The Etruscan Coast: from Livorno to Piombino

This is an itinerary for people who want to discover the Etruscan Coast, the stretch of coastline that goes from Livorno to Piombino, an ancient land set among rolling hills, ancient villages and crystal clear sea. Here are some tips and info for you.

Read more:

Livorno and the etruscan coast, Maggio Divino; and San Vincenzo etruscan coast, Tuscany.



LIVORNO

The heart Livorno is the **neighbourhood called La Venezia** and your tour can start in the shadow of the statue that everyone calls the "quattro Mori" (four Moors), but it would be more correct to call it Ferdinando I de 'Medici, who became Grand Duke of Tuscany in 1587. Continue the visit to the **Old Fortress** and the Venice neighborhood, maybe you can take a boat to get a different perspective between the channels that here are called "fossi". After the tour of Venice neighbourhood, you can **visit the Central Market**, so great that the inhabitants of Livorno call it the Louvre!



CASTIGLIONCELLO

Castiglioncello dominates the small promontory of the latest offshoot of the mountains behind Livorno. It is a tourist destination of great international prestige **characterized by red cliffs** overlooking the sea, sheltered bays, coves and beaches washed by crystal clear water. Behind the seaside there is a **pinewood**, which has inspired artists, writers and poets included the Macchiaioli painters. **The Castello Pasquini**, situated in the pinewood, annually hosts cultural events, dance festivals, philosophical and literary awards, and international conferences.



BOLGHERI

The famous avenue of cypress trees is a 5 km road that connects the **Oratory of San Guido** to the old town of Bolgheri. It is a long, straight road lined by two rows of very thick cypress trees. The fame of this cypress tree-lined road is due to the famous poem "Davanti San Guido" by the poet Giosuè Carducci, who lived here for a long time: "The cypresses which, in Bolgheri, rise tall and straight run from San Guido in a double line...". Cars are not allowed inside the hamlet of Bolgheri, so park in the car parks located a few meters from the main gate and not along the road as it is not allowed. At the entrance of the village there is a **red-brick castle**. Inside, the alleys are paved, the ancient stone buildings adorned with geraniums; there are craft shops, wine bars, **taverns and restaurants offering typical products and wines**.



CASTAGNETO CARDUCCI

Castagneto Carducci takes its name from the family of the famous Italian poet Giosuè and it is a hamlet perched on a hillside at around 10 kilometres from the sea (Marina di Castagneto is just 15 minutes far by car). The small village is a nice centre with many panoramic points. You can visit the **home of Giosuè Carducci** (and see the rooms where the poet lived) and a museum with an archive of poems and documents related to him. At the beginning of Via Marconi there is the Palazzo Comunale in a dominant position near the Carducci archive. Continuing to climb through the streets of the village you will come across to the **Church of San Lorenzo** and the **Castle of Castagneto**. Despite several renovations over the centuries, these two buildings are the original nucleus of the city. The nearby **Church of the S.S. Crucifix** is interesting due to the wooden crucifix preserved inside, which dates to the 15th century.



) SAN VINCENZO

San Vincenzo combines natural beauty and hospitality, sea and countryside, leisure and history. When it's too cold for the sandy beaches, you have plenty of things to do. You can start your visit at the Archaeological Mining Park of San Silvestro: the tour begins at the Museum of Archaeology and Minerals, continues into the Miniera del Temperino and then at the Machinery and Mining Museum. From this area begins a visit to the Gallery Lanzi-Temperino aboard a train that goes over what was once the way of minerals and then walk to the ruins of the Rocca San Silvestro. If you prefer a day at the beach go to the Gulf of Baratti, which was originally one of the most important Etruscan ports along the coastline of this part of Tuscany. Here the colour of the sand is black and silver due to the high presence of remains of the ancient iron processing and just behind there's a thick pine forest, Just cross the street behind the beach of Baratti and reach the **Etruscan necropolis**, which is part of the Archaeological Park of Baratti and Populonia. It is a real open-air museum, a unique Etruscan settlement built directly on the sea, with its necropolises, its quarries and the ancient quarters for working with iron.



PIOMBINO

Piombino is best known as the city **where you catch the ferry to Elba Island**, but there is much more to see and do here, making it well worth a visit. Its historic centre with the beautiful **Piazza Bovio** overlooking the sea make Piombino very inviting and Elba Island seems so close that you could almost touch it. Narrow paved streets lead up to an imposing castle – the original part of which dates to the 13th century, which also houses interesting finds.



From Livorno to Piombino VIEW MAP

