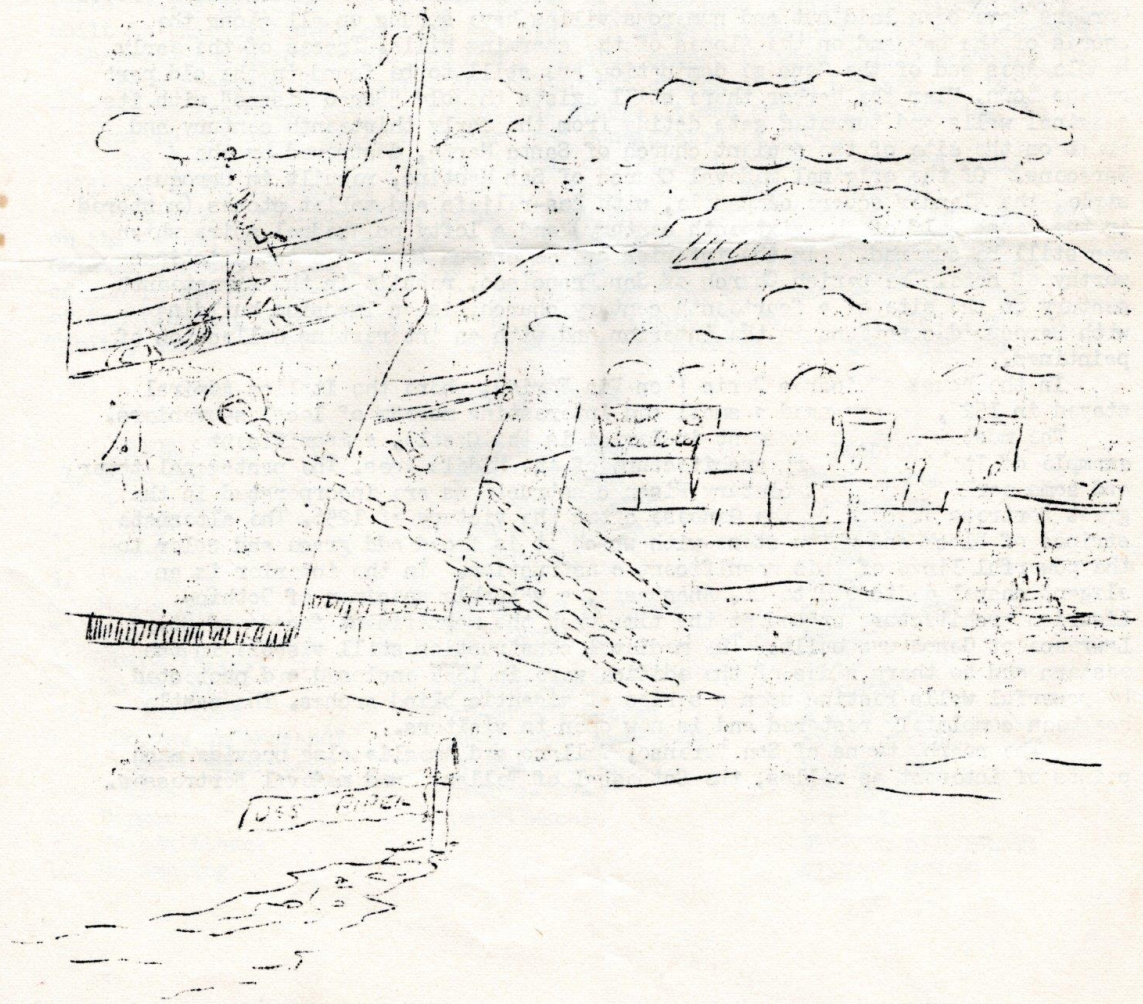


La SPERZIA



LA SPEZIA - HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

The name La Spezia has no dictionary meaning in Italian and the town has no "ancient" history. Before the war of 1940, (WW II), La Spezia was the largest Italian naval operating base. Thus the military harbor greatly surpasses in size the mercantile port. The nearby town of Lerici is interesting as a place frequented by the English poet Shelley; several tablets in the town record events concerning Shelly including that of his death by drowning while enroute from Viareggio to Lerici in a small boat. La Spezia is built up through two valleys and is split in the center by a ridge reaching almost to the waterfront in a north-south direction. To the east of this ridge are the freight yards, small factories, and workers homes; to the west is the business section and the dock yards. Population is about 123,000, but resident population is 117,759.

