



Pistoia

in and around the province





Distances from Pistoia

Arezzo	116 km	Vinci	27 kr
Florence	37 km / 35 km 🚯	Mugello	66 kr
Grosseto	220 km	Piombino	170 km (
Livorno	88 km 🚨	Maranello	1 50 kr
Lucca	47 km	Cinque To	erre 152 kr
Massa-Carr	ara 87 km	Bologna	120 km / 115 km
Pisa	64 km / 65 km 🔥	Venice	270 km / 273 km
Prato	17 km	Rome	310 km / 340 km
Siena	108 km	Milan	320 km / 365 km

Tourist information

- Pistoia Tourist Information Office
 Tel 0573 21622 turismo.pistoia@comune.pistoia.it
- (i) Cutigliano Tourist Information Office Tel 0573 68029 - turismo.cutigliano@comune.pistoia.it
- (i) Abetone Tourist Information Office
 Tel 0573 60231 turismo.abetone@comune.pistoia.it
- Montecatini Terme Tourist Information Office
 Tel 0572 772244 montecatini.turismo@comune.pistoia.it

Lamporecchio Tourist Information Office Tel 0573 81659 - turismo@comune.lamporecchio.pt.it

San Baronto Tourist Information Office Tel 0573 766472 - turismo@comune.lamporecchio.pt.it

San Marcello Piteglio Tourist Information Office Tel 0573 621289 - turismo@comunesanmarcellopiteglio.it

Serravalle P.se Tourist Information OfficeTel 0573 917308 - turismo@comune.serravalle-pistoiese.pt.it

Legend

- Ecomuseum of the Pistoiese Mountains
- Nature reserve Protected areaWetlands
- Thermal bathsEtruscan archaeological site
- Ski slopes

- Ski lifts
- FootpathHorse-ridingBike route
- ZooRailroad
- AirportPort



IN AND AROUND PISTOIA

The city: Founded by the Romans, its pea was between the 12th and 13th centuries. still set within its walls Pistoia 's art treasures have earned it the title of "city of art". he most important



buildings are on Piazza del Duomo: the cathedral dedicated to the cult of the city's patron St. James; Palazzo degli Anziani, the town hall; and Palazzo del Podestà, or Pretorio, the past and present seat of the Court. Once a political center during the Lombard period, Piazza della Sala is one of the symbols of the city with the Pozzo del Leoncino, and today one of the most popular places with its food market. historical shops, and many trattorias - the the city's enduring heart. The churches of San Giovanni Fuorcivitas Sant'Andrea San Bartolomeo, and San Pier Maggiore are all wonderful expressions of Pistoia's Romanesque architecture. Renaissance Pistoia is represented by the **Basilica of the** Madonna dell'Umiltà and the loggia of the Ospedale del Ceppo, with its ceramic frieze by the Della Robbia school The city's museums reflect Pistoia's historical and cultural wealth: from the oldest art in the town hall's Civic Museum. the Museum of the Spedale del Ceppo. the Ancient Bishops' Palace, and the Diocesian Museum-Palazzo Rospigliosi to modern art with the Museum of the 20th Century and the Contemporary in Palazzo Fabroni, the Fernando Melani House-Studio the Marino Marini Museum the Giovanni Michelucci Documentation Center, Palazzo de Rossi, and Palazzo Buontalenti up to those linked to the area's history, like the Embroidery Museum, the

Outside the city walls: near the railway station are the **Historical Rolling-Stock** Depot, a leading national center for the repair and protection of steam locomotives and the San Giorgio Library, the largest n Tuscany. It is worth visiting the Medici fortress of Santa Barbara, the historical park of Villa Puccini in Scornio, the Sigfrido Bartolini House-Museum, and the Jorio Vivarelli Foundation. Just outside the city is the Zoological Garden of Pistoia, home to rare animal and plant species.

Luigi Tronci Foundation, and the Pistoia

Sotterranea underground tour.

