



Loano



Tour: "The gardens on the sea"

(distances: Loano-Ventimiglia 89 km;
Loano-Cervo 39 km)

1) Hanbury Botanical Gardens



The **Hanbury Botanical Gardens** are situated in Ventimiglia, in the province of Imperia, on the Mortola headland, near the French border. They stretch on an 18 hectare area from the hill to the sea. The landscape is typically English, with small paths and romantic bowers and courtyards with a wonderful view on the sea. The Project for the Gardens was carried on in 1867 by the English traveller Sir **Thomas Hanbury**, who decided to move to the Ligurian coast to create a wonderful garden with botanical species from all over the world. The gardens include almost **6000**



botanical species, particularly from tropical areas. Among the most curious ones you can find: the **agaves**, the **aloe**, the **succulent plants**, the **eucalyptus**, the **euphorbia**, the **brugmansie**, **passion flowers**, **citrus fruits**, **tropical fruits**, such as bananas, avocados, and so on..., the **yucca**, the **cicladi**, **ginkgo biloba**, **roses** and **peonies**, Mediterranean **aromatic plants**.

And..., on the way back, if you would like to visit a medieval charming town, one of the most beautiful in Italy...

2) ...Take the highway and exit to **San Bartolomeo al Mare** to reach **Cervo**.



If you walk through the old town of Cervo it seems like **travelling through the past**. Cervo has kept intact its image of old medieval village on the sea, surrounded by towers and walls from 14th century and from green hills. The houses are built

on the rocky hills, which gently go down to the sea. It is possible to reach the old town just on foot: you can admire old stone buildings and narrow paths (the typical Ligurian "caruggi"), where you can also find small handicraft and artistic workshops. Cervo is overlooked by a **medieval castle**, where today you can visit the **Ethnographical Museum**; it is worthwhile to visit the Romanesque Oratory of **Santa Caterina** and the famous Church of **Corallini** or **San Giovanni Battista** on a particular amphitheatre square, one of the most beautiful **baroque masterpiece** in Liguria.