

CORNIGLIA



The village of **Corniglia** is more difficult to access by the sea, than any of the other Villages of the 5 Terre, but is one of the richest in history.

Situated on a natural plateau, the village of Corniglia winds along a main road, with staircases and lanes coming out in the surrounding country cultivated with vineyard.

The steps terracing characterizing the whole area are evidence of the age-long labour of these people.

Corniglia is situated on a hillock planted with vines and olive-groves.

The roman invaders shared out “the ager lunensis” after the victory over the Ligurians in 1777 B.C. and a family named Corneli (or Cornelius) received as their share of the spoil, a large area of vineyards in this locality, and that is the origin of the present place name.

It was afterwards mentioned and celebrated by Boccaccio in his “Decamerone” and Carducci for its excellent wine: the “Vernaccia”.



It is reached from the landing stage by climbing a very steep flight of steps which accounts for Corniglia being the most unspoilt and undeveloped village of the Cinque Terre.

To visit:

The Parish Church of S. Peter (1330 – 1351): The village is overlooked by the massive structure of the church of S. Peter. The magnificent 14 th century Parish church is built in the gothic-Genovese style, with its robust tower and the double-weathered front with three stripes. The church is adorned with a wonderful rose-window of white marble sculpturated by Pietro and Matteo of Campiglio. This church is built on the remains of an older church which existed before A.D. 1000.

The oratorio of the Disciplinati di S. Caterina: on the square, in the village’s center you can find the oratorio of the disciplinati di S. Caterina.

At Corniglia there are also some remains of a tower built in the XVI century by the Republic of Genova.

Excursions:

From Corniglia to Vernazza: Path n. 2 (trip time: 1 hour and half)

At Corniglia (90 meters a.s.l.) Path n. 2 passes among the houses, near the close-knit historical centre. It passes in front of the Parish Church of St. Peter, crosses the carriage road, overcomes the small bridge over Rio della Groppa and then winds inside an olive grove up to discover Guvano beach.

Then it crosses the whole basin of Guvano, where a small pic-nic resort was set and then it climbs to reach Prevo nucleus (208 a.s.l.) just half way between Corniglia and Vernazza.

At Prevo there is a restoration point. When you have left the charming nucleus of Prevo, path n. 2 crosses thick olive groves, at first on a flat ground and then descending the flight of steps which drives to the craggy coast of Macereto where there are plenty of agaves and Indian figs .

Path n. 2 comes near the Restaurant/Bar The Tower grazes the tower itself and reaches Vernazza main street.

From Corniglia to Marverde: Path n. 7/a (trip time: 1 hour and 40 minutes)

The path starts from the first houses of Corniglia where there is Lardarina flight of steps (path n.2) coming from the railway station.

You cross the carriage road which comes from the station and take a lane eastwards St. Peter's church. Near a little fountain, the path leaves the village and starts rising among vineyards and on leaving them the flight of steps becomes steep and crosses olive groves, mostly neglected, on the right of Groppa Ditch.

The track then moves towards Volastra crossing a pine wood which was damaged by fire. At 350 metres a.s.l. it joins Path n. 6/d coming from Porciana and Volastra.

It keeps on climbing the wood, passes near Pianca Houses (460 metres a.s.l.) and at 483 metres height it joins the provincial way of the Sanctuaries.

It follows it for a short section and then comes back into the thick ilex wood, coming out of it at the western saddle of Marverde Mount (411 metres) on Path n.1.

In a few minutes, going on Path n.1, you can reach the Cigoletta pass where n. 7 passes.

To the Sanctuary of our Lady of Thanksgiven and of St. Bernardine of Siena: the high Sanctuary, founded by the latter as a simple chapel is poised above fertile terrace of fruitful vineyards, and reminds the visitor of the journeyings in these parts of the Saints and of his preaching and of the numerous conversions which took place here.