Out-of-town itineraries: Going along the road to Modena, towards Abetone, one finds places and villages with very picturesque views: Cireglio, Le Piastre. the Reno Valley, Pracchia, and Tiziano Terzani's much loved Orsigna. The road to Porretta and Bologna leads towards the Val di Brana, with the shrine dedicated to the Miraculous Madonna; the "Museum Village" of Castagno; the Collina Pass; and the ancient hamlet of Spedaletto. Located along the scenic Pistoia-Riola-Bologna road are Valdibure, with its Romanesque church; Baggio, with the Charcoal-Burner Museum: Monachino; and the Acquerino Forest Biogenetic Reserve, an Ecomuseum stops. Towards the Valdinievole. before Serravalle, is the Giaccherino convent and. a little further on, the Parish Church of San Michele in Groppoli – both worth a visit.

THE MOUNTAINS

ABETONE

Surrounded by a large fir forest, Abetone is located on the Abetone pass at the border between Tuscany and Emilia. At 1900 meters a.s.l., it is the most important winter-sports resort in central Italy and recognized worldwide for its beauty and variety of its slopes. The area is divided into four valleys: the Scoltenna, Sestaione, and the Lima Valleys plus the Val di Luce. The summer offers the opportunity to hike on the Tuscan-Emilian summits of **Monte** Gomito, Rondinaio, Cimone, and Libro Aperto in addition to the Campolino Nature Reserve or the Abetone Reserve

LA PORRETTANA



The first railway line to cross the Tuscan-Emilian Apennine ridge and connect Pistoia to Bologna, this great feat of engineering - with 47 tunnels and 35 bridges and viaducts was designed by the Frenchman Jean Louis Protche

Officially inaugurated by Vittorio Emanuele II on 2 November 1864, the **Central Italy Rail**way quickly became one of the most important railway junctions in Italy, with up to 80 trains a day passing during the war years of 1915-1918. In October 1921, the specia train bearing the Unknown Soldier passed along the Porrettana. With its time-honored tunnels and viaducts, the Porrettana still today helps tourists to discover the small, se cluded villages of Val di Brana, Piteccio, Castagno, Sammommè, Pracchia, Lagacci, Mo lino del Pallone, the spa town of Porretta, Riola, Marzabotto, and Sasso Marconi before reaching Bologna www.appenninoholognese.net • Tel. 0534 521157

Near Porretta is **Rocchetta Mattei**, home of the writer, politician, and doctor Cesare Mattei. Built in the second half of the 19th century, it was recently restored and has become an important tourist attraction, hosting numerous cultural events and activities www.rocchetta-mattei.it

which houses the Botanical Garden, an Ecomuseum stop. Not to be missed: The Church of San Leopoldo in Boscolungo, opened for worship in 1784 and the Museum of the

Gothic Line in Pianosinatico

CHTIGH IANO

With its narrow streets lined by ancient palaces and monuments, it still retains ample traces of its medieval past. A popular as winter holiday resort with the Doganaccia ski resort, while, in, Cutigliano offers summertime choices of nearby walks and excursions to Lake Scaffaiolo. Melo, Pianosinatico, Pian di Novello, and Val del Sestaione. Also of particular interest are the Pian degli Ontani Nature Reserve and an Fcomuseum stop in the rillage of Rivoreta, with the Museum of the People of the Pistoiese Apennines. Not to be missed: The Piazza del Municipio with Palazzo Pretorio, built in 1377 to house the Captains of the Mountain, and the 15th-century Church of the Madonna di Piazza with an important glazed-terracotta work attributed to Benedetto Buglioni (around 1510).

MARI IANA

Surrounded by dense chestnut groves, it dominates the hill between the Vincio and Nievole river valleys, in an area with great natural beauty. Nearby are Panicagliora, Avaglio, Femminamorta, Momigno, Montagnana, Casore del Monte and the splendid Serra Pistoiese, an important example of medieval town planning. Old mule tracks connect Serra to nearby villages, offering unique hiking trails.

