

MONUMENTS

14 FORTEZZA DEL PRIAMAR

The *monumental fortress* with its ramparts stands on two of the tallest heights of a hill - the Priamar - around which the original settlement of Savona developed.

The fortress was a work in progress which was expanded and improved over the centuries starting from the original 16th-century body. There were four main construction stages; the first going from 1542 to 1544: the outside of the fortress appeared much as it does today with the difference that it was surrounded by a large moat where the square is located today. The moat was surrounded by earthwork with glacis sloping down towards the city.

Its internal layout differed as well: the stronghold's moat was much wider and the Citadel, the lower part of the fortress, had a wide downward-sloping space marked off by the San Paolo, Santa Caterina and San Biagio bastions.

Between 1591 and 1610 T. Ponsello built the Citadel's "Ritirata" - escape - to favor the retreat of the defending forces (today's Santa Teresa bastion and its moat). The third stage completed between 1683 and 1686 by D. Sirena involved the consolidation of the bulwarks with an "outward protrusion": beyond the wide outer moat the original earthwork was transformed into a "covered road" running all around the fortress, which was reinforced with new bastions among which the San Bernardo and San Francesco bastions..

In the 18th-century a number of buildings were added to host the larger garrison: the ammunition depot, Palazzo della Sibilla, and the Commissioner's and Officers buildings.

However, the fortress was involved in combat for the first time in 1746, when the Genoese troops defending it surrendered to the Piedmontese who had breached the walls of Cortina dell' Angelo. Other battles followed during the Napoleonic Wars between the French and Austrians and in 1831 it was the place where Giuseppe Mazzini was imprisoned. During the second half of the 19th century all of the glacis and outer bulwarks were demolished to build factories and parks.

During the fifties a number of restoration works and archeological research projects still underway were started.

17 "GABRIELLO CHIABRERA" CITY THEATER

It is a neoclassical building and for many years it was the third most important theater in the Kingdom of Sardinia. The plan of this building, inaugurated in October 1835, was designed by the Sicilian architect C. Falconieri, while the supervision of the construction works was handed over later on to G. Cortese, an architect from Savona.

The facade with two orders of columns in Doric style (the lower ones) and Ionic style (the upper ones) is decorated by four large statues: the ones at the base represent Alfieri and Goldoni and are by the Genoese artist S. Varni, while the two upper ones represent Metastasio and Rossini and are by the local artist A. Brilla, who also sculpted the high relief in marbled stucco located in the tympanum showing the Arcadian poet from Savona, Gabriello Chiabrera, as he offers King Charles Emmanuel I of Savoy his poem entitled "Amedeide". At the top stands the statue of Apollo with cithara in white marble by the artist from Savona, G. B. Frumento.

Palazzo delle Poste (Post Office building), built in 1932 by the architect Roberto Narducci, opens on Piazza Diaz.

The "Pegaso Alato", (Winged Pegasus) an important work by the sculptor *Arturo Martini*, stretches out to the square from the facade at the height of the first floor.

4 MONUMENTO AI CADUTI - WAR MEMORIAL

It was inaugurated in 1927. This monument's bell tolls 21 times every evening at 6 o'clock to commemorate the citizens of Savona who fought and died during WWI: there is a tradition unique in its kind in Italy by which all of the people in the square and the traffic stop when the bell tolls.

16 TEMPIETTO BOSELLI

It is a *neoclassical monument in ceramic* built in 1786 by the Savona ceramist Giacomo Boselli. It has a circular plan surmounted by a dome; the main body is supported by Doric columns whose entablatures host on each side elegant grotesques with winged horses and festoons against a blue background.

15 GARIBALDI MONUMENT

At the center of Piazzale Eroe dei Due Mondi stands the imposing *equestrian monument* of Giuseppe Garibaldi by the sculptor *Leonardo Bistolfi*.

1 TORRE LEON PANCALDO (TORRETTA)

It is the city's symbol. This 14th-century tower once belonged to the city's walls and it bears the name of the navigator from Savona who took part in the first journey around the world with Magellan and who, like Magellan, died in tragic circumstances.

