



Fact sheet Villages of Tuscany

General information

Name of the village	POPULONIA
Province	Livorno
Tourist information	Piombino Tourist Office Via Giovanni Lerario, 90 Tel. +39 0565 226445 / 225639 Email: ufficioturismopiombino@parchivaldicornia.it www.parchivaldicornia.it website www.comune.piombino.li.it website
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

Populonia, a hamlet of Piombino, was in ancient times one of the largest and most important Etruscan cities and was the only one to be built on the sea, along the Tuscan coast. Its geographical position, at the centre of the trade routes of the western Mediterranean, the metal resources of the Campigliese Mountains and the rich iron ore deposits of the island of Elba determined, since the Eneolithic era (IV-III millennium BC), the prosperity of the city-state and its territory. According to what was handed down by the Greek geographers Strabo and Ptolemy, the ancient settlement was composed of two distinct nuclei: the upper city, developed on the tops of the Poggi della Guardiola, the Telegrafo and the Castle, in which – in addition to the houses – stood the temples and public buildings of the acropolis, and the lower city, near the gulf, which housed the port, headquarters of mercantile and steel activities. Populonia was protected by two walls, that of the acropolis and that of the lower city. The Archaeological Park of Baratti and Populonia connects the large necropolis of Baratti, built a few meters from the sea, to the cobbled streets and the Acropolis, a memory of the period of Roman domination and an archaeological site in continuous expansion. On the top of the promontory of Piombino is the village of Populonia enclosed by walls and dominating the Mediterranean: the tower overlooking the castle of Populonia is a crenellated ravelin, a military architecture of the fifteenth century of the Appiani, lords of Piombino. The coat of arms of the Appiani is still visible on the entrance arch to the village. Passing through the only access door carved into the walls, you find yourself immersed in a small jewel, which represents an example of perfect integration between ancient and modern: the buildings of the medieval village today house craft shops and local products, refreshment facilities inserted within the medieval architecture without distorting too much of its original appearance. From the square with the small church of Santa Croce, you can access the tower of the Castle from which you can admire a 360 ° panorama of the entire promontory: from the traces of a glorious Etruscan and Roman past to the islands of the Tuscan archipelago and Corsica. The village houses the Museum of Populonia Gasparri Collection, located inside the spaces of the former oil mill, where the finds from the private collection of the Gasparri family granted by the State at the beginning of the '900 as a discovery prize for the excavations carried out in the land owned by them in the Gulf of Baratti are exhibited. This religious center, built around the year 1000 in the deepest scrub of the promontory, is the historical ring that connects the

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times of the Etruscans and Romans of Populonia to the Middle Ages of Piombino. The ruins of the cloister and the church have been freed from the tangles of vegetation and today tell another fragment of the history of the promontory.





How to reach Populonia

By car	From the North Highway A12, exit at San Vincenzo Sud. From there, continue along the coast in the direction of Baratti, or you can take the SP39 to Venturina and then turn right onto Strada Provinciale delle Caldanelle, which leads to Populonia. From the South Take the Aurelia state road (SS1) to the exit for Venturina, then continue in the direction of Piombino and follow the signs for Populonia
By plane	The nearest airport to reach Populonia: • Pisa "Galileo Galilei" Airport, located about 100 km from Populonia.
Assistance service for people with disabilities	Yes
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	Piombino (LI) or Campiglia Marittima (LI) railway station, both located on the Genoa-Rome line





Assistance service for people with disabilities	The Campiglia Marittima station is enabled for the assistance service for people with disabilities and reduced mobility (PRM), while the Talamone station is not enabled. 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 operated by Autolinee Toscane, which offers connections from Grosseto to Scarlino. The bus station in Follonica is located in front of the Piazzale della Stazione. For further details, please refer to the website (www.at-bus.it)
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

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Parking

Public parking nearby	YES for a fee
Type of public parking floor	Dirt and gravel
Presence of parking space reserved for people with disabilities	YES, No. 1 stall
Type of parking lot reserved for people with disabilities	Dirt and gravel



1 Public parking



2 Reserved parking for people with reduced mobility





3 checkout



4 parking entrance

Pathway from the car park to the entrance

Pathway from the car park to the starting point	From the parking lot, turn left in the direction of the entrance to the village. You walk along a 54-metre-long asphalt ramp with a maximum gradient of 15%.
Distance from parking to entrance	150/200 meters
Type of trail surface	Asphalt
There are indicators and tactile maps	No
Eventual notes	To the right of the door an explanatory panel with historical-artistic information of the village in Italian and English.





