labirinto di Porsenna

Piazza Duomo
Chiusi (SI)

Info

Ufficio turistico
Piazza Duomo, 1
Chiusi (SI)

www.prolocochiusi.it
info@prolocochiusi.it

www.terresiena.it
www.museidimaremma.it

Opening times

From 1st June to 15th October:
10.00 am-12.45 pm and 4.00
pm-6.00 pm.

From 16th October to 31st May:
10.00 am-12.45 pm (working
days); 10.00 am-12.45 pm and
3.30 pm-6.00 pm (Sundays and
public holidays).

Group visits can be booked out-
side opening hours.

The Labyrinth of Porsenna

Chiusi (SI)

Etruscan galleries and underground passages for supplying water



Between the 7th and 5th centuries BC, Chiusi was one of the most important towns in the Etruscan Dodecapolis (“league of twelve cities”).

In his *Naturalis Historia*, Pliny the Elder tells that the legendary Etruscan king Porsenna was buried in a majestic tomb inside an unfathomable labyrinth; and according to a medieval legend, the sarcophagus was guarded inside a golden chariot pulled by 12 golden horses, watched over by a hen and 5,000 chicks, also made of gold.

For a long time, folk tradition had it that Porsenna’s burial place was the network of galleries that unwind beneath Chiusi. In reality, these are an Etruscan aqueduct, consisting of passages of different sizes (around 1 metre wide and 2-5 metres high), laid out on different levels, where the water, after filtering through the rocks, was collected in large basins and drawn from wells.

The route starts from the Museo della Cattedrale (Cathedral

Guided tours

In Italian, English, German, French, Spanish and Dutch.

Visits in a foreign language must be booked (an additional fee could be requested for the guide on top of the entrance ticket price).

Services



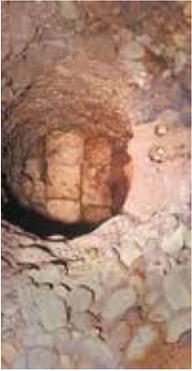
Useful Information



Tour route

There is an easy route:
30 min, 200 m.

“Beccati questo”
and “Beccati quello” towers



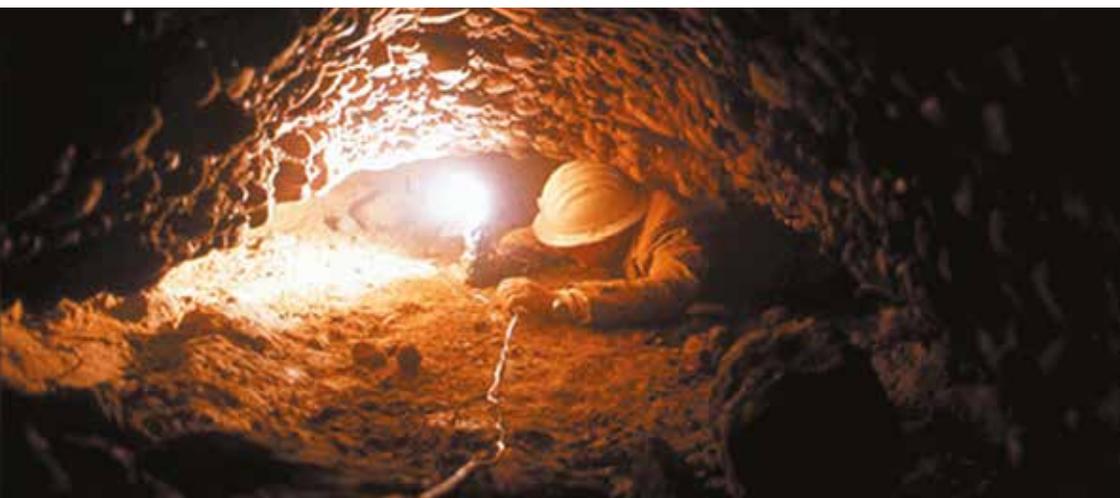
museum) in Piazza Duomo, and finishes up in a large round Etruscan-Roman reservoir from the 1st century BC with a double barrel vault held up by a central column. The structure is made from dry stone walls of blocks of travertine which are covered in *cocciopesto*, a mixture of pottery fragments held together by lime, ensuring they were perfectly watertight.

From the tank you go up a small spiral staircase to the base of the defensive tower built in the 12th century which was transformed into a bell tower when a bell was added at the end of the 1500s.

From the top of the tower you can enjoy a splendid view: the picturesque roofs of the historical centre of the town, the medieval fortress, the “Beccati questo” (Take This!) and “Beccati quello” (Take That!) towers whose names derive from the implacable rivalry between the people of Siena and Perugia; and also the lakes of Chiusi, Montepulciano and Trasimeno, the Amiata and Cetona mountains, Città della Pieve, Cortona and Orvieto.



