



HISTORICAL ROUTE

Students of art and history can visit the Etruscan tombs of Sovana, the Roman city of Cosa and the sites of the 'slave' villa of Settefinestre and the home of the Etruscan Ghiaccio Forte. Or one can enter the medieval towns of Pitigliano, Sorano, Capalbio with its Garden of Tarocchi, Montemerano, Magliano, Manciano with the nearby Roman city of Statonia, and Saturnia with its dotted necropoles. All are within 15-20 kilometers of the Quercia Rossa Country House.

Sovana

The archeological site of Città del Tufo includes the necropolis in Sovana, the caves of San Rocco and Vitozza, the archives in the Centro di Documentazione in Sovana and the medieval museum in Fortezza Orsini di Sorano (information tel. 0564/614074).

The earliest settlement in Sovana dates back to the end of the Bronze Age (1000-1600 B.C.). The surrounding walls which are built with blocks of local porous limestone rock called Tufo, were constructed when the city was refounded in 400 B.C., probably due to renewed trading activity with neighbouring towns in central and northern Etruria. The huge rupestrian tombs are evidence of the importance and growth of the city not long after the roman conquest in 280 B.C. The most elaborate monumental tombs are the temple shaped ones (Tomba Ildebranda, Tomba Pola) and the Tomba del Tifone, Tomba della Sirena, Tomba del Sileno, which have detailed engraved decorations.

It became a bishop's diocese in 523-526 AD, and under the bizantine dominion until the end of the 6th Century when it was conquered by the Longobards. The ciborium still preserved in the chiesa di Santa Maria dates back to the end of the 8th Century.



Duomo and Church of Holy Mary

Ph. 0564/616532 -

Opening:

February-December:

10.00-18.00;

January: Sat. and Sun.: 10.00-18.00

Etruscan Museum

Palazzo Pretorio in Piazza del Pretorio

Ph. 0564/633023-614074 -

Opening:

November-March:

Sat. and Sun.: 10.00-16.00;

April-October:

every day: 10.00-19.00

Musum of Malacology

Via del Duomo 47

Ph. 0564/616582

A.M.I 06/69940814

Opening:

10.00-13.00 and 14.30-18.00

Closed: Tuesday.

Cosa



Cosa, was a colony founded by the romans and subsequently a bizantine fortress and medieval castle called Ansedonia. The museum on the archeological site is open to the public (for information ph. 0564/881421).

Cosa was founded by the Romans in 273 B.C. in a strategic position and protected by imposing walls. The highest point of the city is the religious area with the Capitolium, a temple dedicated to the triad Jupiter-Juno-Minerva and symbolising the state religion. Below is the square of the forum, with its political headquarters. Traces of the roads and bridges are still visible as are the fields which the farmland was divided into, according to Roman colonization principles. The port (Portus Cosanu) was built just below the town: it was most active at the beginning of 100 B.C. , when the piers and breakwaters were built. After 100 B.C., the town lost its military role and the Albegna valley was invaded by the war between Mario and Silla from Saturnia to Talamone. Cosa was raised to the ground in 70 B.C., probably during the war between Romans and pirates. At the end of the 5th Century a military garrison was built, and reinforced in the 7th Century, probably against the invasion of the longobards, and a small church was built over the ruins of the basilica in the area where the forum lay.

Archaeological Museum

"Ruins of Cosa"

Ph. 0564/881421

Opening:

October-April: 9.00-13.30

May-September: 9.00-19.00

Closed: Sunday



HISTORICAL ROUTE

Ghiaccio Forte

Ghiaccio Forte is a small hilltop isolated between two streams, the Viviao and the Sanguinaio which flow into the River Albegna. It houses the remains of Etruscan dwellings, excavated by the University of California. The dwellings were part of an Etruscan Oppidum built in proportion with the farmland in the valley of the Albegna and to defend the surrounding territory. Excavations have revealed a significant portion of the surrounding walls, which stretch for about a kilometre, and three entrances. The cript in the sanctuary found at the north-west entrance dates back to 300 or 400 BC; the whole area became extinct when the romans conquered it in 280 BC.



