

NATURE AND ANIMALS IN PISTOIA AND ON THE PLAIN

Destination: Pistoia - The Puccini Park, the Zoological Gardens. *We also advise visits to: Pistoia* - Nursery gardens. **Quarrata** - The Park of Villa La Mègia.

The Puccini Park



Niccolò Puccini renovated the gardens surrounding elegant Villa Puccini in “English style” according to the current trends in gardens and also enriched it with decorative sculpture between 1825 and 1845.

The idea of this nobleman from Pistoia was to stimulate aesthetic and ethic pleasure in the spectator by celebrating the cultural and scientific progress in Italy by including buildings and statues representing outstanding personalities from the intellectual world. Some examples of Gothic revival, typical of the Romantic taste of the 19th century, were also inserted in the park: a church and a small mediaeval castle.

The property was divided up on Niccolò Puccini’s death in

1852 and some buildings, like the mediaeval castle and the little church, are now private property.

Today the park is composed of many plants, the majority of which are plantains, oaks, American silver cypresses, Cedars of Lebanon, pines, lime trees, box hedges and bay. The many camellia plants and the lake are among the particularly important elements that complete the Romantic taste and the fashion that was so typical of the time.

Now that it is open to the public, the Puccini Park has been completed with a well-equipped fitness and sports route and a children’s playground.

How to get there:

by car, from the Pistoia motorway exit: keep to the left and take the Tangenziale (bypass). Leave it at the Viale Europa exit and keep to the left at the junction to take this road. Turn left at the traffic lights into Via Dalmazia and carry straight on for about 500 m. The entrance drive to the park is on the right.

Info and reception: Puccini Park

Via Dalmazia, 356 - Pistoia

Pistoiainforma - Town Council of Pistoia - Piazza del Duomo, 13 - Pistoia - tel. free call number 800 012146

Opening hours and prices: always open - as this is an open-air route it is advisable to visit these sites in fine weather and by day - entrance free

Zoological Gardens



Founded in 1970, they cover an area of 7 hectares in the outskirts of the city and host over 400 animals, from mammals, birds and reptiles to amphibians.

The park stands out for the many educational activities available there; the Laboratory of Biodiversity, an area dedicated to didactics for all ages, acts as a reference point for all these initiatives.

Large picnic areas and an excellent Restaurant-Bar are also available, while a com-

pletely renovated and equipped playground has been set up for children (private structure).

How to get there:

by car from the Puccini Park: go back the way you came to take the Tangenziale (bypass) in the direction of the motorways. Leave at the exit for Pistoia Ovest (Pistoia West). Turn left at the stop sign to enter Via Pieve a Celle, in the direction of Montagnana. The Zoological Gardens are situated on the right hand side of the road.

Info and reception: Zoological Gardens of Pistoia

Via Pieve a Celle 160/a - Pistoia - tel. 0573 911219
info@zoodipistoia.it

Opening hours and prices: Winter: daily 9am-5pm - Summer: Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri 9am-6pm; Sun and holidays 9am-7pm - the entrance closes one hour beforehand - for further info on prices contact the structure at the phone number provided

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We also advise visits to:

Floriculture, nursery gardening and art of topiary have allowed Pistoia to play an extremely important part in the economic panorama of the region. Guided visits to the gardens and as well as the possibility of carrying out educational activities on nursery garden techniques are organised on prior reservation at those nursery gardens:

Giorgio Tesi Vivai (private structure, guided visits in the months of Jun Jul Sep and Dec, tel. 0573 530051)

Baldi Franco Nursery and Plant Gardens (private structure, prices and reservations: tel 336 379457 and 0573 528355)

Vivai Piante Signori Renzo (private structure, giuded visits in the months of Jun Jul and Sep, tel. 0573 964550)

Vannucci Piante (private structure, giuded visits in the months of Jul Aug and Sep, tel. 0573 79701).

The large grounds surrounding **Villa la Màgia** at **Quarrata** (Town Council of Quarrata, Public Library, tel. 0573 774500) were at one time used for hunting and in 1536 were also the

theatre of a shooting party, which included emperor **Charles V**, then a guest with his court at the villa. The wide drive that runs through

it also leads to the wooded estate belonging to the villa. The house moreover boasts an early 18th century parterre garden and a Romantic garden, with shady narrow paths lined with holm oaks, bay and cypress trees that lead down to an artificial lake.

The grounds surrounding Villa la Màgia also host a prestigious environmental art collection with work by numerous contemporary artists.

The entire complex is today the property of the Town Council of Quarrata.


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