



PIOMBINO TOURIST GUIDE

5 ITINERARIES
TO DISCOVER THE AREA



COMUNE DI PIOMBINO



PIOMBINO AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

The lighthouse of Etruscan coast

Piombino is located in **Alta Maremma** and is part of Val di Cornia, extending along the **Tuscan coast** between **Livorno** and **Grosseto**. **Piombino's canal** separates the city from the **Island of Elba** and it's also where the **Tyrrhenian** and **Ligurian Sea** meet. On a clear day, you can see all the way to Capo Corso, on Corsica's East coast.

Piombino has hosted various cultures and communities for 3000 years, when the **Etruscans** first built Fufluns, now **Populonia**, the only Etruscan city situated on the seaside. Piombino was often the target of pirate raids as the land is rich in minerals, and its port has been an important trade center in the Mediterranean since ancient times. Over the centuries Piombino has had both dark and glory days, until modern times when it became the heart of the Italian steel sector: trains run all over Italy on rails built in Piombino!

Val di Cornia is suitable for every **traveler**: vast beaches, secluded bays and coastal paths make it possible to immerse yourself in unspoiled **nature**; the more adventurous can enjoy watersports and outdoor activities, while the history lovers can discover the fascinating archaeological finds featured around Piombino's territory. Last but not least, for a more comfortable beach day, there are plenty of establishments offering exclusive beach facilities and restaurants where you can taste the delicious **local cuisine**.

There are also many accommodation alternatives in the area, including **hotels**, **Bed & Breakfast** and **Agritourism** or the numerous **resorts** and **campsites** along the coast.








THE GUIDE

Read me, write on me and take me with you!
Let's discover Piombino and Etruscan Coast together!



'**Piombino Tourist Guide**' is your **compass** to help you take the first steps exploring Piombino and its surroundings. It is a 'logbook' with ideas for **excursions** and useful **information** to customize and integrate based on your tastes. We offer **5 maps** with local experiences and activities and you can choose the perfect one for you!

Welcome to discover Piombino!

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COMUNE DI PIOMBINO



PIOMBINO TOURIST GUIDE

Pictures of: Davide Danesi, Davide Leonelli e i Tre Delfini



SAND OR ROCK

31Km of coast to experience the seaside freely!

It's a beautiful day, the sun is shining and a swim is what you need, where can you go? Don't worry, in Piombino you have plenty of choices, 31km of coastline, varying from large sandy gulfs to rocky coves, most are free beaches. The sea currents present in the **Piombino Canal** ensure clear sea and transparent water all year around.

What if it is a windy day? To find a sheltered corner is simple as the city stretches out towards the **Island of Elba** and the **Tuscan Archipelago**, moreover, the territory has a peninsular shape that allows you to enjoy beach life, even on windy days.

1 | POZZINO BAY



Do you love to lose yourself in nature but you don't want to get too tired? This pebble and stone gulf to the northwest of Baratti is an ideal spot: a quiet bay, 20 minutes' walk from the parking spot.

2 | GULF OF BARATTI



An iron sand beach, sheltered from the winds and shaded by the marine pine foliage: the Gulf of Baratti is a place suspended in time where history, archeology and nature are in perfect synergy. **At sunset, the atmosphere is enchanting.**

3 | PIOMBINO PROMONTORY



This long stretch of rocky and unspoiled coast is characterized by inlets of rocks and stones that offer privacy and a transparent seabed. Very suitable for those who love to do **trekking** and **mountain biking** as the coastal path is about 15km long.

4 | CALAMORESCA BEACH



One of the most popular beaches for locals as it is near the city center. It is sheltered from southeast winds and offers crystal clear and calm waters all year round. Calamoresca is the starting point of the promontory's **footpath**.

5 | SALIVOLI BEACH



The comfort of visiting the beach, whilst remaining in close proximity to the facilities of the city. Salivoli is the only sandy beach within the city and it is located near **Marina di Salivoli** Port that is accessible by boat and has assistance for the disabled.

