

The lands of Giacomo Puccini

www.puccinilands.it



visittuscany




LUCCA

“AMO DOVE
NACQUERO
I MIEI E PER
TUTTO L'ORO
DEL MONDO
NON RECEDEREI
DAL DISFARMI
DEL TETTO
PATERNO”



VIA
DEL DUOMO



“TORRE DEL LAGO,
GAUDIO SUPREMO,
PARADISO,
EDEN EMPIREO,
TURRIS EBURNEA,
VAS SPIRITUALE,
REGGIA...
ABITANTI 120,
12 CASE...”



An aerial photograph of a village nestled in a lush green valley. The village features stone buildings with terracotta roofs. In the foreground, there is a swimming pool with a red roofed pavilion and a tennis court. The background shows rolling green hills and a forested mountain range under a blue sky with light clouds.

“CELLE,
IL MIO SOGNO.
E POI DIO SA
CHE LETTI
CON FOGLIE.
PERO' LA VIA DI
MEZZO, SEGORTA
CONCELLESI,
LO SPICCHIO,
NALI SON NOMI
MELODIOSI CHE NON
SI SCORDERANNO”





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We invite you to travel to the places that Italian composer Giacomo Puccini so dearly loved and frequently visited in his beloved Tuscany. A loop covering just over 120 kilometres that winds its way among the memories of his birthplace and favourite haunts. Among the houses that were once home to the musical Maestro, the places where he took his first steps into the world of music. Among the churches with their great, antique organs, and the cafés and hotels where he would meet with friends, artists and writers of the time. To prepare ourselves for the journey, we imagine adopting a kind of “creative nostalgia” that seems to be the emotional motivation behind Puccini’s constant drive to go from place to place and return again and again, sometimes physically, and often through memory. A nostalgia that always generates new longings and finds surprising solutions. One that is nourished by aromas, sounds and faces, from which new ideas and new artistic works spring forth in a non-stop to-ing and fro-ing in which the high and the low, the serious and the humorous, music and conviviality coexist.

The houses: our starting point is Puccini’s birth house in Lucca, in the heart of the historic centre. It stands under the gaze of the enormous Angel Saint Michael on the top of Church of San Michele in Foro, which stands on the ruins of the Roman Forum and now houses the Puccini Museum. We then move on to Torre del Lago. Immersed in nature and silence, this house is an endless source of inspiration and the ideal place for indulging in Puccini’s beloved sport of hunting. It is a place for meeting friends surrounded by cherished objects, spaces designed to meet your needs, works of art and furnishings that suspend time in that precise moment in history. Then we have the house of his ancestors, steeped in memories, in Celle dei Puccini, where he spent many days of his childhood and where he also returned shortly before his death. These are houses that, together with the cottage in Viareggio and the one in Chiatri, make up a very precise jigsaw puzzle of the universe of affections and stories in the life of this great composer, who wrote to friends, relatives and acquaintances from all over the world about how he could not wait to return once he had finished performing his operas.

The houses—here we have three examples—are the starting point of our journey in the footsteps of Puccini: in Lucca and the Plain of Lucca, among the churches, the café and the convent that inspired the opera *Suor Angelica*; in Versilia, in Torre del Lago Puccini, where today the waters of the lake ripple to the notes of Puccini’s operas that drift from the theatre named after him; and in Media Valle del Serchio, where he spent his holidays or took refuge to write in secluded places. Music reverberates through every alleyway and village of these lands. Proof of this are the countless organisations and associations that promote music all year round in the name of the Maestro.

Arm yourself with this creative nostalgia as you discover this spectacular stage steeped in history and the timeless opera of Giacomo Puccini!



PUCCINI MUSEUM CASA NATALE - LUCCA

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Welcome to the Puccini Museum – Casa natale. One of Lucca’s many treasures, it offers visitors a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the life of Giacomo Puccini. It is the heart of a museum complex structured around the tracks left by the famous Italian composer.