Archaeological Area

Ph. 0564/614074 - 617019

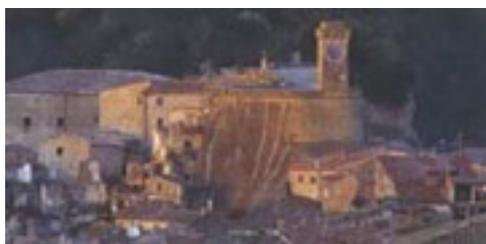
Opening:

June-September: 16.00-20.00

October-May: visits on demand

Closed on holidays and Sunday

Pitigliano



Archeological and Civic Museum Ceramiche etrusche

Ph. 0564/ 616322

Closed: Wednesday

Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art

Closed: Monday

Jewish Synagogue

Unleavened bread oven and Matroneo

ph. 0564/ 616396

Opening:

May - October:

every day: 10.00-13.00 / 15.00-19.00

November - April:

open on: Wednesday, Friday

and Sunday

opening on demand.

Pitigliano is built on the tip of a rock of kind of limestone called 'tufo', beneath the shadow of Castello Orsini. The houses and cottages are still very rural and interspaced with natural caves and grottos which are mostly cellars or stables nowadays.

From the 9th century onwards Pitigliano depended on Sovana, which was the main home of the Aldobrandeschi family. The town subsequently grew in importance and in 1293 it took over the headquarters from Sovana.

Pitigliano is also known as Italy's Little Jerusalem, due to the longstanding Jewish community which has resided there since the second half of the 16th Century under the protection of the Orsini family. The Jewish Temple, in the Jewish quarter in Vicolo Manin, founded in 1598, was altered several times after 1700 and has only regained its classical form since it was renovated in 1995. The religious interior with Aron and the Tevà can also be visited. The numerous lamps hanging from the ceiling are engraved with biblical writings and epigraphs. The higher level contains the matroneo for women, while the lower section the ritual bathing area. The Kosher butcher's shop and the unleavened bread oven are in caves carved inside the rock.

Sorano

The Aldobrandeschi County was constituted in 862 A.D. by the Emperor Ludovico II, and the county remained under the Aldobrandeschi dominion until 1312 and in 1221 could boast as many as twenty-two feudal tenants. It then passed to the Orsini family and became part of the state of Siena in 1417.

The fort of Rocca di Sorano can still be seen there. It provided a formidable defence and is an admirable example of military architecture.



Orsini Fortress and Museum

Via San Marco

Tel. 0564/633023-633767

Orario:

Novembre-Marzo:

sabato e domenica: 10.00-16.00

Aprile-Ottobre:

tutti i giorni: 10.00-19.00

Masso Leopoldino

Via del Poggetto

Tel. 0564/633023

Orario:

Novembre-Marzo:

sabato e domenica: 10.00-16.00

Aprile-Ottobre:

tutti i giorni: 10.00-19.00



HISTORICAL ROUTE

Capalbio

The first reference to Capalbio is in a "privilegium" by Pope Alexander III (1161). The Aldobrandeschi family became the landowners in the same period. At the end of the 13th Century, the castle and the surrounding territory was conquered by Orvieto. Capalbio was then taken over by the state of Siena and fell to the Orsini family. In 1555 it fell to the Spanish dominion who assigned it to the Medici in Florence. Giardino dei Tarocchi (Tarot Cards) is on land belonging to the Garavichio family. It was built by Niki de Saint Phalle, famous for numerous installations and monuments including the Stravinsky Fountain in the Centre Pompidou in Paris (1983), the Rabinovitch park in Jerusalem (1972), and the Sun God at the University of California, in San Diego (1983). Inspired by the Guell park by Gaudi' in Barcellona, the garden contains 22 giant sculptured Tarot cards, each between 12 to 15 metres high, covered in mosaic made of mirrors, glass and ceramic.