6 | CITY BEACHES

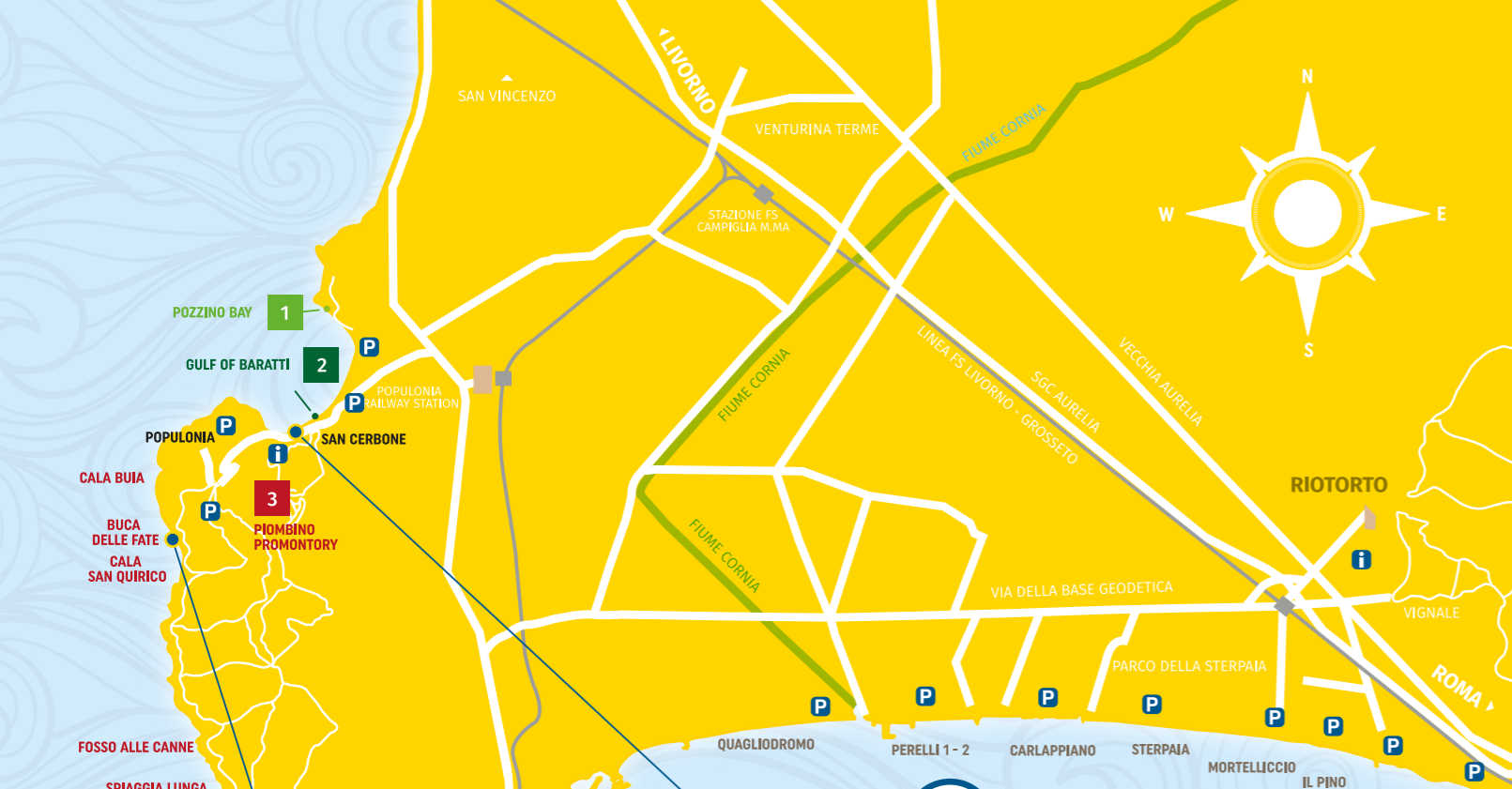


Along the city waterfront you can find many uncrowded coves and gravel beaches where you can swim enjoying the crystalline water.

7 | GULF OF FOLLONICA AND STERPAIA PARK



The perfect beach for those who love nature and relaxation but don't want to compromise on comfort. A **Blue Flag beach** since 2008, awarded for its environmental quality. This beach, with its fine sand, limpid water and shallow seabed, offers large stretches of free beach and also zones with beach facilities and restaurants.