In 1664 it was provided with the clock and, in the part facing the port, with the marble statue of Our Lady of Mercy, the patron of Savona, by F. Parodi.

The small portico opening on the square and surmounted by the aedicule with an effigy of Our Lady dates back to 1862.

10 PIAZZA DEL BRANDALE (BRANDALE SQUARE), TORRE DEL BRANDALE (BRANDALE TOWER) AND MEDIEVAL TOWERS

The ancient *Torre del Brandale* was built in the 12th century; it rests on gothic archivolt and its interior is decorated with 14th-century frescoes.

Its belfry hosts the "Campanassa" (ancient victory bell).

Its name comes from the ancient custom of hoisting the city's flag up a pole (the "brandale") on top of the tower.

The facade has a ceramic panel with the image of the "Mater Misericordiae" (Mother of Mercy), the same that protects the city's sailors, and a ceramic band with a series of multicolored coats of arms of the families and houses that succeeded one another in governing the city.

The tower's interior is decorated with ancient materials, plaques and marble fragments of diverse origin. Near Torre del Brandale there are another *two medieval towers*: the taller one is called "degli Scolopi" and it belonged to the ancient palace of the Riario family, while the shorter one once belonged to the Corsi family.

To the left stands "Porta Balnei" or "Porta del Bagno", a gate that once belonged to the first city wall (10th - 11th century).

18 PIAZZA MARCONI

In this square dating back to the 1930s stands the large fountain made in 1965 by the sculptress

from Savona, Renata Cuneo, the first woman to ever exhibit her works at the Venice Biennale.

A central elliptical basin collects the cascade of water pouring from two overhanging basins.

At the center, on a block of Stella greenstone, stands the sculpture "Lotta tra l'uomo e lo squalo" (Fight between man and the shark).

19 PIAZZA SAFFI

It is one of the city's largest squares and it hosts Palazzo della Prefettura (1939).

8 VIA PIA AND PIAZZA DELLA MADDALENA

Today is the city's shopping street par excellence, the heart of the ancient city center and the *main axis of the medieval city*.

The *ancient marble and slate portals* and the *elegant atriums and stairways of the ancient aristocratic palaces* opening on the street are remarkable.

In Piazza della Maddalena visitors can admire the papal insignia of Julius II della Rovere and of Sixtus IV decorating the facade of Palazzo Multedo Sacco and the 18th-century Marian aedicule of Palazzo Basso - Gavotti.

2 VIA PALEOCAPA

This street completely porticoed and dedicated to the Savoy minister who ordered the construction of the railway line from Savona to Turin was built between 1868 and the early 1900s. For more than a century now Via Paleocapa is the city's elegant meeting place.

Along the street visitors can admire the Renaissance ashlars, mannerist tympanums with busts, decorative bas-reliefs with a mock-classical style, imposing portals with doors carved with masterly skill, bow-windows and *Palazzo dei Pavoni* (1911), *a remarkable of example of Art nouveau in Savona*, clearly inspired by the Viennese Secession in matching together large smooth surfaces with colorful ceramic inserts and majolica bands decorated with peacocks from which the building takes its name.

9 PALAZZO LAMBA - DORIA

This building is a perfect example of a 16th-century aristocratic residence and today it hosts the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture; it covers the area of medieval buildings, which were brought back to light in part during the conservation works after WWII. The various units were encompassed by the Grassi family into a single building during the 16th century.

Later on the building was embellished with *decorations and frescoes*, some of which by the school of Perin del Vaga, and with majolica tiles made in Savona and Albisola.

The marble portal decorated with headless figures by Guglielmo Della Porta opening on Via Quarda Inferiore was taken from the ruins of Palazzo Grimaldi in Via San Luca in Genoa.

11 LOGGIA AND PALAZZO DEGLI ANZIANI

Built in the 14th century, it once hosted the city's "Consiglio degli Anziani" - Council of Elders - and today it preserves the busts of Christopher Columbus and G. Chiabrera in the portico. At Palazzo degli Anziani visitors can also admire beautiful *sculptures, engraved plaques, paintings and frescoes*.

