



Villages of Tuscany

General information

Name of the village	CASTIGLIONE DELLA GARFAGNANA
Province	Lucca
Tourist information	The Pro Loco of Castiglione di Garfagnana is an association that promotes the territory and Its official website can be consulted on http://www.castiglionegarf.altervista.org . To contact the Pro-LoCo, you can write to prolococastiglionegarf@gmail.com
Notes	For people with reduced mobility, it is recommended to visit the village with an electric drive or with the help of a companion. The roads can in fact be bumpy and not always easily accessible, as it is a medieval village.

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Please note: The following information refers to the date of verification shown at the bottom of each sheet. The Association is not responsible for any significant changes made by the property after the visit.





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Description



Castiglione di Garfagnana is one of the best preserved medieval villages in Garfagnana, located in a panoramic position between the Apuan Alps and the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines, on a hill overlooking the Serchio valley.

The village is completely surrounded by **medieval walls** with towers dating back to the fourteenth century, which testify to its important defensive function and today offer a fascinating journey into the past. From this elevated position there are **spectacular views** of the valley below, making every walk a particularly evocative experience.

The urban layout is typically medieval, with cobbled streets, narrow alleys, arches and small squares, flanked by churches and historic buildings that contribute to creating an authentic and enchanting atmosphere.

Included among the "**Most beautiful villages in Italy**", Castiglione di Garfagnana is an ideal destination for slow tourism, between history, culture and natural landscapes.





How to reach Castiglione della Garfagnana

By car

From the North

To reach Castiglione di Garfagnana from the north, the main access is through the Aulla area, connected to the A15 Parma–La Spezia motorway.

Exit at Aulla, continue in the direction of Garfagnana along the SR 445 of the Garfagnana, which is the main road axis of the valley.

Cross the territory until you reach Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, the main center of the area.

From here you turn off following the signs for Castiglione, taking the SP 72 of Passo delle Radici, which leads directly to the village.

From the South

From the south, access to Garfagnana is via the A11 Firenze-Mare motorway, with a recommended exit near Lucca or Altopascio.

From the motorway exit, continue towards Garfagnana along the SR 445 della Garfagnana, crossing the Serchio valley until you reach Castelnuovo di Garfagnana.

From Castelnuovo, follow the signs for Castiglione along the SP 72 of Passo delle Radici, which leads directly to the village.





By plane	The local airports for Castiglione di Garfagnana are: • Florence "Amerigo Vespucci" Airport, located about 110 km from Castelnuovo di Garfagnana; • Pisa "Galileo Galilei" Airport, located about 80 km from Castelnuovo di Garfagnana.
Assistance service for people with disabilities	Complete assistance is ensured, on departure/arrival, thanks to the staff in charge who is available to accompany the passenger with disabilities, during the delivery of the luggage, up to the boarding gate, or for baggage claim
Embarkation/disembarkation of passengers with reduced mobility	With courtesy chair and ambulift/finger
Tactile paths for the blind and visually impaired	Yes
There is a toilet room accessible with grab handles	Yes
By train	
Nearest station	The local railway station for Castiglione di Garfagnana is Stazione di Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, located on the Lucca–Aulla railway line.
Assistance service for people with disabilities	The station is not enabled for assistance services for people with disabilities and reduced mobility (PRM). To use the service, it is necessary to contact the Italian Railway Network through the relevant Blue Room, at the following addresses:



	- toll-free number: 800 90 60 60 (from a landline) - National number: 02 32 32 32 (from a landline or mobile) The service provides information on the nearest enabled station and allows assistance to be booked.
Blue Hall Reference	Florence
There is a toilet room in the station accessible with grab handles	Yes
By public and private transport	
Nearest bus stop	The public transport service is managed by Autolinee Toscane, which offers connections from Lucca and Versilia to Castelnuovo di Garfagnana. From Castelnuovo di Garfagnana it is possible to continue with local lines in the direction of Castiglione di Garfagnana. The total duration of the journey (with possible change in Castelnuovo) is about 2 hours – 2 hours and 30 minutes, depending on the times and connections.
Presence of adapted buses with ramp	it is advisable to check the availability of the service in advance by contacting Autolinee Toscane. Contact details: toll-free number: +39 800142424 or +39 05551351