Museo della Cattedrale, manuscript





How to get there

 A1 motorway, Chiusi-Chianciano Terme exit.
- SS 146 main road to Chiusi.

 2 km from the Chiusi-Chianciano Terme railway station, Florence-Rome line; then continue by bus to the historic centre of the town (leaves from the railway station every 30 min).

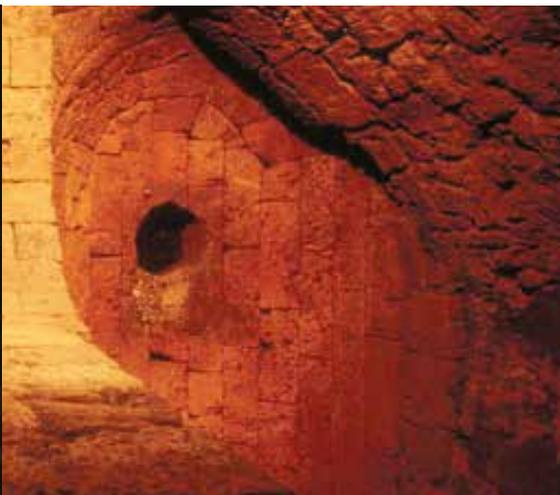
 La Ferroviaria Italiana (LFI) bus service, Chiusi-Montepulciano line.

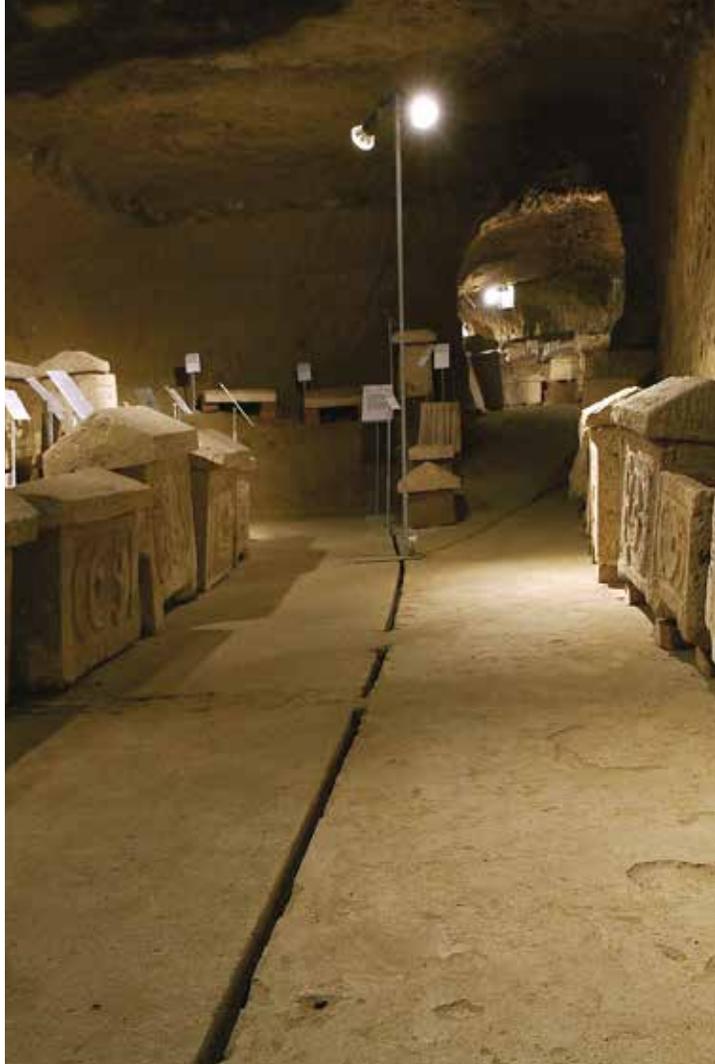
The Surrounding Area

Museo della Cattedrale, cathedral museum, Chiusi; Catacombs of Santa Mustiola and Santa Caterina d'Alessandria, Chiusi; Museo Archeologico Nazionale, national archaeological museum and Etruscan necropolis, Chiusi; Museo Civico Archeologico, archaeological museum, Chianciano Terme (Siena); Museo Civico Archeologico, archaeological museum, Sarteano (Siena).