NEARBY POINTS OF INTEREST

LERICI: The Bay of Lerici opens in an ample curve on the eastern side of the Gulf of La Spezia. At its southeast extremity lies Lerici, an ancient village founded by the Pisans which attained considerable prosperity under the Genoese.

The Bay is bounded on the north and east by hills covered with olive groves. Gardens have been laid out and numerous villas have sprung up all along the shores of the bay and on the slopes of the charming hills. Traces of the early Middle Ages and of the Genoese domination are still to be found in the old part of the town. Near the harbor there still exists the old "Rocca Pisano" with its original walls and turreted gate dating from the early thirteenth century and built on the site of the ancient church of Santa Marta, destroyed by the Saracens. Of the original medieval Church of San Martino, rebuilt in Baroque style, the slender square campanile, with bas-reliefs and tablet stones (restored in the first half of the sixteenth century) and a lofty polyhedral spire which can still be admired. In the interior of the church there are two paintings worthy of note. The parish Church of San Francisco, rebuilt in the seventeenth century on the site of a fourteenth century church, is an imposing building with Baroque decorations in the interior and with an interesting collection of paintings.

In the house of Andrea Doria (on Via Foria), where the Italian Admiral stayed in 1522, is arranged a small and interesting museum of local souvenirs.

The most important monument in Lerici is the Castle, a magnificent example of Italian military architecture of the Middle Ages. The pentagonal tower and some early thirteenth century Pisan constructions are incorporated in the great fortress erected by the Genoese after the victory of 1256. The alternate stripes of black and white stone with which it is faced add grace and color to the powerful lines of this magnificent construction. In the interior is an elegant chapel dedicated to St. Anastasia, a valuable specimen of Gothic-Ligurian architecture created at the time when the magnificent facade of St. Lawrence at Genoa was built. The medieval construction still visible in the eastern and southern sides of the edifice were in 1555 enclosed and protected by powerful walls resting upon a series of gigantic blind arches. The castle has been completely restored and is now open to visitors.

The nearby towns of San Terenzo, Tellaro and Ameglia also provide such points of interest as villas, the Cathedral of Tellaro and medieval fortresses.

PORTO VENERE: The name of Portus Veneris was given by the ancients to the whole expanse of what today is called the Gulf of La Spezia, and more particularly to that bay enclosed by the island of Palmaria and the extreme western point of the land. The same name has, since remote times, been given to the castle and the small village situated at the extremity of the harbor between it and the open sea. It was a convenient harbor for the Roman galleys, a Byzantine fortress, a refuge for navigators, and a bulwark of the Genoese Commune. With its powerful fortifications, its churches, its maze of tortuous streets and dignified buildings in a setting of natural beauty, it has always offered visitors a delightful picture.

The ancient part of the town, was constructed in the twelfth century by the Genoese on a regular plan. The city gate, which underwent numerous alterations is flanked by a powerful tower and preceded by two round bastions. Outside the walls on one side is a very ancient well, and in the bastion to the right is the main street of the old city showing many houses of original construction having small graceful arches adorned with slate-stone portals, bas-reliefs and terracottas. Piazzale San Pietro, encircled by an ancient wall, restored at various periods, leads irregularly toward the summit of the rock on which the Church of San Pietro stands. This church was built over the foundation of an ancient church which existed in the sixth century, forming part of the Abbey of Porto Venere mentioned in the letters of St. Gregorius Magnus. San Pietro was built in the thirteenth century and restored between 1924-1934. It is decorated with white and black marble and has a graceful campanile with double arches.