The residence, a typical Lucca apartment at Corte S. Lorenzo 9, reveals the secrets, passions and

lifestyle of Puccini and his family. For the educated and passionate traveller, it will be a journey through time, an opportunity to take in the atmospheres that accompanied Puccini through his formative years. As you leave the entrance to the Church of San Michele in Foro behind, you arrive in Piazza Cittadella, where you can admire the imposing bronze statue of the composer sitting in an armchair while holding a cigarette in his hand.



The statue, created by sculptor Vito Tongiani in 1994, acts as a point of reference for those who have come to visit and enchants those who are simply passing by.

On the left side of the statue, in Piazza Cittadella 5, you can find the ticket office and bookshop. Their charming premises once provided passage for horse-drawn carriages to enter the 18th-century palace, the original appearance of which you can still admire today.

On the right, behind the monument, the museum is located in the apartment on the second floor of the old, red-brick building. Giacomo Puccini was born in this house on 22 December 1858. The composer lived here throughout his childhood and early youth, the years of his studies, surrounded by his family. To continue his studies, he moved to Milan in 1880, where he began his operatic career that has made him one of the best-known and

best-loved composers in history. Although he never returned to live in Lucca, Puccini always remained very attached to his childhood home and kept ownership of it.

In 1979, his birth house was converted into the museum you can visit today. Thanks to careful restoration (2011), it looks just as it did when the young Giacomo lived there. As soon as you step inside, you will be enveloped in an intimate and familiar atmosphere. The carefully furnished rooms tell stories of everyday life and creativity.

It houses original furnishings, precious objects that belonged to the musician, and autograph scores of early compositions including his debut opera, the *Preludio a orchestra*, which was rediscovered in 1999, and the 1880 *Messa a 4 voci*. You can also find the many correspondences sent by and to Puccini (including the remarkable ones from Giulio Ricordi), alongside paintings, photographs, sketches, memorabilia and precious documents that highlight the composer's work, such as the drafts of the librettos for *Tosca* and *La fanciulla del West*.

The decorations on the walls, different in every room, were made by the local artisans of Lucca at the beginning of the 19th century when the Puccini family came to live in what can be considered the home of a wealthy family.

One of the most precious and iconic

objects is the Steinway & Sons piano, purchased by Giacomo Puccini in the spring of 1901 and undoubtedly the most important of the many pianos owned by the composer. It was on this very piano that Puccini composed many of his operas, including *Turandot*, his last opera that was left unfinished. Around the piano you can trace his ancestry that boasts a dynasty of musicians, with portraits of Giacomo senior and his wife Angela Piccinini and of Antonio, and the plaster bust of Michele, Giacomo's father.

The tour continues through one of the bedrooms that likely belonged to his sisters and is dedicated to an exhibition of documents concerning Puccini's career and the creative process of his operas. You then head through to the kitchen, which, like the bedroom, is used as an exhibition room. Here, the stone shelf outside the second window confirms the purpose of the room: "A kitchen that takes water from the well located in the courtyard".

After climbing a few steps, you arrive at the iconic attic of *La bohème*—staged by the Teatro del Giglio in Lucca—from which you can catch a glimpse of the Archangel Saint Michael atop the façade of the nearby church.

Next to the kitchen is the dining room, where two portraits of the Maestro by Edoardo Gelli and Luigi De Servi hang on the walls.





The furnishings include the console in carved walnut and lacquered in yellow ochre and green tempera, probably a piece of “poor Mamma’s yellow furniture” that Puccini did not want to be sold.

In the dressing room that precedes the nursery is a fur-lined cashmere coat and a silk scarf that belonged to Giacomo Puccini. The parents’ bedroom is the largest in the house and where the composer was born. Among other objects, this room features a wedding chest with a panel painting and a portrait of Puccini by Leonetto Cappiello with a dedication by the artist.

You then pass through a room that displays awards and gifts that attest to the triumphs of Puccini’s operas, as well as testimonies to Puccini’s many international travels. Then, through a small study, you can find the portrait of Rita dell’Anna Puccini, the wife of Puccini’s son Antonio who founded the Giacomo Puccini Foundation in the early 1970s and donated the house where he was born so it could be turned into a museum.

The Turandot Room, which concludes the tour, is dominated by the stage costume for Act II of its namesake opera, donated by Maria Jeritza, in memory of its first staging at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York (1926).