Parking

Public parking nearby	Yes, Parking Via di Soccorso
Type of public parking floor	Asphalt
Presence of parking space reserved for people with disabilities	Yes
Eventual notes	The parking lot mentioned above is the main parking lot, it is located a short distance from the center and allows access to the village through Porta Nuova. It is very convenient because it has accessible toilets. Alternatively, in the immediate vicinity of Porta Nuova there is a reserved place along the road that runs along the walls. Another public car park is located next to Porta degli Inferi in Via Massimo D'Azeglio. The village within the walls is passable only by authorized persons. No specific signs were noticed for vehicles with a CUDE permit. However, it should be noted that from the door of the Drawbridge from which you enter Piazza Vittorio Emanuele, where the Municipality headquarters are located, it is possible to park the vehicle on a CUDE stall.



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1 Emergency Route Parking



2 Reserved parking space for the Rescue Route



3 Reserved space along the walls, near Porta Nuova

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4 Reserved parking Via Massimo D Azeglio



5 Reserved parking Piazza Vittorio Emanuele

Route from the car park to the village

Characteristics of the route from the car park	On an asphalt road with a gradient varying between 6% and 12%
Distance from parking to entrance	About 180 meters
Type of trail surface	On asphalt
There are indicators and tactile maps	No





Description of the itinerary



Length

800 meters

Along the itinerary there are maps and tactile signs for the blind

No

The itinerary starts from the **Via Soccorso car park**, located a short distance from the entrance to the village. From the car park, proceed on foot in the direction of the main road (SP72 of Passo delle Radici) and, after about 60 metres, turn left following the road network. Continuing for a further 120 meters you reach **Porta Nuova**, one of the main entrances to the historic center.

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Built in medieval times as a control and defense point, the gate stands out for its simple but functional structure, characterized by an arched opening inserted in the stone walls. The name "Nuova" suggests a later construction compared to other older accesses, probably linked to the need to expand or reorganize the defensive system.

Accessibility:

In the car park there is a CUDE stall and a public toilet accessible to people with reduced mobility (See toilets section). The stretch of road from the parking lot to the entrance of the village has a gradient varying between 6% and 12%.

Note: This route has been chosen to avoid a staircase which, starting directly from the parking lot, would allow faster access to the village.



6 Reserved parking space Via di Soccorso



7 Accessible toilets in the Via Soccorso car park and adjacent staircase that connects to the village entrance





8 Route from the car park to Porta Nuova



9 Porta Nuova

After passing the gate, enter the village and, turning right, take **Via San Pietro**, continuing for a stretch of about 60 meters until you meet the **Torrione di San Pietro**, an element of the ancient fortifications.

The Torrione di San Pietro is a defensive structure inserted in the system of medieval walls. The towers had the function of reinforcing the most exposed points of the walls and allowing visual control of the surrounding area. Today the tower is a clearly recognizable architectural element, which helps to define the fortified appearance of the village.

Continuing along the same street you reach the **Church of San Pietro**, located a little further on.

The Church of San Pietro is one of the main religious buildings of Castiglione di Garfagnana and testifies to the presence of a stable inhabited nucleus already in medieval times. It is considered one of the oldest churches in the village and has a simple architectural layout.

A distinctive element is the presence of the bell tower not adjacent, but located on the nearby Torrione di San Pietro, testifying to the reuse of defensive structures in the religious sphere. The position of the building, at the foot of the walls of the Rocca, contributes to creating a context of particular historical charm.

The original layout of the church has been modified over time as a result of interventions and restorations that have partly altered its initial appearance; some portions of the side walls, however, retain traces of the older structure. Inside there is an antependium decorated in scagliola, attributable to the local artistic tradition.

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Accessibility:

Via San Pietro is a stone-paved street, irregular and bumpy, with a variable gradient of around 10%.