5 Asphalt entrance ramp, from the car park.



6 Asphalt entrance ramp, from the car park.



7 final section ramp

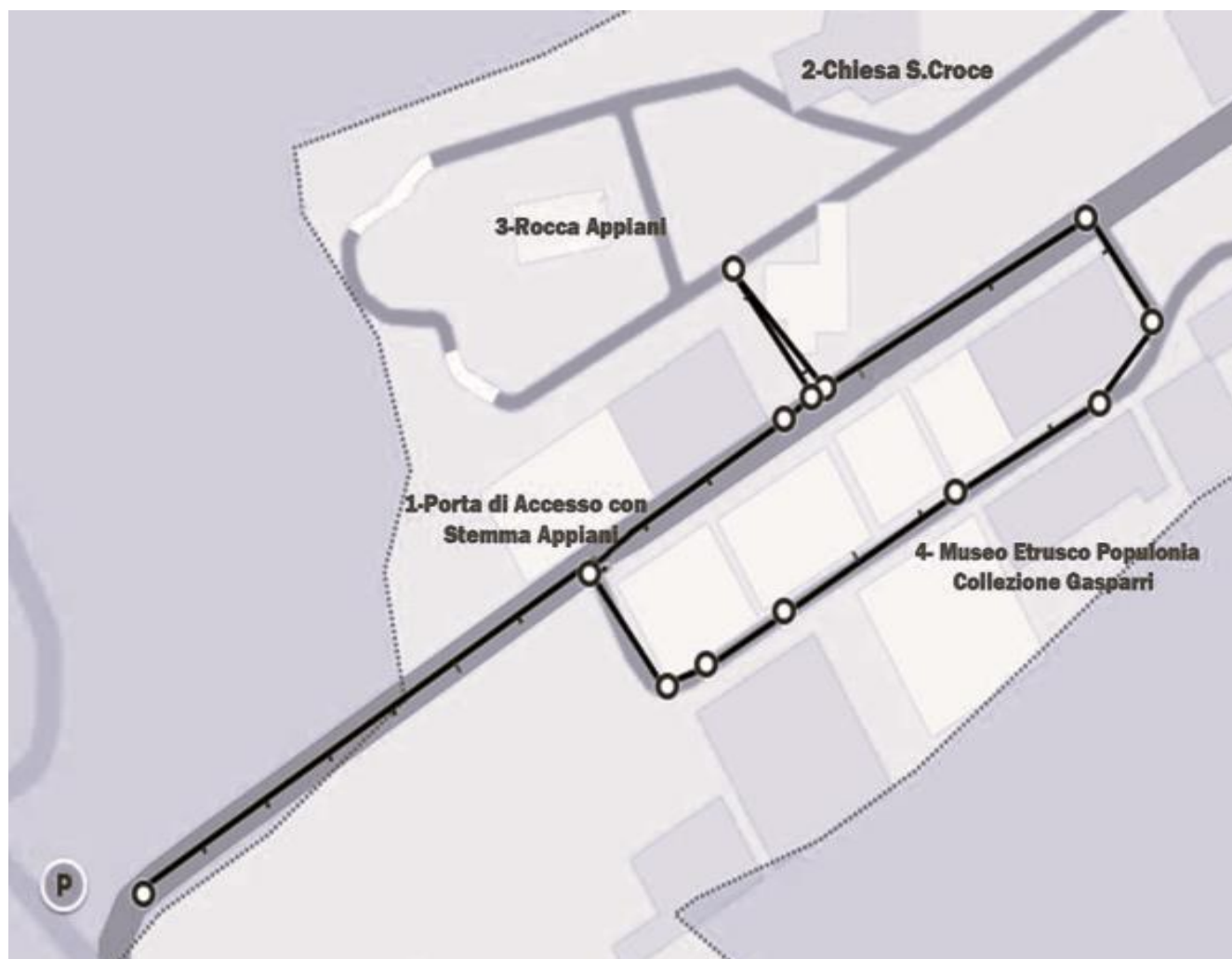


8 explanatory panel





Description of the itinerary



Length	About 300 meters
Along the itinerary there are maps and tactile signs for the blind	No