MUSEUMS

7 PINACOTECA CIVICA - MUNICIPAL PICTURE GALLERY - AT PALAZZO GAVOTTI

Savona's *Pinacoteca Civica*, one of the **most important collections in the Liguria region**, was recently set up at **Palazzo Gavotti**, the ancient and prestigious building located in the city's historic center, and its collection includes paintings, sculptures, ceramics, drawings and prints dating from the 14th to the 20th century, among which a painting dating back to the end of the 14th century by Taddeo di Bartolo, the marvelous *Crucifixion* by **Donato de Bardi**, one of the **highlights of the Renaissance as well as one of the first paintings on canvas in Italy**, the imposing **polyptychs** by Giovanni Mazono, the *Pala Fornari* by **Vincenzo Foppa** and the paintings by Luca Baudo, Lorenzo Fasolo, and Fra Gerolamo da Brescia, which bear witness to the incredible flourishing of the arts in the city towards the end of the 15th century and at the beginning of the 16th century thanks to the patronage of the two Popes from Savona: **Sixtus IV** and **Julius II**. Works of the 17th and 18th centuries include those by Gioacchino Assereto, Giovanni Battista Carlone, Valerio Castello, Bartolomeo Guidobono, Domenico Piola, Gio Agostino and Carlo Giuseppe Ratti, etc.

Visitors to the museum can also admire the works of the **municipal collection of ceramics** including the superlative **set of 17th-century majolica pharmacy jars**, some of the most superb in their kind in Italy, dating back to 1666 and marked by their fine white and blue decorations, and ancient polychrome wood and marble sculptures.

A section is dedicated to the works of the "**Milena Milani in memory of Carlo Cardazzo**" **Museum of Contemporary Art Foundation**, which can boast masterpieces by **Jean Arp**, **Massimo Campigli**, **Giuseppe Capogrossi**, **Giorgio de Chirico**, **Paul Delvaux**, **Jean Dubuffet**, **Lucio Fontana**, **Asger Jorn**, **René Magritte**, **Joan Miró**, **Pablo Picasso**, **Man Ray**, etc.

The exhibition of 20th-century works is completed by the ceramics of international masters like **Asger Jorn**, **Wifredo Lam**, **Farfa**, **Agenore Fabbri**, etc. owned by the "**Agostino Maria De Mari Foundation**" of the **Cassa di Risparmio di Savona Bank**.

Palazzo Gavotti was built between 1570 and 1580 on existing medieval homes, according to the typical Renaissance plan with courtyard and monumental stairway at the center and spacious porticoes at the main living floor.

During the 17th and 18th centuries the prestige and fame of this Palazzo were such that it was the place chosen to host the most prominent visitors to city of Savona. In the 19th century the atrium was changed into today's spacious porticoed passage connecting the historic center to the new quarters.

12 HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The museum is located at the ground floor of Palazzo della Loggia at *Fortezza del Priamar*. *It joins together in the same exhibition area the excavation site and the exhibits*, which come in part from the excavations and are classified and divided by historical periods. They are presented in relation to the events marking the history of Fortezza del Priamar, Savona and its province from proto-history to the Modern Age. Alongside the archeological findings from this site, the exhibition also displays an interesting range of materials from other collections: there are those that once belonged to the Municipal Collection which includes prehistoric and Roman findings often discovered by chance in the Savona area and those from donations from the end of the 19th century and the early 20th century.

Among the materials from Roman times we recommend the *marble relief portraying a hunting*

scene, a glass cinerary urn dating back to the early Imperial Age and the *interesting figurative mosaic fragments dating back to the 3rd century* from North Africa. The exhibition also includes interesting ceramic fragments: archaic majolicas from the Savona area, monochromatic engobed and sgraffito decorated ceramics, Muslim and Byzantine ceramics.

