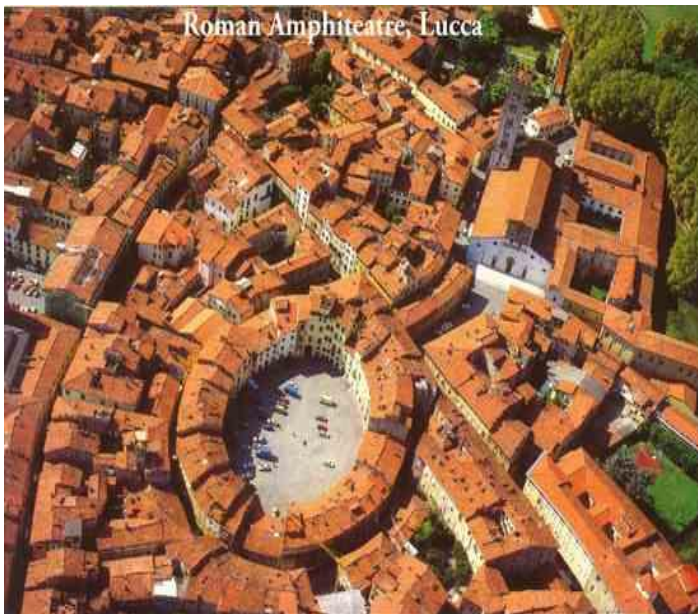




WELCOME TO
LUCCA &
VIAREGGIO



State: Italy
Country: Tuscany
Province: Lucca
Surface: 185,53 km²
Inhabitants: 84.897



Lucca

Lucca is a beautiful city situated on the River Serchio in a fertile plain near the Ligurian Sea. It is the capital city of the Province of Lucca and is most famous for its intact Renaissance walls, which surround the city. Besides, Lucca is a destination for many tourists thanks to its beautiful churches and wonderful museums.



History

In the 3rd century B.C. Lucca came under the Roman domination and it became an important Municipality in 89 A.D. Significant remains of the Roman Period are the Amphitheatre and the ruins of the defensive walls, though these are severely damaged. The city prospered under the Lombards, who created the Via Francigena and turned Lucca into the capital of Tuscia. In the 13th century Lucca became an important commercial centre in Europe, famous for its silk.



In 1314 the city was conquered by the Tyrant of Pisa, Ugucione Castracani, who brought power and prestige to the city. During the 19th century Lucca was a very rich and a powerful city under the guidance of Maria Luisa Borbone from Parma. With the plebiscite of 1860, the city became part of the Kingdom of Italy.

Itinerary



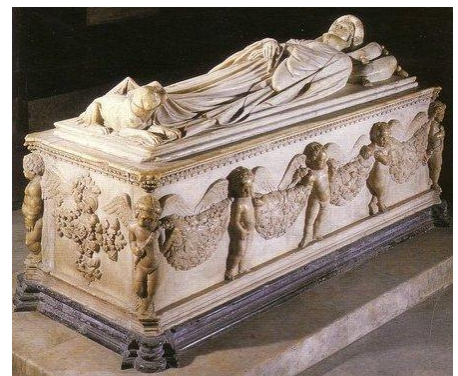
Our tour starts from "*Porta Sant'Anna*", one of the six gates. We can see that the city is surrounded by about four kilometres of *Walls*. Lucca had four rings of walls. The first, built by the Romans, had always a square shape and encircle the city centre today. The other three rings were built in the 13th century and in the 16th and 17th centuries. The walls are twelve metres high and there are twelve curtain walls and eleven bastions. They are lined with secular trees and on them we can stroll along a lovely avenue from which

we can enjoy a beautiful panorama of the town and the surrounding countryside.



Continuing our tour we arrive in "*Piazza del Duomo*", where we can admire the *Baptistery*, which is a small 14th-century building with a Gothic dome. It contains a baptismal font. In the same square there is the *Cathedral of San Martino*, which dates back to the 6th century. The most ancient part of this church is the façade, which is in the Romanesque style.