Not to be missed: The village is perched around the Church of San Niccolò. Rising between Serra and Panicagliora are the picturesque ruins of the Romanesque Parish Church of Sant'Andrea di Furfalo, which was mentioned in the 998 Diploma of Otto III

PITEGLIO

This village dominates the Val di Lima, where the important and ancient trans-Apennine road linking Pistoia to the Garfagnana ran. In the 11th-12th century, it was a fortified castle, an observation point under Pistoiese control. An easy distance from Piteglio are the hamlets of Macchia Antonini. Crespole Lanciole, Calamecca and Migliorini. Not to be missed: This small village

has two churches: the Parish Church of Santissima Annunziata, or Pieve Vecchia (the Old Parish Church), which tradition savs was founded by Matilde di Canossa and the Church of Santa Maria Assunta, dating to the 13th century, which celebrated the ancient cult linked to the relic of the Nursing Madonna. Popiglio's Parish Church of Santa Maria Assunta is one of the

most important in the Pistoiese mountains as home to the Ecomuseum's **Diocesan** Museum of Sacred Art. An pleasant toure starts from the parish church and leads to the single-arch medieval Castruccio bridge

In the Lucchesia area, the road to Lucca passes by Lucchio, Vico Pancellorum, Bagni di Lucca and Borgo a Mozzano with the Devil's Bridge. The latter was built by order of Countess Matilde di Canossa between the 11th and 12th centuries, and rebuilt by Castruccio Castracani, lord of Lucca, at the beginning of the 14th century. Borgo a Mozzano Local Tourist Office Tel. 0583 888881

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SAMBLICA PISTOIESE

Since the Middle Ages. Sambuca Pistoiese, on the border between Tuscany and Emilia, has been a contact point, with churches, monasteries and hospices huilt along the Via Francesca della Sambuca With plentiful evidence of sandstone processing and utilization, the Sambuca Pistoiese area is part of the **Ecomuseum** circuit, along with the educational center in Francesco Guccini's hometown of Pavana: the **Stone Tour** along the *Via Francesca* hetween Pavana and Sambuca Castello: and a visit to the quarries in Torri.

Not to be missed: Sambuca Castle was built in the mid-11th century as a control post, playing a strategic role in in the centuries-old disputes between Bologna and Pistoia. The remains of its walls are incorporated into the rectory and the Church of San Giacomo Maggiore. The very evocative village of Torri. with its narrow, stone-paved streets, was an important stronghold of the defensive system in this part of the mountains.

SAN MARCELLO PISTOIESE

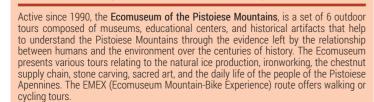
With abundant historical evidence from the 14th century on, San Marcello Pistoiese stands on a woods-covered hill. Other particularly interesting, nearby communities are the ancient villages of Maresca, located on the edge of the Teso State Forest, and Gavinana, home to the Francesco Ferrucci Museum and the Ecomuseum Information Point in the ancient Palazzo Achilli.

Not to be missed: Relics of Santa Celestina, patron saint of the town and the mountains, are preserved in the Romanesque parish church dedicated to St. Marcellus. Other unusual destinations near the town are the suspension bridge in Mammiano, the Astronomical Observatory in Pian dei Termini, and Campotizzoro's SMI Museums and Shelters, the largest air-raid bunkers in Europe.





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THE PLAIN

Badia a Pacciana with the ancient Benedictine monastery lies to the south of the city. A poignant stop can be made to the Brazilian Memorial Cemetery. iust off the Via Montalese. Santomato offers the opportunity to visit the park of the Fattoria di Celle with its private collection of environmental art, created by nationally and internationally famous contemporary artists.

AGLIANA

First inhabited in Roman times, this town stands along the Via Cassia, which connected Florence, Pistoia, and Lucca. Today it is one of the Chocolate Valley's main centers with the workshop-sales outlet of Roberto Catinari who, in 1974, launched his chocolatier business in Tuscany after woroking in Switzerland for twenty years Not to be missed: The former hospice complex in Spedalino Asnelli, with the exterior of its Romanesque church covered in terracotta, and the ancient **Church of San** Niccolò, renovated in a 17th-century style.