TIP

THE MIRACLES OF SAN CERBONE
Just a few steps from the sea you can find Cerbone's chapel. San Cerbone is Populonia's patron and he is said to have worked a few miracles, the most well-known of these claims that the boat, that was transporting the Bishop's remains from the Island of Elba to the mainland, was able to calm the storm en route. Every September a Luminaria takes place in his honour, a parade with illuminated boats, that brings San Cerbone's statue from Baratti gulf to the chapel. During the ceremony holy breads are distributed to the believers as a gesture of protection from stormy weather.

TIP

BUCA DELLE FATE
'The hole of the Fairies', the name states how magical this place is. The legend says that some fishermen heard melodic songs and voices coming from the gulf. Intrigued, they came too close to the coastline and one of them was kidnapped by sea spirits. The remains of the Etruscan burials present along the path and the sandstone cliffs characterized by tafoni (small cavity features) make the place unique.

RECOMMENDED

BOAT TRIP The fastest way to reach the islands of the Tuscan archipelago and the shoreline of the Piombino promontory.

7 | GULF OF FOLLONICA AND STERPAIA PARK



- EASY FOOTPATHS
- MODERATELY STRENUOUS FOOTPATHS
- MOUNTAIN BIKE EASY TRAILS
- MOUNTAIN BIKE INTERMEDIATE TRAILS
- STONE & ROCKS
- SAND
- WOOD
- PINE FOREST
- BAR OR RESTAURANT
- BATHING ESTABLISHMENTS
- SEASONAL RESCUE SERVICE AT SEA
- PUBLIC TOILETS
- UNCROWDED
- DISABLED ACCESS
- KID FRIENDLY
- DOG-FRIENDLY BEACHES
- BUS STOP
- SUNSET
- TOURIST INFORMATION
- PARKING AREA



ADVENTURE LOVERS

Sport and Nature: holidays in harmony with the environment

You always feel alive when you can immerse yourself in the wild! Around Piombino you can do lots of activities; from riding a horse or mountain biking, trekking or surfing. The coastline offers many options for those who love **water** or **outdoor sports**, providing the possibility to enjoy some exercise against a beautiful, historical backdrop.

1 | WALKING FROM BARATTI TO VILLA DEL BARONE



The walk through **Baratti's woodland**, located on the North of the Gulf of Baratti, is full of surprises: the shady path skirts the sea and connects Baratti to Baia del Pozzino and Villa del Barone. Along the way you can appreciate two extraordinary works made by the architect **Vittorio Giorgini: Casa Saldarini**, called Casa Dinosaurio for its rounded shape, and **Casa Esagono**.

Info: www.archiviovittoriogiorgini.it

2 | BARATTI & POPOLONIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK AND PIOMBINO PROMONTORY



The park and the promontory are crossed by a dense network of trails that join the acropolis to the Etruscan necropolis or reach the ruins of the **Benedictine Monastery of San Quirico**. The main itinerary, called **Via dei Cavalleggeri**, starts from Calamoresca and it is a spectacular trekking path immersed in the Mediterranean maquis and with an outstanding view of cliffs and the islands of the Tuscan Archipelago, first and foremost the Island of Elba.

Info: www.parchivaldicornia.it

3 | PUNTA FALCONE NATURAL PARK



Undemanding botanical trail that allows you to reach the military shelters dating back to the 1920's and the **Astronomical Observatory** with a 360° panoramic view of the Tuscan Archipelago.

Info: www.astropiombino.org
www.associazionemicrocosmo.it

4 | STERPAIA NATURAL PARK



The pine forest that flanks the beach is characterized by an intact backdunal environment. The trail in the Park runs parallel to the beach and you can have a pleasant walk, passing through Mediterranean scrub bushes, tamarisk forests, ash trees and holm oaks.

Info: www.parchivaldicornia.it

5 | WWF OASIS OF ORTI-BOTTAGONE



At the edge of Sterpaia Park there is the **WWF Oasis**: the **Orti** brackish swamp and the freshwater swamps of Bottagone combine to form an oasis of biodiversity suitable for hosting migratory species all year around.