Park-Museum

"Il Giardino dei Tarocchi"

Ph. 0564/895093 - 895122 -

Opening: October-April: 9.00-13.30

May-10th October: 14.30-19.30

Closed: Sunday.



Montemerano



Montemerano was one of the Aldobrandeschi castles. It was made into a fortress with three surrounding walls, under the patronage of the state of Siena in 1382.

Its historical centre is one of the most interesting in Maremma. The castle is a typically medieval and the lower part of the town is more recent (13th Century). The parish church is dedicated to Saint George and is considered one of the most interesting in Maremma for its interior, its frescoes and its paintings. The frescoes were discovered recently and are attributed to Andrea di Nicolo' who worked in Siena and Massa Marittima. The paintings include Polittico del senese Sano di Pietro, dated 1458, depicting the Madonna, Saint George, St. Lorenzo and St. Antonio da Padova and also the Madonna della Gattaiola, so called because it has a gap big enough for a cat to slip through and was made into a door.

Magliano

Magliano was known as Heba in the roman period. The surrounding walls, built in about 900 A.D by the Aldobrandeschi family in Sovana, are still in good condition. The churches of San Martino and San Bruzio were built in the same Aldobrandeschi period. (12th-13th Century).

The excavations of Doganella are nearby, on the road from Albinia to Magliano (the SS 323). The Etruscan name for the site was Kaloùsion. On the SP 94 going towards Sant'Andrea is the Canonica di S.Bruzio: only the presbytery remains, but it is undoubtedly one of the most exquisite examples of roman architecture in Maremma.



Etruscan Museum

Ph. 0564/592292 - 592102

Opening: June-September: 16.00-20.00

October-May: opening on demand

Closed on holidays and Sunday



HISTORICAL ROUTE

Manciano

Manciano Manciano lies between the valleys of the Fiora and the Albegna rivers. The first traces of its existence date back to Aldobrandeschi land deeds in 973 AD, and it developed as a town towards the end of the 13th Century. The Aldobrandeschi family began building the surrounding walls in this period, and an imposing fort at the top of the hill which still bears their name. It is a huge quadrangular fort, with typical castle battlements and a mighty tower, the Cassero, which is the oldest part of the castle and dates back to about 1350. There is Ancient History Museum with the remains of the 300,000 year old teeth of an Elephans Antiquus (related to the Mammuth), together with numerous lithic relics, all proof of the presence of Homo erectus atleast 500 thousand years ago and two valuable axes from the Bronze period.

On the road from Manciano to Pitigliano is the site of Poggio Bucu, probably identifiable with the roman city of Statonia: with blocks of the remaining wall stretching for about 3 kilometers. Outside the city is a sacred area of with a temple and various buildings. These are surrounded by an impressive necropolis, with a variety of different kinds of tombs.



Museum of Prehistory and Protohistory of the Valley of the Fiora River

Via Corsini 5

Ph. 0564/625327

Opening:

Thursday-Saturday: 9.00-15.30

Sunday: 9.30-13.00

Closed: Monday

Historical Museum Soc. Filarmonica "Pietro Mascagni"

Poggio Murella Via Corsini 1

Ph. 0564/607977

Visits on demand.

Saturnia



The surrounding walls, built with huge blocks of limestone (300-400 B.C) and the Porta Romana are all that remains to represent the three periods (Etruscan, roman and medieval) that affected the civilization of the town, named Aurinia by the Etruscans and Saturnia by the Romans.

The area surrounding Saturnia has several Etruscan necropolis which are evidence of significant development until the 5th Century, in areas such as Sede di Carlo, Pancotta, Pian di Palma, Puntone

Civic Museum

Ph. 0564/620016

Visits on demand