MONTALE

Set against the

picturesque hills, the modern-looking Montale was home to the scholar Atto Vannucci and the writer Gherardo Nerucci. The **Striglianella** Nature Trail offers a pleasant walk in the surrounding area, with its olive trees and vineyards. Not to be missed: The castle of Montale Alto dates back to the late Middle Ages, while the 14th-15th-century Villa Smilea with its two high towers, houses the municipal library on the ground floor and

a nermanent exhibition dedicated to the

Montalese artist Jorio Vivarelli on the

floor above. OLIARRATA

In the second half of the 18th-century, the castles of Buriano, Campiglio, Ferruccia, Lucciano, Montemagno, Vignole, and Valenzatico were united under the community of Tizzana, a castle on the slopes of Montalbano that dominates the entire plain as far as Florence Between the late 19th- and the early 20th century, the town seat was moved to the plain, with the community officially taking the name of Quarrata in 1959. Today it has a mostly modern look, set around Piazza Risorgi mento, with the sculptor Agenore Fabbri's Monument to the Fallen in its center Not to be missed: The Medici villa of La Magia, converted from a 14th-century tower, was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2013 The hamlet of La Ferruccia offers a visit to the Museum of Sacred Art in the Church of Santi Filippo e Giacomo. Standing on the slopes of Colle di Tizzana is the Church of Santa

Maria, later enlarged and modified by the

SERRAVALLE PISTOIESE Set halfway between Pistoia and

architect Giovanni Michelucci.

Montecatini Terme, the village still retains its medieval fortress structure, with narrow, paved streets that climb among the houses, the small squares that suddenly overlook the valley floor, and the two towers that stand out on the top of the hill. The municipality of Serravalle extends on the eastern slope of Montalbano with its olive groves and such ancient, medieval villages as Vinacciano and Castellina. A renowned center for artisanal embroidery Casalguidi is known for the original "Casale stitch" with designs linked to peasant culture and Romanesque art. Embroidery skills are kept alive by the cultural association of the Casale Embroidery Club.

Not to be missed: The remains of the castle plus the panorama seen from the top of the tower at the Rocca Nuova. There are two churches inside the walls: San Michele, perhaps of Lombard origin, and Santo Stefano, which instead dates to the

MONTALBANO

An environmentally valuable area crisscrossed by nature trails, Montalbano is the range of hills that descends to-wards the provinces of Lucca, Prato, and Florence. It offers several historical, cultural, and artistic itineraries: from the early Etruscan and Roman settlements through the Middle Ages, up to the Medici and Lorraine families. Indeed, beginning in the Middle Ages, it was a junction crucial to the road network as well as to Pistoia's defense system, with numerous fortified villages and castles. In 1626, Grand Duke Ferdinando II de' Medici officially established on Montalbano the Barco Reale. an area bordered by an approximately 580-km-long high wall, inside of which name was protected and hunts organized by the Medici. Today Montalbano is a production area with a protected geographical indication for both its extra virgin olive oil and wine. Along the Montalbano Wine and Oil Way, one can sample oil and wine as well as organize food and wine tours with the area's typical products.

Towards Florence: Continuing on from the medieval villages of Buriano and Tizzana, in the hills of Quarrata one comes to Carmignano and Poggio a Caiano, an itinerary abounding with picturesque landscapes plus tourist and cultural attractions.

CARMIGNANO: Arising on the hills between Quarrata and Poggio a Caiano, this history-filled village shows the succession of important civilizations over the centuries, with Etruscan excavations. Romanesque parish churches and abbevs, and Medici villas. Not to be missed: Carmignano is home to Pontormo's famous Visitation. in the Parish Church of San Michele on the town's main square. Comeana offers notable Etruscan finds, while the hamlet of Artimino has the Medici Villa Ferdinanda or "of One Hundred Chimneys". ano Local Tourist Office Tel. 055 8712468

POGGIO A CAIANO: Located on the slopes of Montalhano and at the crossroads etween Pistoia, Prato, and Florence, the town arose mainly around the hill on which stands **Villa Ambra**, a JNESCO heritage site since 2 Not to be missed: The Medici villa is one of the most noteworthy examples of Renaissance architecture. Ćommissioned

THE VALDINIEVOLE

The Valdinievole is flood plain of the

Nievole River, extending from Serravalle towards Lucca and Pisa. This area has

many places of interest to tourists and

Leonardo's landscape of vineyards and

olive groves; the Fucecchio Marsh, one

of Europe's most important wetlands;

Montecatini a famous sna town and

Pescia, a town full of art and history.