Info: www.wwf.it

6 | MONTONI NATURAL PARK



On the borders of Piombino territory, behind **Riotorto**, there are 7,000 acres of a dense holm oak forest crossed by paths that lead to the remains of the Castle, the quarries and the mining village demanded by Princess Elisa Bonaparte.

Info: www.parchivaldicornia.it



TIP
LILY AT SEA FLOWERS
The 'lily at sea' flowers growing on the dunes of the Baratti gulf and the Sterpaia park are named the 'swimming plant' because their seed pods are able to float. Thanks to this characteristic, these flowers have been able to travel large distances across the Mediterranean. During July and August you can see the spectacle of these rare flowers blooming on the sand.

TIP
VIA DEI CAVALLEGGERI
It was the Grand Duke Cosimo I of Medici's noble family who wanted this road to connect Piombino to Livorno with the aim of patrolling the coast and creating a defensive seafront system.

RECOMMENDED
WATER SPORTS If you fancy a water sport but don't have the gear, there are many rental services available in Baratti gulf, Sterpaia park and on the beaches near the city.

- EASY FOOTPATHS
- MODERATELY STRENUOUS FOOTPATHS
- MOUNTAIN BIKE EASY TRAILS
- MOUNTAIN BIKE INTERMEDIATE TRAILS
- WOOD
- PINE FOREST
- REST STOP
- PUBLIC TOILETS
- GUIDED TOURS
- WILDLIFE WATCHING
- TOURIST INFORMATION
- PARKING AREA



UNDERWATER

Diving and snorkeling in the Etruscan Sea

The Canal of Piombino is a popular spot for **diving** or **snorkeling**. Being the point where the Tyrrhenian and Ligurian Sea meet, the currents guarantee clear water and a seabed with an ecosystem that has great **biodiversity** and numerous marine species. Also, the presence of numerous Roman ruins makes the Canal's waters an interesting spot to be discovered. To carry out safe marine explorations and discover submerged treasures, please contact the local professional instructors and school centers that you can find along the coast.

SNORKELING



You can snorkel in multiple locations, such as near **Piazza Bovio**, at the beach under the Macelli, in Calamoresca and in the **Gulf of Baratti** where there are lots of rocks piles a few meters away from the shore.

The marine area of the Gulf of Follonica is suitable for snorkeling even for children, especially near the corridor of rocks that marks one of the ancient Roman roads.

4 | SPIAGGIA LUNGA



Off the coast, about 28 meters deep, is located the shoal of Spiaggia Lunga: a multicolored habitat full of burrows, cracks and marine flora.

5 | PUNTA FALCONE



About 500m from **Falcone's Cliff** lies the Falcone shoal, one of the most beautiful and interesting in the area. Here, you can discover numerous colorful fish and a variety of corals where the bright red of gorgonians stands out. It is important to know that Punta Falcone forms the natural border between the Tyrrhenian And the Ligurian Sea.

1 | CALA DEL PICCIONE



At 200-300m from the coast, around 30m of depth, you can observe a coralligenous habitat full of red gorgonians, various species of sedentary and migratory fish.

2 | CALA BUIA



A colorful seabed inhabited mainly by filter-feeding organisms, lobsters and sedentary fish. The prevailing color is the red of **the gorgonians**.

3 | BUCA DELLE FATE



About 200m from the coast in front of Buca delle Fate there is a fascinating canyon consisting of two multicolored rock formations. Further to the northwest, at 50m deep you can observe a shoal of **white gorgonians**.



RECOMMENDED

Just 20 mins by boat from the Piombino coast there are the islets of **Cerboli** and **Palmaiola** offering spectacular marine excursions.

TIP

PELAGOS CETACEAN SANCTUARY
The Piombino Canal is part of the Pelagos Cetacean Sanctuary: a protected marine area extending between Sardinia, Tuscany and France which represents a unique habitat for all cetacean species. In recent years, in addition to dolphins and fin whales, sea turtles have been seen nesting along the Etruscan coastline.

TIP

GULF OF FOLLONICA
The characteristic reef that emerges a few meters from the shore of Follonica's coast is an ideal habitat for many marine species whether animal or plant and it is suitable for snorkeling activities, even for children. Off the coast there are aquacultures that attract many different kinds of cetaceans: it is common to see the shape of dolphins jumping in the water.