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The itinerary starts from the **main access gate**, which introduces us to the village. The door with the coat of arms of the Appiani family placed in the center of the arch has a well-defined shape. It had a practical function of access and control and a symbolic and decorative function and was often placed precisely to mark boundaries or important entrances.

Populonia is well known for its Etruscan-Roman archaeological sites, but the medieval historic center is equally fascinating because it preserves the typical architecture of the medieval period characterized by narrow streets, stone block pavements and buildings typical of the period.

The main street has numerous local craft shops. After about 80 meters, there are two parallel crossroads: the right side street leads us to the **Etruscan Museum, Gasparri collection** via ramp and final step and the left side street always through ramp leads us to the **Church of Santa Croce** and the entrance to the **Rocca**.

Accessibility:

From the entrance door, the pavement is made of stone blocks, irregular and in some places uneven.

The right side street that leads to the Museum has a smooth tiled pavement with a width of more than 100 cm, a length of about 10 meters and a slope of 11.5%. At the end of the crossroad right in front of the Museum there is a step of about 18 cm. For this reason, we recommend continuing the route as per the indicated itinerary, to reach the site in an alternative way.

The left side street has a length of 12 meters with a slope of 13%. This stretch is characterized by a pavement of stone blocks, irregular and uneven, especially on the left side. It is therefore advisable to continue on the right side which is more compact.



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9 Appiani Gate



10 entrance hall with stone block flooring



11 main avenue



12 main avenue and public places

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13 street on the right towards Museo



14 Museum entrance view



15 step at the end of the flight



16 ramp to the left towards Chiesa and Rocca





Once you reach the square, on the right is the **Church of Santa Croce** built between the eleventh and twelfth centuries, it retains the original layout typical of the Romanesque parish. Originally it had two side entrances, now filled in. The gabled façade has an access portal in the center with a marble lunette above the entrance, the work of Paolo Pisano and built in 2007, depicting San Cerbone and San Gregorio Magno, while in the background you can see Massa Marittima and Populonia. On the right, next to the cross, there is an information board in Italian also translated into English and German, with important information on the history of the Church. The interior, very simple, has a single nave, rectangular apse, gabled roof, and smooth tile flooring, free of obstacles

The most valuable element present in the church is the Roman sarcophagus used as an altar and found below the floor on which it is now placed. The work can be dated to the third century A.D. and belongs to a type that was widespread in late antiquity

On the right wall there is a statue of Jesus and a little further on a chapel with the painting of the Translation of the Body of San Cerbone. The painting is a copy, the original is in fact in the Diocesan Museum of Piombino. The work is enriched with stuccoes and fake marbles. The chapels inside the religious building were added in a phase prior to 1575, a period in which an archival document mentions a chapel of the Confraternity of the Body of Christ. The chapel on the left side is a copy of the Virgin and Child. All the chapels present, however, are the result of the restorations carried out by the Desideri family to celebrate the noble title obtained in 1773.

Also on the left side of the church, adjacent to the entrance we can admire a statue of the Madonna and the frescoes. The frescoes represent two saints: the male figure is identifiable with St. Paul (recognizable by his sword), which represents his past as a soldier as a persecutor of Christians and martyrdom by beheading. The female figure, on the other hand, is difficult to identify because it is not clear whether she holds a feather, a flower or a palm of martyrdom in her hand. She could therefore be identified with St.





Catherine of Siena, St. Catherine of Alexandria or St. Barbara. The fresco is dated 1516 as per the engraving while the attribution still remains uncertain, although some refer it to Sodoma, a friend and collaborator of Raphael, active in the first half of the sixteenth century between Siena and Rome and several times a guest of Jacopo V Appiani, who commissioned him some works unfortunately lost today, for the Palazzo di Cittadella in Piombino.

