

# Union of the Boroughs of Valdera



## **Pontedera Council – Tourist Office Department of Economic Development and Tourism**

Via della Stazione Vecchia,6 – 56025 Pontedera (Pi)

Tel. 0587/53354

Fax. 0587/215937

Opening hours: 10,00 – 12,30 16,00 – 19,00

Closed on Sunday mornings and Mondays.

e-mail: [ufficioturistico@comune.pontedera.pi.it](mailto:ufficioturistico@comune.pontedera.pi.it)

<http://www.comune.pontedera.pi.it>

<http://www.unione.valdera.pi.it/>

## **PONTERA N.2 ITINERARIES TO KNOW AND LIVE THE CITY**

### **N. 1 WALKING ITINERARY**

### **N.2 ITINERARY BY CAR AND ON FOOT**

**UPDATED 16.6.2010**

**Thank you for the translation at the students of the third and fourth classes of Liceo Linguistico Montale, Pontedera and at the English teacher Linda Maria Morganti**

### **General indications**

The places which define the walking tour are marked with letters (See the map of the walking tour which you can download from the file : “mappa itinerario a piedi Pontedera città”).

In itinerary n.2 by car and on foot the letter **(P)** indicates where you can park. Many spaces are free.

If you look at the “Mappa Benvenuti a Pontedera” available from the Tourist Office or downloadable from [www.comune.pontedera.pi.it](http://www.comune.pontedera.pi.it) in the guide of the city, you will find cycle paths and walking tours. If you follow these paths you can walk from Pontedera to the villages of Romito and La Rotta or along the Era River to Ponsacco.

On the Council’s Web site, in the city guide, you can download the map : “Pontedera nel verde”. Here you will find cycle paths and walking tours between cities, villages, houses, rivers and hills, with cycling or horse riding paths in the villages.

### **Itinerary Number 1**

**Walking routes from the train station to the town centre.**

**Estimated time: about half a day.**

DEPARTURE ROUTE FROM THE TRAIN STATION OR FROM ANY OTHER PLACE INDICATED ON THE MAP, WITH LETTERS (A,B,C...)

Once at Pontedera Railway Station, you can go to visit the “**Giovanni Alberto Agnelli**” **Piaggio Museum** .

Go out of the train station and turn right into **Viale Della Repubblica**, go straight on to the **Via Roma** underpass and take it then continue straight on in **Via Roma** until the traffic lights. Turn right in to **Viale Rinaldo Piaggio**.

At n°7, on your left, there is the entrance to **the Museum** (open from Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.). Entrance is free.

You can reach the museum without leaving the train station: go down the stairs to the subway, take the direction opposite the main exit. Go back up the stairs and you will find yourself in **Viale Rinaldo Piaggio**, in front of the **Piaggio factory** (no admittance).

Turn left and the “**Giovanni Alberto Agnelli**” **Piaggio museum** is a five minutes walk on the right.

If, however you would prefer to visit the city centre, go out of the station into (A) “**PIAZZA UNITA’ D’ITALIA**” where you can admire **Mino Trafeli’s monument** : “**Origine Vespa**”.

Go from the square to **Via Dante** on the opposite side of the station and turn right.

Walk along **Via Dante** and after about 6/8 minutes you’ll reach **Via Della Misericordia** in (B) **PIAZZA CADUTI DIVISIONE AQUI CEFALONIA E CORFU’**( **Piazza Duomo**).

In this square you can visit **the Duomo** (1840-1864) , by the architect **Giuseppe Michelacci**, and the **Chiesa della Misericordia** (1883-1892) by **Luigi Bellincioni**.

In the centre there is **the beautiful Fountain** made of travertine, stone and cement It was built in 1931, and last restored in 2009. Since its recent uplift (completed in December 2009) you can admire new art works, benches and plants. The **new works** of art, that will be in the **Piazza Duomo** for one year, are by the **artist Franco Adami**. The nine bronze and stone sculptures are surrounded by a series of **benches by the Sienese’s artist Riccardo Grazi** .

The Pontedera district council is continuing to recover urban spaces, paying particular attention to beauty and to art while respecting architectural barriers.