13 "SANDRO PERTINI" ART MUSEUM

The museum is located inside Palazzo della Loggia at Fortezza del Priamar and it was opened following the donation of the works of art that once belonged to former President of the Italian Republic, Sandro Pertini, who was born in Stella San Martino, a small town in the province of Savona. The collection includes more than a hundred paintings and sculptures.

The museum offers the visitor a range of contemporary Italian and international artists among whom *Giorgio Morandi*, *Emilio Vedova*, *Francesco Messina*, *Giulio Turcato*, *Renato Guttuso*, *Aligi Sassu*, *Arnaldo* and *Gio Pomodoro*.

20 MUSEUM OF THE SHRINE OF NOSTRA SIGNORA DELLA MISERICORDIA (OUR LADY OF MERCY) (4 Km away from the city center)

The museum was opened in 1959 at Palazzetto del Duca di Tursi, next to the Shrine - built between 1536 and 1540 - attached to the complex of the "Ospizi di Nostra Signora della Misericordia" (Hospices of Our Lady of Mercy). The collections are the fruit of precious donations dating from the 15th to the 19th centuries and votive offerings from Italy and all over Europe. Visitors will find on display precious patterned or embroidered vestments among which the *chasuble of the Duke of Urbino*, *18th-century Revel and Bizarre fabrics*, vestments and precious silverware like the *reliquary of the Cross made in Rome in the 17th century*, the *chalice by the goldsmith Vincenzo Belli*, the golden crown which is said to have belonged to Pius VII and the 19th-century pontifical silver service for Mass of Mgr. A. M. De Mari.

The museum also exhibits several wood and ivory sculptures of the 15th and 16th centuries among which a *polychrome Ecce Homo* showing traces of the influence of Giovanni da Nola and the *Pietà by a German artist from the Lower Rhineland*.

The votives painted on canvas and paper inspired by rural and maritime subjects are of great historical and social interest together with the typical replica of boats in wood and silver leaf.

CHURCHES

6 CATHEDRAL, SISTINE CHAPEL AND BISHOP'S PALACE

The building was built on a much more ancient Franciscan complex founded in 1259. With the papal bull of Paul IV dated 1559 the Church of St. Francis was converted into a cathedral dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption; the construction of a larger edifice was started only in 1584 and it was completed in 1604. The Baroque cathedral cherishes many paintings by various artists and a marble cross by Molinari (1499) as well as a marvelous baptistery of the 15th century and the *imposing Renaissance wooden choir* from the old cathedral. The dome was built in 1840 by G. Cortese, an architect from Savona, while the marble facade by Calderini (portal by Cibei) was completed in 1886 and the previous 18th-century portal was mounted on it. The church has three naves divided by huge pillars and a wide transept and deep choir; the interior is marked by the search for effects of grandeur and magnificence typical of the style of the Counter-Reformation without using, though, its typical single-nave plan. The adjacent *Cappella Sistina* - Sistine Chapel - built by Sixtus IV to hold the mortuary chapel of his parents in one of the cloisters of the Convent of St. Francis in the 1580s, is formed by an ancient nave with square presbytery surmounted by a dome. In 1672 the doge Francesco Maria della Rovere adapted the edifice to the taste of the time by decorating it with marvelous phytomorphic stuccos in shades of green, yellow and ochre. The volume was also altered in part by reducing the height with false ceilings; the light was provided by opening a lantern and two windows in the dome.

5 ORATORIO DI NOSTRA SIGNORA DEL CASTELLO - ORATORY OF OUR LADY OF THE CASTLE

The oratory hosts Savona's most ancient brotherhood founded in 1260. The edifice as it appears today dates back to 1755 and it stands in the area of a 16th-century oratory. The decorations of the interior by G. Petondi include rococo stuccos dating back to the mid-18th century and were remade and restored several times in the 1900s. The oratory cherishes a *monumental polyptych by V. Foppa and L. Brea* at the altar and it has *three procession "casse" - cases - by F. Martiniengo, known as "Pastelica", and S. Murialdo*, artists of the 17th-century Roman school.