Inside the church we can find many works of art such as the Holy Effigie by Civitali, the magnificent "Last Supper" by Tintoretto and the "Madonna with Saints" by Ghirlandaio. We can also admire the *Sarcophagus of Ilaria del Carretto*, a masterpiece by Jacopo della Quercia, one of the finest examples of Renaissance sculpture. Ilaria del Carretto was the wife of Paolo Guinigi, the Lord of Lucca from 1400 to 1430, and she died in 1406 at the age of twenty-six. The typically classical "putti" holding festoons on either sides of the sarcophagus underline the calm and serene beauty of the woman lying here. On the one of the sides we can see the Coat of Arms of the Guinigi-del Carretto family.



Near the Cathedral there is the *Church of San Giovanni*, which dates back to the 12th century. The façade features a Romanesque portal and an architrave with "The Madonna flanked by two Angels and the Apostles". The church contains many works of art.

Leaving *Piazza del Duomo* behind us, we head off to *Piazza Napoleone*, which is the very centre of the city and is used for many events. Surrounded by trees, it has a marble statue of Elisa Bonaparte, Napoleon's sister, standing in its centre. Facing the front of the statue, there is *Palazzo Ducale* or *Palazzo Pubblico*, now used for Council meetings and conferences. The Palace dates back to the 14th century, but it was restored and completed for Elisa Bonaparte in the 19th century.



On the right side of the square there is one of the two schools for Fine Arts in Lucca. The other two sides of the square are lined with shops, cafés and expensive restaurants. On the north-eastern corner of the square there is *Piazza del Giglio* with its Neoclassical theatre, "Teatro del Giglio".

The tour continues towards the *Church of San Michele in Foro*, which was built between the 11th and 14th centuries. San Michele in Foro is named after the Roman Forum that used to stand at the intersection of the Roman street grid in the centre of Lucca. The church is one of the best examples of Pisa-Luccan Romanesque style and it is made of white limestone. San Michele's Statue dominates from the top. Inside the church there are many works of art, such as Andrea Della Robbia's "Madonna with Child".



Near the church, in Via del Poggio, there is the 15th- century house, where the great musician, *Giacomo Puccini* (1858 - 1924), was born and spent the early years of his life. It contains Giacomo Puccini's manuscripts and personal items, including the piano which he used to compose his masterpiece, "Turandot".

From here it is easy to reach the Roman *Amphitheatre*, which is the place where gladiators' shows and games were traditionally held in Roman Times. It was built in the second half of the 1st century A.D. Some of the arches can still be seen. The square is very picturesque, because it is enclosed by a ring of old houses. Some of them are high, while others are low and broad.





Near the Amphitheatre there is *Via Fillungo*, which is the most lively, popular and sophisticated street in Lucca. This street is characterized by Medieval buildings and important monuments. We can also admire exclusive shops and boutiques and jewelers' stores. At the end of this street, we can also admire "*La Torre Delle Ore*", which is a 13th-century tower. In the Middle Ages there were over 130 towers in Lucca, but this is the only one which has survived. It has been telling the time since 1471. La Torre Delle Ore is a perfect place to enjoy the view of the city.

Our tour ends with the *Church of San Frediano*, which was built in the 12th century. The beautiful mosaic work on the façade and the fine interior date back to this period. Among the works of art, which are kept here, we can mention the wonderful Romanesque baptismal font and the altar by Jacopo della Quercia.



Viareggio

Leaving Lucca, we head for *Viareggio*, a seaside resort in the Province of Lucca. The city, situated between the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Apuane Alps, is famous for its fishing port and long sandy beaches. In Viareggio there are many shipyards where boats, which are exported all over the world, are built, many bathing establishments and a very famous promenade lined with exclusive and elegant shops, cafés and restaurants. Viareggio is



also famous for its Carnival. Many Italian and foreign tourists go to Viareggio in February to see the enormous carts parading through the city. Viareggio is in Versilia, an area on the northern coast of Tuscany. Versilia is a well-known region of natural and international appeal and a popular destination for summer holidays. The region comprises famous seaside resorts, such as Torre del Lago, Marina di Pietrasanta, (divided into three charming areas: Focette, Tonfano and Fiumetto), Viareggio and Forte dei Marmi. In Torre del Lago we can admire *Giacomo Puccini's Villa*, now known as the "Puccini Museum". Torre del Lago is on Lake Massaciuccoli and it hosts an open-air festival, called "Festival Pucciniano", every summer.

Ilenia Ciampalini
Debora Zagaglia
Agnese Montanelli
Stefano Guglielmo



I.T.C. Cattaneo
San Miniato