

SANREMO

Sanremo, also known as the city of flowers it's commonly associated with wealth and prestige, Sanremo is often sought out as a resort destination. However, despite its elite status, the city still maintains plenty of old-world charm, from its fortified Old Town to its historic buildings and monuments. While the city is popularly regarded for its annual music festival, there are plenty of lesser-known but equally interesting things to do in Sanremo.

The charm of Sanremo is immediately apparent in the city's Old Town, La Pigna, named like that for its particular shape, similar to a pinecone. This area dates back to the Middle Ages and was originally built as protection against pirate attacks.

On the top of a hill the Santuario della Madonna della Costa, one of the most significant religious buildings in the city, a Baroque-style gem, that watch over the ancient Pigna district. Right at the bottom of the hill we have the Giardini Regina Elena (or the Queen Elena Gardens, in English) pays homage to the beloved Queen Jelena of Montenegro, who visited Sanremo quite frequently. She's often referred to as Queen Elena of Italy, as she served this role from 1900 – 1946.

We will have a nice walk for some alternative shopping, in The Annonario Market of Sanremo: Fruit, vegetables and fish and typical Ligurian products, open every day from Monday to Saturday in the morning. Close to here, the Cathedral of San Siro, founded in the 12th century although the current roman style building was largely built



/ reconstructed in the 17th century after damage to the earlier church during a naval bombardment. Carrying on till one of the most famous landmarks in the city, the Casinò Municipale di Sanremo, which opened in 1905. Designed by French architect Eugene Ferret, the casino was originally a theater venue offering concerts, parties, and other shows in addition to gambling.

Another notable religious monument in the town is the Russian Orthodox church. The church was built for the Russians who flocked here as followers of the Russian Tsarina who established herself here

during San Remo's heyday.

From here we will move to the sea side for a relaxing walk in the old port till Fort of Saint Tecla. The fort is located on the old port of Sanremo and has an impenetrable appearance with its triangular plan, protected by escarpment walls and with powerful bastions on the corners.

After a jump in the past, we come back to our days, with the Teatro dell'Arriston, famous because it hosts the Italian Song Contest, the most important music competition in Italy, as well as one of the biggest in Europe.

During the year, the theater hosts exhibitions, operas, and a cinema. In the first half of February, the stage is dedicated to the Festival, which is one of the most-watched TV events in Italy.

The Italian Song Festival of Sanremo has been held every year since 1950 and it was the inspiration for another big music event in Europe, the Eurovision Song Contest. We walk Via Matteotti, where on the floor we can see the bronze plates placed in the center of the road that indicate the winners of each Sanremo Festival, Take a photo with the legendary Mike Bongiorno, an

Italian-American television presenter. After a few experiences in the US, he started working on RAI in the 1950s and was considered to be the most popular host in Italy. He was also known by the nickname il Re del Quiz ("The Quiz King"), and the peculiarity of starting all his shows with his trademark greeting: Allegrìa! ("Cheers!", "Joy!").

