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DISCOVER GROSSETO AND ITS CLOSER SURROUNDINGS BEFORE VENTURING INTO THE WILDEST MAREMMA

In case you are planning a vacation in Maremma, you should probably be informed that the best thing you can do is to book a vehicle, discover the attractions that Grosseto has to offer and venturing "outdoors" only later: from an urban point of view, the city is one of the few centers in Italy that is still entirely surrounded by its almost intact city walls and it's really worth visiting.

Grosseto's most famous landmark is probably its **Romanesque Cathedral**, begun a the end of the 13th century over the earlier Church of Santa Maria Assunta and completed in the 15th. If you are

interested in visiting churches, other significant examples are: the **Church of San Pietro** - the most ancient religious building in Grosseto - the **Church of San Francesco** - built in the Franciscan-Gothic style - and the **Convent of Clarisse**, annexed to the **Church of Bigi** and now deconsecrated. Visit the **Teatro degli Industri**, which is located along *Via Mazzini* (it is an old building rebuilt in the 19th century, one of the most important culture sites of the city and also known to have been used as cinema in the postwar period) then go ahead and look for the following must-see attractions: **Porta Vecchia** - one of the few remainings of the 14th century walls - the **Cassero Senese** - completed in 1345 - the **Cassero del Sale** - erected during the 14th century as the point of production, distribution and export of salt - the **Palazzo Aldobrandeschi**, **Piazza delle Catene**, **Corso Carducci**, the **Well of Spedale** and the **Roman Column** - right at the corner of the main facade and the right side of the Cathedral - which was brought to Piazza delle Catene in the Middle Ages from nearby *Rusellae*.

The Surroundings

Visit **Roselle** – about 8 km north east of the city – and the ruins of the **ancient Etruscan-Roman town** of *Rusellae*: on a hill with two summits lie the Roman amphitheatre and a tower of uncertain date;

the area is now under cultivation and the ruins themselves are not thickly overgrown, anyway the walls are really well preserved.

Don't miss **Alberese**, situated 20 km south-east of Grosseto, in the heart of the Maremma National Park; herds of **wild horses** and **Maremmana cows** still scamper among the wide fields, while **deers** and **wild boars** run undisturbed, within the beautiful forests of the **Uccelina Mountains**.

And finally the sea: the coast south of **Principina a Mare** is characterized by **wild beaches**, which penetrate into the marshy territories towards the **river Ombrone**; this area, is also known as **Palude della Trappola** and apart from being a very fascinating place, is also ideal for **birdwatching** due to the large number of birds living in this area.

From the end of the Fifties on – since they are so beautiful – the city and its surroundings have been used for various movies, including: **Barabbas**, 1961 (the crucifixion scene), **The Easy Life** (1962), **Nothing Left to Do But Cry**, 1984 (between Marina di Alberese and Cala di Forno), **The Talented Mr. Ripley**, 1999 and **Pinocchio** by *Roberto Benigni*, 2002 (between Marina di Alberese and the **Maremma National Park**)... In brief, whatever route you choose, we are sure you will enjoy this Tuscany tour!

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