

RAPALLO: TRANSPORTATION AND DAY TRIPS

HOW TO GET TO RAPALLO

Rapallo is south of Genoa, on the NW Italian coast. The region is called Liguria. Genoa has an airport with connections to Paris, Munich and London via major and minor airlines. A “Volabus” from the airport takes you in 20 minutes to the rail station of GENOVA PIAZZA PRINCIPE (Genoa’s main station), from which there are frequent trains to Rapallo (less than km. 30 – train takes from 30 to 60 minutes depending on number of stops. If you purchase a ticket for a local train you must stamp it before getting on. Tickets for fast trains (IC, Frecciabianca, Frecciarossa) include booking and don’t need to be stamped.

Another airport that is good for Rapallo is PISA to the south. This also has flights direct from/to US. The Pisa airport is only 10 minutes by bus from the station; direct trains will take you to Rapallo in two hours or less. If you have a couple of hours in Pisa you can take a bus from the station to the Campo dei Miracoli with the leaning tower (the bus takes about 15 minutes).

Other main international airports are MILANO MALPENSA and ROMA FIUMICINO. From Malpensa (which is closer than Rome) there are trains and buses to Milano Centrale train station, from which there are direct intercity trains to Rapallo (about 2 and half hours trip, but Malpensa is at least one hour from station).

For train schedules see the TRENITALIA website.

For a taste of literary life in Rapallo in former days see:

Tigullio Itineraries www.lcm.unige.it/pub/15/24.pdf

(Golfo Tigullio, also known as Golfo Marconi, is the bay of Rapallo.)

EXCURSIONS

CINQUE TERRE – About one hour by train from Rapallo station. Get off at Monterosso (the first of the five villages) and hike to Vernazza (2nd town) and Corniglia (3rd). From Corniglia proceed by train to Manarola and Riomaggiore (4th & 5th). You can also do it by boat, getting off either in Monterosso or Riomaggiore and buying a boat ticket to the other end. This is a day-trip. On some days there are direct boats Rapallo-Cinque Terre.

LERICI, PORTOVENERE, AND CINQUE TERRE.

Train from Rapallo to La Spezia, and bus to La Spezia-Lerici, a beautiful town with the Shelleys’ last house. Boat from Lerici to Portovenere (wonderful), lunch in Portovenere, boat to Vernazza (Cinque Terre), thence return by train. Don’t try to do it by car.

CAMOGLI

This is a delightful sea-town, two train stops from Rapallo on the Rapallo-Genoa train line (less than 15 minutes). Much recommended, especially in the morning when it's cooler. Or for an evening drink and walk.

SANT'AMBROGIO DI ZOAGLI

The village where Ezra Pound lived in Olga Rudge's apartment during the war and later. Buses from Rapallo station square (Piazza delle Nazioni).

CHIAVARI and SESTRI LEVANTE

Villages a few minutes from Rapallo by train going south. Chiavari good for shopping, Sestri for magnificent atmosphere and bathing.

PARAGGI

Paraggi is a hamlet between Santa Margherita and Portofino, known for its clear water and good swimming. Renting a cabin is expensive, but there is a small free beach.

SWIMMING IN RAPALLO

Walk out of town West along the waterfront. In 20 minutes you will be in San Michele di Pagana, a pretty hamlet. Continue on footpath along the sea for nice little bays good for swimming. San Michele can also be reached by taking the bus for Santa Margherita from Rapallo railway station. Always remember to stamp buys tickets (which you can get at newspaper stands and tobacconists) when you get on a bus.