



**RAPALLO**

SMART HOME

10 EXPERIENCES TO ENJOY THE LIGURIAN RIVIERA BETTER

# The Smart Guide to Rapallo & Surroundings

A visual and practical selection for discovering the Tigullio, Golfo Paradiso and Portofino Park from Rapallo.

## **Not the usual list of pretty places.**

A guide designed for travellers who want to move better, avoid the most obvious choices and use Rapallo as a smart base for exploring the Riviera.

Updated: May 2026. Opening times, prices and access rules may change: always check official websites before travelling.

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# Choose the experience that matches your mood for the day.

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01

RAPALLO

# Lace Museum at Villa Tigullio

One of Rapallo's most refined traditions, hidden inside Villa Tigullio and Parco Casale.

LOCAL CRAFT

IN TOWN

EASY VISIT

## EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICAL NOTES

### At a glance

- **Distance:** In Rapallo, a few minutes from the seafront
- **Time needed:** 45 minutes to 1 hour
- **Best for:** A calm cultural stop without leaving town
- **Accessibility:** Easy visit, suitable with strollers

### Why it is worth it

This is Liguria's only museum dedicated to bobbin lace. More than 1,400 works tell five centuries of technique, elegance and local craftsmanship. The standout piece is an eight-metre panel designed

in 1964 by Emanuele Luzzati for a cruise ship.

### Detail to remember

The museum preserves the legacy of the historic Zennaro manufactory, a Rapallo workshop that exported lace beyond Europe. Visiting it means reading a very concrete part of the city's artisan memory.

### Pair it with

Castello sul Mare · Parco Casale · Villa Tigullio

Opening times, prices, access rules and transport can change: always check official websites before you go.

02

RAPALLO

# Valle Christi Ruins

A Gothic-Cistercian monastery from 1204, quiet and unexpected, just a few minutes from town.

HISTORIC RUINS

SUMMER FESTIVAL

PHOTOGRAPHY

## EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICAL NOTES

### At a glance

- **Distance:** About 2 km from the centre
- **Time needed:** 30 to 60 minutes for the ruins
- **When to go:** Year-round; performances in summer
- **Difficulty:** Simple, mostly flat visit

### Why it is worth it

Valle Christi is one of Rapallo's most surprising places: a medieval complex in ruins, with the apse, bell tower and chapels still clearly visible. In summer it becomes an atmospheric stage for concerts and theatre under the stars.

### Detail to remember

Its power lies in the contrast: it feels far away, yet it is very close to town. It is perfect for travellers who love places with atmosphere, old stone and a story that is not immediately exposed to mass tourism.

### Pair it with

Montallegro cable car ·  
Montallegro Sanctuary · Vittorio Veneto seafront

Opening times, prices, access rules and transport can change: always check official websites before you go.

03

RAPALLO

# Montallegro Cable Car

Seven minutes suspended between sea and hills, up to one of the widest views over the Tigullio.

PANORAMA

SANCTUARY

HALF DAY

## EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICAL NOTES

### At a glance

- **Departure:** Near Rapallo railway station
- **Ride time:** About 7 minutes
- **Elevation:** From sea level to around 600 m
- **Tip:** Check opening times and weather before going

### Why it is worth it

The cable car is a small vertical journey: Rapallo drops away, the gulf opens up and in just a few minutes you reach the Sanctuary of Nostra Signora di Montallegro, a viewpoint loved by locals.

### Detail to remember

For a more active day, walk up or down the old mule track. The combination of trail, sanctuary and cable car makes the outing much more memorable than a simple panoramic stop.

### Pair it with

Montallegro Sanctuary · Portofino Vetta · Hilltop trattorias

Opening times, prices, access rules and transport can change: always check official websites before you go.

04

ZOAGLI

# The Silk Workshops of Zoagli

The village of velvet, minutes from Rapallo, preserves an exceptionally rare textile tradition.

