

Drive to Poppi (Middle ages and Zoo)

½ day trip

Poppi village (11 km from the farm, Fattoria – Soci – Strada dei Guazzi – Ponte a Poppi- Poppi Center) is nice, it is a member of the "Borghi più belli d'Italia". If you find a place, park until the village stone gate, otherwise you need to cross the village go out of the walls and find a place on the other side. Entered from the stone gate, walk along the road with portico, have a look to the small round church of the Madonna del Morbo setting in beautiful location in the center of a square and lined with arcades that characterize the town, then reach the Abbey of S. Fedele, (1185-1195), which preserves valuable works of thirteenth-sixteenth centuries, including works by Francesco Morandini (called the Poppi), the Maestro della Maddalena and the school of Giotto. The crypt containing the remains of San Torello, a saint native of Poppi (1202-1282). then go back to the Madonna del Morbo and from there climb to the castle.

In Casentino you find about 30 castles: some of the castles lie in ruins, but some are magnificent, like Poppi Castle. Open 10-18 daily, ticket 6 euro, reduced (6-12 Y.o.) 5 euro, babies till 6 Y.O. Free. Free. The Castle of the Guidi Family in Poppi Village was built in the XIII century. After the end of Conti Guidi Family, it was the place where Florence's Vicars lived. It has many similarities with Palazzo Vecchio in Florence. It shows a facade with mullioned windows with 2 lights and a high tower, it is surrounded by walls and a large moat. The castle is well conserved and contains the Rilliana Historic library (incunabola and manuscripts) a small museum about the famous Campaldino battle (1289) and a Chapel with Taddeo Gaddi's frescoes and also a prison with prisoner. The castle is open all the year long with an entrance fee. Being the castle owned by the Poppi Community, it is even possible to celebrate a civil marriage into the castle main room.

Poppi boasts the only golf ground of the valley, you can refer to the website for further informations: <http://www.golfclubcasentino.it>

Close to Poppi (2 km) you can find the Parco zoo (only European fauna), it is not an exceptional experience but can give you a couple of hours of nice walking with children. You can even eat in the park restaurant. Zoo opens 10 to sunset, ticket 7 euro, reduced (2-10 Y.o.) 5 euro, babies till 2 Y.O. free