In the square, worth seeing at n°3, is **Palazzo Vivaldi**, where the hotel “**Il Falchetto**” has been since 1920. The hotel houses a private collection of art and on the east side of the square at n°11 there is **Hotel “Armonia”**(1860).

Go along **Via Misericordia** and you will reach (C) **PIAZZA GARIBALDI**. On the right, at number 30-31, you can see the **Frangioni Giuntoli building**, designed in 1878 by **Bellincioni**. **Piazza Garibaldi** has an oval shape and you can see the sculpture “**sedili di pietra**” and other sculptures created by Italian and foreign artists. Besides you can see the “**Monumento ai Caduti della Patria**”, “**la Pietà**” by **Loris Lanini** and the “**Colomba per la Pace**” by **Nado Canuti** . On the left side of the square, in front of the “**Monumento ai Caduti**”, there is a beautiful building in neoclassic style, which houses **the “Curtatone Montanara” school**. Cross piazza Garibaldi and go to (D) “**Viale Risorgimento**” (at the end of the square). In **Viale Risorgimento**, “**Il Muro di Pontedera**” by **Enrico Baj** is worth seeing. It is a mosaic which is 100 metres long and 3 metres high. From “**Viale Risorgimento**” cross **Piazza Garibaldi** again and turn right into (E) **Piazza MARTIRI DELLA LIBERTA’** .

As you come into the square you will first notice **Palazzo Morini** (1880-1885) at n°27 by the architect **Bellincioni** and **Palazzo Crastan Pandolfi** (1890) at number 30.

Near **Palazzo Morini** there is **Via della Stazione Vecchia**, where you can visit the Council’s “**Centro per l’Arte Otello Cirri**” at n°6. Works of art are exhibited here all year round. The original sketches by the artist **Baj** for “**Il muro di Pontedera**” are kept here too.

The same building also houses the tourist office (tel. 0587/53354). At n°3, on the opposite side of the street, **Villa Crastan** is worth seeing (1928). This is the town library and it has a beautiful garden which can be visited (opening time of the garden: 9.00a.m-7.00p.m sometimes in summer until 7.30p.m).

Turn back into **Piazza Martiri della Libertà**, where you can view other interesting buildings, which date back to the end of 1800 and the beginning of 1900.

On the left side you have **Palazzo Maglioli** at n° 33, **Palazzo Naldini** at n°20, **Palazzo Bruschi** at n°16, by the architect Bellincioni; further on there are other two interesting buildings at n°39 and n°45, built at the end of 1800. There is a notable **plaque at n°53** that remembers the 4<sup>th</sup> July 1867, **when Giuseppe Garibaldi passed through the city**. On the north side of the square, at n. 135, there is a **beautiful building in “Liberty” style**. From Piazza Martiri della Libertà turn left into **(F) CORSO MATTEOTTI**, the main street, which is the heart of Pontedera’s shopping.

Two squares cross Corso Matteotti: the first one you will see is **(G) PIAZZA CURTATONE E MONTANARA**.

**Palazzo Pretorio** and the **Civic Tower** (first built 1571) is admirable; **The Santuario del Santissimo Crocifisso** (1270-1272) is a medieval building with a little museum of antique art inside; at n° 11 on the south-east corner of the square there is **Palazzo Bellincioni**, and a sculpture **“Il Toro (2001)” by Pietro Cascella**. If you go straight down Corso Matteotti you will cross **Via Lotti** on your left. At n°10 you will find **Palazzo Pitschen** 1883 by architect Bellincioni. If you look down Via Lotti you can see the Duomo in the background.

Continue your walk **along Corso Matteotti** and just before **entering Piazza Cavour**, on your right, at n°37 you will find **Palazzo Stefanelli** (1800) which is now the Headquarters of Pontedera Town Council.

The second square you will find is **(H) Piazza Cavour**, the ancient fish’s market square. The old Pisan door used to stand here. Today you can still see where the door was; indeed its ruins were found during the makeover of the flooring with cobblestones in 1992. The place is marked by a fillet of small bricks of white marble. In the square there is a beautiful bronze sculpture of the **“Ragazza in piedi” (2002)**, by **Giuliano Vangi**, a clear symbol of the freedom.