The museum is continuously added to, thanks to purchases and the generosity of private individuals who donate or provide valuable materials, offering a unique experience to visitors from around the world.

PUCCINI MUSEUM - CASA NATALE
Corte San Lorenzo 9
Lucca
www.puccinimuseum.org





VILLA MUSEO PUCCINI TORRE DEL LAGO

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You can immerse yourself in the intimate atmosphere of the villa where Giacomo Puccini spent many years of intense creative fervour and where he is laid to rest alongside his family. In June 1891, Giacomo Puccini, his wife Elvira and their son Antonio arrived in Torre del Lago. At the time, the Maestro was writing his third opera, *Manon Lescaut*. The area takes its name (which translates to “Tower of the Lake”) from an ancient watchtower that stood on the shore of Lake Massaciuccoli. Over time, the

tower has been transformed into a rustic residence that is home to the gamekeeper. Puccini fell in love with this natural oasis, where nature takes a leading role. He decided to spend all his holidays there, until, in 1899, he bought the tower house. He immediately had it renovated to transform it into a family residence: a two-storey Art Nouveau villa. An ornamental bow-window in glass and iron connects the entrance to the villa with the shaded garden that surrounds the building. The precision of the external architectural structure contrasts with the lively eclecticism





of its interior design, the result of the collaboration between Puccini and his artist friends.

Giacomo Puccini's love for the area and for the house shines through in every room, in every detail, in all the furnishings and decorations created by his painter friends.

Although his son Antonio turned the house into a museum in 1925, its original appearance remains intact. In the omnibus room you can find the Förster piano, portraits of the Maestro in the different periods of his life and fame, his death mask, and the precious screen that arrived as a gift from Japan.

The veranda, the manuscript room and the kitchen contain everyday objects, honours and awards from all over the world, paintings of friends who were Macchiaioli artists, life-long companions in revelry and hunting, and portraits of friends and collaborators, as well as the last writings in his own hand after the operation that proved fatal to him.

In Torre del Lago, a large group of artists, intellectuals and friends mustered around Puccini and reopened an abandoned tavern, a real shack on the lake shore that they renamed "Club la Bohème".

The interior walls were decorated





with caricatures of the stars themselves: alongside Giacomo Puccini, Cecco Fanelli, Raffaello Gambogi, Plinio Nomellini, Ferruccio Pagni, Lodovico and Angiolino Tommasi. The shack was eventually demolished by some villagers to put an end to the raucous revelry.

In the hunting room, precious rifles, hunting trophies, shoes and boots are on display.

In 2019, the upper floor of Villa Puccini was fully restored in all its simple refinement, with original fabrics and furnishings chosen by Giacomo and Elvira that harmonise

with the nature surrounding the villa. On the upper floor are Giacomo and Elvira's bedroom, the washroom and two studies. In the south wing are a sitting room and the guest room.

Today, these rooms, which have been closed since 1925, are open to the public, allowing visitors to be introduced to those familiar places and the daily intimacy of the house so dearly loved by the composer.

The old garage retains its original appearance intact: the walls frescoed with fake wood, the hole for car repairs and the old wheels of the cars of Giacomo Puccini, a great



motor enthusiast, who changed 15 cars in 23 years. Among the various models, a De Dion Bouton, the Lancia and the Isotta Fraschini.

In 1926, Giacomo Puccini was buried in the chapel, converted from a living room, which was decorated with allegories of music. His wife Elvira, his son Antonio, his daughter-in-law Rita and, since 2017, his granddaughter Simonetta, who has dedicated all her energy to this place, also rest here.

The Museum, which has remained unchanged over time, makes it possible to rediscover the environment in which Giacomo

Puccini lived. As you walk through the rooms, you can savour the atmosphere of this unique place where the Maestro, in the silence of nature, found the inspiration for his immortal melodies.

In the year of the centenary, the Villa will be the subject of important restoration interventions useful for the enhancement and completion of the museum itinerary with the opening of new spaces.

