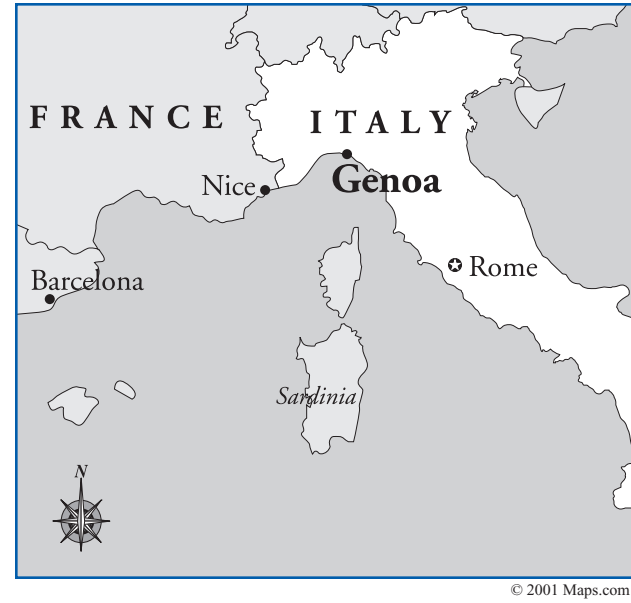


NOTES

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PORT EXPLORER & SHOPPING GUIDE

Genoa

GENERAL INFORMATION Genoa, located on the northwestern coast of Italy, is the capital of the Liguria region. Nestled between the Gulf of Genoa and the base of the Apennines mountains, the city is one of the largest in Europe with approximately 700,000 inhabitants. This international port of call is the principle seaport for Italy and is a commercial and industrial center. In 2004, Genoa was proclaimed the European Capital of Culture.

Genoa has always been a port city above all else and has a special connection to the sea. This is the birthplace of Christopher Columbus and home to the powerful merchant traders and ruling Doges. The wealth accumulated from centuries of maritime trade is reflected in architecture throughout the city. Surrounded by walls built to protect from raiding pirates, Genoa has many Baroque churches, frescoed palaces, and beautiful plazas built during the height of its mercantile empire. The symbol of the city itself, the Lanterna Lighthouse mirrors the special relationship Genoa has with shipping and the sea.

Modern Genoa is a city of contrast where modest homes stand next to magnificent palaces. The maze of alleyways of the historic old quarter is a world apart from the futuristic aquarium. Genoa is a city evolving and taking great care to preserve its historic heritage.

HISTORY First inhabitants of the Liguria can be dated back to prehistoric times. During the second century, the area was an administrative region for Rome. Genoa began to come into its own prominence as a city-state. Because of its strategic location, Genoa was at the crossroads of trade and culture. Access to the Mediterranean and emerging markets on the continent placed Genoa in a coveted position among coastal communities. Under Byzantine rule, Genoa became a maritime power. However, during the 600's Genoa was sacked and plundered by Saracen pirates. As a result, the first defensive wall was constructed and by the eleventh century, Genoa once again found itself a prosperous seafaring city.

Genoa's part in the crusades increased its wealth and influence. In 1284, Genoa defeated the rival city of Pisa in a naval battle of Meloria, gaining access to the Tyrrhenian Sea. The 13th through the 15th century saw the rise of affluent merchant families and the ruling Doges. A period of great construction began of churches, palaces, public buildings and more fortifications for the city. Spain, France and Austria all gained control of the port city during successive centuries. In 1861, Italian Nationalist Revolutionary Guiseppe Garibaldi launched his campaign to unify Italy from Genoa.

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## PLACES OF INTEREST

### HISTORY *continued*

The twentieth century brought devastating World Wars to Genoa. During the 1960's the city experienced an industrial boom. However, changing world markets and a stagnant iron and steel industry created difficult economic times for the port. More recently, Genoa has reinvented itself and is now recognized as an international cultural center and tourist destination.

### Places of Interest

**The Lanterna** is a lighthouse that was constructed on a rock outcropping in the harbor in the 1500's and has since become the symbol of the city. Standing at approximately 360 feet high, its light can be seen as far as 40 miles away.

**Cathedral of San Lorenzo** is probably the most notable of the medieval churches in the city. Constructed in the 12th century, the present edifice was built upon the foundation of an earlier structure. The dome and bell tower were added later. Built in Pisan style, the cathedral is famous for its black and white marble that decorates the exterior. The Cathedral contains the chapel housing the bones of St. John the Baptist.

**Palazzo Ducale** with its neoclassical façade was the seat of the first Genoese Doge and the site of the Government of the Republic of Genoa for centuries. This elaborate palace has been painstakingly restored to its original splendor. Today it is host to concerts, exhibitions and cultural events.

**Piazza S. Matteo**, located near Palazzo Ducale is one of Genoa's most beautiful squares. On the small piazza are former Doria family palaces and the Church of San Matteo. Built in 1125, the church has an alternating black and white marble façade and contains the tomb and sword of Italian admiral and statesman Andrea Doria.

**Piazza De Ferrari** is the location of the Opera Theatre Carlo Felice and the 13th century Palazzo Ducale. Once the residence of the Genoese Doges, the Palazzo is adorned with fountains, statues and frescoes by Corlone and Tiepolo. Piazza De Ferrari is close to one of the main shopping areas.