such medieval exemplars as the Vitoni

tower in Collececioli and the Porciano

towers. In Spicchio, on the outskirts

LAMPORECCHIO

The town and the entire

surrounding area abound in

nature lovers. The Montalbano hills, with

by Lorenzo the Magnificent in 1470. it is today a property of the state, and houses two museums, the Monumental Apartments and the Museum of Still Lifes Poggio a Caiano Tel. 055 8798779

Towards Vinci: Montalbano can be visited by climbing the San Baronto pass (highest point, 348 m.) from which a panoramic road leads to Vinci and Cerreto Guidi. Following its western slopes, one comes to the Valdinievole with the villages of Lamporecchio, Larciano, and Monsummano to then return to Pistoia, passing through Serravalle

VINCI: Famous

worldwide as the birthplace of Leonardo, the greatest genius of the Italian Renaissance, Vinci is set between the provinces of Pistoia, Prato, and Florence on the Montalbano hills. The village that arose around the Guidi counts' castle is encircled by the typical landscape of olive trees and vineyards Not to be missed: The Leonardian Museum is a tour divded between the castle and Palazzina Uzielli, with one of the largest collections in the world of Leonardo's models. In the village center is the baptistery chapel of the Church of Santa Croce in Vinci with the beautiful marble bantismal font in which Leonardo was baptized. Nearby is the house where he was born on 15 April 1452, just 3 km from Vinci, in the countryside near Anchiano. www.toscananelcuore.it Vinci Tourist Information Office Tel 0571 933285

CERRETO GUIDI: Erected on a hill near

XXX₀XXX the Fucecchio Marsh and the villages of San Miniato and Vinci, there is ample historical evidence of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance Not to be missed: The Medici Villa, with its staircases by Buontalenti, houses the Historical Museum of Hunting and the Territory. Designed as a hunting lodge by Cosimo I in 1555, it was built over the Guidi Counts's previous castle at the hillton in the center of Cerreto. Tourist Information Office Cerreto Guidi Tel. 0571 55671

III

of Lamporecchio stands the splendid villa, commissioned in the second half of the 17th-century by the Pistoiese pontiff Giulio Rospigliosi and designed by Gianlorenzo Bernini. Lamporecchio is famous for brigidini. Their name seems to have originated with the nuns of St. Bridget (Brigida in Italian) from the Pist oirdr convent, who re-invented the wafer recipe around the mid-16th century. Not to be missed: The Church of Santo **Stefano** with its altar made in 1525 by Giovanni della Robbia; the Church of San Giorgio in Porciano; the Church of Santa Maria Assunta in Orbignano; and the Romanesque crypt in the Abbey of San Baronto. Near Lamporecchio are some remains of the high wall that, for about 50 km, protected the Barco Reale,

a wooded area put together by the Medici to keep game inside and to organize

LARCIANO

Beginning in Roman times, Larciano served as a guard post for the Valdinievole with its castle located on the eastern slones of Montalhano. The town's origins date back to the 3rd century B.C. when the Romans founded the Villa Larziana colony Not to be missed: The 11th-century castle citadel with some well-preserved sections of the town-walls and a tall, square tower, the Church of San Silvestro, and the Civic Museum; in the village of Cecina, the Church of San Nicola; in Castel Martini, the Church of San Donnino, Villa Poggi Banchieri, and the Fucecchio Marsh Research, Documentation, and Promotion Center

MONSUMMANO TERME Located at a strategic road

position dominating the Fucecchio Marsh and the entire Valdinievole, the hill of "Mons Summanum" was fortified in the 11th century. In the early 17th century, Monsummano Térme was established in the valley and developed an important spa-based economy thanks to the Giusti and Parlanti grottoes. One of the Chocolate Vallev's main centers, it is home to

the Slitti company.

Not to be missed: The remains of Monsummano Alto's fortifications and the Church of San Nicolao, clearly visible from the valley floor. The ancient village of Montevettolini with the Oratory of the Madonna della Neve and Villa dei Borghese. Monsummano Terme boasts many landmarks to visit the Sanctuary of the Madonna della Fonte Nuova, the Osteria dei Pellegrini, the poet Giuseppe Giusti's House-Museum, the Church of Cristo Redentore the Museum of Contemporary and 20th-century Art, the Museum of the City and the Territory, and the Fattoria Medicea, not far from the Fucecchio Marsh.