VILLA PUCCINI

Viale G. Puccini 266
Torre del Lago Puccini (LU)
www.giacomopuccini.it



MUSEO DI CELLE DEI PUCCINI

Giacomo Puccini is the last exponent of a long musical dynasty that has been perpetuated from father to son for no less than five generations. His great-great-grandfather Giacomo Puccini was born on 26 January 1712 in a large and already ancient house in the small village of Celle di Pescaglia. He left while still young to study in Bologna and then in Lucca, where he climbed to the top of the music scene as an organist and Maestro della Cappella di Palazzo (master of the choir) at Lucca Cathedral. He was followed by Antonio, Domenico and Michele, Giacomo's father. The house

in Celle, with its land, remained in the family until the untimely death of Michele Puccini, when his wife Albina was forced to sell it to support their large family. Giacomo therefore spent countless carefree holidays there during his childhood, and the small village of Celle always remained in his heart, as the many letters he wrote to his sister Ramelde testify. He visited for the last time on 26 October 1924, just over a month before his death, for a ceremony in his honour, of which the plaque on the façade remains. In 1973, the house once again became "the Puccini house" thanks to the Associazione Lucchesi nel Mondo cultural association,

which acquired ownership of the property, and to Ramelde Puccini's daughters, Alba, Nina and Nelda, who donated to this association precious heirlooms destined to remain in the house forever.

Over the years, the Museum has continued to be added to until its most recent complete refurbishment in 2008, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Giacomo Puccini's birth, and the donations from the Maestro's great-granddaughters in 2009 and 2010 of 13 letters and 13 autograph musical manuscripts containing drafts of *Le Villi* and *Edgar*. The Museum in Celle consists of seven rooms, located on two

floors, imbued with authenticity and simplicity. Inside, you can admire exhibitions of photographs, letters and autographed musical manuscripts and precious objects. Through these items, it is possible to retrace the human and artistic story of the family's protagonists, starting from portraits of ancestors to the piano on which Puccini composed part of *Madama Butterfly*. Every summer, the "Celle sotto le Stelle" (Celle Under the Stars) opera-concert season is held at the Museum.

MUSEO DI CELLE DEI PUCCINI

Via Meletori 27

Celle dei Puccini Pescaglia (LU)

www.museodicelledeipuccini.it



Lucca



CONSERVATORIO DI MUSICA “LUIGI BOCCHERINI”

Piazza del Suffragio 6. Lucca - www.boccherini.it

Founded in 1842, it was recognised as a Conservatoire in 2022.

Michele Puccini, Giacomo's father, held various professorships there from 1843 onwards. From 1862 until his premature death two years later, he took over as its director. It was his father's pupils who trained the young Giacomo across various musical disciplines from 1868 until 1880, the year he moved to Milan. The Institute preserves many of the Maestro's mementos: his piano, his harmonium and a collection of early compositions from his youth. Puccini himself donated most of his ancestors' musical archives.



TEATRO DEL GIGLIO

Piazza del Giglio 13/15. Lucca - www.teatrodelgiglio.it

It was founded in 1675, just off Piazza Napoleone, and is the main theatre of the city.

In the spring of 1878, the young Giacomo, a student at the “G. Pacini” Music Institute, performed in the theatre as an accompanist pianist to an up-and-coming singer. He returned there as an established artist, successfully staging almost all his operas. The theatre houses a bas-relief portrait of Puccini by Francesco Pietroni, produced in 1911 to mark the performance of *La Fanciulla del West*.



CATTEDRALE DI SAN MARTINO

Piazza San Martino. Lucca - www.museocattedralelucca.it

It houses the Holy Face of Lucca and the monument to Ilaria del Carretto by Jacopo della Quercia.

On the feast day of Santa Croce in 1872, the most heartfelt feast day for the people of Lucca, young Giacomo made his debut as assistant to the second choir, for a fee of 3.72 lira. The music included a “Mottetone” composed by his father Michele. In the Cathedral, all his ancestors had been organists, composers and concertmasters. Despite his mother Albina's insistence, Giacomo would never take up the position of organist, occupied by a member of the Puccini family for 124 years uninterrupted, from 1740 until his father Michele's death in 1864.



CHIESA DI SAN ROMANO

Piazza San Romano. Lucca

Originally part of the Dominican complex, it is now an auditorium and concert hall.

