

City Guide

At first sight, you can tell that Senigallia is a busy and vibrant town all year round: the piazzas, streets and parks all welcome you to take a stroll and discover its true treasures in art and culture.

- < CESANO
- < MAROTTA
- < FANO
- < PESARO



Museums and Monuments

"S. Anselmi" Museum of History of Sharecropping
Strada comunale delle Grazie, 2
Tel. +39 071 7923127

Library Biblioteca Antonelliana Forò Annonario
Via Manni
Tel. +39 071 6629302

"La Fenice" Archeological Site and Museum
Viale Leopardi (Teatro La Fenice)
Tel. +39 071 6629203

Diocesan Art Gallery
Piazza Garibaldi, 3
Tel. +39 071 7920709

Palazzo Mastai Pius IX Museum
Via Mastai, 14
Tel. +39 071 60649

Palazzo del Duca / Civic Collection of Photography Mario Giacomelli
Piazza del Duca
Tel. +39 366 6797942

Palazzetto Baviera
Piazza del Duca
Tel. +39 366 6797942

Rocca Roveresca
Piazza del Duca
Tel. +39 071 63258

Chiesa della Croce
Via Gherardi
Tel. +39 333 7412366

Chiesa San Martino
Via Marchetti
Tel. +39 071 60296

Chiesa S. Maria delle Grazie
Via delle Grazie, 2
Tel. +39 071 7921565

Rotonda a Mare
Piazzale della Libertà
Tel. +39 071 60322

La Fenice Theatre
Via C. Battisti, 9
Tel. +39 071 7930842

***MUSA Museum of Urban Sculpture for the Adriatic Sea**
Catalani Gardens

Useful Numbers

Bus
Via R. Sanzio, 271
Tel. +39 071 7922737

Taxi
Railway Station
Tel. +39 07164946



IAT - Information Tourist Office
Piazza Manni, 7
Tel. +39 071 7922725
E-mail: iat.senigallia@regione.marche.it

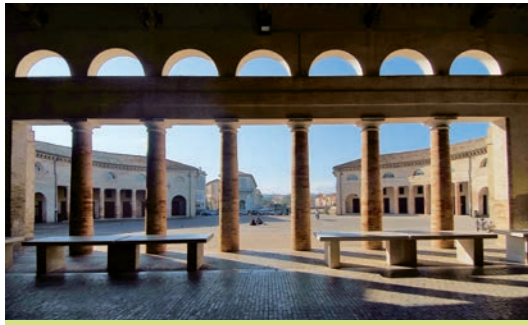


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1) Foro Annonario

As you start your walk, around the first corner, you will find the Foro Annonario: a circular piazza, highlighted by its clay roof-tiles and brickwork columns supporting the arcade, housing the daily market and ancient fish market. Projected in 1834 by the Senigallia architect Pietro Ghinelli, in Neoclassic style to extend trading areas within the old town wall. It faces Misa river, as if to welcome both land and sea products. Thanks to restoration work by the architect Massimo Carmassi, it now houses the town library and Council archives in the attic rooms with its visible wooden trusses. A reading room and a conference hall are nested in this historical city structure, well worth a visit.



2) Piazza Manni / Piazza del Duca / Rocca Roveresca

From the Foro Annonario, crossing the beautiful Piazza Manni, where once the town slaughterhouse stood, now converted into a modern information centre, you reach the Rocca Roveresca. The Fortress, is joined by a long bridge to Piazza del Duca, which reminds us of its defensive role in past centuries, dating back to Roman times. Towers and bastions have been added to the original fortress over the ages, until 1478 when the present structure was designed by two architects Baccio Pontelli and Luciano Laurana from the famed court of Urbino and Duke Federico da Montefeltro. The Rocca is named after Duke Giovanni Della Rovere, who was the first to govern here.

The massive structure, in time, has been not only the town's stronghold but also headquarters of an important artillery school, prison, hospital and finally orphanage. Today it continues to be useful to the town, hosting exhibitions and cultural events.



3) Palazzo del Duca / Palazetto Baviera

In the mid-16th century Guidubaldo II Della Rovere commissioned the construction of Palazzo del Duca in front of Rocca Roveresca with the aim of accommodating his guests. Thus, the official character of the venue and the passion for beauty are the reason for such a combination of art and political strategy. Inside the Palace, the visiting ambassadors admired the refined beauty of the precious coffered ceiling in the Throne Hall. Outside, they saw an austere square used for military drills and parades. The fountain (Fontana delle Anatre) was built in 1599 to celebrate the reclamation of the Saline marshland, which was the natural habitat of ducks. Piazza del Duca also hosts Palazetto Baviera, which was commissioned by Giovanni Della Rovere's lieutenant, Giovan Giacomo Baviera. The first floor hosts one of Senigallia's most valuable treasures: the ceilings of the five halls were completely covered with stucco decorations around 1560 by Federico Brandani from Urbino, who created this masterpiece for the humanist Giuseppe Baviera. The vaults are impressively decorated with all kinds of ornaments, such as panels, lunettes and ovals with bas-reliefs figures (episodes from the Trojan War; the Labours of Hercules; Biblical tales; Roman history; the Deeds of Constantine).



