

# LUCCA

Lucca, also known as the city of the walls, is one of the most beautiful cities in Italy and is characterized by the massive walls surrounding the scenter. This city is full of history from the romans to the Renaissance.

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### LIQ who are we?

LIQ, acronym of liceo internazionale quadriennale, is an Italian high school in Lucca, that during its four years course of studies, it proposes a special week called Liq week where the students are divided in groups that have interdisciplinary study opportunities in different languages. Indeed this project was made on this occasion by the students of first second and third years.

# Towers of Lucca

#### **Clock Tower**

The Clock Tower, also known as Torre delle Ore, is the city's tallest tower.

Torre delle Ore is tucked away in a corner of Via Fillungo, amid other tall medieval buildings.

In the 13th century, the tower belonged to the Diversi family, with time it was passed on to other important families of Lucca.

In 1490, the General Council of Lucca purchased the tower and commissioned the most prestigious jeweler and goldsmith, Labruccio Cerlotti of Lucca, to make a new clock.

With time the clock needed continuous adjustments. At first it was used to calculate Roman time but later on, under Napoleon's reign the French method of telling time became permanent, therefore the Roman time was substituted by French time.



# Towers of Lucca

#### **Guinigi Tower**

The Guinigi Tower was built in the second half of the fourteenth century by the Guinigis, a rich merchant family.

A tower's height rejected the prestige and importance of the family that it belonged to and in fact, families competed to have the tallest tower.

What makes this tower unique is the small garden at its summit. The Guinigi family planned this garden to represent rebirth and renewal.

The Tower was built in brick; its imposing bulk was lightened by mullioned three-light and four-light windows and decorated by coats of arms, cornices and plaques. Since then it has been one of the symbols of the town.

Today the Tower is owned by the Lucca town council.



## Churches of Lucca

#### **Church of San Michele**

San Michele in Foro is a Roman Catholic basilica church in Lucca, built over the ancient Roman forum. Until 1370 it was the seat of the Consiglio Maggiore (Major Council), the commune's most important assembly. It is dedicated to Archangel Michael.

On the summit, flanked by two other angels, is the 4 m-tall statue of St. Michael the Archangel. According to a legend, an angel's finger would have a huge diamond.



### Churches of Lucca

#### **Cathedral of San Martino**

Lucca Cathedral (Italian: Duomo di Lucca, Cattedrale di San Martino) is a Roman Catholic cathedral dedicated to Saint Martin of Tours in Lucca, Italy. It is the seat of the Archbishop of Lucca. Construction was begun in 1063 by Bishop Anselm (later Pope Alexander II).

# Churches of Lucca

### SAN FREDIANO

Fridianus (Frediano) was an Irish bishop of Lucca in the first half of the 6th century. He had a church built on this spot, dedicated to St. Vincent, a martyr from Zaragoza, Spain.

When Fridianus was buried in this church, the church was renamed Ss. Frediano and Vincenzo.



## Amphitheater of Lucca

Piazza dell'Anfiteatro in Lucca is one of the most simbolic in Tuscany, with its circular shape and colorful buildings that overlook it and it is as well an inevitabile destination for those visiting the city of the walls.

he building, which fell into disrepair during the barbarian invasions, became for centuries a kind of quarry for building materials: not surprisingly, during the Middle Ages it was called "cave". In particular, it was stripped of the entire covering and of all the columns. Later on the remaining ruins were built houses and buildings which, using the residual structures of the Amphitheater, perfectly preserved its shape.

At the time this building consisted of two superimposed orders of 55 arches and could hold up to ten thousand people. Today the current splendid square was built by the architect Nottolini (from 1830) who had some buildings built in the center demolished and created around them the street called the Amphitheater. In fact now ,the square, that in the past was used to watch the Roman battles ,is now a fantastic tourist place full of typical Tuscan restaurants and apartments to rent.





### Walls of Lucca

Lucca's historic walls were built between the mid-1600s and early 1800s and are still intact today. They represent a cultural resource for the whole territory. The walls today are actually the fourth version because the first have been built by the romans in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Lucca's city walls form a perfect ring around the city, Never used for defensive purposes.

From the San Colombano bulwark you can see the bell tower and the Cathedral of San Martino and a little further on you can see the remains of the Roman walls near the church of the Rose.

The current walls of Lucca are exactly 4 kilometers and 223 meters long, about 12 meters high and 30 meters wide at the base.

### What does it mean for us to live in Lucca?



From the point of view of us teenagers, Lucca is a certain meeting point, in fact every evening, both in winter and in summer, everyone meets in two very specific places : piazza San Michele and porta San Pietro. Porta San Pietro is where the main entrance to enter the walled city is located and it is also the closest to the station and where there are parking lots for motorcycles. Young people gather there to be together and sit on the numerous benches that are on the climb to go to the walls. On the other hand ,Piazza San Michele is where all the bars and ice cream parlors are located, in fact it is the place where older people meet to have an aperitif or to have a drink in the evening and it is always full of people. The center of lucca is the place where you go if you want to meet someone, in fact everyone knows each other and it is a routine to meet there in the evening without even organizing it every time. In fact ,also people from the surrounding towns meet in the city center and the fact that the train and bus station is very close is certainly an advantage for them. Instead people who live near the city love to reach the center by bike and also take long walks on the walls.

# Our opinion about LIQ

This school made me feel important emotions, making me a more mature and responsible person. Before coming to this school I was not aware of the beauty of Lucca and the complexity of the history of this city. Thanks to this school I met wonderful people and teachers who are always available and nice.

Obviously, like all schools, to achieve good results you need commitment and perseverance, but this school does many interdisciplinary jobs that make the school year more interesting.