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Museo Civico di Chiusi

Chiusi (SI)

Info

Ufficio turistico
Piazza Duomo, 1
Chiusi (SI)

www.prolocochiusi.it
info@prolocochiusi.it

www.terresiena.it
www.museidimaremma.it

Opening times

From November to April: Thursdays and Fridays 10.00 am-1.00 pm; Saturdays and Sundays 10.00 am-1.00 pm and 3.00 pm-7.00 pm.

Guided tour times: 10.10 am, 11.10 am, 12.10 pm, 3.10 pm, 4.10 pm, 5.10 pm.

From May to October: from Tuesday to Sunday 10.00 am-1.00 pm and 3.00 pm-7.00 pm.

Guided tour times: 10.15 am, 11.30 am, 12.45 pm, 3.15 pm, 4.30 pm, 5.45 pm.

The Chiusi Museum

Chiusi (SI)

Etruscan Underground Passages

The visit starts from Palazzo delle Logge, in Via Il Ciminia 2, where “The Labyrinth” section is laid out, and continues in Via Baldetti 8, with the “Production Activities” and “Epigraphy” sections.

“The Labyrinth” section documents the myth of the Etruscan king Porsenna through panels, interactive objects, photos and a large model. The king’s mausoleum is said to be housed in the heart of a labyrinth dug directly underneath Chiusi (see “The Labyrinth of Porsenna”, pg. 106).

On display in the “Production Activities” section are agricultural tools from the 19th and 20th centuries. The underground rooms house kitchen and canteen pottery (1st century AD) and a collection of Etruscan and Roman transport amphorae. After this display is a room with a 2D reproduction of an Etruscan banquet as portrayed in the frescoes in the Colle di Chiusi tomb.

Guided tours

In Italian, English, German and French.

Tour route

There is a trail that goes through the three sections of the museum:

- I: “The Labyrinth”;
- II: “Production Activities”;
- III: “Epigraphy”.

Services

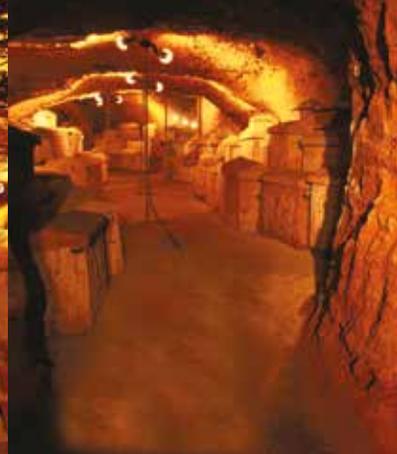
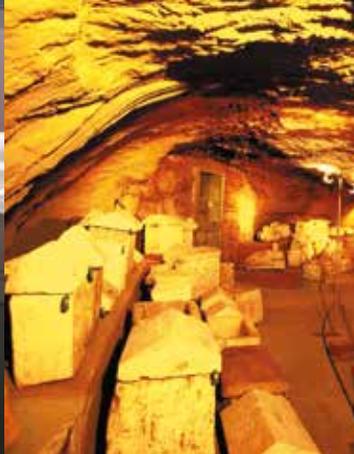


Useful Information



Flash-free photography is allowed.





The trail continues in the “Epigraphy” section, located in fascinating Etruscan underground passageways that unfold over 140 metres. From here it is also possible to see a small lake 30 metres below road level through a monumental well. It is the only museum in Italy entirely dedicated to Etruscan epigraphy with 500 inscriptions on funeral urns and tomb covers. Due to the great quantity of inscriptions found in the area around Chiusi (around

3,000 in all, which can be dated between the end of the 2nd century BC and the beginning of the 1st century BC), it has been possible to reconstruct a sort of “Etruscan demographic register”: the history of the families, their family trees and the social rankings that the single people achieved.

