



www.comune.vicchio.fi.it

WHY VISIT VICCHIO?

Immersed in the picturesque Tuscan countryside a few kilometres from Florence, the town of Vicchio is rich in history and culture and can be visited at any time of the year. Its name is linked to renowned personalities, famous painters, prominent sculptors and master pioneers. However, Vicchio also boasts rich nature with trekking paths. In its historical centre lies the Montelleri lake, where you can go fishing, take a picnic and relax.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of Vicchio is dotted with prominent names, just think that it was the birthplace of Giotto and Beato Angelico. The significance of its past is proven by the remains of the Etruscan settlement Poggio Colla (seventh- and sixth- century BC). The town centre is formed by the castle (surrounded by walls in 1324), founded by the Florentine Republic to oppose the dominion of the area's feudal families. Vicchio always remained faithful to Florence, fighting bitterly against the imperial and papal troops during the city's siege (1529-1530). The Vicchiese population also manifested this combative spirit during the Resistance, acting as one of the main strongholds in the partisan struggle.

USEFUL INFORMATION

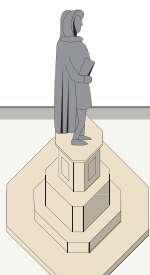
Medical services: 0573 454545
State Police (Carabinieri): 055 844005
Local police (Polizia Municipale): 055 8439226
Road accidents: 055 84966966
Tourist Office: 055 84527185/6
Pro-site (proloco): 324 9070857

Medical emergency
118
Police emergency
112



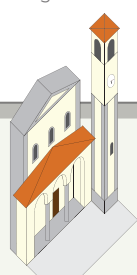
STATUE OF GIOTTO

In 1891, Giosuè Carducci launched the idea of erecting a monument in Vicchio's main square to honour Giotto, the artist who made this area famous worldwide. The task was entrusted to Italo Vagnetti, who reproduced the great master in the 3.2 metre bronze statue that stands today in the square bearing the same name.



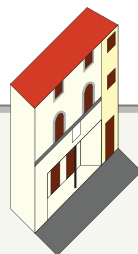
THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

The church dates back to 1447, but over time it has undergone several reconstructions after being damaged by the violent earthquakes hitting the area. Its façade is in the Tuscan style and is embellished with a Renaissance portico. Galileo Chini decorated the interior, which can still be seen in some remains found on the right wall.



THE HOUSE OF BENVENUTO CELLINI

The adventurous and intense life of Benvenuto Cellini, in his years of full artistic maturity, is intertwined with Vicchio's history, where the Florentine artist occasionally stayed between 1559 and 1571. The house is located in Corso del Popolo and today constitutes a prestigious space for meetings, courses and temporary exhibitions.



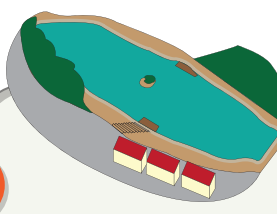
THE "LIFE AND DEATH" STATUE

In 2010, the Irish sculptor Paddy Campbell, inspired by stories of the tragic massacre (13-14 July 1944) of 15 civilians perpetrated by the Nazis in the hamlet of Padulivo, donated the monumental work 'Life and Death' to the municipality, showing the artist's connection with this country and its history. The sculpture's composition is in fact a poetic hymn to life, while at the same time, a warning that evil must never prevail again.



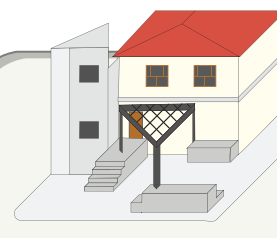
MONTELLERI LAKE

Not only a lake, but also a beautiful park, the area lends itself to walking, jogging, trekking, mountain biking and much more. It is a meeting place for adults and children at any time of the year, and often in the winter, the lake freezes over, magically adding to its original splendour!



THE BEATO ANGELICO MUSEUM OF SACRED ART AND THE PEOPLE'S PIETY

The museum was born from a need to protect and valorise the art works that are scattered in various places of worship across the Mugello and are at risk of theft or deterioration after countryside parishes are abandoned. The museum has become the guardian of this precious artistic heritage by hosting numerous paintings of great value, as well as liturgical furnishings, crucifixes, devotional objects and even the reconstruction of original tabernacles.



GIOTTO'S HOUSE

Giotto of Bondone was born here on the Vespignano hill in 1267 to a peasant family. Here, he took his first steps and lived until he was aged ten, when historical texts suggest he then moved to Florence. Today, his birthplace is revived thanks to numerous renovations that have transformed it from an appendage of a larger, now destroyed stately home, to an oasis of peace and tranquillity surrounded by nature.



SCHOOL OF DON MILANI IN BARBIANA

Just over four kilometres from Vicchio on the slopes of Monte Giovi, is the church of Barbiana and the rectory where for thirteen years Don Lorenzo Milani (1923-1967) lived his experience as a man, a priest and as a teacher. His school became a source of inspiration that is still alive today in the religious, educational and social spheres.