4) Piazza Roma / Fontana del Nettuno / Corso 2 Giugno

Leaving piazza del Duca towards the narrow streets of the old town centre, about halfway along the High Street, Corso 2 Giugno, we find Piazza Roma, heart of the town with its shops, cafés, benches and the seventeenth century Palazzo del Governo, currently housing the Town Council. This building is attributed to the architect from Urbino, Muzio Oddi, while the origin of the Neptune Fountain, Fontana del Nettuno, is uncertain. The fountain decorates part of the façade and according to some scholars, it is a Roman artefact, while others claim it is work of the Flemish school, sculptor, Giambologna. For the people of Senigallia, however, it has the unflattering name "monco in piazza".

It is around this piazza and high street, Corso 2 Giugno, that Senigallia unravels its fascination: not only the beauty of its historical buildings but also the pleasure of sitting outdoors in one of the numerous cafés, walking around the shops or simply enjoying a break away from the traffic.



5) Chiesa della Croce / Palazzo Mastai / Pio IX

On right of the Town Hall, in via Fagnani, is an unexpected treasure, the Church, Chiesa della Croce. Consecrated in 1608 and projected by the architect Muzio Oddi for a religious order, this church is marvellous for its contrast in interior and exterior artwork. While on the outside it preserves Renaissance sobriety, once inside, you enter the Baroque period in all its glory, gold, stucco, six altars and in the centre the famous altarpiece "The burial of Christ" by Federico Barocci.

Just turn another corner, and behind the Town hall, you will see Palazzo Mastai. There is even a Pope amongst Senigallia's famous citizens, and what's more a saint: Pope Pius IX, born in 1792 to the aristocratic family Mastai. In the building where he was born, there is a collection of some of his relics, and also an exhibition of twenty biblical paintings by the local seventeenth century artist Giovanni Anastasi.



6) Garibaldi Square/ Cathedral

Piazza Garibaldi, thanks to the requalification work recently completed, offers an urban scenario of great fascination and rare beauty. It was created by permission of Pope Benedetto (Benedict) XIV in 1575, when Senigallia and its Fiera Franca were at the height, and the pentagonal surrounding wall, built by the Duke Guidobaldo II in mid Seventeenth Century was no longer able to accommodate goods and merchants. It was an important intervention which modified a bight of the Misa river, so that the previous town was enlarged and the arcades extended. In the new part of the town the Cathedral, full of great works of art, and the new episcopate were erected.

The square is surrounded by public buildings of great architectural value: palazzo delle Dogane, Palazzo Vescovile, which hosts the Pinacoteca Diocesana, the church of San Rocco, which has been converted to an auditorium, and Ginnasio Pio. It is worth pointing out also Palazzo Micciarelli (better known as "la Filanda"), designed by the architect Pietro Ghinelli from Senigallia. This building, with arcades enhancing each one of its four facades, represents the link between the arcades and the wide open space of the square.



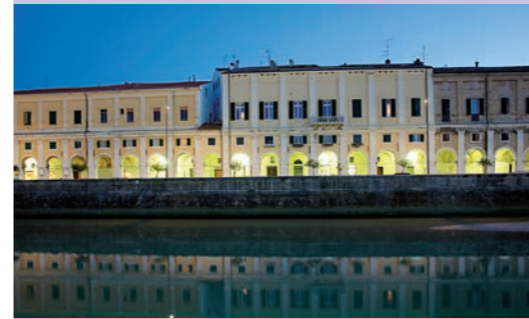
7) "La Fenice" Archaeological Site/MUSA Museum of Urban Sculpture for the Adriatic Sea Open Air Museum

After a pleasant stroll along via Mastai up to Piazza Saffi, and from there crossing Catalani Gardens you come to an area rich in history. It is not surprising that the ancient Roman origins of Senigallia are visible in the Rocca foundations. On the contrary, when in 1989 the building site of the new theatre La Fenice, revealed an entire archaeological site, it was an extraordinary discovery. In the third century BC, The Romans had already reached the Adriatic coast and had defeated the Sena Gauls in their capital, ancient Senigallia. On the site you can see traces of a typical Roman town, dating from the first century BC to the first century AD, with clear evidence of a Roman crossroads between a 'cardo', a road with a north-south orientation, and a 'decumanus', a road with an east-west orientation, road paving, an ancient 'domus' (noble residence) and 'tabernae' or taverns. Around a corner and a step back in time. In this part of the town the ancient meets the contemporary, Catalani Gardens host two works by Silvio Ceccarelli and one by Enrico Mazzolani. These works, together with the sculpture by Romolo Augusto Schiavoni located in front of ex-GIL building (in Viale Leopardi), represent the first unit of MUSA project and give an evidence of the great artistic tradition of the town.