Any access to the tower is only possible via challenging staircases. No facilitated access to the church was detected, which has a threshold of about 10-15 cm at the entrance. No totems or information systems accessible along the route were detected.



10 Via San Pietro



11 Torrione San Pietro



12 Church of San Pietro



From here the route continues uphill towards one of the most significant points of the village, **the Rocca** di Castiglione di Garfagnana, which represents the highest point of the itinerary and offers a panoramic position.

The fortress represents one of the most significant elements of the defensive system of Castiglione di Garfagnana. Together with the city walls, it constitutes a well-preserved example of medieval military architecture.

The structure, in its current configuration, dates back to the end of the fourteenth century and is characterized by an irregular perimeter adapted to the morphology of the terrain. It has three semicircular towers and protruding defensive apparatus supported by stone corbels. The walls vary in height between 11 and 17 metres, depending on the natural difference in height of the site.

Over time, the Rocca has undergone transformations related to changing needs, passing from an exclusively defensive structure to a space with residential functions, with consequent changes to the interiors.

Thanks to its elevated position, it offers wide views of the Garfagnana, with a view of the Serchio valley and the Apuan Alps, confirming its original strategic role of control of the territory.

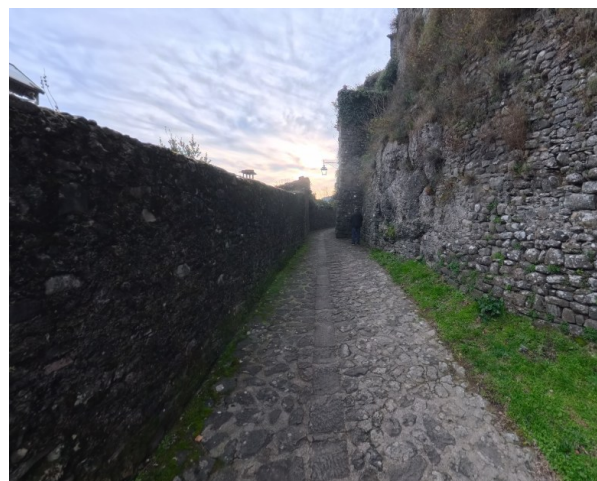
Accessibility:

Access is difficult, due to the presence of architectural barriers typical of medieval structures (differences in height, stairways and irregular paths). For updated information on opening and accessibility, it is advisable to contact the Pro Loco of Castiglione di Garfagnana, as some areas may only be visitable with assistance or may not be accessible.





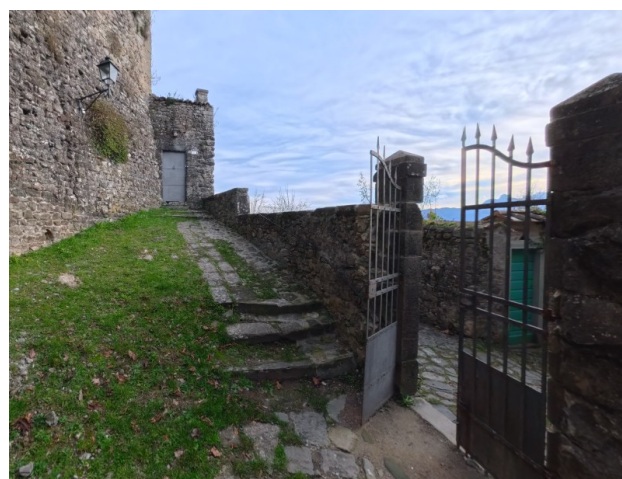
13 Route from Chiesa to Rocca



14 Route from Chiesa to Rocca



15 Outside the cone entrance



16 Inside the fortress entrance

From the Rocca, to continue the itinerary, it is necessary to retrace a short stretch of Via San Pietro, returning to the intersection with Via Cividali. Then take **Via Cividali** – which, entering from Porta Nuova, is immediately on the left – and continue in a straight line for about 50 meters, turn right and reach the **Church of San Michele**. A few meters away, on the left side of the church, there is also the **Oratory of the Holy Sacrament**.