**Galleria Nazionale di Palazzo Reale** is an enormous structure that is one of the most important examples of a stately home in Genoa. Formerly a royal palace, it is now home to a gallery featuring the works of Tintoretto and Van Dyck. The rooms are richly decorated and many

contain original furniture. The Mirror Room is modeled after the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles.

**Via Garibaldi** was once known as the "Golden Road" because of the elegant residences constructed on this street by the city's wealthiest merchant families. Many of the opulent mansions are now home to museums and art galleries. Most notable of which are the red and white palaces and Town Hall. Within the historic Town Hall valuable artifacts such as Paganini's violin and Columbus' manuscripts are kept.

**Porta Soprana** was once the main entrance for the city. The huge arched gateway has two towers and was constructed in the 12th century as part of Genoa's defenses.

**Genoa Aquarium** is one of the largest of its kind. The modern structure offers the opportunity to discover a rich world of marine life. Natural environments from all over the world are accurately reproduced in vast tanks. Sharks, seals, dolphins, penguins and fish of all shapes and colors can be found at the unique facility.

**Carignano Hill** overlooks the city and provides panoramic views of Genoa and the coastline.

### Beyond Genoa

**Portofino** is a fashionable storybook town known for its charming streets, villas of the rich and famous and picturesque bay. Its calm green waters attract luxurious yachts and in the Piazzetta, people like to sit and chat at the many cafe tables. Portofino has exclusive boutiques, a decorative square, colorful homes and it is a great place to relax and watch the world go by.

**Santa Margherita** is linked to Portofino by one of the most attractive winding roads along the coast. The town has a bustling harbor and seaside esplanade with cafes, bars and restaurants. The beach at Santa Margherita is one of the most popular on the Italian Riviera.

**Rapallo** located south of Portofino, overlooks the Gulf of Tigullio and is known for its views of the ocean and surrounding hills. A famous resort town, Rapallo has year round mild weather, a 6th century Baroque Cathedral and a cable car that climbs the mountain to the 16th century sanctuary of Montallegro.

- Admission charges are in local currency.
- When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

**SHORE EXCURSIONS** To make the most of your visit to Genoa and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

**LOCAL CUSTOMS *Bargaining:*** Most items have fixed prices, but it may be possible to get a discount on a large purchase. It is normal to bargain at markets, except for food items.

***Tipping:*** Generally a 10% service charge is added to restaurant bills, however, as this amount doesn't all go to the waiter, it is normal to offer a 5% tip to the waiter in addition to any service charge. For taxi drivers, a 5-10% tip is acceptable.

***Local Cuisine:*** Pasta is most widely associated with Italian cuisine and there are many types as well as sauces to accompany them. The signature dish of Liguria is Pesto, a simple sauce consisting of basil, garlic, pine nuts and pecorino. Seafood is found regularly on Genoese tables. Focaccia flat bread is a local specialty and can be topped with cheese, olives and herbs.

***Drink Specialties:*** Throughout Italy there can be found many coffee bars, often without seating, where Espresso or Capuccino are the thing to drink. Chianti is a popular wine of Italy, but each region produces a number of very good quality wines.

Bottled water is recommended.

**SHOPPING FACILITIES** Shopping hours are generally from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm and 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm Monday afternoon thru Saturday. There may be some tourist-oriented stores open on Sundays, but in general, most will be closed. Shops are usually closed Monday mornings.

Fashion is the main attraction with particularly good buys in leather and silk. Other items of interest include: shoes, bags, art, antiques, ceramics, costume jewelry, filigree, glassware, lacework, wine, cheeses, pesto and olive oil.

Value added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid, however, regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.® cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.

**LOCAL CURRENCY** The unit of currency in this part of Italy is the euro. There are 8 euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 euros, along with 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cent pieces. Every euro coin carries a common European face. On the

obverse, each Member State decorates the coins with their own motifs. No matter which motif is on the coins they can be used anywhere inside the Member States. There are 7 euro notes. In different colors and sizes, they are denominated in 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5 euros. The notes are uniform throughout the euro area; unlike coins, they have no national side. All euro notes are legal tender in all countries of the euro area.

Most stores accept major credit cards.

**OFFICE/TELEPHONE FACILITIES** There is a Post Office available at the pier where one can purchase stamps, postcards and phone cards. There are also phone cabins available, working either with phone cards or coins. The main Post Office in Genoa is located off Piazza De Ferrari.

AT&T: 172-1011 / MCI: 172-1022 / SPRINT: 172-1877

**TOURIST INFORMATION** The main Tourist Office is located at the Porto Antico. Additional offices are located at the train station, Stazione Principe and at Stazione Marittima near the cruise terminal.

**TRANSPORTATION** A few taxis will be available at the pier. It is important to negotiate a fare before departing. Some taxi drivers may accept U.S. dollars.

There are two principle train stations, Stazione Principe and Stazione Brignole. Train service in Italy is reliable and relatively inexpensive. The old quarter is best discovered on foot. However, please take note that Genoa is built on hills.

### USEFUL WORDS

Yes • Sì  
No • No  
Good Day • Buon Giorno  
Good -bye • Arrivederci  
Thank-you • Grazie  
You're Welcome • Prego