



# The Castle of Ameglia

AMEGLIA

**Location:** The castle is located in the middle of the village of Ameglia, close to the watershed dividing the coast and the Magra valley.

**Type of castle:** Castle and fortress.

**Construction period:** The construction period is uncertain, but it could date back to the Late Middle Ages due to its position close to the ridge between the mouth of the Marinasco River and the monastery of Santa Croce in Punta Corvo. It was used as path to reach the hill of Montemarcello. In the 12th and 13th centuries, the village was built around the castle.

**First appearance in historical sources:** It was mentioned in the diploma of Otto I of 19th May 963, when he assigned the fortress to the Bishop of Luni.

**Strategic role:** Protection of the village of Ameglia and of the roads towards Lunigiana.

**Further use:** The defensive function of the castle ended in the 19th century, when it became the seat of the Municipality of Ameglia.









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**Current condition:** The site is well preserved.

**Viewing:** yes, upon request.

**History:** It was mentioned from the 10th century among the castles belonging to the Bishop of Luni. Ameglia was an attractive site, as it was equipped with a court, a fish market and a port and was then supposed to have a great economic growth. The castle was also mentioned in another document of 1174, in which it is written that the inhabitants of Pietracoperta – a territory destroyed by the Genoese - had lived in Ameglia and equipped it with a defensive tower during that year. The castle became then the residence of the Bishop of Luni until the 14th century, when it was owned by Castruccio Castracani. In 1470 the village and the fortress were sold for 6.000 gold ducati to the Banco di San Giorgio from the Viscounts. From that moment on, the destiny of this area was linked to Genoa.

**Structure:** The structure of the castle is located on top of a hill overlooking the valley and stands in the middle of the village. The fortress is composed by a 2 floors rectangular building – where there is evidence of several reconstructions – by a circular tower and by the trapezoidal defensive walls. Starting from the core of the castle, along the centuries new houses were built around the fortress. This phenomenon originated the fortified village, whose structure consists in concentric circles.