How to get there

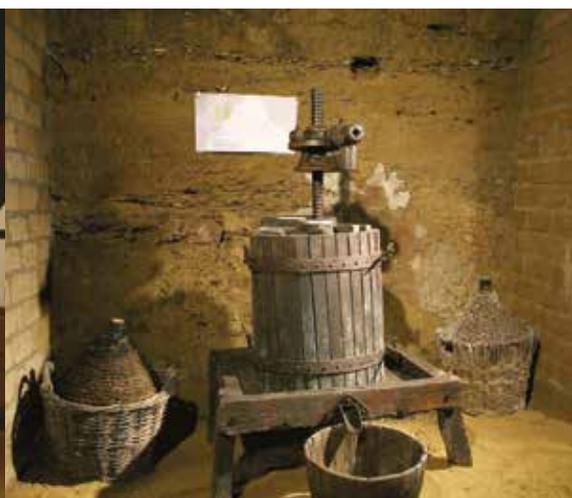
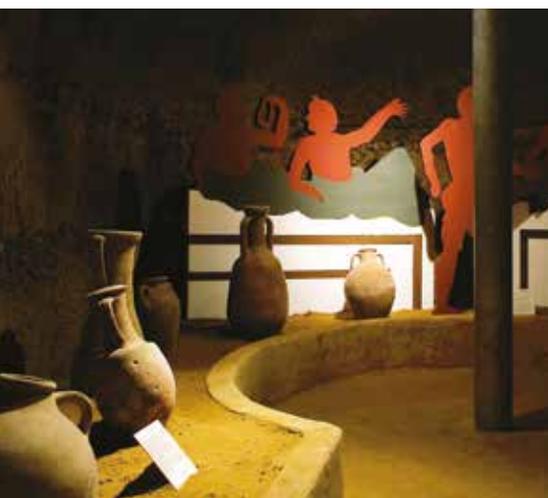
 A1 motorway, Chiusi-Chianciano Terme exit.
- SS 146 road to Chiusi.

 2 km from the Chiusi-Chianciano Terme railway station, Florence-Rome line; then continue by bus to the historic centre of the town (leaves from the railway station every 30 min).

 La Ferroviaria Italiana (LFI) bus service, Chiusi-Montepulciano line.

The Surrounding Area

Museo della Cattedrale, cathedral museum, Chiusi; Catacombs of Santa Mustiola and Santa Caterina

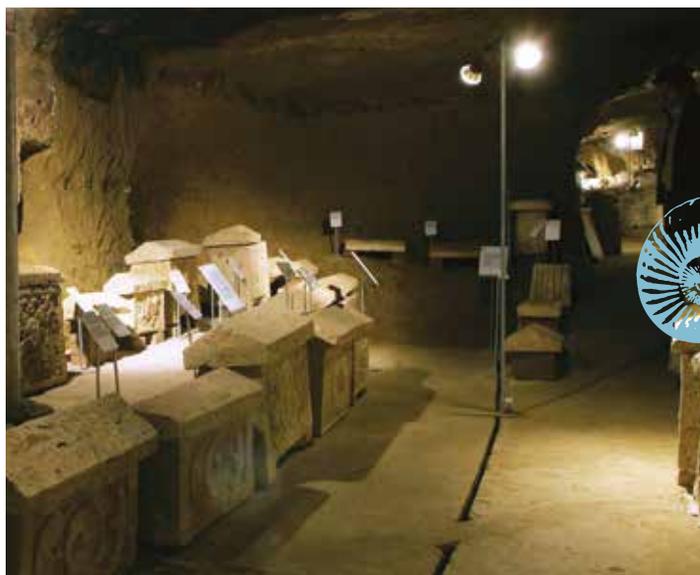




d'Alessandria, Chiusi; Museo Archeologico Nazionale, national archaeological museum and Etruscan necropolis, Chiusi; Museo Civico Archeologico, archaeological museum, Chianciano Terme (Siena); Museo Civico Archeologico, archaeological museum, Sarteano (Siena).

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Potholing centres

Federazione speleologica toscana

Vialetto Gomez
50136 Firenze
info@speleotoscana.it
www.speleotoscana.it

Gruppo speleologico fiorentino C.A.I.

Via del Mezzetta, 2/M
50136 Firenze
gsfi@virgilio.it
www.gsfciai.it

Gruppo Speleologico Toscano SST

c/o Carlo Carletti
Via V. Bellini, 40
50144 Firenze
info@sstspeleo.it
sst@speleotoscana.it
<http://www.sstspeleo.it/>

Unione speleologica calenzano

Via Buonarroti 12/a
50041 Calenzano (FI)
unionespeleocalenzano@yahoo.it
www.speleocalenzano.it

Speleo club Firenze

Vialetto A. Gomez, 50136 Firenze
info@speleoclubfirenze.it
www.speleoclubfirenze.it

Gruppo speleologico l'Orso

Via G. Marconi, 75
58034 Castell'Azzara (GR)
opals@tiscali.it
www.gorso.it

Società naturalistica speleologica maremmana

c/o Carlo Cavanna
Via Petrarca, 17
58046 Marina di Grosseto (GR)
speleo@gol.grosseto.it
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*For further information on single groups write to:
info@speleotoscana.it*

Useful Numbers

Main airports:

- “Amerigo Vespucci” di Firenze
Centralino:
tel. +39 055.3061.5
www.aeroporto.firenze.it

- “Galileo Galilei” di Pisa
Centralino:
tel. +39 050 849111
www.pisa-airport.com

Railways:

- Call Center 24h su 24h tel. 892021
www.trenitalia.com



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