In the squares and in the streets of Pontedera you can often find works of contemporary art. The local council is very sensitive to art and culture so it organises workshops.

From the first of September 2009 to all 2010 some sculptures of “Simon Benetton” an artist from Treviso, will be in the squares and streets of Pontedera. In autumn, the local council have invited Simon Benetton to meet the Mayor of Pontedera to discuss these new sculptures made of iron and glass. These new objects d’art will be called “sculptures of light” or “sonorous sculptures”.

From the month of June 2010 was presented: **Cantiere Ugo Nespolo**. The famous artist from Torin, an exponent of pop art, is preparing to “nespolizzare” the city with an extraordinary invasion of art, colors and specific projects.

From Piazza Cavour you go into **(I) VIA PRIMO MAGGIO**, another shopping street. On the right-hand, at number 8 there is the **home of Giovanni Gronchi, Italian President from 1955 to 1962**.

Go through Via Primo Maggio, and on the left you will find **(L) PIAZZA ANDREA DA PONTERA**.

In this square you can meet people, have fun and chat with your friends.

In the middle of the square there is **the Monument to Andrea da Pontedera**, called Pisano (1908), by the sculptor Emilio Mancini and near there, **the “Sedute” in travertine stone by the artist Nado Canuti (2009)**.

**On leaving the square**, on the left we can find another **work by Nado Canuti (the blue building in front of you, dating back to 2008)**

Go past the square, continue down Via 1° Maggio and turn left into via Belfiore; at the bottom of the street turn right into via Dante and walk towards Piazza Unità d'Italia ( railway station).

**In via Dante**, at n° 79/81, there is “ **Cantinetta Vini**”, a shop that sells oil, local wine and typical products of Tuscany, tel. 0587213510. ( For further information about typical products please see itinerary n. 2).

## Itinerary n. 2

### Tourist itinerary by car or on foot ( bike, vespa or scooter )

Point of departure from the FI-PI-LI exit “Pontedera” (or anywhere you want)

P= parking

To rent Vespas and motor-scooters , please contact Pontedera Council Tourist office at 0587 53354

### Estimated time half a day to a whole day

At the roundabout of the exit S.G.C. FI-Pi-Li take the third exit towards the centre. Go along **Viale Europa** until the next roundabout where you can see the statue “**Oleandra**” by **Arturo Cormassi (2004)**. the Bellaria Cappuccini Sports Centre is on your left (**P**-parking is free and it is only 10 minutes walk from the centre).

Take the first exit (direction: "Centre", on the right) at the roundabout into **via De Gasperi** (**P** – Free parking all along this street, up to the underpass. The centre is a 5/10 minutes' walk ). If driving, pass the traffic lights and go straight on up to the underpass, where you have to turn left into **Viale IV Novembre**. Proceed up to the traffic lights.

After the crossroads, you will be in **Via Rinaldo Piaggio**. On your left, at n°7, you can find the "Giovanni Alberto Agnelli" Piaggio Museum, (open Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., free entrance ). (**P** – Free parking near the Museum, and along Viale Rinaldo Piaggio - 8/10 minutes walk to the centre). Note: the first parking lot after the Banca Toscana (the nearest to the Museum) , even if free, requests you to display arrival time. There is more free parking right in front of the Polo S. Anna Valdera, in Piazza della Solidarietà, just a bit further on from the Museum. To get to Piazza della Solidarietà you have to go through the car park. Warning: your car will be fined if you park along Viale Rinaldo Piaggio when road-sweeping is programmed check the signs indicating day and times of road-sweeping (usually early morning).

“**Viale Rinaldo Piaggio**” houses the laboratories of **Polo Sant’Anna Valdera 34 and Pont-Tech – Pontedera Tecnologia**, at n.34. Within this building there is “**Cerfit**”- the centre for the research and training for innovation and transfer of technologies. The “Polo Sant’Anna Valdera” is open to the public to illustrate its research only on S.Faustino’s day, the second Thursday of October. However, it is well worth a visit.

After visiting “Giovanni Alberto Agnelli” Piaggio museum which will take about an hour, continue along Viale Rinaldo Piaggio and on your left you can see the entry to the Piaggio factory. (no admittance).