On the right side of the square, in front of the church, we find the entrance to the Rocca degli Appiani and the Medieval Tower not accessible to people with motor disabilities.

Populonia was reborn in the Middle Ages when in the fourteenth century it was decided to endow the village with the castle that still today, although remodeled, dominates the hill.

The Rocca appears to us with the classic shape and characteristics of the fortifications that underwent major alterations during the transition period from the medieval castle to the military architecture bastioned at the end of the fifteenth century. Unlike many other castles, completely distorted in shape and appearance, the element that dominates the complex is still the mighty rectangular tower that was the primitive medieval keep.

The tower is built with stones that are not perfectly squared, with the exception of the corners, is equipped with a high escarpment, (certainly added during the updating of the fortification) and ends with large battlements, three on the short sides and four on the long ones, with double slopes, both inwards and outwards. The Torrione has a very rare shape to be found in Tuscan and Scaligeri castles. Inside the tower you enter through a door at high altitude. Around the tower there is the city walls, built in the fifteenth century with a rectangular plan very close to the square, equipped with a patrol walkway protected to the outside by a wall interspersed with vertical slits. At the four corners there are doorways. During a later phase, a round semi-tower was added to the center of the short western side of the city walls, equipped with a wide scarp and crowned by Ghibelline battlements, (swallow-tailed), a small slit and a protruding apparatus. The semi-tower has a higher





patrol walkway than that of the rest of the wall and has a wall with loopholes also on the internal side built to defend against enemies who had managed to penetrate inside the fortification. This construction could be considered a decisive step towards the development of what would be the round towers of the fortresses of the sixteenth century. Here the walls of the village also join, equipped with a single access door. The fortress has always had purely military functions of defense of the inhabited village from threats from both the sea and the interior.

Photos of the Castle of Populonia: <https://www.pastexperience.it/le-curiosita-del-castello-di-populonia/>

Accessibility:

Church of Santa Croce. The uneven and uneven stone block pavement makes it difficult to visit the interior of the sacred building, although people with reduced mobility can access the square by car.

2-leaf entrance portal with a width of 120 cm

The entrance to the building has both outside and inside a step of about 3.5 cm.

Rocca degli Appiani and Medieval Tower not accessible to people with motor disabilities due to the presence of 4 steps at the entrance, which cannot be overcome with any precautions.