The founder of the Puccini dynasty, Giacomo Sr., who was born in Celle dei Puccini in 1712, reached the height of his success in the field of music in 1774. He purchased for himself and his heirs a burial place in the centre of the church, between the two organs.



CHIESA DEI SS. GIOVANNI E REPARATA

Piazza San Giovanni. Lucca - www.museocattedralelucca.it

The archaeological site, which was discovered in the 1970s and is now open to visitors, preserves the original layout of the 5th century basilica and the early Christian baptistery.

On 18 February 1864, the funeral of his father Michele was held in this church. During the eulogy, the musician Giovanni Pacini expressed his wish to the young Giacomo for the continuation of the Puccini musical dynasty: “... a young lad, sole survivor and heir to that glory that his ancestors well deserved in the art of harmony, and which he may one day revive”.



CHIESA DEI SS. PAOLINO E DONATO

Via San Paolino 128. Lucca

Unique example of a Renaissance church in Lucca, the “City of 100 Churches”.

In 1877, when he was just over 18 years old, Giacomo made his debut as a composer at the Puccini family parish with the motet “Plaudite populi”, dedicated to Saint Paulinus, which was repeated the following year together with a Credo. Both pieces were later included in the *Messa a 4 voci con orchestra* when he successfully completed his studies at the Musical Institute on 12 July 1880.



CHIESA SAN PIETRO SOMALDI

Piazza San Pietro Somaldi 2. Lucca

Located near the old medieval city walls, it was founded by the Lombards but was rebuilt from the 12th century onwards.

The church houses the organ played by Giacomo Puccini before he moved to Milan. It is a very fine 17th-century instrument built by Domenico Cacioli that has always been greatly admired by all organists, from his great-grandfather Antonio to his grandfather Domenico and then his father Michele. Young Giacomo’s signature is still visible on the body of the instrument. It was also Puccini who suggested entrusting its restoration to Filippo Tronci.



ANTICO CAFFÈ DI SIMO

Via Fillungo 58. Lucca

The original furnishings have been preserved.

In the decades that straddled two centuries, the destinies of many great intellectuals were intertwined in this elegant establishment: Giovanni Pascoli, Giuseppe Giacosa, Alfredo Catalani, Pietro Mascagni, Libero Andreotti and Lorenzo Viani. And, of course, Giacomo Puccini. Its host was Alfredo Caselli, who also commuted between Lucca and Torre del Lago to fulfil his friend’s culinary desires.



MUTIGLIANO

Via della Chiesa X. Lucca

A small village a few kilometres from Lucca crossed by the Freddana stream.

As a young boy, Giacomo stayed in the small village on the other side of the Serchio river and was a guest of the parish priest, Don Giacinto Cantoni. As early as 1872, he led the choir and conducted liturgical music here and played the 18th-century organ of the old church, which was later demolished. He always fondly remembered the intense moments he spent in Mutigliano.



MONASTERO DELLA VISITAZIONE

Via di Vicopelago e di Pozzuolo, 870-1032. Lucca

The monastery was active from 1887 until the early 1990s. It is not open to visitors.

Suor Angelica, Puccini's famous opera of 1917, is linked to this monastery because his sister Iginia Puccini (1856-1922) was an Augustinian nun there, where she went by the name Sister Giulia Enrichetta. Puccini was very fond of her and often went to visit her, thanks to special permission from the curia, which allowed him to visit his "spiritual guide".



VILLA PUCCINI DI CHIATRI

Via di Chiatri. Lucca

Sold by Antonio Puccini in 1943. It is not open to visitors.

The stately home of the Samminiati was the first house owned by Puccini, who bought it in December 1898 on the back of the successes of *Manon Lescaut* and *La bohème*. In a wonderful location, ideal for hunting trips, it was completely restored but was never made accessible by carriageway. Puccini spent short periods there, including a few weeks in the summer of 1908, during which he composed most of Act I of *La Fanciulla del West*.

Versilia



VILLINO GIACOMO PUCCINI

Viale Michelangelo Buonarroti. Viareggio (LU)

Owned by the Giacomo Puccini Foundation.