- SNORKELING
- SCUBA DIVING BEGINNER LEVEL
- SCUBA DIVING INTERMEDIATE LEVEL
- SCUBA DIVING ADVANCED LEVEL
- ONLY BY BOAT
- GENTLE SEA CURRENTS
- STRONG SEA CURRENTS
- TOURIST INFORMATION
- PARKING AREA





THE CHARM OF THE PAST

From the Etruscans to the Appiani: Centuries of history and memory

The first human traced in the area dates from the Lower Paleolithic period, but it was with the Etruscans, almost 3,000 years ago, that the promontory became the center of Mediterranean trade exchanges and a benchmark for mineral processing. It was here that the Etruscans built **Fufluns**, now Populonia, the only city in the **Etruscan** region to be found on the seaside. During the 11th-12th century, the area changed its structure. Romans chose the current Piombino as the site where they built and developed their city. Just before the end of the Medieval era, the small lagoon port became so important that in 1399 the **Appiani** (a noble family) chose the city as the capital of their domain. The followers of the Appiani were the **Ludovisi** who were first lords and then princes of Piombino until the early 17th century. In 1805, Napoleon conferred the Princedom to his sister **Elisa Bonaparte Baciocchi** until 1815, when Piombino became part of the **Grand Duchy of Tuscany**.

1 | POGGIO DEL MOLINO PARK, THE TRIAL OF A 'SHARED ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT'



Located on the promontory, north of Baratti, **Romans** built a **fort** to secure the area from pirates. Successively it became a **farm** and a fish sauce factory. In imperial times, it was converted into a lush **marine villa**. The remains of a spa with mosaic floors are still visible. The site is part of a **project** which trains the public to join the archaeologists during excavations.

Info: www.pastexperience.it

2 | BARATTI AND POPULONIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK



Over **80 acres** of archeology between the gulf of Baratti and Piombino promontory. The archaeological park includes the vast area of the **Etruscan necropolis**, with unique tombs of its kind and temples, buildings and the roads of the **Roman Acropolis** up on the hill.

Info: www.parchivaldicornia.it

3 | POPULONIA CASTLE



The Castle stands in front of the acropolis, it's one of the **most beautiful Italian villages**, with

well-preserved alleys and a tall medieval tower that boasts a breath-taking panorama of the Tuscan coast. Don't miss a visit to **Rocca degli Appiani**, a well-conserved fort, and the **Etruscan Museum of Populonia Gasparri Collection**.

Info: www.pastexperience.it

4 | ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF THE POPULONIA TERRITORY



The main exhibition center of Val di Cornia Parks is located in Piombino, exactly in **Cittadella**, and hosts over 2,000 objects, including prehistoric artefacts, finds from the Etruscan necropolis and other remains from Roman times. The symbol of the museum is the wonderful **silver amphora** found in the seabed of Baratti.

Info: www.parchivaldicornia.it

5 | ROMAN VILLA OF VIGNALE



The **University of Siena** has been carrying out excavations in the area of Vignale, hamlet of **Riotorto**, to bring back to life the remains of a Roman villa and its splendid mosaics.

Info: www.uominiecosavignale.it



RECOMMENDED

- ETRUSCAN ERA
- ROMAN ERA
- MEDIEVAL ERA
- RENAISSANCE
- SEASONAL OPENING
- ALWAYS OPEN
- MUSEUM
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN PROGRESS
- GUIDED TOURS
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
- TOWER
- CHURCH
- DISABLED ACCESS
- TOURIST INFORMATION
- PARKING AREA

An evocative adventure through a coastal path between Livorno and Grosseto provinces to discover the complex defensive system, full of watchtowers and forts, built by the Pisans in the 12th century and enhanced by the Appiani in the 17th century.

TIP
In the waters of the Gulf of Follonica, a few meters from the shoreline, lie the remains of an ancient Roman road that emerge from the water. Archaeologists suppose that it was part of the ancient Via Aurelia route.

TIP
Visit the remains of **San Quirico Monastery**, a Benedictine ecclesiastical complex surrounded by the woods of the Piombino promontory.