17 bumpy ramp towards the Church and Rocca



18 Church of S. Croce



19 external façade





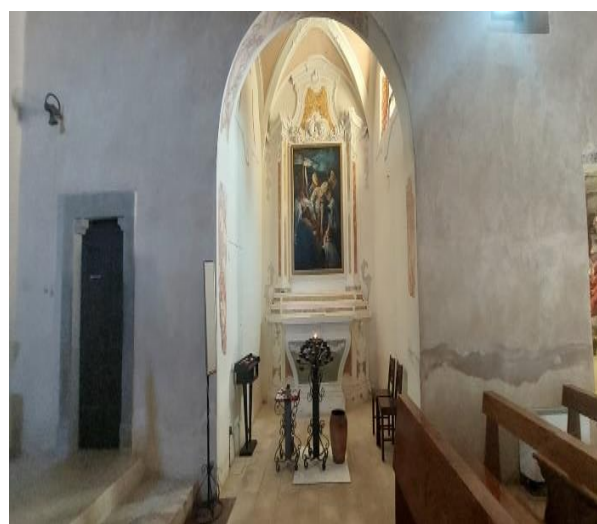
20 entrance step



21 Altar



22 church interior



23 chapel with translation of the body of St. Cerbone

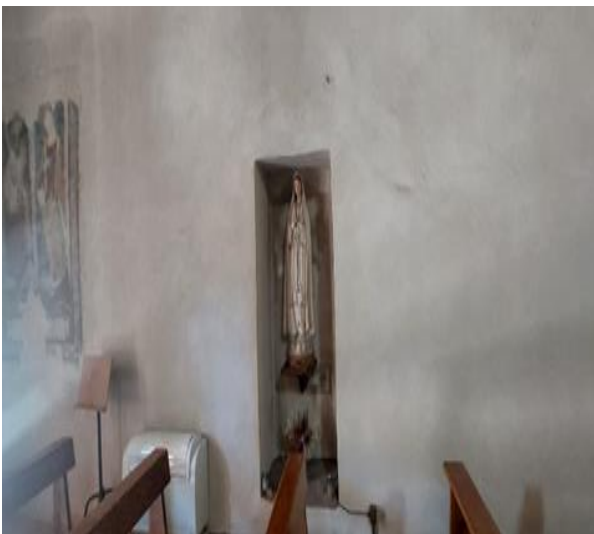




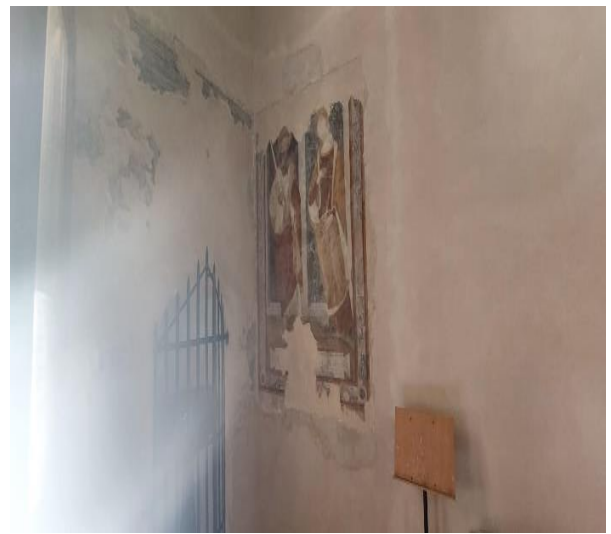
24 inside the church



25 Chapel on the left with the Virgin and Child



26 statue of the Madonna



27 wall frescoes





28 ticket kiosk of the Rocca



28 Exterior of the fortification



29 Rocca entrance with steps



30 tower



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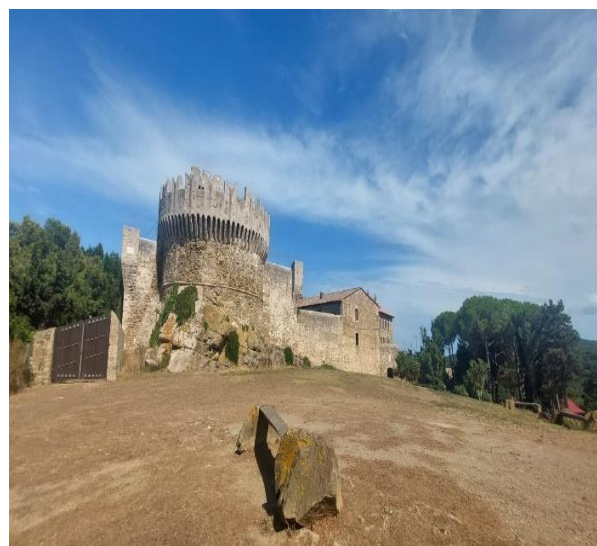
31 tower



32 Top view



33 semi torre



34 Exterior of the semi-circular tower

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After visiting the square, return to the main street and continue for about 30 meters, until you find a side street on the right with an asphalt ramp and a beaten gravel path.

Continue ahead until you find the entrance to the **Etruscan Museum of Populonia - Gasparri Collection** on the right side. The Museum of Populonia is the oldest museum institution in the Val di Cornia. Inaugurated in 1943 at the behest of Giulia and Tommaso Gasparri, it collects archaeological finds from the private collection of the family, owner of the land of Baratti and Populonia. The entrance to the Museum is irregular and bumpy with external and internal steps.

In the surrounding area, in the first half of the twentieth century, the Etruscan necropolis was brought to light. The Museum therefore presents a first nucleus of the collection, formed precisely by the finds found that were assigned by the Superintendence of Antiquities of Etruria to the Gasparri family, as a discovery prize (equal to a quarter of the value of the finds) for the archaeological discoveries that took place in the land they owned.

