

### Short itinerary (approx. 3 hrs)

Carrara/Colonnata/Fantiscritti/Carrara - Total mileage 12 km

#### Carrara-Colonnata

Drive along **viale xx settembre** towards Carrara old town then proceed along **via Roma and Via Don Minzoni** until you take **via Codena** that leads to the Colonnata valley.

After about 2,5 km you enter in Codena, once you exit from the village there is a gorgeous view over the **Fantiscritti** valley.

Proceeding to Colonnata, pass through Bedizzano and after 1km stop at a **panoramic place called "La Piana"**, besides the view you also find some marble souvenir stores, bathrooms, an interesting pictures and scale model of a working marble quarry.

Keep going along the same route for 1,5 km and find a big marble block that shows the direction to an archaeological site with remains of a Roman quarry belonging to the 1° cent. B.C.

Going back to the main road find other souvenir shops then, follow road sign to Colonnata that is 10 min. drive far.

**Colonnata** is probably the oldest settlement of the area belonging to the Roman age.

The village is entirely surrounded by majestic marble mountains that are fully visible by standing on the **tiny square of the church** dedicated to St. Bartholomew.

In the same square there is an interesting high relief in marble telling the story of 2000 years of excavation and transportation of marble.

Colonnata is also renown for its **lardo. It's pig back-fat** cured and seasoned only there according to 1500 years old tradition. Don't miss to taste it together with other specialties.

#### Colonnata-Fantiscritti (Miseglia village valley)

From Colonnata descend along the same route as far as the first road crossing, there turn right towards the place called **Tarnone** from where take the tunnels (once used for the marble railroad) , on the way admire the view over the villages of Bedizzano and Codena. After about 1km arrive at the **Vara Bridges** where enjoy the view over the marble mountains and find souver shops.

From the **Vara Bridges** turn right and drive uphill as far as **Fantiscritti** where find a big parking lot , public bathrooms, bar/restaurant, open air exhibition of tool and machines that tells more about 2000 years of excavation and transportation of marble.

#### Fantiscritti-Carrara

Descend again along the road as far as Vara Bridges the turn right and drive through another tunnel, on the way enjoy the **view of Carrara** from the mountains all the way to the sea. After another tunnel follow the signs to Carrara and driver for other 2km until

you reach Carrara historic center. The marble civilization begins in the marble mountains but accomplishes itself in Carrara the marble built town.

**Don't miss to visit the highlights:** Malaspina castle (Academy of Fine arts), Via St. Maria, the Duomo, Alberica square.

But makes **Carrara really unique** are all the marble furniture of the city: windows, terraces, portals, stairs, walls, fountains and much more.

#### **Activities and pay visits:**

[www.cavedimarmocarrara.com/it/](http://www.cavedimarmocarrara.com/it/) - +39 348 7737 715 – Private tours and guided visits

[www.marmotour.com](http://www.marmotour.com) - +39 339 7657 470 – Guided visit in of the underground quarry (Fantiscritti)

[www.carramarbletour.it](http://www.carramarbletour.it) - +39 333 602 4026 – 4x4 excursion (Fantiscritti)

[www.cava177.com](http://www.cava177.com) - +39 338 5783 629 – Guided visit of an open air quarry (Tarnone)

Official marble Museum - <http://giove.isti.cnr.it/museo2/home.php>

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