3 ORATORIO DEL CRISTO RISORTO - ORATORY OF CHRIST RESURRECTED

The church was built in 1604 and since 1908 it hosts the Brotherhood of St. Dominic. The facade is quite simple and straightforward and it contrasts with the sumptuous rococo interior. The imposing main altar dating back to the early 18th century is the work of D. Parodi and it is surmounted by a rich decoration of golden stuccoes that frame the frescoes by the artist from Savona, S. Robatto. The central niche hosts the wooden statue of "Christ Resurrected", the origin of which is unknown. The nave's vault is decorated with two medallions frescoed by S. Galeotti. The *beautiful late 15th-century wooden stalls, the work of a German sculptor*, which were once found in the ancient cathedral of Savona, are arranged along the walls. Along the sides visitors can admire crucifixes and two of the "casse" (group of figures) carried in procession on Good Friday: "*The Annunciation*" by *A. M. Maragliano* dated 1722 and "*The Deposition in the sepulcher*" by *A. Brilla* dated 1866, the heaviest of the procession (approx. 17 quintals) is carried by 24 men. The organ completed in 1757 by the Concone Brothers is extraordinary. It is still used today for concerts of sacred music.

21 SHRINE OF NOSTRA SIGNORA DELLA MISERICORDIA (OUR LADY OF MERCY) (4 Km away from the city center)

Its construction was started in 1536 at the place where Our Lady appeared to a peasant, Antonio Botta, on 18 March 1536. The church's plan is the work of the architect Antonio Sormano, while the mannerist facade with three portals is by Taddeo Carlone. The basilica's interior - with groin vault - is divided by octagonal pillars into three naves, which lead to the elevated presbytery, below which there is a small crypt (1616) covered with colored marble and golden stuccoes on the vault. The octagonal dome does not have a drum and it is surmounted by a tall dome cladding. Three typical maritime ex-votos hang from the vaults: they are accurate replicas of ancient vessels, among which an extraordinary 17th-century Genoese war galley with 24 pairs of oars like the ones represented in the iconography of the Battle of Lepanto. Inside visitors can admire works of great value among which a *marble Visitation by G. L. Bernini*, a *marble statue of the Madonna della Misericordia - Our Lady of Mercy - with Antonio Botta kneeling*, by Orsolino (1560), a polychromatic wooden cross of folk art dating back to the early 15th century, as well as other paintings and frescoes of great interest (*Bernardo Castello*, *Domenichino*). In the square in front of the Shrine visitors can also admire a fountain by Giacomo Antonio Ponsonelli.

KEY

 PALACROCIERE (YOU ARE HERE)

 PUBLIC TOILETS

 HOSPITAL

 TAXI

 PARKING AREAS

 ROUTE RECOMMENDED TO REACH THE CITY CENTER

MONUMENTS

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 - 1. TORRE LEON PANCALDO (TORRETTA)
- 10. PIAZZA DEL BRANDALE, TORRE DEL BRANDALE, TORRI MEDIOEVALI
- 18. PIAZZA MARCONI
- 19. PIAZZA SAFFI
 - 9. VIA PIA E PIAZZA DELLA MADDALENA
 - 2. VIA PALEOCAPA
 - 8. PALAZZO LAMBA - DORIA (C.C.I.A.A.)
 - 11. LA LOGGIA ED IL PALAZZO DEGLI ANZIANI

MUSEUM

- 7. PINACOTECA CIVICA IN PALAZZO GAVOTTI
 - Palazzo Gavotti - Piazza Chabrol 5 - Tel: 019/801908
- 12. MUSEO STORICO ARCHEOLOGICO
 - Fortezza del Priamar - Corso Mazzini - Tel: 019/822708
- 13. MUSEO D'ARTE "SANDRO PERTINI"
 - Fortezza del Priamar - Corso Mazzini - Tel: 019/801908
- 20. MUSEO DEL SANTUARIO DI N. S. DELLA MISERICORDIA (4 Km away from the city center)
 - Piazza del Santuario 6 - Località Santuario - Tel: 019/879025

