




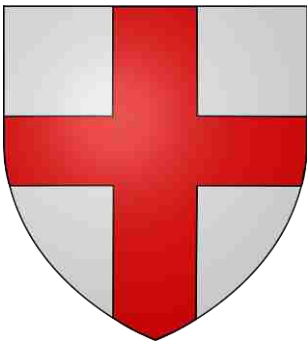
We found out that the most inexpensive flight alternative was with Air Baltic via Riga to Milano. AirBaltic was established in 1995 and is Latvia's biggest airline. It is partly owned by SAS.



We had to change plane in Riga and here we have landed on Milano Malpensa, which is the biggest airport near Milano.

It was the first time we had flown with AirBaltic and we were a bit curious about how the airline was. It was in total OK, but there was a bit unlucky start when we were departing from Riga. The pilot then panic braked seconds before the plane was about to take off. We thought there was a collision  to be avoided. Luckily it was not the case. We got the message that there was a technical problem and that they had to go to the technical department to check. We were able to leave after about 10 minutes.

When we arrived in Malpensa we took the first express bus to Milano Centrale, which is the main railway station in Milan. From here we took the first train to Genova.



Genova's coat of arms

Genova is a seaport town in the northern Italy. The town has a population of about 700 000 and is the capital of Liguria.

In the middle ages Genova was an independent and powerful republic (one of the so-called *Repubbliche Marinare*, the other ones were Venice, Pisa and Amalfi) primarily oriented towards the sea. The republic of Genova covered the most of modern Liguria and Piemonte. It had numerous colonies in the Middle East, at the Black Sea, in Sicily, Sardinia and in North-Africa. It also controlled Corsica.

The republic became a part of France until 1815, when the Vienna congress approved that it fell to the kingdom of Sardinia and became a part of Piemonte.



In Genova we stayed at Hotel Bellevue that lay uphill from the railway station.



After check-in we went for a stroll and we came past this church in baroque style.



It is not decorated outside, but inside it is richly decorated



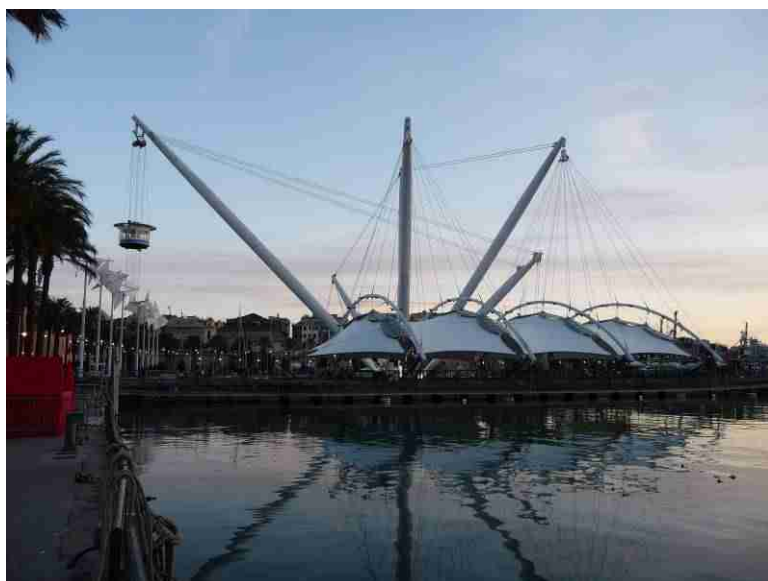
Down by the harbour lies Palazzo S. Giorgio. In the 1300s, the government of the republic was stationed here, but later it was taken over by Banco di S. Giorgio that controlled the finances.



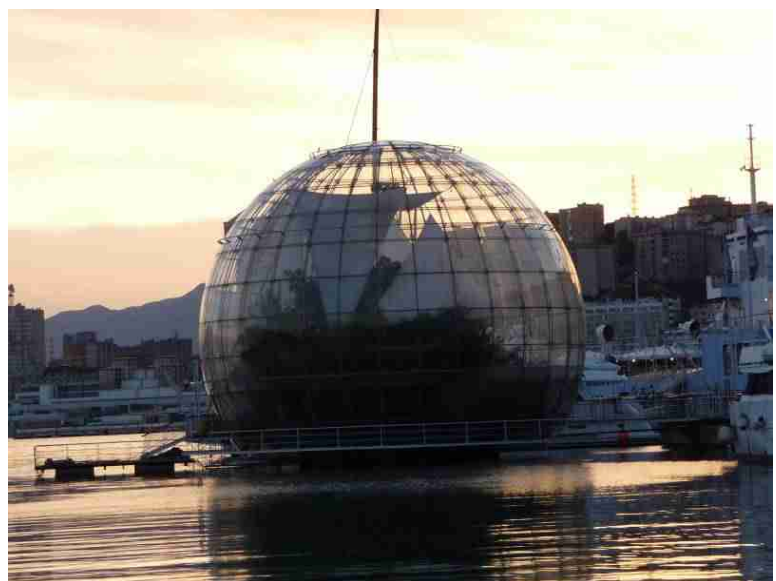
The building seen from another angle



This is one of the buildings in the aquarium. The aquarium is the biggest in Europe.



The same building seen from another angle



The dome in the aquarium.

Thursday the 25th of June 2009



This is the room where we had breakfast



The view from our room and down to the railway tracks



The view in another direction. The railway station can be seen in the right edge of the picture



Here we have zoomed in on the Lighthouse that lies furthest out in the harbour. It is the traditional symbol for the city. It was built in the 1600s on the ruins of a French occupation fortress as a symbol of independency.



The first thing we did after breakfast was to walk up to Castello D'Albertis, which is a castle up in the hills. The ethnographical museum is here.



We needed a break on the way up.



Some of the walls seen from outside



The entrance



Paintings in the entrance



There is also walls inside the walls



Here we are up on the top



There was also a small restaurant here



Kjell is inside bying beer



Here we are sitting outside



Down in the city again there are a lot of magnificent buildings like this one along the street Via Garibaldi. This is Palazzo Tursi, which now is the town hall.



Here we are on our way to a new hill



On the way up we need to rest again



Up here is a green area with pavilions



Caves



Garden pavilions



Fish ponds



Turtles



Piazzale Mazzini



Galleria Mazzini where it is possible to buy all sorts of curiosities



Teatro Carlo Felice that just now has been restored after bombing damages during the second world war



Fountain on Piazza de Ferrari



This is Palazzo Ducale that was built in the 1600s. It was the palace for the rulers of the republic of Genova.



Here we have a break on the square in front of Palazzo Ducale



A pigeon is visiting at the neighbour table



Here it get something to eat



More pigeons are arriving



Here the pigeons have taken over the table



Porta Soprana, which is lying right beside the house of Christopher Columbus.



Here is another gate from the 1200s



Cattedrale di S. Lorenzo. It took many hundred years to build this and it was finished in the 1600s.



Here we are back in the old harbour and Palazzo S. Georgio



There were street musicians everywhere



From the harbour area



Here we have to compensate for the body fluid loss



This is the late royal palace.
It didn't look like a palace, but it was probably nice inside



Here we have a breake on the church steps before we return to the hotel for a siesta



Here we have just eaten a kebab on another church steps in the evening