



## Turin & Genoa

*Turin is an elegant city of baroque palaces, galleries and fabulous dining. Just a couple of hours south is Italy's Riviera and the port city of Genoa. Here dramatic coastal topography, beautifully preserved architecture and one of Italy's most memorable cuisines make for an impossibly romantic destination.*

### TURIN

POP 911,800 / ELEV 240M

There's a whiff of Paris in Turin's elegant tree-lined boulevards and echoes of Vienna in its stately art nouveau cafes, but make no mistake – this elegant, Alp-fringed city is utterly self-possessed. The innovative Torinese gave the world its first saleable hard chocolate, perpetuated one of its greatest mysteries (the Holy Shroud), popularised a best-selling car (the Fiat) and inspired the black-and-white stripes of one of the planet's most iconic football teams (Juventus).

Turin also gave the world Italy as we know it: Piedmont, with its wily Torinese president, the Count of Cavour, was the engine room of the Risorgimento (literally 'the Resurgence', referring to Italian unification). Turin also briefly served as Italy's first capital and donated its monarchy – the House of Savoy – to the newly unified Italian nation in 1861.

The 2006 Winter Olympics shook the city from a deep postindustrial malaise and sparked an urban revival, with a cultural knock-on effect that has seen an art, architecture and design scene blossom in the city.

### Sights

#### Museo Egizio

MUSEUM

(Egyptian Museum;; [www.museoegizio.it](http://www.museoegizio.it); Via Accademia delle Scienze 6; adult/reduced €13/9; ☉ 8.30am-7.30pm Tue-Sun, 9am-2pm Mon) Opened in 1824 and housed in the austere Palazzo

dell'Accademia delle Scienze, this Turin institution houses the most important collection of Egyptian treasure outside Cairo. Among its many highlights are a statue of Ramses II (one of the world's most important pieces of Egyptian art), the world's largest papyrus collection and over 500 funerary and domestic items from 1400 BC found in 1906 in the tomb of royal architect Kha and his wife Merit.

#### Mole Antonelliana

LANDMARK

(Via Montebello 20; panoramic lift adult/reduced €7/5, incl Museo €14/11; ☉ lift 10am-8pm Tue-Fri & Sun, to 11pm Sat) The symbol of Turin, this 167m tower with its distinctive aluminium spire appears on the Italian two-cent coin. It was originally intended as a synagogue when construction began in 1862, but was never used as a place of worship, and nowadays houses the **Museo Nazionale del Cinema** ([www.museocinema.it](http://www.museocinema.it); ☉ 9am-8pm Tue-Fri & Sun, to 11pm Sat). For dazzling 360-degree views, take the **Panoramic Lift** up to the 85m-high outdoor viewing deck.

#### Museo Nazionale del Risorgimento Italiano

MUSEUM

([www.museorisorgimentotorino.it](http://www.museorisorgimentotorino.it); Via Accademia delle Scienze 5; adult/reduced €10/8; ☉ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun) After extensive renovations, this significant museum reopened in 2011 to coincide with the centenary of the Risorgimento

(reunification). An astounding 30-room trajectory illustrates the creation of the modern Italian state in the very building – the baroque **Palazzo Carignano** – where many of the key events happened. Not only was this the birthplace of Carlo Alberto and Vittorio Emanuele II, but it was also the seat of united Italy's first parliament from 1861 to 1864.

### Duomo di San Giovanni

CATHEDRAL

(Piazza San Giovanni; ☎8am-7pm Mon-Sat) Turin's cathedral was built between 1491 and 1498 on the site of three 14th-century basilicas and, before that, a Roman theatre. Plain interior aside, as home to the Shroud of Turin (alleged to be the burial cloth in which Jesus' body was wrapped) this is a highly trafficked church. A copy of the cloth is on permanent display to the left of the cathedral altar.

### Museo della Sindone

MUSEUM

(www.sindone.org; Via San Domenico 28; adult/reduced €6/5; ☎9am-noon & 3-7pm) Encased in the crypt of Santo Sudario church, this fascinating museum documents one of the most studied objects in human history: the **Shroud of Turin**. Despite the shroud's dubious authenticity, its story unfolds like a gripping suspense mystery, with countless plots, subplots and revelations.

### Palazzo Reale

MUSEUM

See p21

### Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea

ART GALLERY

(GAM; www.gamtorino.it; Via Magenta 31; adult/reduced €10/8; ☎10am-6pm Tue-Sun) GAM was one of Italy's first modern art museums and has an astounding 45,000 works in its vaults dedicated to 19th- and 20th-century artists, including De Chirico, Otto Dix and Klee. It's a great place to expand your knowledge of Italy's postwar period: Paolini, Boetti, Anselmo, Penone and Pistoletto are all represented.

### Parco Valentino

PARK

Opened in 1856 this 550,000-sq-m French-style park kisses the banks of the Po and is filled with joggers, promenaders and lovers night and day. Walking southwest along the river brings you to **Castello del Valentino** (open for events only), a gorgeous mock chateau built in the 17th century.

### Museo Nazionale dell'Automobile

MUSEUM

(☎011 67 76 66; www.museoauto.it; Corso Unità d'Italia 40; adult/reduced €8/6; ☎10am-7pm Wed,



Mole Antonelliana  
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Thu & Sun, to 9pm Fri & Sat, to 2pm Mon, 2-7pm Tue; ☎Lingotto) As the historic birthplace of one of the world's leading car manufacturers – the “T” in Fiat stands for Torino – Turin is the obvious place for a car museum. And this dashing modern museum, located roughly 5km south of the city centre, doesn't disappoint with its precious collection of over 200 automobiles – everything from an 1892 Peugeot to a 1980 Ferrari 308 (red, of course).

### Basilica di Superga

BASILICA

(www.basilicadisuperga.com; Strada della Basilica di Superga 73) **FREE** Vittorio Amedeo II's 1706 promise, to build a basilica to honour the Virgin Mary if Turin was saved from besieging French and Spanish armies, resulted in this wedding cake edifice.

Architect Filippo Juvarra's Basilica di Superga became the final resting place of the Savoy family, whose lavish tombs make for interesting viewing, as does the dome. In 1949 the basilica gained less welcome renown when a plane carrying the entire Turin football team crashed into the church in thick fog, killing all on board. Their tomb rests at the rear of the church.

To get here take tram 15 from Piazza Vittorio Veneto to the Sassi-Superga stop on Corso Casale, then walk 20m to **Stazione Sassi** (Strada Comunale di Superga 4), from where an original 1934 **tram** (one way €4-6, return €6-9; ☎hr vary) rattles the 3.1km up the hillside in 18 minutes, every day except Tuesday.