CHURCHES

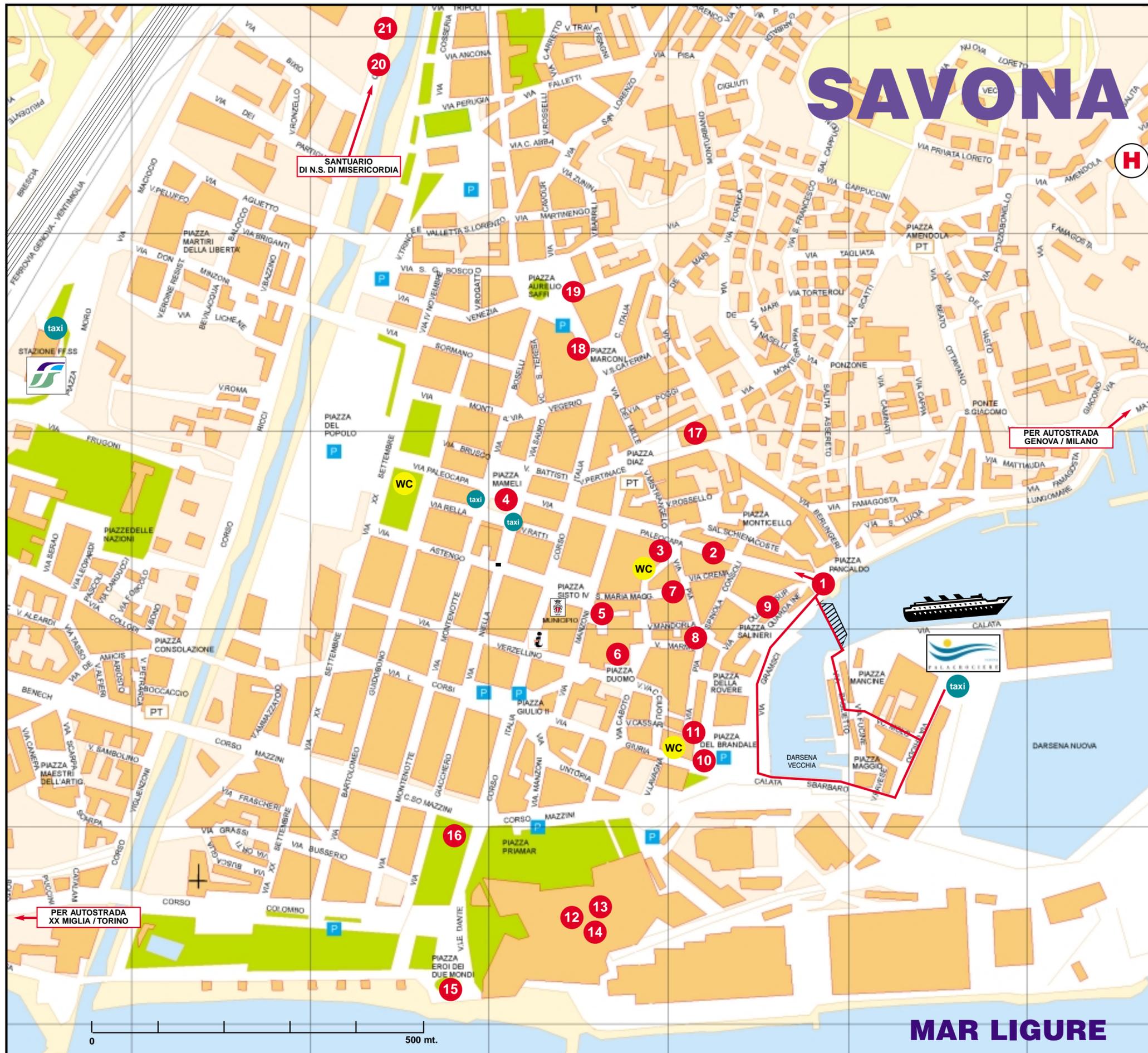
- 6. DUOMO, CAPPELLA SISTINA E PALAZZO VESCOVILE
- 5. ORATORIO DI NOSTRA SIGNORA DEL CASTELLO
- 3. ORATORIO DEL CRISTO RISORTO
- 21. SANTUARIO DI N. S. DELLA MISERICORDIA (4 Km away from the city center)