8) Mario Giacomelli Civic Collection (Musinf)

Palazzo del Duca regularly hosts exhibitions of works from the Civic Collection dedicated to Mario Giacomelli, one of the most celebrated Italian photographers worldwide. Some of his photographs are on display at MOMA in New York, at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, at Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, as well as in Moscow and Tokyo. The Civic Collection comprises over two hundred and fifty photographs that were selected and donated by the artist. It covers the years from the 1950's to the present day and boasts some of Giacomelli's masterpieces, such as *Scanno, lo non ho mani che mi accarezzino il viso*, or the famous image of the young priests playing in the snow in their black soutanes. A section is dedicated to Misa School of Photography, which was established in Senigallia in the 1950's and mainly owes its popularity to the founder of the group and theorist of photography, Giuseppe Cavalli. The Collection is enriched by donations from great artists who have converted the Civic Collection into one of the major documentation centres in Italy for contemporary art, engraving and photography. About 1,700 works were donated by more than 50 Italian artists. All year round, the main floor hosts temporary exhibitions of photography and ancient art.



9) Portici Ercolani

Walking briefly along Via Testaferrata and crossing Piazza Garibaldi, overlooked by the Episcopal Palace, the Cathedral and the San Rocco Auditorium, you get to the north of the town and the river. The Portici Ercolani arcade runs along the right bank of the Misa river. Houses and shops alternate under the 126 arches built in Istrian stone in the mid eighteenth century by Cardinal Giuseppe Ercolani. Their purpose was to house the increasingly famous fair of Senigallia or "della Maddalena". New houses and shops were built under the arches to accommodate the large number of merchants attracted by Senigallia's lively trade. During the eighteenth century when the fair was at the height of its splendour, being the most important of the Adriatic Papal State, there were more than a hundred ships moored along the river canal, while in town, merchants and their goods from all over the Austro-Hungarian Empire, from the near East, France and England traded their wares. It cannot be the same, but even nowadays, every Thursday, under the arcade there is an open market where you can buy a variety of things. At night, the reflection of the illuminated arcade in the river, is still remarkable.



10) Via Carducci / Porta Lambertina / Port District

You only need to cross the bridge, 'ponte 2 Giugno' and from the Portici Ercolani you can continue into the lovely via Carducci, a tree lined avenue, recently renovated, pedestrian zone, leading to the old gate, Porta Lambertina. The gate was dedicated by Senigallia to Pope Benedict XIV (whose surname was Lambertini), it was built in 1751 in Istrian stone as part of the first town expansion. In summer there is open air theatre and a small evening market. Even on this side of the Misa river the memory of Senigallia Trade Fair lives on, especially in the street names such as Corfu, Smyrna, Kefalonia and Corinth.



11) Rotonda a mare

After visiting the historical centre, you have no choice but walk towards the shore and the horizon to finally admire the building that has become the symbol of Senigallia. In Piazzale della Libertà, from the pier, you will see Rotonda a Mare, which was restored to its former glory in 2006, after an extensive philological study. The building, which had become a dance hall in the 1960's, has recovered its public function. In summer Rotonda a Mare is open every day and hosts exhibitions, shows, concerts, and events. Visitors can simply stroll along its terrace, looking out at the open sea. During the rest of the year the building is used for public and private events, including wedding ceremonies. Its distinctive mark is the shell-like shape created by the rationalist architect Enrico Cardelli in 1933. It is one of the most striking examples of seaside architecture of those years, so severe and so simple at the same time. But then, why can't you stop singing Fred Bongusto's song *Una rotonda sul mare?*



12) In the hills (3 Km.) "S. Anselmi" Museum of History of Sharecropping

Housed within a wing of Santa Maria delle Grazie Convent, up on a hill, amidst the frescoed cloisters and a precious altarpiece by Perugino (la Madonna in trono e Santi), is the History of Agriculture and Sharecropping Museum. Representing agricultural history of wheat, olive oil, wine and peasant life up until the 1960s, it is in itself an accurate and passionate collection, an act of love from a generous and fertile land. Just as the photographs donated to the Museum by Mario Giacomelli, which he shot in the Senigallia countryside in the 1960s and 1970s.

This church housed for many centuries the precious Madonna di Senigallia by Piero della Francesca, until 1917 when the painting was transferred to a safer place, the Ducal Palace in Urbino, because of bomb attacks on the town.