A WALK AROUND THE OLD TOWN

From Appiani to Elisa Bonaparte through Leonardo da Vinci

The old town is still home to buildings which date back to the **Appiani Lordship**, you can spot them from the dragon and shield crest and commemorative inscriptions on the buildings' walls. The city hosted important figures like **Niccolò Machiavelli**, who lived here during Jacopo IV Appiani rule or **Leonardo da Vinci**, during **Cesare Borgia's** reign, he conducted works on the port and fortifications, the latter are still partially visible. The city also hosted great women like **Simonetta Cattaneo**, **Botticelli's** muse, and Princess Elisa Bonaparte Baciocchi, Napoleon's sister, who, in a few years, made the city look like a "little Paris".

1 | ON THE TRAIL OF ELISA



Elisa Bonaparte Baciocchi ruled over Piombino between 1805 and 1814, and was responsible for initiating the majority of the city's renovations. **Sant'Antimo sopra i Canali** church is a good example. Napoleon's sister converted the oldest church in the city into the first modern **hospital** overlooking the small Piombino's port. For the bicentenary of Elisa's death, a **belvedere** was named after her and it is located next to the **Cittadella**, her house (now the **Archaeological Museum**).

windows (Bifore). It was built at the end of the 13th century and it is the oldest private building in the old town. It is the only example in the city of civil architecture in the Gothic style. Today the building houses the **Historical Archive of Piombino**.

Info: www.comune.piombino.li.it

5 | FONTE DEI CANALI DI MARINA



It dates back to the middle of the 13th century and it supplied the city and the port. The water flows from the heads of five horses and dragons. The originals, preserved in the Castle Museum, are attributed to **Nicola Pisano**. The fountain is also decorated with crests, epigraphs and a marble panel with a **Nativity representation**, the latter probably carved by **Andrea Guardi**.

6 | CASTLE AND MEDIEVAL CERAMICS MUSEUM



The monumental complex of the Castle is the result of several interventions started in the Middle Ages and ended in the 19th century, when it became a prison. The central building is today the **Museum of Medieval Ceramics**.

Info: www.parchivaldicornia.it

7 | CO-CATHEDRAL OF SANT'ANTIMO | AND MUSEUM OF SACRED ART



The **Sant'Antimo** Co-Cathedral's edification dates back to 1377. The Gothic-style church is in the heart of the historical center and the side cloister is now the **Museum of Sacred Art**.

2 | TOWER AND RIVELLINO



Torrione of Porta a Terra is the ancient city gate built between the 12th and 13th centuries. In 1477 the **Rivellino** was constructed, a semicircular fortification placed in front of Torrione to enhance the city's defences.