On the opposite side of the road, **at n°78** there is **the Cultural Centre “Sete Sòis Sete Luas”** (The Festival “Sete Sòis Sete Luas” is held in Pontedera in July; it originated between Tuscany and Portugal , today 30 cities in 10 countries take part: Italy, Portugal; Greece, Spain, France, Morocco, Israel, Capo Verde, Croatia and Brazil. It has involved

400 artists, and proposed over 120 contemporary, popular music concerts, including over 60 premiers. In Italy as well as being held in the 2 Tuscan seats of Pontedera and Montemurlo, the festival is held in Rome, Fanano (Emilia Romagna) and in Mascalcia in Sicily. <http://www.7sois7luas.com/>.

The centre which opened on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009, is a real artistic workshop. Here you can visit artistic residences and take part in the realization of international design, from music to plastic arts, from photography to writing.

On the left of the entrance, there are stairs which lead to the subway to the train station.

Drive straight on until the next roundabout, go round it then turn back.

On your right there is another entrance to the Piaggio building, which houses the administration offices. (the people of Pontedera, usually say the “blue track-suit” entrance for the workers and the white collar workers entrance for the entry of administrators).

Go along this street until the traffic lights, turn left and take the **via Roma’s underpass** (only by car, if you have a camper turn right at the traffic light and follow the directions for the centre).

After the underpass on the right, you will be in **Viale Risorgimento** and on right you can see **Enrico Baj’s wall of Pontedera**. This is one of the biggest mosaic walls in Italy and the last creation of the artist. It was inaugurated in 2005 and it was build like a mosaic by a company of Bollate, Milan to reproduce the artist’s sketches.

The original sketches can be seen at the Otello Cirri art centre in via della Stazione Vecchia 6.

Turn right to **( C ) Piazza Garibaldi**, here you can see the “**sedili in pietra**” by Italian and foreign artists. (2005), the monument in honour of those who were killed in the war “**La Pietà**” by **Loris Lanini** and “**la colomba della pace**” by **Nado Canuti** (to look more closely the square you can do this, following this itinerary, and visiting the square to finish).

From Piazza Garibaldi turn left and go straight down Via della Misericordia to **(B) Piazza Caduti Della Divisione Aquì Cefalonia e Corfù**. Here you can admire the “**Insigne Prepositura Dei Santi Jacopo e Filippo**” church (1840-1864) the **Church of the Misericordia (1883-1892)** and restored in 2009.

In the middle of the square there is a **lovely fountain** in travertine, stone and cement built in 1931 and restored in 2009.

Thanks to a recent facelift in Pontedera (December 2009) you can admire some new works of art, benches, and plants.

**The new works** of art, that will stay in the **Duomo Square** for one year, belong to the **artist Franco Adami** – 9 sculptures in bronze and stone surrounded by some benches made by Riccardo Grazzi, an artist from Siena.-

Pass the square and go straight on “**Via della Misericordia**” and “**Via Dante**” you will reach **(A) “Piazza Unità d’Italia”** called also “**Piazza Stazione**”, on your right there is a **monument dedicated to the Vespa, “Vespa Origins”** by **Mino Trafeli**.

In the square in front of the station turn right into **Via Carducci** and than left into **Via Pisana**, go as far as the roundabout, on the traffic island you can admire the **contemporary works of art “Le vie della seta”** by **Hanz Peter Ditzler (2007)** which you will also admire on the traffic island .

Keep going, at the roundabout turn right and go on SS N 67 Tosco Romagnola, the Arno river is on your left. Try parking your car on the right in the vicinity of the number 120 or at the Black Silk pub, cross the street and keep on the left side where you can find the “**Bocca d’Era**” pub and restaurant. (summer only). This pub is at the point where the Era and Arno rivers meet. **Here you can take a boat trip up the river Arno** to La Rotta and back. This trip is free. At **La Rotta** it is possible to visit the **Mattonai open-air museum**.

The boat trip on the river will be great and fun and it will allow you to discover the river: animals and plants. (The boat trip takes about 50 minutes each way. There is sometimes a

free bus that takes you to the departure point). There is restaurant and cocktail bar at "Bocca d'Era", where you may stop for dinner or just appetizers. It opens at 6 o'clock. Here there are often musical and artistic events. [www.boccadera.com](http://www.boccadera.com) For information about events and boat times, telephone the Tourist Office on 0587 53354.