MONTECATINI TERME The city owes its current image to the Lorraine government that, starting n 1775 reorganized how 100-111 the thermal waters were utilized leading to a new urban layout. The **Tettuc**cio spa was refurbished and the grand Viale delle Terme was constructed From there, the **funicular**, built in 1898, goes up to Montecatini Alto, a medieval village

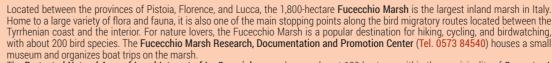
with its breathtaking views of the Fucecchio Marsh and the entire Valdinievole Not to be missed: During the city's period of greatest development, the Art Nouveau buildings were erected, and include the Locanda Maggiore: the Gambrinus arcades; the **Tettuccio Excelsior** and Tamerici spas plus the town hall. Deco rated by Galileo Chini, the latter houses MO.CA (Montecatini Contemporary Art) In Montecatini Alto, visitors can explore the imposing Rocca del Castello, the Carmelite Convent Santa Maria a Rina and the Romanesque Church of San Pietro Apostolo, with a relic of Saint

Rarhara BUGGIANO

At the end of the Middle Ages, the commune included four castles, or terre murate (walled lands): Buqgiano, Colle, and Stignano, all standing on the hills; Borgo a Buggiano on the plain; with the village of **Ponte Buggianese** near the

UZZANO

WETLANDS www.zoneumidetoscane.it



The Protected Natural Area of Local Interest of La Querciola spreads over almost 120 hectares within the municipality of Quarrata. A very important ecological area, it is home to hundreds of tree and herbaceous species, while its two lakes offer an exceptional welcome to Il types of aquatic birds, including marsh hens, gray herons, mallards, shovelers, snipes, ducks, and many other species. Within La Querciola, one can visit Casa di Zela (Tel. 338 2792423), a former farmhouse used for educational purposes as well as a tourist accommodation Its numerous rooms contain objects related to peasant life and ancient crafts.

a hospital of the Knights of Malta, which assisted pilgrims heading to Rome along the Via Francigena on the plain. Not to be missed: The Church of San Pietro Apostolo in Borgo a Buggiano has a 14th-century wooden crucifix. Not far from there is Villa di Bellavista, one of the finest examples of Tuscan Baroque and now home to the Historical Museum of the Fire Brigade. The Parish Church of San Niccolao and the Palazzo del Podestà from the 12th century in the village of Buggiano Castello are worth visiting. The Parish Church of San Lorenzo in the village of Colle has 14th-century frescoes and a

beautiful wooden crucifix. **Stignano** is the

birthplace of Coluccio Salutati, a key figure

Sant'Andrea houses 15th-century frescoes.

in Florentine humanism; the Church of

Fucecchio Marsh. The village of Colle had

CHIESINA UZZANESE

The village arose in the Middle Ages when a hospice for travelers was built at the intersection of the Etruscan and Roman roads. It was developed following the rehabilitation of a part of the Fucecchio Marsh in the Lorraine period. Not to be missed: built around the mid-19th century the church is dedicated to Saint Mary of the Snow. Inside, above its main entrance, is an organ built by the

MASSA E COZZILE

Tronci Company of Pistoia.

The villages of Massa and Cozzile are both clearly medieval in origin, as evidenced by the urban morphology with the ruins of the walls and gates. The nearby villages of Croci and Verruca are also worth visiting Not to be missed: In Massa, the Palagio del Podestà and the religious complex with the parish church stand out, while in Cozzile, there is the imposing Palazzo de Gubernatis in addition to the splendid view of the Valdinievole from the Porta di Mezzogiorno.

PIEVE A NIEVOLE

Boasting ancient origins, historical tradition says the town was built around the Parish Church of San Pietro a Neure, founded by Saint Fridianus on the ancient Via Cassia before the Lombards invaded the Valdinievole in 570.