The collection was then expanded in the 50s and 70s with finds from government excavations of the necropolis and objects found outside their original context in the fields and sea of Baratti. In 1985, on the occasion of the celebrations for the year of the Etruscans, the museum was renovated and in 1988 transferred to the spaces of the former oil mill of the Castle of Populonia, where it is still located. The Museum, flat and free of obstacles, houses funerary objects from the surrounding necropolis, finds from the Villini locality, finds returned from the sea and finally memorial stones, sarcophagi arranged in chronological order.

Leaving the Museum, continue to the left on beaten gravel pavement, after about 25 meters turn right, skirting the Osteria la Torre di Populonia, and the Taverna di Populonia, both in Via San Giovanni, until you find yourself in front of the main entrance door to the village.





Photo finds from the Museum: <https://www.pastexperience.it/lesale/>

Accessibility

The ramp that connects the main street of the village to Via del Museo is made of asphalt with a length of about 160 cm, a width of over 100 cm and a slope of 12%. From the ramp the route continues flat on beaten gravel.

The entrance to the Museum is irregular and uneven with an external step varying from 3 to 1 cm, while the inside is about 7 cm. The double-leaf entrance door with internal opening has a net opening of more than 120 cm. There are no accessible toilets inside the museum.



35 main street



36 detour to the right with ramp

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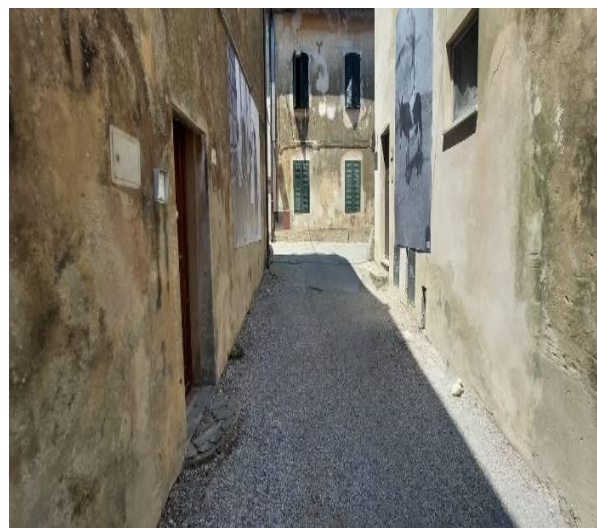
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37 Circular route



38 asphalt ramp and continued in beaten gravel



39 via del Museo



40 disconnected Museum entrance

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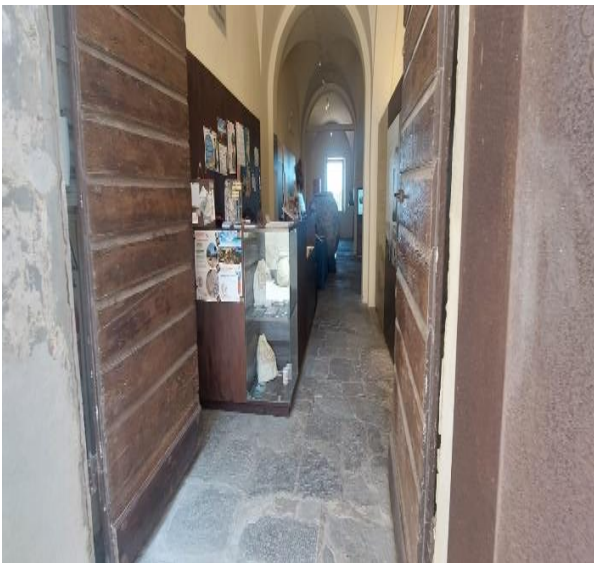
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41 external step



42 double-leaf door



43 INTERNAL ROOM VIEW



44 interior finds

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45 interior exhibits



46 interior finds



47 interior finds



48 interior finds

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49 interior exhibits



50 continuation of the itinerary on beaten gravel pavement



51 outdoor spaces restaurants near the gateway to the village

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Events

The main events in Populonia and the surrounding area are summer events and include evening guided tours, special openings and activities for families. The main details are managed through the institutional website of the Val di Cornia Parks.