Can only be visited during scheduled visiting periods, by reservation.

In 1900, Puccini was awarded honorary citizenship of Viareggio, where he stayed in both hotels and rented houses. In 1915, he bought land overlooking the pine forest. He entrusted the design of a small villa to Vincenzo Pilotti and Federigo Severini and the decoration of its façade to Galileo Chini. He moved his residence there in 1921, where he would live the last years of his life and where the famous opera *Turandot* was composed.



GRAN CAFFÈ MARGHERITA

Viale Regina Margherita 30. Viareggio (LU)

An iconic place marked by Galileo Chini's two Siam-style domes.

Puccini loved to spend his free hours in this space, a symbol of Viareggio's Art Nouveau style, chatting with his friends Toscanini and Viani.



GRAN TEATRO ALL'APERTO GIACOMO PUCCINI

Via delle Torbiere. Torre del Lago Puccini (LU) – www.puccinifestival.it

By the lake, in front of the museum-house, it has 3,400 seats.

Inaugurated in 2008 to mark the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth, every summer, in July and August, it hosts the Puccini Festival. This is the most important opera festival in Italy and the only one in the world dedicated to the composer. It is organised by the Puccini Festival Foundation, founded in 1990 by the Municipality of Viareggio.

Media Valle del Serchio



BAGNI DI LUCCA

Piazza Jean Varraud. Bagni di Lucca (LU)

A spa town renowned since antiquity, featuring the Circolo, the Casino, the Grand Hotel and the Circolo dei Forestieri caffè.

Puccini spent long periods of his life there. When he was very young, he played the piano in a local ballroom orchestra. He returned on holiday or stopped over on his way to Abetone. In 1909, he composed the second act of *La Fanciulla del West* at the Grand Hotel le Terme. In 1920, he met the librettists of *Turandot*, Adami and Simoni, and in the home of Baron Fassini Camossi he listened to a Chinese carillon.



BARGA. CASTELVECCHIO PASCOLI

Località Caprona 6. Barga – www.fondazionepascoli.it

The Casa Museo Giovanni Pascoli museum is open to visitors here.

The first contact between the poet and the composer date back to 1898, but there are at least two documented visits by Puccini to Casa Pascoli. The first was in 1908, together with Guelfo Civinini and Alfredo Caselli, and the second in 1911, with Caselli and Augusto Guido Bianchi.



VILLA MANSI

Via Colli a Monsagrati. Pescaglia (LU)

A country farm belonging to one of the city's aristocratic families. It is not open to visitors.

In 1898, Puccini was looking for a villa in which to spend the summer with his family. Having dismissed a few options in Mutigliano, he chose Villa Mansi, where, between July and September, he composed part of Act I and Act II of *Tosca* and orchestrated almost the entirety of Act I.

EXPERIENCES



MUSIC. *The musical tradition throughout the Lands of Puccini is vast and ancient. Lucca gave birth to, trained and hosted musicians the likes of Francesco Geminiani, Luigi Boccherini, Giovanni Pacini, Niccolò Paganini, the entire Puccini musical lineage, Alfredo Catalani and Giacomo Puccini himself. This tradition has bred an extensive and articulate presence of musical associations, bands and choirs in the area. Performances, festivals and concerts punctuate artistic life without end all throughout the territory. The Conservatorio Musicale Luigi Boccherini and the Liceo Artistico Musicale e Coreutico Augusto Passaglia promote musical training and a busy concert schedule. Below we share with you the institutions that dedicate their efforts exclusively or prevalently to promoting Giacomo Puccini's work.*

For the complete list and their respective programme, please visit: www.puccinilands.it/en

ASSOCIAZIONE LUCCHESI NEL MONDO

Lucca. www.museodicelledeipuccini.it

CENTRO STUDI GIACOMO PUCCINI

Lucca. www.puccini.it

CLUSTER COMPOSITORI E INTERPRETI DEL PRESENTE

Lucca. www.clustermusic.net

CONSERVATORIO DI MUSICA "LUIGI BOCCHERINI"

Lucca. www.boccherini.it

FONDAZIONE GIACOMO PUCCINI

Lucca. www.puccinimuseum.org

PUCCINI E LA SUA LUCCA INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Lucca. www.puccinielasualucca.com

