

[The nine castles](#)

The territory of Arcevia is dotted of medieval castles. These settlements arose between the eleventh and the fourteenth century to protect the territory and provide refuge to people who lived scattered in the countryside. These are castles of rural origin before than military, but each one still has high walls, gates and towers, built to withstand attacks and sieges, which often have left traces on the walls.

Today, although there are not anymore the old drawbridges, castles of Arcevia still preserve their war charm, softened by the passage of time, and in the churches inside the castles you can see precious works of art in addition to testimonies of the popular devotion.

Route n. 1

[Avacelli \(XIII sec.\)](#)

The castle is perched on the border with the town of Serra San Quirico, and is included in the Regional Natural Park of Gola della Rossa and Frasassi. Within its stony walls there is the church of San Lorenzo, with a valuable sixteenth-century altar in painted earthenware.

Below the castle, in an evocative and isolated valley, stands the small Romanesque church of Sant'Ansovino (XI sec.), adorned with carved stone capitals with evocative and mysterious images.

[Castiglioni \(XIV sec.\)](#)

Built on the border with Serra de' Conti, this castle preserves a beautiful fortified gateway with the coat of arms of Rocca Contrada (Arcevia). Between its walls in warm sandstone stands the church of Sant'Agata with the "Madonna del Rosario", a beautiful painting in the mannerist style by the painter Ercole Ramazzani from Arcevia (1574).

[Montale \(XIII sec.\)](#)

Taken with the force by Arcevia to the Bishop of Senigallia in the thirteenth century, this castle was, in medieval times, defined by the leader Francesco Malatesta as "munitissimo per battaglia di mano" ("equipped for the battle"). It still has a beautiful tower along the defensive walls and the church of San Silvestro, with the canvas of the "Immacolata Concezione" by an artist close to Ramazzani (XVI sec.).

[Piticchio \(XIII sec.\)](#)

This is one of the best preserved castles in the whole territory. You can enter Piticchio by the

medieval gate, and walk along the old patrol walkway along the walls, built in red bricks. The elegant church of San Sebastiano is worth a visit, rebuilt in the eighteenth century, with a shiny gilded wooden altar with paintings by Ercole Ramazzani.

Route n.2

Caudino (XIV sec.)

The castle is located in a picturesque and isolated position, almost lost among the mountains, and it was used as a garrison to defend the border against the town of Pergola. Inside its stone walls is the church of S. Stefano, with a seventeenth-century fresco of the "Vergine di Loreto".

Palazzo (XIV sec.)

This castle is almost fan-shaped, situated along the side of Monte Caudino, and brings to mind the city of Trevi, in Umbria. Its fortifications in white and pink stone preserve the old entrance door and an imposing tower, and enclose the precious church of S.S. Settimio and Stefano, full of artworks. Here originated the Vici family (XVII sec.), famous parentage of architects and engineers.

San Pietro in Musio (XIII sec.)

After the bombings of World War II, only the perimeter walls, the ruins of the roofless church and some houses embellished with frescoes by Bruno d'Arcevia, are remained of the small castle. Outside the walls is the little sanctuary of "Madonna di Montavago", with its valuable sixteenth-century fresco.

Loretello (XI sec.)

It is one of the oldest and most beautiful castles in the area. Its powerful boundary walls in brick and sandstone (early fifteenth century.) are completed with ancient towers and provide access to the town through a spectacular bridge with three arches. From its walls you can admire one of the most picturesque agrarian landscapes in Marche region.

Nidastore (XII sec.)

Here is still told the legend of jus primae noctis, practiced by the nephew of the bishop of Fossombrone against young wives of the inhabitants. People of the town rebelled to this bullying killing him, becoming owners of noble lands. Nidastore today is a charming village with a pleasant restaurant.