3 | TOWN HALL AND CLOCK TOWER



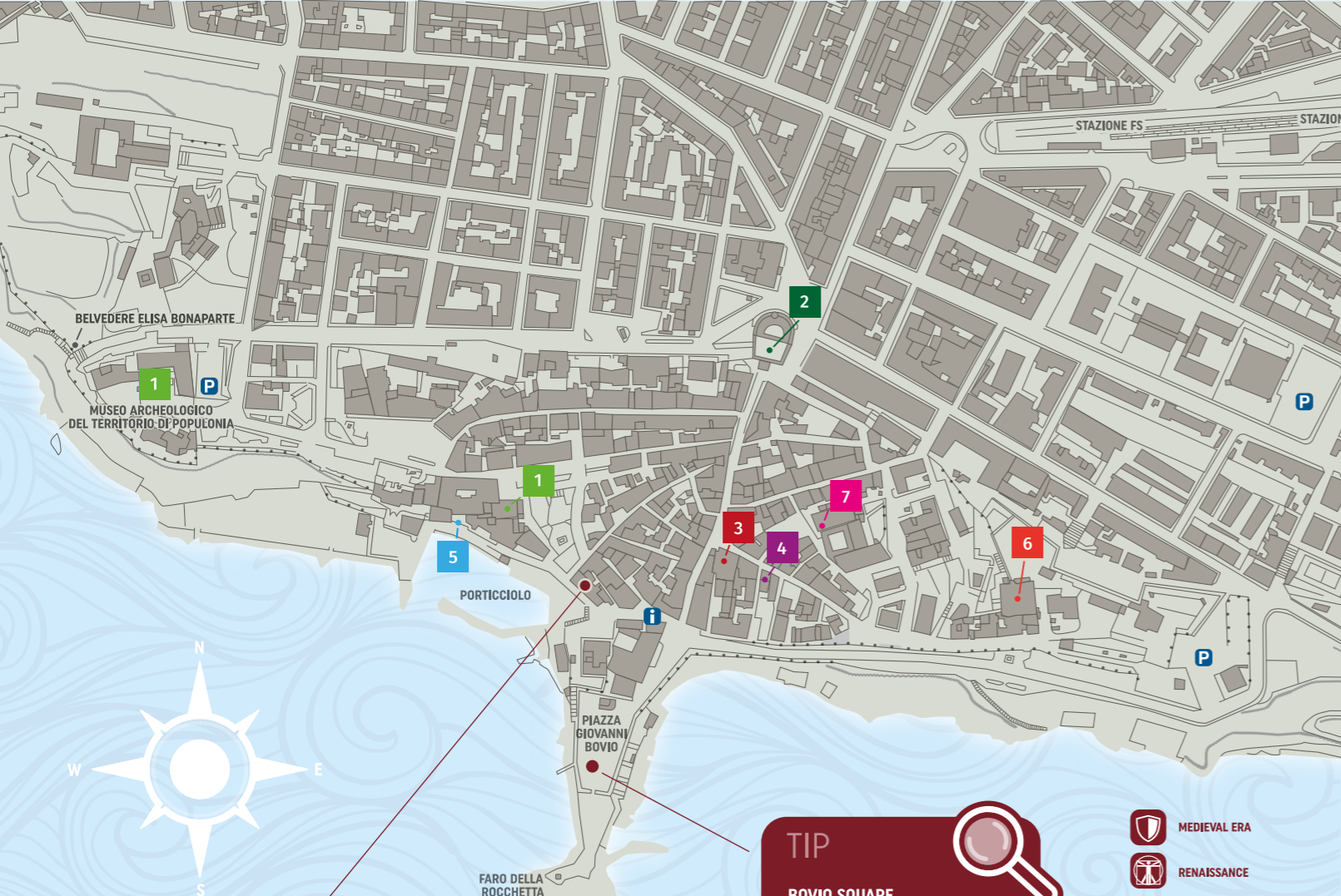
The current municipal building dates back to the mid 1400s, but the original one was built in the 13th century. The building that now hosts the seat of municipal offices, in the past has also been a court and a prison. Adjoined to the town hall is the beautiful **clocktower**, built at the end of the 16th century.

Info: www.comune.piombino.li.it

4 | CASA DELLE BIFORE (Mullioned House)



The building takes its name from its mullioned



TIP

BOVIO SQUARE

Piazza Bovio is the largest European square embraced by the sea on three sides and it has got a breathtaking view which overlooks the islands of the Tuscan Archipelago. The square, with a shape that resembles the Italian peninsula, is located on a large rock; where in the 11th century stood the Rocchetta, a defensive structure placed at the harbor's entrance. Nowadays the fort has been replaced by a lighthouse built in the 1920s.

RECOMMENDED

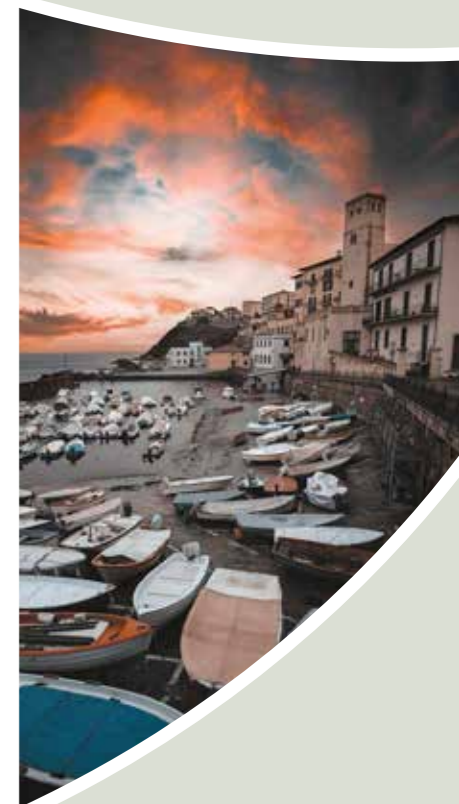
WALK ALONG THE PROMENADE
Don't miss a walk along the seafront at sunset: from Salivoli to Cittadella, along Lungomare Marconi and Viale Amendola, Piombino offers a wide promenade with a spectacular view of the Piombino Canal and the Island of Elba.