After the boat trip and the visit to "Bocca d'Era" bar, go back to your car **and continue straight on Via Tosco-Romagnola until the next roundabout** where you can admire the work of contemporary art "**Le tre Grazie**" by **Dolfo**.

Take the third exit and turn into **Via Vittorio Veneto** and go straight on. The street on your left goes to the "**Villaggio Scolastico**", an area with the High Schools. On your right, you will see **Pontedera stadium**. (P = In this area there are free car parks which are only a 10/15 minute walk from the centre). Drive straight on **to the roundabout of Via Vittorio Veneto, Via Bologna and Via della Costituzione**. On this roundabout, you can see "**Elemento Energetico**", a monument of contemporary art **by the artist Massimiliano Luzzi**. Turn right into **Via della Costituzione** and **the swimming pool** is on the right. In front of the pool there is **a monument (2009) to celebrate Guido Mazzinghi** who was a boxer from Pontedera. He competed in the Helsinki Olympics for the welter weight category, and was Italian amateur champion for the same category. He was also a champion professional in the middleweight category from 1956 to 1958. His brother Alessandro was a super welter weight champion in 1963 when he was 25 and again in 1968. The **sculptor, Giovanni Aiello** is also from Pontedera and we can see his paintings in the town council offices at 37 Corso Matteotti.

The swimming pool is covered in winter, and there's another Olympic one outside for summer with a lawn, deckchairs and umbrellas where you can sunbathe. For information telephone 0587 533 54.

On your left you can find another sport centre: **the Marconcini football field**.

Go straight along Via della Costituzione up **to the roundabout on Via Tosco Romagnola**, where new works of art will soon be set.

Take the third turning on the left into Via Tosco Romagnola in the direction of Florence. A little further on your left is the **multi-screen Cineplex cinema**. Here in the gallery you can find shops, a bars, a restaurant/pizzeria, hairstylist and gym. In the square beside the cinema, you have the market square, where on Fridays from 7.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. approx. you can find a big open air market. Here everything is cheap. P = In the market square there is a big, free car park. From the market square to centre there is a free bus that leaves every 12 minutes. On the bus you can read 'navetta'. Either park your car and take the bus to the centre, or continue by car towards the centre. Immediately after the Cineplex turn right to **Piazza Caduti di Nassiriya**, where you can find a monument for them P = in the **Panorama supermarket** car park. The supermarket has a lot of shops. (they are open all day, but closed on Sunday).

Continue by car and stay on the right side of piazza Caduti di Nassiriya and go along **Via del Gelso, turn into Via Madre Teresa di Calcutta** until you come to the wonderful **Teatro Era and the foundation of the Pontedera Theatre**. The theatre was built by the studio Tamino-Guandenzi and was inaugurated in October 2008. The theatrical season in Pontedera goes in spring and in autumn and the theatre puts on interesting events. For further information contact the tourist office on 058753354. If you look towards the left side of the supermarket, you will notice a modern architectural work: "**La Vela**", a crescent shaped block of flats designed by Studio Carmassi.

At the end of Via Madre Teresa di Calcutta, turn right to **Via Indipendenza** and there you will find the main **entrance of the theatre**. In front of the entrance, in the swimming pool, you will find the artwork **of Ulisse and "le Sirene" by Sergio Zanni** and the beautiful **iron railing by the artist Canuti.(2008)**.



Go along Via Indipendenza, take the second exit at the roundabout. Go down **Viale Italia**, up to the traffic lights. ( **P** – Free parking in Viale Italia and nearby. We advice you to park before crossing the bridge over the river Era. It's a 5 minute walk from the centre. The River Era gives its name to the whole surrounding area, hence the name "Valdera", which is made up of 15 towns. For more information, see the website of "Unione Valdera", which includes guides and news of the territory both in English and Italian.