AGOSTO ESTATE nei Parchi. Musei

info prezzi e dettagli

Parco archeologico di Baratti e Populonia

- ◆ Ogni martedì, ore 18:00 - ACROPOLI **PASSIONI, AMORI E RAPIMENTI** visita tematica
- ◆ Ogni mercoledì, ore 18:00 - ACROPOLI **LA GIORNATA DI UN ROMANO A POPULONIA** visita tematica
- ◆ Ogni sabato - NECROPOLI DI SAN CERBONE
- Apertura serale con:
 - 5 e 19 agosto, ore 21:30 **NOTTE ETRUSCA** Visita teatralizzata
 - 12 agosto, ore 21:00 e ore 22:00 **SUGGERIMENTI NOTTURNE** Visite guidate
 - ◆ Sabato 26 e domenica 27 agosto **PESTA ETRUSCA**

Museo archeologico di Piombino

- ◆ Ogni venerdì ore 16:30 - 17:30 - 18:30 - 21:30 e 22:30
- Museo archeologico del Territorio di Populonia
- SERATE AL MUSEO** Apertura serale con visite tematiche
 - o Venerdì 25 agosto, ore 18:30 - Storia da Museo, letture con Nati per Leggere Piombino e Biblioteca Civica Falesiana. Negli altri orari visita tematica.

Parco archeominerario di San Silvestro

- ◆ Giovedì 3 agosto, dalle ore 19:00 - **VILLA LANZI - MINERS**
Incontro con i ricercatori del progetto Miners che racconteranno i risultati delle scoperte degli antropologi e archeologi che indagano sulla vita dei minatori di Rocca San Silvestro. A seguire, alle ore 21:00 e ore 22:00:
LA ROCCA SI ILLUMINA - apertura serale del Parco con visita alla Rocca in notturna.
- ◆ Giovedì 10 agosto (ore 18:30 da Campiglia, ore 19:30 da Valle Lanza) **TREKKING DI SAN LORENZO**
Percorso trekking alla Rocca con osservazione delle stelle e letture
Evento realizzato in collaborazione con G2 La Bifora
- ◆ Giovedì 17, 24 e 31 agosto, ore 19:30 - 21:00 - 22:00 **IL TRENO SOTTO LE STELLE**
Visita in notturna alla Galleria Lanzi Temperino, percorribile a bordo del treno minerario, con vista sulla Rocca illuminata

Laboratori

- ◆ Ogni venerdì e domenica dalle 15:00 alle 19:00
- Parco archeologico di Baratti e Populonia
- L'ARCHEOLOGIA NELLE TUE MANI**
- Laboratori di Archeologia sperimentale
- ◆ Lunedì 7 agosto, dalle ore 15:00 alle ore 17:00
- Parco costiero della Sterpaia, presso Stabilimento Balneare La Capannina
- PACCIAMO CAPANNA INSIEME 2023** - Laboratorio per conoscere le piante
- ◆ Mercoledì 23 agosto, ore 16:30
- Ziva Beach Bar, Loc. Il Pino, Parco costiero della Sterpaia
- GIOCARE CON LE FOGLIE**
- Laboratorio per imparare a riconoscere le piante diffuse nel parco

info - tel. 0565 226445 - prenotazioni@parchivaldicornia.it - www.parchivaldicornia.it

52 Event poster





Accessible public places

In the village of Populonia there are several restaurants with table service and equipped with outdoor tables, which allow people with reduced mobility to stop.

The equipped toilets are located about 150/200 meters from public places and are located outside the Acropolis visitor center. At Via San Giovanni 5, there are common toilets that are not equipped for people with reduced mobility due to the presence of external and internal steps, which do not allow access.

