



IN PORTO SANTO STEFANO

SPANISH FORTRESS AND OTHER FORTRESSES IN PORTO ERCOLE

Road indication: coming in Porto Santo Stefano from the promenade on the sea you arrive in Piazza Vittorio Emanuele. Then you take via Martiri d'Ungheria as far as via Panoramica, turning left and, after a few hundreds of meters, you'll arrive at the Spanish Fortress. It was built during the first decades of the seventeenth century, consists of two levels, based on a square base of 35 x 35 meters. In Porto Ercole it's possible to visit Forte Filippo, Forte Stella and the Fortress Aldobrandesca.

MEDITERRANEAN AQUARIUM OF ARGENTARIO

It's beautiful, clear and well-organized. For all lovers of the underwater world!

Address: Porto Santo Stefano, Lungomare dei Navigatori Tel: 0564-815 933

CONVENT OF "PADRI PASSIONISTI" AND THE SUMMIT OF "PUNTA TELEGRAFO".

Along the road from Porto Santo Stefano to Orbetello, turn on the right for the summit of Monte Argentario (Punta Telegrafo, clearly indicated by the sign). At level of 273 meters there is the convent of Padri Passionisti with the church of eighteenth century style that preserves relics of St. Paul. From here you can see one of the most beautiful views of the Argentario. Continuing the climb, we arrive at the the highest point of Monte Argentario, called Punta Telegrafo (high mt. 645). The panoramic show is wonderful, you can see the islands of Giglio, Giannutri and, in the clear days, the island of Montecristo.

THE COASTAL TOWERS

Following the road "Panoramica", in direction of Porto Ercole, you can admire the beautiful landscape and, on the sea side, the remains of coastal towers. Infact, during the Spanish domination, it was built a number of warning towers on the highest point to monitor the Tyrrhenian Sea.

SURROUNDINGS

CAPALBIO AND THE TAROT GARDEN

Reached in about half an hour from the Monte Argentario, taking the SS Aurelia in direction Rome, Capalbio, in the heart of the Tuscan Maremma, is a small village with ancient traditions. It lived many domains, from the Etruscans to the Romans, the Lombards, the Aldobrandeschi, the Spaniards and the florentine descent of Medici: each of them has left evidence of their presence in the territory.

The Tarot Garden is a charming place. Properties of the sculptress Niki de Saint Phalle, provides a wonderful and colorful spectacle, with its architectures covered with mosaics of various colours and mirrors. To arrive: from Orbetello, take the Aurelia SS1 road in direction to Rome. The exit is Pescia Fiorentina (first exit after Capalbio) and turn left. After a few hundred meters you arrive at the parking area on the left (there are no signs, but you can see on the hill the large multicolored statues). Address: Fondazione "Il Giardino dei Tarocchi" Località Garavicchio-Capalbio (GR) Tel: 0564-895 122. Opening Days and Hours

Opening dates: from April 1 to October 15 Open Daily from 14:30 to 19:30

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK OF VULCI.

The archaeological park of Vulci is a mix of nature, archeology, culture and traditions. You can visit the rest of ancient town, the tomb of François, the lake of Pellicone and the Museum inside the castle. It's an ideal place to spend a day in contact with history and the beautiful territory of Maremma. To arrive: take the road S.S. 1 Aurelia from Orbetello in direction to Rome until the exit of Vulci. Info: tel. 0766/879729 Website: www.vulci.it

"BORGHI DI MAREMMA": PITIGLIANO (LA CITTA' DEL TUFO), SOVANA AND SATURNIA

Departing from Porto Santo Stefano and, by the Tombolo of Giannella, you drive along the bridge before the village of Albinia (Pitigliano Manciano-direction) you arrive in Pitigliano, which is located along a ridge of tuff on the border between Tuscany and Lazio. The tuff is the real lord of the place with the houses and cellars (to produce the famous wine "Bianco di Pitigliano") overhanging the torrent "Lente". Continuing along the main road, after 20 km, you reach Sovana, genuine medieval village, with its beautiful "Piazza del Pretorio" and the nearby Etruscan necropolis. From Sovana, along the road to San Martino sul Fiora, you reach the junction for Saturnia, built on the travertine and completely surrounded by walls prior to the Etruscan period, so that it considered the first city of civilization "Italica". The Spa is known since the Romans and today it's appreciated for its establishment with sulphurous waters that gush out at 37 ° C all the year. Around the spa were raised numerous facilities for tourism. Although you can have free access at the thermal waters with the natural pools created in the valley.