TIP

PADELLA SQUARE

Hidden among the old town's streets is Padella square, one of the smallest squares in Europe.

- MEDIEVAL ERA
- RENAISSANCE
- CHURCH
- TOWER
- MUSEUM
- FREE ACCESS
- SEASONAL OPENING
- ALWAYS OPEN
- TOURIST INFORMATION
- PARKING AREA



FOOD AND WINE

RECOMMENDED

Wine tasting tour in the cellars of the area.



Piombinese style Octopus

FLAVIA MALOTTI CHEF

WASH THE OCTOPUS, BROWN IT IN A PAN WITH ONION AND DEGLAZE WITH RED WINE. ADD PEELED TOMATOES, WATER, SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE. COVER THE PAN, COOK OVER SLOW HEAT FOR ABOUT 1 HOUR AND LET IT REST FOR A WHILE. SERVE IT ON SLICES OF TOASTED BREAD. YUMMY, IT IS EXTREMELY TASTY!



TIP

LOCAL MARKETS

The weekly market takes place in the center of Piombino on Wednesday morning while on Saturday morning it is in Riotorto. A few steps from the Rivellino you can find the Piombino market hall, which normally opens in the morning and there you can buy fresh and 0 km products.

Populonia's name comes from **Fufluns**, the Etruscan God of wine. Etruscans were the first to start growing vineyards, but it was **Elisa Bonaparte Baciocchi**, Princess of Lucca and Piombino, who introduced the cultivation of fine vines, some of them from France, to start creating high-quality products.

Today, Piombino is part of the **City of Wine** association and has numerous local producers and **DOC** and **DOCG** labels that certify the high quality of local wines.

Along with wine and oil, the area is known for fruits and vegetables, like the **violet artichokes of Val di Cornia**, but also for legumes and cereals. Thanks to the sowing of **ancient grains**, part of Sterpaia Park is used for the recovery of endemic and organic wheat cultivations.

The **aquaculture farms** of **sea bass**, **sea bream** and **mussels** present in the Piombino Canal supply the fish shops throughout Italy.

In the local restaurants and taverns you can taste some excellent quality **fish-based** dishes or a tasty selection of meat dishes, mostly from **0 km products**.

It is possible to buy handcrafted honey, cheese, cured meats or fish from a short supply chain.

SHOPPING

The majority of the shops and businesses are located in the city center, on the waterfront and in mall of **Salivoli**. The main shopping area in the city is **Corso Italia** and the nearby historic center (**CCN 150 Vetrine**), where you can find clothes, local products and souvenir shops. In **Populonia** and **Riotorto** there are numerous **artisan workshops** where you can buy handmade items and accessories. At the end of the day enjoying an aperitif on Baratti beach or at the Gulf of Follonica. In the evening, there are many clubs in the city centre or along the waterfront, where you can stop to enjoy some music and drinks.

TRAVEL NOTES

Record your Piombino experiences here!



TRAVEL DATE:

DISTANCE COVERED:

WALKING:

CYCLING:

SIGHTSEEING POINTS VISITED: Beaches or Parks - Museums

.....

WHAT HAVE I SEEN:

.....

ANIMALS, PLANTS OR FLOWERS:

.....

PIOMBINO'S BEST MEMORIES:

.....

.....

Leave a comment at: associazioneprolocopiombino@gmail.com



SCAN ME



INFORMATION
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www.vivipiombinoelavaldicornia.com



THANKS TO



DISPENSA DESIDERI
IL COLORE DEL GRANO

TOURIST INFORMATION:

Costa degli Etruschi e Toscana: www.visittuscany.com

Val di Cornia: www.parchivaldicornia.it

Piombino: www.prolocopiombino.com

Comune di Piombino:

www.comune.piombino.li.it - tel. 0565.63274



SHOPPING ONLINE:



www.tipicovaldicornia.it