TOURIST INFORMATION

- TOURIST OFFICE (IAT)
 - Corso Italia 157r - Tel: 019/8402321 
- CAR RENTALS
 - AVIS: Corso V. Veneto 246r - Tel: 019/811311
 - HERTZ: Corso Ricci 143r - Tel: 019/8401315
 - EUROPCAR: Corso V. Veneto 284r - Tel: 019/8385196
- ACTS PUBLIC BUS TICKET AND INFORMATION OFFICE
 - Piazza del Popolo - Tel: 019/2201231
- TAXI
 - Radio Taxi: 019/827951
- SIGHTSEEING TRAIN (only in some periods of the year)
 - Piazza Sisto IV
- HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGES (only in some periods of the year)
 - Piazza Sisto IV
- ELECTRIC CAR RENTAL (only in some periods of the year)
 - Corso Italia (in front of the IAT Office)

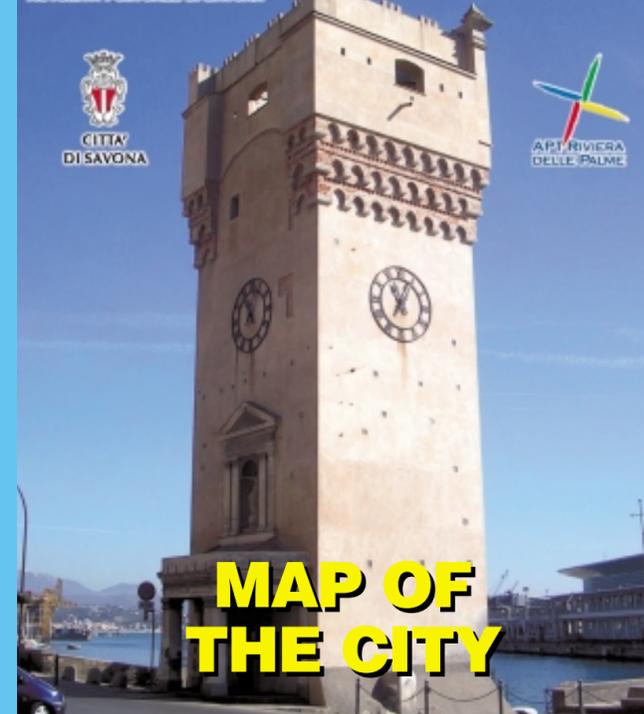
USEFUL INFORMATION

- LOCAL TRAFFIC POLICE
 - Via Romagnoli 38 - Tel: 019/8310444 - Emergency: 019/811818
- POLICE - PASSPORT OFFICE
 - Corso Ricci 40 - Tel: 019/840191 - Emergency number: 113
- CARABINIERI
 - Corso Ricci 30 - Tel: 019/850613-614-615 - Emergency number: 112
- GUARDIA DI FINANZA (TAX POLICE)
 - Via Famagosta 37 - Tel: 019/850580-854487-854472
- FIRE DEPARTMENT
 - Via Nizza 35 - Tel: 019/230131 - Rescue number: 115
- WHITE CROSS - AMBULANCE SERVICE
 - Corso Mazzini 58r - Tel: 019/827272-8272727 - Medical emergency: 118
- CITY OF SAVONA - REGISTRY OFFICE 
 - Via Manzoni - Tel: 019/83101
- SAVONA PORT AUTHORITY
 - Via Gramsci 14 - Tel: 019/85541
- POST OFFICE
 - Piazza Diaz 9 - Tel: 019/84141 
- RAILWAY STATION - TRENITALIA 
 - Piazza Moro 1 - Tel: 019/801346 - Trenitalia hotline: 892021



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