Not to be missed: A visit to the medieval Church of Santi Pietro Apostolo e Marco Evangelista (the ancient Parish Church of San Pietro a Neure). It was significantly remodeled in the mid-19th century; its fine, neo-Romanesque bell-tower is the highest in all the

PONTE BUGGIANESE

The Lorraine reclamation of the Fucecchio Marsh facilitated urban growth on the plain, including **Ponte Buggianese**, which broke away from the town of Buggiano in the late 19th century. Not to be missed: Pietro Annigoni's frescoes in the Church of the Madonna del Buon Consiglio, Jorio Vivarelli's sculptures in Piazza Fratelli Banditori and outings in the Fucecchio Marsh, with the customs building, used by the Medici to exercise their power in the territory.

With its interesting medieval architecture, narrow streets, and stone houses Uzzano was first the feudal castle of Uthano: it became a free commune in the 13th

Not to be missed: the 15th-century Palazzo del Capitano del Popolo and the ancient Church of Santi Jacopo e Martino.

PESCIA

The Valdinievole's historical capital is an important industrial center for papermaking and nursery production. The Pescia River has determined its urban development since its medieval origins, the civil center with a large elongated square is found on the right bank and its

religious center with the **cathedral**, on the left bank. The medieval tradition continues with the the Palio di Pescia, an archery competition between the city's four districts on the first Sunday of September. Not to be missed: upon entering Pescia through Porta Fiorentina, one finds the cathedral, rebuilt in the late 17th century; the Church of San Giuliano the seminary's cloister, and the Church with the Oratory of S. Antonio Abate housing the 13th-century wooden sculpture known as "The Univ Saints" A 1235 altarniece by Bonaventura Berlinghieri is in the Church of San Francesco. Crossing the Pescia River one finds Piazza Mazzini the town center; **Piazza Grande**, closed to the north by Palazzo del Vicario and to the south by the Church of the Madonna di Piè di Piazza Beyond the square is the Church of Santi Stefano e Niccolao opposite Palazzo Galeotti, housing the Civic Museum. Just hevond Palazzo del Podestà, or Palagio, is the Libero Andreotti Gallery of Plaster Casts

From Pescia, jaunts are possible to the nearby hills of Collecchio, Colleviti. Monte a Pescia. the surrounding mountains, and the Valleriana as well as to Collodi and Montecarlo di Lucca.

THE VALLERIANA: Also known as **Pesciatine** Switzerland, it was so named by the Genevan scholar Giovan Carlo Sismondi whose villa is now home to Pescia's city library. It occupies much of the mountainous area in the municipality of Pescia and consists of ten villages: Pietrabuona, with its Paper Museum; Medicina: Fibbialla: Aramo: San Quirico: Castelyecchio: Stiappa; Pontito; Sorana; and Vellano, with its Historical Ethnographic Museum of Miners and Quarrymen. These ten castella are small, very old villages where one can stroll through the countryside, passing through history via its churches, convents and palaces, castles, and fortifications as well

COLLODI: the birthplace of Carlo Lorenzini, the author of the *Adventures of Pinocchio*, it is also the origin of his pseudonym. The village extends along a steep ridge vith houses seemingly built one on top of another, ending at the wonderful Villa Garzoni.

as the remains of gates and towers.

Not to be missed: Pinocchio Park which celebrates the famous fairy tale, was built in the 1950s. Here you can relive the adventures of the famous puppet through sculptures, mosaics, and buildings in a park-like setting; and Villa Garzoni's monumental Italian garden with its Butterfly House, a crystal box housing a tropical garden with thousands of colorful butterflies



MONTECARLO: This small fortified village stands on an isolated hill between the Valdinievole and the Lucchesia, Originally a strategic garrison during the 14th century wars, it was founded by Charles IV of Bohemia around the Cerruglio citadel and was named **Montecarlo** in his honor. Standing at the highest point on the hill, the fortress consists of the Mastio, Apparizione, and Santa Barbara towers. The historical center is surrounded by a splendid city wall with 14th-century gates: Porta Firenze, the Porticciola towards Lucca, and Porta Nuova.

Not to be missed: the Theater of the Accademia dei Rassicurati, the Collegiate Church of Sant'Andrea, and

the former Monastery of Sant'Anna, which contains some ruins of the Palazzo Pretorio.

Montecarlo Local Tourist Office Tel. 0583 228881