MARINE NATIONAL PARK OF TUSCAN ARCHIPELAGO, GIGLIO AND GIANNUTRI ISLANDS.

The Tuscan Archipelago National Park is the largest marine park in Europe, includes all the seven main islands of the Tuscan plus some smaller islands, and declared national shrine of cetaceans. From Porto Santo Stefano, with the ferry-boats, you can reach the two southern islands of the archipelago: Giglio and Giannutri. In any time of year, Isola del Giglio welcomes tourists who wish to see its natural beauties, the charming seaside, its flavors and its colors. The land, almost entirely of granite, is rich of high rocks with their typical colour rose. The whole coast is indented by numerous rocks interrupted by coves, bays and the beach of Campese. Small Giannutri is located few kilometers from Giglio and, when you arrive, it seems to be in the mythological world of ancient Mediterranean navigators. There are three little summit of limestone (Capel Rosso, Monte Mario and Poggio Cannone). The coast is rocky and the unique points of docking are the bays of Golfo Spalmatoi and Cala Maestra.

THE REGIONAL PARK OF MAREMMA AND OTHER NATURAL RESERVES

The Regional Park of Maremma is extended from Principina a Mare to Talamone. The landscape is composed of a chain of rough and wild hills: above them there are still a sighting towers built by the ancient Saracens. The hills descend to the sea, characterized by sandy beaches (the most beautiful is Collelungo) . In the entire area it is easy to meet the majestic Maremma cows (known for their long horns), the wild boar and "Butteri", the famous cowboys riding their horses. To arrive: from Porto Santo Stefano, take the road SS 1 Aurelia at Albinia (direction Grosseto) and exit at Alberese; for information: Center Office of the Regional Park -Alberese (tel. 0564/407098 - website. www.parcomaremma.it)

The Natural Reserve of Feniglia (Terrarossa - Porto Ercole) is a long sandy dune from Ansedonia to Monte Argentario, walking by foot or by bike along a picturesque country road flanked by majestic pines. You can stop on the beach for a swim or birdwatching on the side of the lagoon.

The West Lagoon of Orbetello (along the road of Giannella) is a break point area of many migratory birds (cormorants, flamingos, etc.): it's separated from the sea by the "tombolo" of Giannella, a natural stretch of sand.

The Lake of Burano (road SS1 Aurelia in direction Rome, exit Capalbio Scalo) is a coastal lake separated from the sea by thin sand dunes: it's an important place of birdwatching (mallard, greater white heron, the hawk swamp etc..).

PARK OF THE MONSTERS OF BOMARZO

The "Sacred Wood of Bomarzo" is the prototype of all the gardens of the villas in Lazio, with its "Villa delle Meraviglie" and its sculptures carved in large blocks of stone. The park runs on a tour between the mythology and fantasy. To arrive: from Orbetello, take the road S.S.1 Aurelia (direction to Rome) and exit at Tuscania; arrive until Viterbo and then continue on the highway Viterbo-Orte until the exit of Bomarzo. Info: tel. 0761/924029 or website: www.parcodemostri.com

WINE AND FOOD ITINERARIES

The Road of Wine and Food "Colli di Maremma" is situated at north-east of the territory of Grosseto and represents the essence and heart of Maremma. It's one of the biggest road in Italy (through thirteen municipalities in the area) and extends from the sea, through the hill, to the Mount Amiata. This area is famous for the wines DOC: the most important is "Morellino di Scansano" (about this wine, we suggest you "Vinellando" , a special show on program in Magliano in Toscana every year from 24 to 26 August) . Other wines are "Bianco di Pitigliano", "Parrina", "Sovana", "Costa Ansonica dell'Argentario" and "Capalbio". Already important are the extra virgin olive oil that you can find in the villages of Seggiano, Massa Marittima, Campagnatico and other hilly areas. Info: website www.stradavinimaremma.it

DIVING IN ARGENTARIO

Diving Center "Costa d'Argento" invites you to spend interesting days in the beautiful scenery of the sea bottom of Argentario. There is also the opportunity for novices to have "the baptism of sea", the unforgettable experience of the first immersion. Info: tel. 0564/810424 or website www.centroimmersioni.com.