From Piazzale San Pietro, the collegiate church of San Lorenzo may be reached by ascending several slight steps. It was originally built by the Genoese in the early twelfth century and consecrated in 1130.

The Castle of Porto Venere, is one of the most imposing and admirable military works of Genoese architecture, built on the site of ancient Roman and Byzantine fortifications, traces of which have been discovered. Of interest on the island of Palmaria, across the bay from the city is the Grotta del Calambi (Grotto of Doves), which is thought to be one of the earliest abodes of man in the Mediterranean. On the Island of Tino the remains of the Abbey of San Venerio, which dates from the eleventh century, may be explored, and on Tineto, there are remains of a Palaeo-Christian hermitage of uncertain age.

ITALIAN LESSON

ENGLISH	PRONUNCIATION	ITALIAN
1. Good day	BWAHN JOHR-noh	Buon giorno
2. Good evening	BWAW-nah Say-rah	Buona sera
3. Please	ayr-fah-VCH-ray	per favore
4. Thanks	GRAH-tsay	grazie
5. Pardon me	SKOO-see	scusi
6. How much?	KWAHN-tch KAWS-tah	quanto costa
7. Too much	TRAWP-poh	troppo
8. Where is.....	DOH-vay	dov'è
9. To the right	ah-DEHS-trah	a destra
10. To the left	ah-see-NEHS-trah	a sinistra
11. Do you understand?	ah-VAY-ty ka*PPE-to	avete capito
12. I don't understand	NOHN-ka-PPE-sko	Non capisco
13. Toilet	ga-bee-NET-to	gabinetto
14. Danger	payRE-kc-lo	pericolo
15. No admittance		VIETATO L'INGRESSO
16. No smoking		VIETATO FUMARE

TOUR INFORMATION

Sight-seeing tours will be scheduled using sign-up lists outside the ship's office as a basis for planning. These lists will be used as a guide for the type of tours you want. All tour companies require a minimum number (usually about 15 or 20) of men to participate for a tour to be run. Scheduled tours must have this minimum number signed up for the tour or it must be cancelled.

The following is a list of tours that are available from La Spezia. The prices quoted will vary slightly with the company that runs the tour (the lowest price for a given tour determines who runs the tour) but are fairly representative of the cost of the tour. This price includes the cost of transportation, guides, admission fees, taxes, and meals and hotels in the case of full day or longer tours.

FULL DAY SHOPPING TOUR TO FLORENCE

\$4.00

This is a tour designed primarily to allow you to take advantage of the many fine things available on a shopping trip in Florence. The tour stops at Pisa on the way to Florence and gives you five full hours of free time in which to visit the many shops of Florence.

FULL DAY TOUR TO FLORENCE AND PISA

\$8.00

This tour is the sight-seeing version of the above tour and the guide explains and shows you many more places than you could find yourself. On this tour you will see: The Leaning Tower of Pisa and the Cathedral and Baptistery, Piazza Della Signoria; Loggia Dei Lanzi, Uffizi Gallery, Giotto's Campanile, the Antique walls of the city, the church of San Miniato, and many others.

TWO DAY TOUR TO PISA AND FLORENCE

\$18.00

Similar to above - but you see much more

Three Day tour to Sestriere (Ski-Tour)

\$32.00

This tour takes you to one of the finest winter resorts in Europe. Sports include ski-ing, ice-skating, tobogganing etc. All necessary equipment may be rented at Sestriere.

THREE DAY TOUR TO VENICE

\$36.00

This tour takes you to the famous city of Venice where you will see St. Marks Square, the Cathedral of Venice, the Doges Palace, Bridge of sighs and the Bungeons, Casampva's Monument, Palaces, Old Canals, a Glass factory, and a Lace factory. The first and third day are spent primarily in travel across the picturesque countryside of Northern Italy.

Three day tours to Rome will also be available depending on the number who want to go. (price \$37.00) It is also hoped that local tours to Lerici and Porto Venere will be available either as half day tours or full day tours.