[Pliny the Elder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pliny_the_Elder%22%20%5Co%20%22Pliny%20the%20Elder) referred to ***Portus Delphini*** (Port of the Dolphin) as on the Ligurian coast between [Genoa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genoa) and the Gulf of [Tigullio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigullio%22%20%5Co%20%22Tigullio).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portofino#cite_note-6)

The village is mentioned in a *diploma* from 986 by [Adelaide of Italy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adelaide_of_Italy), which assigned it to the nearby [Abbey of San Fruttuoso di Capodimonte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Fruttuoso_abbey). In 1171, together with the neighbouring [Santa Margherita Ligure](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Margherita_Ligure), it was included in [Rapallo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rapallo)'s commune jurisdiction. After 1229 it was part of the [Republic of Genoa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Genoa). The town's natural [harbour](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harbor%22%20%5Co%20%22Harbor) supported a fleet of fishing boats, but was somewhat too cramped to provide more than a temporary safe haven for the growing [merchant marine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merchant_Navy) of the Republic of Genoa.

In 1409 Portofino was sold to the [Republic of Florence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Florence) by [Charles VI of France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_VI_of_France), but when the latter was ousted from Genoa the Florentines gave it back. In the 15th century it was a fief of families such as the [Fieschi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fieschi_family%22%20%5Co%20%22Fieschi%20family), [Spinola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spinola_Family), [Adorno](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adorno_family), and [Doria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doria_%28family%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Doria%20%28family%29).

In 1815 it became part of the [Kingdom of Sardinia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Sardinia) and, from 1861, of the [unified Kingdom of Italy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_unification).

In the late 19th century, first British, then other Northern European aristocratic tourists began to visit Portofino, which they reached by horse and cart from [Santa Margherita Ligure](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Margherita_Ligure). [Aubrey Herbert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aubrey_Herbert) and [Elizabeth von Arnim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_von_Arnim) were amongst the more famous English people to make the area fashionable.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portofino#cite_note-7) Eventually, more ex-patriates built expensive holiday houses, and by 1950 [tourism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tourism) had replaced [fishing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fishing) as the town's chief industry, and the waterfront was a continuous ring of restaurants and cafés.

* Statue of [Christ of the Abyss](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christ_of_the_Abyss), placed underwater on 29 August 1954 in the inlet at a depth of 17 metres (56 ft). This statue was placed to protect fishermen and [scuba divers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scuba_diving) and in memory of Dario Gonzatti, the first Italian to use SCUBA gear, who died in 1947. Sculpted by Guido Galletti, it represents Christ in the act of blessing while looking up towards the sky with open arms in a sign of peace.
* [Castello Brown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castello_Brown) (16th century).
* Church of St. Martin (*Divo Martino*, 12th century).
* Church of [St. George](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_George), housing some saints' relics.
* Oratory of *Santa Maria Assunta*, in [Gothic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gothic_architecture) style.
* Portofino is often thought to be the inspiration for Sir [Clough Williams-Ellis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clough_Williams-Ellis)' Italianate village named [Portmeirion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portmeirion%22%20%5Co%20%22Portmeirion), built between 1925 and 1975, in north Wales. However, this was repeatedly denied by the architect. He stated only that he wanted to pay tribute to the atmosphere of the Mediterranean. He did, however, draw on a love of the Italian village, stating "How should I not have fallen for Portofino? Indeed its image remained with me as an almost perfect example of the man-made adornment and use of an exquisite site."[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portofino#cite_note-10)
* In 1959 [Dalida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dalida) released song "[Love in Portofino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love_in_Portofino)", written by [Leo Chiosso](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_Chiosso) and composed by [Fred Buscaglione](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred_Buscaglione). With lyrics in French and Italian language, it became a hit and was later iconised alongside the village's name. It also spawned several international covers, including [Andrea Bocelli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrea_Bocelli)'s in 2013 which was followed by a concert recorded and issued on DVD.
* Portofino is the eponym of [Frank Schaeffer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Schaeffer)'s *Portofino: A Novel* (1992). It was the first of Schaeffer's *Calvin Becker Trilogy*.
* Portofino is one of the shooting locations of the 1995 Antonioni/Wenders film, [*Beyond the Clouds*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beyond_the_Clouds_%281995_film%29).[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portofino#cite_note-12)
* There is a full-scale replica, in authentic detail, of Portofino Bay at [Universal Orlando Resort](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Orlando_Resort) in [Orlando](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orlando%2C_Florida), [USA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States), which opened in September 1999.
* Portofino inspired in 2001 a recreation of the seaside town in the [Mediterranean Harbor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediterranean_Harbor) area at [Tokyo DisneySea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokyo_DisneySea) in [Chiba, Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiba_Prefecture). It also served as the namesake for the restaurant Cafe Portofino.
* Portofino was featured in 2008 in the [BBC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC) television series [*Top Gear*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Top_Gear_%282002_TV_series%29). [Richard Hammond](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Hammond), in a [Ferrari Daytona](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferrari_Daytona) raced [James May](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_May) in a carbon fibre powerboat from Portofino to [St Tropez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Tropez) in France.
* [Ferrari](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferrari) named one of their new V8 sports cars after [Portofino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferrari_Portofino) in 2017.
* In the 2021 Disney-Pixar animated film [*Luca*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luca_%282021_film%29), the fictional town of Portorosso is based on Portofino, as well as other villages in the Italian Riviera

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| **Portofino** |
| [***Comune***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comune) |
| **Comune di Portofino** |
| View of PortofinoView of Portofino |
| Coat of arms of PortofinoCoat of arms |
| show**Location of Portofino** |
| Portofino is located in ItalyPortofinoPortofinoLocation of Portofino in ItalyShow map of ItalyShow map of LiguriaShow all |
| Coordinates: [44°18′14″N 9°12′28″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Portofino&params=44_18_14_N_9_12_28_E_type:city(10,244)_region:IT)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): [44°18′14″N 9°12′28″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Portofino&params=44_18_14_N_9_12_28_E_type:city(10,244)_region:IT) |
| **Country** | [Italy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy) |
| [**Region**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regions_of_Italy) | [Liguria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liguria) |
| [**Metropolitan city**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metropolitan_cities_of_Italy) | [Genoa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metropolitan_City_of_Genoa) (GE) |
| **Government** |
| **• Mayor** | Matteo Viacava |
| **Area**[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portofino#cite_note-wikidata-16139ca327c50d72c40d8c5fd3abe706b989650e-v3-1) |
| **• Total** | 2.6 km2 (1.0 sq mi) |
| **Elevation** | 4 m (13 ft) |
| **Population** (31 December 2011)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portofino#cite_note-istat-2) |
| **• Total** | 439 |
| **• Density** | 170/km2 (440/sq mi) |
| [**Demonym(s)**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demonym) | Portofinesi |
| [**Time zone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone) | [UTC+1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%2B1) ([CET](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_European_Time)) |
| **• Summer (**[**DST**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time)**)** | [UTC+2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%2B2) ([CEST](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_European_Summer_Time)) |
| **Postal code** | 16034 |
| [**Dialing code**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_dialling_codes_in_Italy) | 0185 |
| **Patron saint** | St. George |
| **Saint day** | St. George's Bonfire: April 23rd. Religious Celebration the first Sunday after. |
| **Website** | [Official website](http://www.comune.portofino.genova.it/) |