SUI PASSI DI PUCCINI APS

Lucca. www.suipassidipuccini.it

TEATRO DEL GIGLIO

Lucca. www.teatrodelgiglio.it

FONDAZIONE FESTIVAL PUCCINIANO

Torre del Lago. Viareggio. www.puccinifestival.it

FONDAZIONE SIMONETTA PUCCINI PER GIACOMO PUCCINI

Torre del Lago. Viareggio. www.giacomopuccini.it



THE PUCCINI CYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PATH. 53 KM

A cycle route through the places dear to Giacomo Puccini's heart. Thanks to an agreement with Spotify, you can cycle to music and even listen to the Maestro's symphonies at selected, signposted points.

To return: follow the trail back the way you came.

From the historic centre of Lucca, you ascend up the city walls to Porta Santa Maria. Following the cycle path on Via Barsanti and Via Matteucci, you will arrive at the ramp that leads to the river park. You will then ride along the bank of the Serchio river, following the signs to the Ripafratta bridge. After crossing this bridge, you will turn left onto Via Volta, taking a dirt road to the junction with SP30 Lungomonte Pisano. Next, you will cross along Via Monticello to the intersection with Via di Radicata. After turning left and travelling 400 metres, you will turn left again onto Via dei Salvetti and pass through the motorway subway. Traversagna Sud takes you towards the "Le Pompe di Massaciucoli" reclamation centre. You will turn right before the bridge and follow the route for 3 kilometres until you reach a small wooden bridge on the left. After crossing this, you will take the path to Via delle Regole and then turn left onto Via del Porto to reach the Lipu Oasis on Lake Massaciucoli.



FOOD

The connection to his land went hand in hand with his love for good food, oil and wine that his brother-in-law Raffaello Franceschini procured for him in San Martino in Colle, on the border with Montecarlo. At Christmas, in 1895, he gave a gift of beans to his publisher Giulio Ricordi together with a recipe that he wrote down himself. For places where you can taste traditional dishes, visit: www.vetrina.toscana.it/en/

From Milan he wrote to his mother: "Since I have a great craving for beans (indeed, one day, they made them for me; but I couldn't eat them, because of the oil, which here is sesame or linseed oil!)... So, as I was saying: since I have a great craving for beans, I would need some oil, but the new kind. I would ask you to send me a little. A little bit is enough; I promised to let everyone at home taste it too."

"Dearest Mr Giulio, you will receive a few beans. They are extraordinary and are cooked like this: you put them on the fire in cold water (the amount of water must be just right, neither too much nor too little), they must boil for two hours on a low flame and when they are cooked there must be only three or four spoonsful of broth left. Ergo, pay attention to the amount of water."

"Wine new or old/ you have to send it in small quantities/ if no flag then snuff it out/ because that's not right."



ITINERARIES

LUCCA. 2,2 KM on foot

1. Puccini's birth house is the starting point of the city itinerary, in Corte San Lorenzo, in the Terziere of San Paolino. The house is now a museum that exhibits documents, memories, thoughts and atmospheres of a life lived to the full. **2.** The church, dedicated to Saint Paulinus, is just a few minutes away along the street of the same name, on the right. Once the parish church of the Puccini family, it was here that the young Giacomo made his debut as an artist with his end-of-year recital. **3.** We retrace our steps, towards Piazza San Michele, home to the church where the young Giacomo gave organ lessons to his only pupil. **4.** From here we head along Via Roma until we reach the very central Via Fillungo. In Puccini's time, this street was dotted with beautiful Art Nouveau-style shop windows. Be sure to stop by the Antico Caffè Di Simo. **5.** Past the church dedicated to San Frediano, we turn right onto Via Busdraghi and head for Piazza San Pietro Somaldi. The church here is home to a precious organ, the restoration of which Puccini once famously financed, which features his autograph signature on one corner. **6.** Walking along the side streets off the square, we reach Piazza dell'Anfiteatro. **7.** Leaving the south gate, from Via Canuleia we catch a glimpse of the plume of holm oaks at the top of the Guinigi Tower. At the foot of the tower, we turn onto Via Sant'Andrea and then Via Sant'Anastasio. **8.** The street is flanked by the large Conservatorio building where the young Puccini studied. **9.** Leaving the Conservatorio behind and walking along Via Santa Croce, Piazza Bernardini, Corte del Gallo and then Via del Battistero, we arrive at the Lucca Cathedral dedicated to Saint Martin of Tours, a treasure trove of art and tradition. **10.** Leaving the Cathedral, we reach Piazza del Giglio and its theatre. On his return to Lucca as an acclaimed composer, Puccini personally oversaw the staging of his operas, garnering the praise and esteem of the area.