The Church of San Michele is located along the perimeter of the medieval walls, near the Torrione di San Michele, on which the bell tower stands. The building has medieval





origins, generally placed around the thirteenth century, and represents one of the main places of worship in the village.

The façade, made of stone, fits harmoniously into the architectural context of the historic center, with elements that can be traced back to a sober language of medieval tradition. Over time the church has undergone interventions and modifications, which have partly transformed its original appearance.

Inside there are works of historical and artistic interest, including a wooden crucifix from the Middle Ages, testimony of the long local religious tradition.

A short distance away is the Oratory of the Blessed Sacrament, which houses a small deposit of sacred art with objects from the churches of the village. The collection includes paintings, liturgical furnishings and other devotional artifacts, offering a significant insight into the religious culture of the area.

Accessibility:

The last straight stretch of Via Cividali has a significant slope.

On the street side there is a connection between the street level and the churchyard, located at a slightly higher level. This is done through a wooden and metal platform about 5 meters long and 92 cm wide, with a slope between 4% and 5%.

At the entrance to the church there is also a second platform, also made of wood and metal, of wide width, about 133 cm long, with a slope of around 5%.



17 Via Cividali



18 Last stretch to the Church of San Michele

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19 First ramp to access the church hall



20 Second ramp to access the entrance of the Church



21 Church façade



22 Entrance to the Museum of Sacred Art

To continue the route, return to the intersection with **Via Roma** – located directly in front of the village gate – and turn left, staying on the main axis. Then continue along the street for about 130 meters until you reach **Piazza Vittorio Emanuele**, where the Municipality of **Castiglione di Garfagnana** is on the right and, on the left, a few meters away, the **Oratory of Sant'Antonio**, located near the **Porta Levatoia**.





Piazza Vittorio Emanuele represents the main public space of Castiglione di Garfagnana, a central point of the life of the village both in historical and current times. The square also retains a significant role from an architectural point of view, hosting important buildings and maintaining a layout consistent with the medieval context.

It is overlooked by the **Palace of Parliament**, a building of sixteenth-century origin, now the seat of the Municipality, together with a well from the Middle Ages, testimony of the daily life and organization of the fortified village.

In the square there is also the Church of Sant'Antonio, a small religious building of ancient origin, documented as early as medieval times. In the past it was linked to welfare functions, as a hospice for pilgrims and wayfarers, a typical element of centers crossed by transit routes. The structure develops in height, adapting to the limited space of the urban fabric and the proximity of the walls.

Next to the church is the **gate with drawbridge**, one of the entrances to the village, a characteristic element of the medieval defensive system. The drawbridge made it possible to cross the moat and, in case of need, was raised to protect the town. Today it represents a significant historical testimony and one of the most evocative entrances to the historic center, given the view of the surrounding landscape.

Accessibility:

In Piazza Vittorio Emanuele there is a CUDE reserved stall.

The Church of Sant'Antonio does not have facilitated access: the main entrance, of wide width, has two steps and a threshold for a total difference in height of about 18 cm. The interior of the church is still accessible once the entrance threshold is crossed.



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23 Piazza Vittorio Emanuele



24 Common



25 Reserved seat in Piazza Vittorio Emanuele



26 San Antonio Oratory Entrance

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27 Interior of the San Antonio Oratory



28 Interior of the San Antonio Oratory



29 Drawbridge door



30 Panorama outside the drawbridge gate

From Piazza Vittorio Emanuele, take **Via Roma** and continue for about 100 meters on the flat, on a road with a sliding pavement paved in stone. At the end of the stretch, the entrance to the **Parco della Rimembranza is on the left** and, in front, the final stage of the itinerary: **Porta degli Inferi**.

The Park of Remembrance in Castiglione di Garfagnana is dedicated to the Fallen of the wars and represents a place of memory and meditation for the local community.

Inside the park there are several commemorative elements, including an obelisk dedicated to the Fallen of the First World War, a plaque in memory of the Fallen of all wars and a series of plaques dedicated to the Fallen of the two world wars.