CRAFT

LIGURIAN VILLAGE

EASY TRAIN

## EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICAL NOTES

### At a glance

- **Distance:** 4 minutes by train from Rapallo
- **Time needed:** 1 to 2 hours
- **Best for:** Design, fashion, craft and quieter villages
- **Pair it with:** Zoagli seafront walk

### Why it is worth it

Zoagli is more than a seaside village: it is a historic name for silk and velvet production. Its workshops preserve technical know-how that has reached high

fashion, fine interiors and international collections.

### Detail to remember

Here the journey changes pace: fewer crowds, more detail. It is a perfect stop for travellers who want to take home not only a photo, but also a story of looms, hands and precious materials.

### Pair it with

Zoagli seafront · Zoagli-Chiavari trail · Chiavari

Opening times, prices, access rules and transport can change: always check official websites before you go.

05

SAN FRUTTUOSO / CAMOGLI

# Snorkelling at Christ of the Abyss

One of the Mediterranean's most iconic underwater images, reachable by sea from the Riviera.

SEA

SNORKELLING

BOAT

## EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICAL NOTES

### At a glance

- **How to get there:** Boat to San Fruttuoso; seasonal service to check
- **Best season:** May to October for snorkelling
- **Time needed:** A full day is ideal
- **Level:** You need to swim; dives with licensed operators

### Why it is worth it

The Christ of the Abyss rests on the seabed of San Fruttuoso bay: a bronze statue around 8 to 12 metres deep, inside a protected

marine area where the water can offer remarkable visibility.

### Detail to remember

San Fruttuoso can only be reached by sea or on foot. That natural filter makes the trip more intense: abbey, beach, clear water and boat ride combine into a day you will remember.

### Pair it with

San Fruttuoso Abbey · Camogli · Punta Chiappa

Opening times, prices, access rules and transport can change: always check official websites before you go.

06

PARAGGI / PORTOFINO PARK

# Valley of the Mills

A cool, shaded trail in Portofino Park, among water, stone and old mill ruins.

HIKING

WOODLAND

PORTOFINO

## EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICAL NOTES

### At a glance

- **Starting point:** Paraggi
- **Route:** Loop trail of around 4.5 km
- **Time needed:** About 2 hours
- **Difficulty:** Hiking trail; suitable shoes recommended

### Why it is worth it

A few minutes from the sea, the Acqua Viva stream creates a fresh, green and unexpected environment. Along the route you find the remains of mills and oil

presses that tell the agricultural story of the promontory.

### Detail to remember

It is one of the best ways to feel Portofino's less polished side: not only the piazzetta and yachts, but woodland, terraces, water and rural memory.

### Pair it with

Paraggi bay · Portofino · Portofino Vetta

Opening times, prices, access rules and transport can change: always check official websites before you go.

07

SESTRI LEVANTE

# Bay of Silence at Sunrise

The Riviera postcard becomes a real experience when you see it before the crowds arrive.

SEA

SUNRISE

EASY TRAIN

## EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICAL NOTES

### At a glance

- **Distance:** About 14 to 26 minutes by train
- **When to go:** Sunrise, spring or September
- **Time needed:** Half day
- **Note:** In high season, check any access limits

### Why it is worth it

The Bay of Silence is famous, but it changes completely at the right hour: low light, calm water, pastel houses and very few people. It is

one of the easiest and most scenic outings from Rapallo.

### Detail to remember

The name is not just marketing: the protected shape of the bay often keeps the water calm even when the sea is rougher nearby. Arriving early is the real trick.

### Pair it with

Bay of Fables · Sestri Levante old town · Moneglia

Opening times, prices, access rules and transport can change: always check official websites before you go.

08

CHIAVARI

# Caruggio Dritto and Antiques

Arcades, shops and a monthly antiques market make Chiavari one of the easiest trips from Rapallo.