<http://www.unione.valdera.pi.it>)

**Cross over the bridge.** On the crest of the bridge, right in front of you, you will catch a glimpse of the lively centre "**Corso Matteotti**" the main shopping-street. We suggest you park here and visit it. You can find parking left in **(E) "Piazza Martiri della Libertà"**. You can park here from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at the cost of €1,00 per hour, the rest of the day Sundays and public holidays it is free. More parking spaces can be found if you turn left and go past Piazza Martiri della Libertà and Piazza Garibaldi. White spaces in the centre are only for residents. Alternatively, after crossing over the bridge, turn right into Via Guerrazzi, then go in to Piazzetta della Concordia, and straight on until Piazza Berlinguer, here you will find the multi-storey park.

If you park in this area, you can admire beautiful 18 th -19 th century buildings. On the south side of the square, there is **Palazzo Morini, Palazzo Crastan Pandolfi** and Via della Stazione Vecchia. On the north side you can find Corso Matteotti.

Walk down **Via della Stazione Vecchia. At n°6**, you can find **Centro per l'Arte "Otello Cirri"**, which is owned by Pontedera Town Council. This Centre hosts exhibitions of contemporary art all year round, except August.

In town there are other art galleries, for further information stop and visit **the Tourist Office** in Via della Stazione Vecchia, 6.

**The Villa Comunale garden, ex Villa Crastan (1928)** at n°3 is also worth a visit. It is open from 9a.m. to 7p.m. and in some summer periods until 7.30p.m..

**Now we suggest you follow the same itinerary on foot (itinerary n.1), starting from letter E.**

And at the end of this walk, come back through Via I Maggio and Corso Matteotti and have a better look at the shops and maybe do some shopping.

**Where to buy typical local products:**

Go down Corso Matteotti, when you reach Piazza Curtatone e Montanara, turn right into Via Gotti. Here, at number 26, you can find the shop "**Vera Gastronomia Buti Daniele**".

Typical local and Tuscan products: Just passed Curtatone Montanara square, on your right there is Corso Principe Amedeo where at the number 14 you will find "**La Bottega degli Allevatori**", typical quality products from the producer to the consumer (honey, meat, cheese etc.). Opening days and hours: Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Saturdays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. There is an other shop of typical quality products from the producer to the consumer "**Valdera Insieme**" Via Giulio Verme, 4/A – [www.valdera-insieme.it](http://www.valdera-insieme.it) .-

Along Corso Matteotti, after the church of SS. Crocifisso, on your left there is "**La Bottega del Caffè**" many typical quality products from the area **and the famous chocolate "Amedei"**, one of the best Italian chocolate [www.amedei.it](http://www.amedei.it) product in the village of La Rotta– (the factory doesn't make direct selling).

Chocolate Amedei is also selling at Desideri shop via Tosco Romagnola, 212/a (in front off the multi-screen Cinema "Cineplex") and at the farm-holiday "Santa Lucia" Via San Gervasio n. 4 La Rotta and finally at La Roccia wine shop, via Pisana n. 74 – Pontedera.

Going straight on in Corso Matteotti, and after the Bottega del Caffè, on your right, there is “**La Pizzicheria Dal Canto**”, typical products, like pasta Caponi, a very good Italian pasta made in Pontedera.

At this point if it is lunch or dinner time we advise you to stop in one of many Pontedera’s restaurants, where you can eat the typical local dishes, either meat or fish, Tuscan specialities, ethnic food, sushi and a good pizza or in many bar with restoration, a first dish and some fine salads. You can eat well and at low price.

Further information: Tourist Office Via della Stazione Vecchia n°6 Tel 0587/53354 or [http://www.comune.pontedera.pi.it/cittadino/Citta\\_index/Dove\\_mangiare](http://www.comune.pontedera.pi.it/cittadino/Citta_index/Dove_mangiare)

### **Parco Eolico**

At the Tourist office much people ask us how they can reach “Parco eolico” **wind towers**, right because here in Pontedera besides the art and the culture we are also very careful about the environment. In an industrial context there are 4 wind towers, that produce clean energy, which in addition to producing clean energy, determine the orientation of the city and its region

**How to reach the wind towers** - By car: at Piaggio Museum “Giovanni Alberto Agnelli” (de Museum at your left) go straight on until the second roundabout, turn left in Viale America.

Go straight on, on your left the wind towers.

-----