The park is characterized by a tree-lined avenue, which leads to a panoramic terrace from which a view of the Garfagnana valley, the Apuan Alps and the walls of the village opens up, offering a context of particular charm.

Accessibility:

Near the Gate of the Underworld there is a parking lot with n. 1 CUDE reserved stall.

The Parco della Rimembranza is difficult to access: at the entrance there is a threshold of about 18 cm and 4 steps of about 16 cm each. The internal path is uphill with a gradient of around 12% and has irregular steps with risers between 7 and 10 cm.



31 Via Roma towards Parco Rimembranza and Porta degli Inferi



32 Entrance to the Park of Remembrance



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33 Inside the Park of Remembrance



34 Inside the Park of Remembrance



35 Panorama from Remembrance Park

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Events

Among the most important events stands out the **Medieval Festival**, which takes place every year on 3 and 4 August: during these days the village comes alive with historical re-enactments, markets and taverns, offering visitors a complete immersion in the atmosphere of the past.



36 Typical poster Medieval Festival





Accessible public places

LOCAL	
Room type and name	Monica and Silvano's Tavern
Location	Via Guglielmo Marconi n. 2
Local access mode	6 cm threshold and 10 cm step
Useful width of door/entrance gate	60 cm x 2, with internal opening
Type of door	Double wooden door
Types of tables	Various types with 4 stems, with space underneath 80 cm
Braile menu	No
Eventual notes	The business also has a second dining room, which can be reached via an adjacent stone-paved road with a slope of 16%, located about 15 meters from the main entrance.
TOILETS	
There is an accessible toilet	Yes
Toilet room location	Back of the bar
How to access the room	Port
Usable width of the entrance door	83 cm
Type of door	Made of wood with internal opening
Toilet height	52 cm
Toilet seat with open front tooth	Yes
Support handles	Yes to the left
Flexible shower on the side of the toilet	Yes
Free space on the toilet sides	20 cm on the right
Electric doorbell/telephone on the side of the toilet	Yes bell
Washbasin with wheelchair space	Yes
Height from the ground lower edge mirror	70 cm
Baby changing table	No

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37 Input



38 Exterior space



39 Interior Entrance



40 Indoor room

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41 Bathroom

Communal toilets

There is an accessible toilet	Yes, for a fee (50 cents)
Location of the toilet room	Via del Soccorso car park
How to access the premises	Flat via door
Usable width of the entrance door	95 cm
Type of door	Door with outward opening
Toilet height	52 cm
Toilet seat with open front tooth	Yes
Support handles	Yes, fixed on the right and reclining on the left
Flexible shower on the side of the toilet	No, there is only one hand shower on a small sink, but far from the toilet
Free space on the sides of the toilet	57 cm on the left and >90 on the right
Electric doorbell/telephone on the side of the toilet	No

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Washbasin with space underneath for wheelchair approach	Yes, 81 cm
Height from the ground lower edge mirror	100 cm
Baby changing table	No



42 External entrance to the bathroom



43 Internal bathroom entrance



44 Bathroom interior Via Soccorso parking

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Medical practices/healthcare facilities

Hospitals near the property	Santa Croce di Castelnuovo Public Hospital. It is the main reference for Garfagnana (~10 km away), complete inpatient and outpatient services Active emergency room; Departments: medicine, surgery, orthopedics, cardiology, radiology, dialysis. It is part of the USL Toscana Nord-Ovest Address: Via dell'Ospedale, Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, telephone 0583/6691
Other healthcare facilities	Private Medical Center Hippocrates: Very complete structure for visits and examinations, but without first aid. About 10 minutes from Castiglione della Garfagnana; It is not a hospital, but a specialist facility. Address: Via Arni, 30, 55032 Castelnuovo di Garfagnana (LU) Phone: +39 0583 639473 Children's Pharmacy Via Statale, 6 – Castiglione di Garfagnana (LU), +39 0583 68156 Main pharmacy in the country Services: drugs, parapharmaceuticals, health advice

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