VERSILIA. 38 KM

on foot, by bicycle, by motorbike, by car

1. Our itinerary begins with a visit to the Villa Puccini Museum in Torre del Lago. **2.** Just a few steps away is the Gran Teatro Giacomo Puccini open-air theatre, where an opera festival dedicated to the composer – one of the most important around the world – is celebrated every year. **3.** We then move on to Massaciuccoli, where in the centre of the town we find the entrance to the ancient Roman villa that once overlooked the waters of the lake. A large mosaic and the remains of the Venulei residence and baths tell of its history. **4.** On the lakeshore, surrounded by a park filled with exotic plants, stands the Villa La Piaggetta that once belonged to the Ginori Lisci family, which Puccini reached by boat across the lake. A magnificent example of Art Nouveau architecture, today it is open to guests as a bed and breakfast. **5.** From here, still in a discovery of the Art Nouveau style, we move on to Viareggio. **6.** At the beginning of the promenade, another favourite haunt of Puccini is the Gran Caffè Margherita. One of the last architectural examples of the eclectic-art deco period, today it houses a bookshop and a café. The surfaces of the domes are covered in polychrome ceramic tiles that give the appearance of scales, manufactured by the Fornaci San Lorenzo ceramics factory, as are the small columns of the balustrade of the large terrace on the top floor. **7.** A couple of kilometres further north, behind the imposing and magnificent Grand Hotel Principe di Piemonte, on Viale Buonarroti, we end our journey at Villino Puccini. The composer moved here in 1921 and composed most of his last unfinished opera. The name of Galileo Chini is also closely linked to this residence, as he created the ceramic masks that decorate the façade. Chini also designed the sets for “Turandot”.

MEDIA VALLE DEL SERCHIO. 58 KM

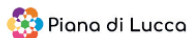
by bicycle, by motorbike, by car

Among the main places of interest in the Maestro’s life, a thorough visit to Media Valle del Serchio is a must. **1.** We start from the museum-house in Celle dei Puccini, a hamlet of Pescaglia. **2.** We then move on to nearby Colognora, which was the main set of the film “Miracle at St. Anna” directed by Spike Lee. This village, perched on the mountains of Pescaglia, has strong ties with the great composer Alfredo Catalani, Puccini’s fellow music student. A section of the Museo del Castagno (chestnut) museum is dedicated to him. **3.** Before leaving Pescaglia, don’t miss the chance to stop by the 19th-century Teatrino di Vetriano (Small Theatre of Vetriano), known by locals as “La Bomboniera”. It was certified by the Guinness Book of Records in 1997 to be the smallest historic public theatre in the world. It was acquired in the same year by the National Trust of Italy, which made it accessible again thanks to careful restoration work. Today it hosts many performances, including operas by Puccini. **4.** Another site to visit in the footsteps of Puccini is Castelvecchio Pascoli, in Barga. Here you can visit the Giovanni Pascoli museum-house, where the poet lived from 1895 to 1912. The house is immersed in a stunning landscape that opens onto the Apuan Alps. The frequent communications between Puccini and Pascoli are well documented. **5.** This is followed by a walk through the historic centre to visit the cathedral of what is recognised as one of the most beautiful villages in Italy. **6.** The last stop in the heart of the Serchio valley is Bagni di Lucca, one of Puccini’s favourite places to stay. It boasts a historic casino and ancient thermal baths, the Circolo dei Forestieri, numerous villas and historic buildings.

Toscana



Local areas



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House Museums



Puccini Museum
Casa natale
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