TOILETS	
Type of external door	Single-leaf, lever handle, external opening, net opening 88 cm
Type of interior door	Single-leaf, lever handle, external opening, net opening 90 cm
Toilet height	52 cm.
Free space on the sides	on the left 40 cm on the right 25 cm Front Above 90 cm
Presence of grab bar	YES on the left
Flexible hand shower	YES
Washbasin height	67 cm
Type of mirror	Not present
Baby changing table	YES

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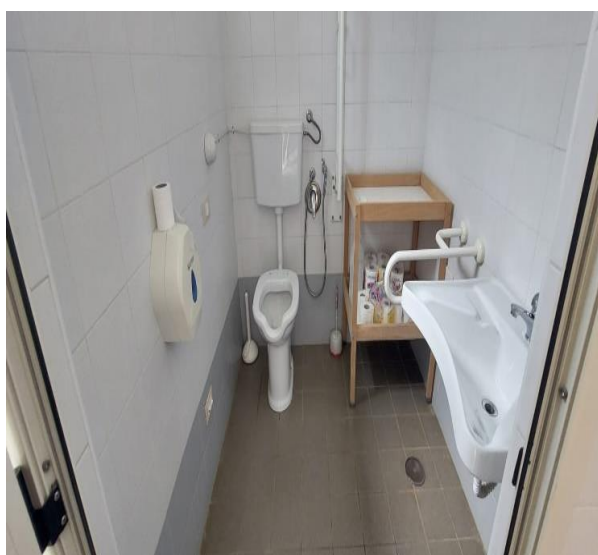




53 toilet door at the Acropolis



54 Internal door Sanitation service



55 toilets with grab bar and changing table

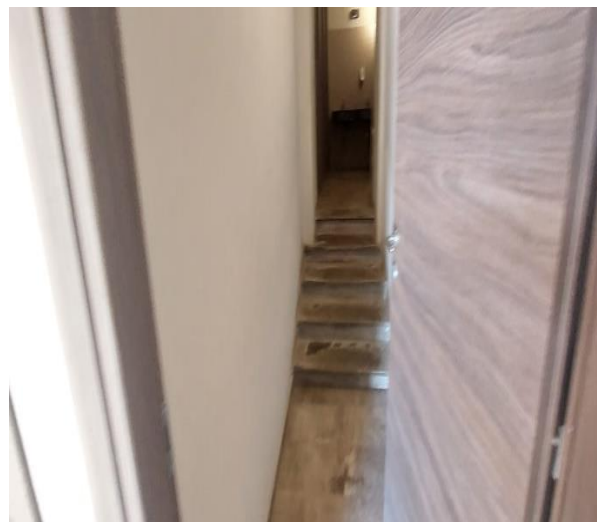


56 Washbasin and grab bar

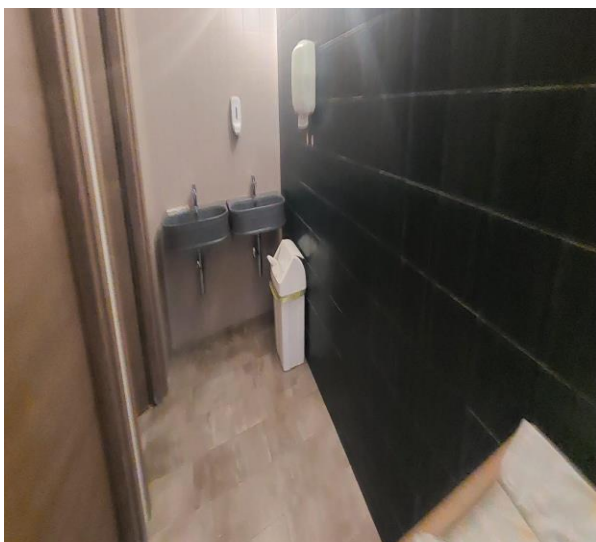




57 Toilets not accessible



58 Scale Internal



59 common washbasins



60 toilets without handle





Medical practices/healthcare facilities

Hospitals near the property	Villamarina Hospital, Via Forlanini 24, Piombino (LI) Phone +39 0565 67111 Asl Piombino Via V. Veneto 43, Piombino (LI) Phone +39 0565 67610
Other healthcare facilities	Dialysis Center Villamarina Hospital Piombino (LI) Phone +39 0565 67283 nefrologia.piombino@uslnordovest.toscana.it

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