The Park of Porto Venere consists of the ancient village, the Islands Palmaria (1), Tino and Tinetto and the western coastline that stretches out till Valle dell'Albana (2) as well as a Protected Marine Area that extends its limits along the stretch of water south west of the archipelago of Porto Venere, including also the prairie of Posidonia that lives in the canal of Porto Venere. The historical, cultural and environmental value of the territory, as well as the harmonious relation between human and nature built and consolidated in time, has been recognized in 1997 by UNESCO with the establishment of the site "Porto Venere, Cinque Terre and Islands".













Nearly pristine nature, dominated by the typical Mediterranean scrub characterizes Tino Island. Among the dry walls it's possible to encounter the Tarantolino (9), the smallest Italian gecko, an endemic species. Near the dock there is an archeological area whit remains of the roman era and ruins of the medieval monastery (7), which testify the ancient presence of monastic settlements. The lighthouse, perennial guide for sailors, masters the peak of the island. This fortified neoclassic construction has experienced many changes in time, to the point of representing a vivid example in the transition between the military construction of the French school and the most recent fortifications of the XIX century. Also if it's entirely a military area, on the 13th of September, day of the patron Saint Venerio, the island opens its door to visitors, it is also possible to visit the island with tours organized by the Park. On the southern side of Tino Island is possible to see the island of Tinetto where there are the remains of a monastic settlement that are under quardianship.





The origins of the village of Porto Venere are reported to go back to the roman era. Etymologically the name (Portus Veneris) appears to derive from a temple dedicated to goddess Venus. In its present form the village dates 1113, when the Masters of Vezzano subsided it to the Repubblica Marinara of Genoa that transformed it in its own rampart in the Tirreno until the French domination in 1396. With the improvement of weapons started the decline of the military obligation of Porto Venere, which remained an important commercial port. With the arrival of Napoleone another era of abuses began, during which the most important monuments were disfigured. At the end of XIX century a restoration process started allowing the conservation of a landscape charged with extraordinary value. In Porto Venere, crossing Via Capellini, the main "carruggio", you reach Piazza Spallanzani, where from a spur rock spires the Church of San Pietro (10) built by the Genoese between 1256 and 1277. Walking towards the center of the village it is possible to admire the Church of San Lorenzo, official cathedral of the Genoese colony consecrated in 1130 by Pope Innocenzo II. The village offers the visitors a unique landscape of scenic views and the typical tower houses. Above the "palazzata" on the sea raises majestically Castle Doria (8), admirable architecture model of the Genoese military. In the village of Le Grazie, hamlet belonging to the village of Porto Venere, there is the Convent of the Olivetani, built in XIX century, its refectory was enriched by murals of Nicolò Corso (14). Not far, absorbed by the olive trees is the Villa Romana of Varianano (II sec. b.C - IV sec. a.C) which can be visited by appointment. The small village of Fezzano (15), also part of the village territory, is developed around the Church of San Giovanni, built in the XVIII century and formed by ancient houses among which the "carruggi" wind. In the Church it is possible to admire the famous Genoese organ of Luigi Ciurlo, the five huge paintings of the local artist Giuseppe Tori and a wooden statue of Anton Maria Maragliano.

DIRECTIONS

By Car:

Highway A12 Genova/Livorno Highway A15 La Spezia/Parma

Exit La Spezia, then main road for Porto Venere (15 km)

By train:

connections from Genova, Parma, Pisa:

Station La Spezia Centrale www.trenitalia.com

Then bus A.T.C. line 11 o P for Porto Venere

Toll free number 800 322322 www.atcesercizio.it

International airport "C. Colombo" Genova

Tel. +39 010 60151 www.airport.genova.it International Airport "G.Galilei" Pisa

Tel. +39 050 503199 www.pisa-airport.com

La Spezia, Palmaria, Lerici, Cinque Terre, Tigullio, Versilia

Tel. +39 0187 732987 www.navigazionegolfodeipoeti.it

Public Transportation Palmaria Island

Consorzio Barcaioli Portovenere Service

Tel. +39 347 8024817

Shuttle Bus Service

From the parking lot of Cavo a shuttle bus service is available, in high season, as connection with Borgo

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Rich Mediterranean vegetation that gradually descends towards sea covers the eastern side of Palmaria Island. The south western side is distinguished by high cliffs (3) from which is possible to glimpse, from the sea, the entrance to the Grotta dei Colombi, where human and animal finds have been discovered. Clinging to the same cliffs is the Fiordaliso of Porto Venere, exclusive endemism of the homonym headland. On the island, other than the typical Mediterranean shrubs, you can find rare species like the red rock roses (6) and the Phoenician juniper. Especially interesting is the visit, by reservation, of the Batteria Fortificata Umberto I (4): constructed in the eight hundred is part of the military fortifications of the Gulf, restored also thanks to the contribution of the Province of La Spezia. Other military fortifications on the island are Batteria del Semaforo, which now is the office of the Center for Environmental Education of the Park, and the Forte Cavour (5).



Descending in depth you can see caves, rock walls inhabited by gorgonian, numerous fish and shellfish species, and colorful and fascinating nudibranches. In the canal of Porto Venere there is a prairie of oceanic Posidonia, a water plant protected in all Europe, because it generates a valuable habitat for numerous marine organisms by offering them food and protection. From Porto Venere thanks to track #1 (12), crossing the National park of 5 Terre, it is possible to reach Levanto, while on Palmaria there is a track network that allows to go around the island in about three hours. In this extraordinary beautiful environment among a maze of caves, clefts and rocks molded by the wind, it is possible to practice various sports: swimming, canoeing, wind surfing, sailing, diving, snorkeling and for the enthusiast it is possible to climb the internationally renowned wall of rock of Mount Muzzerone (11), which offers different difficulty levels.



Regional Natural Park of Porto Venere

Park's Office Via Garibaldi 9 tel. +39 0187 794823 fax +39 0187 794888

USEFUL NUMBERS

Customer service Village of Porto Venere +39 0187 794800 **Local Police** +39 0187 794848 Touristy dock +39 0187 793042 **Italian Alpine Club** +39 0187 22873

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency 112 Public Assistance Porto Venere +39 0187 790702 Blue Number Emergency at Sea 1530 **Alpine Rescue** +39 336 689316 Forestal Firefighter Service 1515

HOTEL AND RESTAURANT INFORMATION

Pro Loco IAT Office of Porto Venere, Piazza Bastreri 7 tel. 0187 790691 fax 0187 790215 www.prolocoportovenere.it

HOSTEL OF PORTO VENERE AND ISOLA PALMARIA

tel. 0187 792606 333 2100665 www.ostelloportovenere.it email: info@ostelloportovenere.it

REGIONAL NATURAL PARK OF PORTO VENERE

info@parconaturaleportovenere.it www.parconaturaleportovenere.it





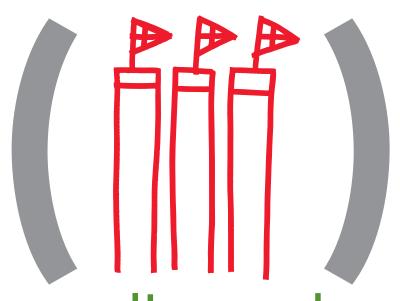












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