SLOW SHOPPING

ANTIQUES

OLD TOWN

## EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICAL NOTES

### At a glance

- **Distance:** 7 to 8 minutes by train
- **Market:** Second weekend of each month
- **Time needed:** Half day
- **Best for:** Vintage objects, arcades and lunch in town

### Why it is worth it

Chiavari has an elegant historic centre, with long arcades that make it pleasant in every season. On the second weekend of the month, the antiques market adds

furniture, prints, ceramics and curious finds.

### Detail to remember

Chiavari is also the birthplace of the Chiavari chair, a small masterpiece of Ligurian craft design: very light, strong and still made by skilled local artisans.

### Pair it with

Palazzo Rocca · Madonna del Giardino Sanctuary · Lavagna

Opening times, prices, access rules and transport can change: always check official websites before you go.

09

RAPALLO

# Castello sul Mare and Seafront

Rapallo's most photogenic landmark, perfect at the beginning or end of a Riviera day.

RAPALLO

WALK

SUNSET

## EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICAL NOTES

### At a glance

- **Distance:** In town, on the Vittorio Veneto seafront
- **Time needed:** 30 to 60 minutes
- **When to go:** Late afternoon, evening or during the July festivities
- **Best for:** A walk, photos and first orientation in town

### Why it is worth it

The Castello sul Mare is Rapallo's postcard: a small sixteenth-century fortress built to defend the coast and now tied to the city's most recognisable image. It sits on the

seafront, close to cafés, the old town and the harbour.

### Detail to remember

During the July patronal festivities, the castle becomes the scenic heart of the city, with lights and fireworks over the gulf. Even outside events, it is the easiest stop for understanding Rapallo's relationship with the sea.

### Pair it with

Old town · Chiosco della Musica · Porto Carlo Riva

Opening times, prices, access rules and transport can change: always check official websites before you go.

10

SAN FRUTTUOSO

# San Fruttuoso Abbey

A thousand-year-old abbey set in a bay reachable only by sea or on foot.

FAI

BOAT

HIDDEN BAY

## EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICAL NOTES

### At a glance

- **How to get there:** Seasonal boat service or trails through Portofino Park
- **Time needed:** Half day or full day
- **Check before going:** FAI opening times, boats and weather
- **Pair it with:** Christ of the Abyss, Camogli or Portofino

### Why it is worth it

San Fruttuoso Abbey is one of Liguria's most scenic places: historic architecture, beach, transparent water and the

Portofino promontory in a single view. The journey to reach it is already part of the experience.

### Detail to remember

The bay works best when you do not treat it as just another beach. Arrive early, visit the abbey, look out to the sea from the square and leave time for the return: its charm comes from its isolation.

### Pair it with

Christ of the Abyss · Camogli · Portofino

Opening times, prices, access rules and transport can change: always check official websites before you go.

# Two cross-cutting ideas for using Rapallo as your base.

## Getting around from Rapallo

Rapallo is a strategic base because it combines trains, boats, buses and the cable car. In minutes you can reach Santa Margherita Ligure, Zoagli and Chiavari; with a little more time, Sestri Levante, Portofino and San Fruttuoso.

- Train: the Genoa-La Spezia line is ideal for Zoagli, Chiavari and Sestri Levante.
- Boats: seasonal links towards Santa Margherita, Portofino and San Fruttuoso.
- Bus: useful for Paraggi and Portofino from Santa Margherita Ligure.
- Cable car: Rapallo-Montallegro, always check season and weather.

## Risseu, a Ligurian mosaic hunt

Risseu is the Ligurian art of pebble mosaics: churchyards, small squares and gardens preserve examples that rushed travellers often miss. Turning it into a small photo hunt is an easy way to look at villages with more attention.

- Rapallo and Santa Margherita
- Camogli
- Riva Trigoso
- Chiavari

**YOUR SMART BASE ON THE  
RIVIERA**

# Starting from Rapallo makes the trip easier.

Short train rides, boats, trails, villages and sea: Rapallo Smart Home is designed for travellers looking for a short, carefully planned and practical stay, with technology serving the holiday.

**RAPALLO**  
SMART HOME

**Rapallo Smart Home**

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