

## DISTANCE

less than 1 km

## STARTING POINT

Piazza Castello

## TIME

allow about 2-3 hours for whole visit

## HOW TO GET THERE

### By car:

from Milan: take A7 towards Genova;

head towards A26 Genova Voltri-Gravellona Toce Savona Ventimiglia, then towards A26 A10 Genova Ventimiglia. Take the exit towards Ovada.

from Genoa: take SS1 Sopraelevata, turn right towards E25, go along E25 and continue along A7/E25. Turn right at A10/E25/E80 towards A26 Alessandria. Take the exit towards Ovada.

**By public transport:** Ovada Train station

<http://www.trenitalia.com/trenitalia21.html> (train)

<http://www.saamo.it/index.htm> (bus)

## PLACES TO EAT

There are many nice cafes and restaurants in the area.

[https://www.tripadvisor.it/Restaurants-g1186583-Ovada\\_Province\\_of\\_Alessandria\\_Piedmont.html](https://www.tripadvisor.it/Restaurants-g1186583-Ovada_Province_of_Alessandria_Piedmont.html)

## WALK SUMMARY

Reach Piazza Castello, climb the steps and go along via Roma; you're now in Piazza Mazzini, turn left into Via S. Sebastiano to reach Saint Sebastian Lodge and the Oratory of Saint John the Baptist.

Then go back to Piazza Mazzini and go straight on as far as Piazza Assunta; after visiting the Parish Church, turn left into Via S. Paolo where you will find first the Oratory of the Annunciation, then the birthplace of St. Paul of the Cross and across the square St. Dominic's Church.

*This walk has been developed by Class 4 A of Liceo Scientifico "B. Pascal"  
Istituto Superiore "C. Barletti", Ovada, Italy – School Year 2016-2017  
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PIAZZA CASTELLO-PIAZZA MAZZINI  
SAINT SEBASTIAN LODGE  
ORATORY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST  
PIAZZA ASSUNTA AND THE PARISH CHURCH  
THE ORATORY OF THE ANNUNCIATION  
BIRTHPLACE OF ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS  
ST. DOMINIC'S CHURCH



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### Piazza Castello-Piazza Mazzini

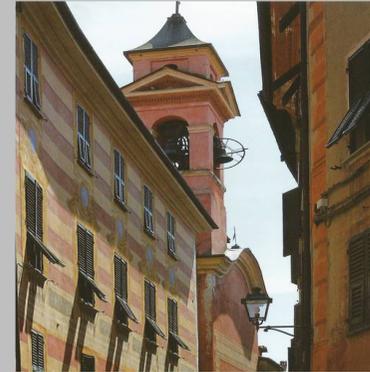
Piazza Castello was built after the remnants of the ancient castle were demolished in 1881. It used to house the weigh house and the tramway station Ovada - Novi Ligure, which remained in operation until 1954.

Climbing up the steps and going along Via Roma, you reach Piazza Mazzini, one of the oldest squares in Ovada, in the middle of which there stood the "loggia pretoria", the heart of all public activities. In the widest part of the square there are two tower-houses dating back to the 13th century.



### Oratory of Saint John the Baptist

The oratory was erected in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century above the ancient parish church. The façade, high and narrow, was built between 1820 and 1840. Inside the lodge you can admire, among other remarkable works, the wooden panel known as "the decollation of St John the Baptist" by A.M. Maragliano (1664-1739) and an exquisite crucifix by Bissoni (1597-1657). Both are solemnly carried around the town by members of St. John's confraternity (known as the "Reds") on the festivity of Saint John the Baptist, celebrated on June 24<sup>th</sup>.



### The Oratory of the Annunciation

The Oratory is the seat of the fraternity known also as the "Turchini" (turquoise), which participates annually in three major festivals of the town: the feast of the Annunciation, the Madonna del Carmine, Our Lady of Health.

Inside the building there are some interesting works, like two processional panels, one by A.M. Maragliano representing the Annunciation and another by Luigi Fasce portraying the Madonna of Carmelo, as well as two paintings dating back to 1550's, which were portrayed by mannerist Luca Cambiaso.



### St. Dominic's Church

The church, started in 1481, went through several fires and devastations in the course of time; the worst damage was done during the Napoleonic period.

The façade is very simple, with salients and a triangular gable.

The interior, composed of three aisles and a transept, contains Dominican symbols and coats of arms, besides those of St. Giuseppe Calasanzio, founder of the Piarist Order, who have the church in their care nowadays.



### Saint Sebastian Lodge

Saint Sebastian Lodge was probably built around the year 1000 over an older building. Originally it was Ovada's Parish church, but today it is a multi-purpose hall used for cultural events.

The original Romanesque building was simple, with a gable roof and a nave; in the 14th century it was enlarged thanks to the addition of the aisles and the bell tower, while the right aisle was later integrated by "Saint John's Confraternity" to build their oratory.

The interior boasts restored and well preserved frescos.



### Piazza Assunta and the Parish church

The square is the heart of the town and connects the medieval village to the districts out of the walls.

The church, named after Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Gaudenzio, is a really impressive building, whose height makes it the most impressive landmark in the town. It was designed by architect Gio Antonio Delfrate, started in 1772 and consecrated in 1801.

The façade is quite plain, whereas its interior looks richly embellished. The map is a Latin cross with three aisles.



### Birthplace of St. Paul of the Cross

St Paul of the Cross, the founder of the Congregation of the Passionists, was born in 1694 to the wealthy Daneo family.

The house has three floors and an attic and is home to a historical religious museum, with many relics of the saint. On the outside of the building we can see a fresco with emblem of the family, along with a niche containing a small reproduction of the saint.

St. Paul is celebrated on October 18<sup>th</sup> with a solemn procession.

