



HISTORICAL TOWN CENTRE

The town of Calvi, whose name Carbium that should derive from the features of this place being rocky and with no vegetation, thus bald (bald in Italian = calvo), in the Roman era did not exist, but definitely on its hills there was a widespread presence of rustic villas. From the eighth century, the territory of Calvi was located in Lombard Sabina and was subject to the Dukes of Spoleto, then it became a castle subject to the Imperial Abbey of Farfa. From the thirteenth century it was territory of the Papal States, and despite the fact that its „municipal„ life had started, it was subject to the control of the nearby town of Narni. Since the end of the sixteenth century, due to its location on the border between Umbria and Sabina, it suffered many vicissitudes and was part of both alternately. In 1798, Calvi was the scene of the clash between the French and Neapolitans.

In its historical town centre Calvi still retains all the characteristics of a medieval settlement, with narrow streets with a concentric development and small squares.

The entrance of the village was Porta Ternana (Ternana Gate), also known as Porta da capo (Gate at the beginning), renovated in the 1590s and today characterised by a portal in travertine ashlar. Going down from here along the Sabina Road we find ourselves immediately in front of the church of St. Mary of the Assumption, whose original structure dates from the mid-thirteenth century, then enlarged in the first half of the seventeenth century, and attached to it is Calzabini Palace, built in the second half of the sixteenth century. Following this road before arriving at the bottom of the town, in the middle of the walls surrounding the town there is Porta di Mezzo (Gate in the middle), also called Bartolomea gate, which was originally very small and was enlarged in 1686. In the lower part of the historical town centre, the result of the expansion downstream of the town of Calvi occurred since the thirteenth century, we find the small Square of Sora Medea, from which you can admire a splendid panorama of the Tiber Valley, and the imposing Rosati Palace, which has a beautiful portal on its front made in a brick and plaster decoration characterised by the alternation of a triangular pattern, which is also found in other buildings in Calvi. This area of the town is particularly rich in fascinating sights such as the beautiful Vicolo degli Orti (Alley of the vegetable gardens).

Going back towards the top of the village we find the Church of the Trinity, which was originally dedicated to St. Maria delle Grazie (Saint Mary of the Graces) and built starting from 1523 on the original layout of the castle walls in locality Sportello (little door), which is an ancient port of the town, where an image of the Madonna had wept. Immersing ourselves again in the narrow alleys, we come to the birthplace of St. Berardo from Calvi, a Franciscan protomartyr who died in Morocco in 1220 and belonging to the rich family Leopardi, who left all his possessions to follow St. Francis. We are right in the medieval heart of Calvi, in the first nucleus in the fortification consisting of the Piazzetta di St. Andrea (Little square of St. Andrew) and the Town hall building, probably built in the thirteenth century, at the height of the development of the municipal life of the town and home to the civic life of this community for many centuries. We come then in the big Mazzini square, dominated by the majestic facade of the church of St. Anthony and St. Bridget, built on a project by Ferdinando Fuga in the mid-eighteenth century. Here, along the route of the ancient castle walls, stands the Clock Tower with the Chapel of St. Sebastian, now dedicated to St. Pancrazio, probably dating from the thirteenth century, in front of which the Mayor and the Priors uttered oaths and from its lodge spoke to the Community. Just behind the tower, on the outside of the walls, we find a small isle with a commemorative stone placed for future memory carved with the names of 16 innocent victims of a massacre that took place here on April 13, 1944 at the hands of the German SS.

To conclude this journey, from the square, we arrive in front of Palazzo Ferrini, built in 1606, the first nucleus of the great Ursulines Monastery that developed in the first half of the eighteenth century out the old castle walls toward the mountain with the construction of a new wing with a large garden and completely enclosed by a high wall.