

# Tourist Information about Lucca

## Geographic location

The province of Lucca is located in the northern area of the Tuscany region.



## The area

It is divided in four main sub-areas: Versilia, the seaside on the Tirreno sea, Garfagnana, the highland in the north-east bordering with Emilia Romagna, Valle del Serchio in the middle of the area, and the lowland of Lucca in the south.



## Once upon a time

In the 6th century Lucca had been the capital city of the dukedom Tuscia, while from the 12th century it became a municipality first, and then a Republic. Between the 13th and the 14th centuries Lucca went through a strong commercial development period, becoming the key point in the textile trades between Europe and Asia, as well as a very popular location for the pilgrims coming from the Via Francigena.



## It is worth to see..

It is worth so see.. In the historical city center Lucca, the main monuments are 11th century dome, the elliptical Anfiteatro square (or Market square) and Palazzo Mansi, housing the national picture-gallery. Moreover, also the neighborhoods are extremely attractive. On the hills in the Garfagnana area, for example, arise more than 300 liberty mansion-houses, all embosomed from luxuriant gardens. In few kilometers from the historical center you can find: Bagni di Lucca, a popular thermal center where in the last years a lot of popular people used to spend some relaxing periods; the amazing Karst cavities known as Grotta del Vento, in the Apuane Alps park; Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, with his strong memory of the Estense family past domain. Finally, in the Versilia area is worth to mention Camaiore, Forte dei Marmi and Viareggio, which during the summer are full of tourists thanks to the beautiful beaches and the famous disco-clubs, but that offer also a lot of cultural events during the whole year.

# Events in Lucca

## Summer Festival



The "Lucca Summer Festival" is an international musical event which takes place every year in the unique setting of Napoleone and San Martino square, the most beautiful and evocative squares in Lucca, located in the heart of the historical centre. Since the first edition in 1998, the popularity of the Summer Festival sharply increased through the last years, thanks to the international fame of the guests: from Renato Zero to Francesco De Gregori, from Giorgia to Eros Ramazzotti, from Pino Daniele to Fiorella Mannoia, without forgetting the international guests like Bob Dylan, Joe Cocker, James Brown, gli Eagles, Jamiroquai, Alanis Morissette and a lot of others musicians.

## Lucca Comics and Games



Lucca is known all over the world as an historical, cultural and artistic town. Notwithstanding, from the 1966 Lucca is also known, with any doubt, as the Comics Town, hosting year after year the most celebrated comic-strips event, both in Italy and Europe. An event with a long history behind which, thanks to the passion and the competence of international experts, editors, authors, critics and simple fans, made Lucca one of the main "comics-city" in the world. This result has been obtained also with the capability of recognising a priori the most stimulating signs in the right moment, joining to the comics and to the cartoons the Illustration first, and, in 1993, Lucca Games, one of the most important section today dedicated to the role and simulation games; finally, also Lucca Junior has been added, a children-dedicated section the popularity of which has been sharply rising.

Almost 400 exhibitors from all over the world, with 16.000 sqm of available indoor surface, prestigious exhibitions housed in the beautiful locations of the historical centre, meetings, publishing premieres, dozens of authors attending the event every year, almost 400 accredited journalists and more than 85.000 visitors: those are today the numbers of Lucca Comics & Games, numbers which made Lucca the place to be for comic-strip writers, game authors, editors, opinion leader and fun. Today Lucca Comics & Games is recognised as an relevant cultural event which, along with the establishment, in 2001, of the modern Italian Comics Museum, represents the end-point of a long path started 40 years ago. But, at the same time, the beginning of a new adventure which transform Lucca in the fabulous Comics and Game town: in the heart of Tuscany, in the heart of Italy, in the heart of thousands fans around the world.

## Murabilia



"Murabilia - Mura in fiore" is a trade-exhibition dedicated to high-quality home gardening, arranged by the City All of Lucca e by the Opera delle Mura di Lucca, with the precious collaboration of A.Di.P.A. (house-gardening development association).

## Piazzetta dell'arte



"Piazzetta dell'Arte" is the Exhibition of the Lucca painters, which is held the third weekend of each month around Arancio road and square, and San Carlo lane and square, in the historical centre of Lucca.

## **Mercatino arti e mestieri e antiquariato**

Antique-trade Market: along the lanes around the Dome is held one of the most popular markets in Italy, with more than 300 exhibitors of antique furniture, objects, games, linen, jewelry and other oddities.

Arts and Old Professions Market-trade: exhibition and market of handicraft objects. Handmade and artistic objects created in front of you. It is held in S.Giusto square the last weekend of each month.

## **Il Carnevale di Viareggio**



The Viareggio Carnival, with 135 years of history behind, is with any doubt the most popular carnival event in Italy, one of the most important event in Europe, and attracts hundred of thousands visitors, both from Italy and from foreign countries. Born in 1873, the Viareggio Carnival is today a dynamic and extreme lively event, which is able to draw the attention of the main Italian and international media, as well as a wide range of audience, in which all the different social and age categories are mixed.