



## Presenting a tourist destination

- **Students will present The Cinque Terre, one of the main tourist attractions in Liguria.**
- **They will first read the following description of this area, highlighting the key information.**
- **They will then jot down some notes of the main points, organizing their information in the following chart.**

LOCATION	
LANDSCAPE	
HOW TO GET THERE AND HOW TO MOVE AROUND	
WHAT TO SEE/WHAT TO DO	
WHEN TO GO	
WHERE TO STAY	
LITERARY CONNECTIONS	

- **They will then practice their oral description. They may film themselves while introducing the place to the rest of the class.**

## THE CINQUE TERRE



The Cinque Terre is 18 kilometres of rocky coast in North-Western Italy. ‘Cinque Terre’ means ‘five lands’ and refers to the five picturesque fishing villages built on this rugged coastline: Riomaggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza and Monterosso. Each village has its own peculiar characteristics and is easily accessible by train.

The area offers dramatic views of pastel coloured homes, olive groves, terraced hills and the azure Mediterranean Sea.



For over a thousand years people have lived in this rugged landscape, cultivating the steep hillsides that lead down to the rocky shores.

Cinque Terre is a UNESCO heritage park and hikers can hike from one village to the next. The area is best explored on foot and an extensive network of ancient mule tracks, now used as footpaths, will take you past an astounding series of terraces, built by hand with stones and earth. The entire hike through all five villages takes roughly 5 hours. The easiest section to walk is between Riomaggiore and Manarola, a paved walkway offering stunning views of the sea and is called the Via dell’Amore or “The Path of Love.”

For those who don't want to hike, the train stops at each village. As Corniglia is situated on a hilltop, the walk up to the village is a steep 370 steps. Alternatively in the summer, you can take a boat ride which stops at each village except Corniglia as it is located on a hilltop. The boat ride offers a different view of the village from the sea.

## **How to get there**

The Cinque Terre are located in the north-west of Italy, in the region of Liguria, near the town of La Spezia. The area is within easy reach by frequent trains both from Genoa (the capital city of Liguria) and La Spezia. Genoa has an international airport and also has flight connections from Rome. Various cheap budget airlines fly there daily from London.

The villages of the Cinque Terre are connected by a railway system that tunnels beneath the cliffs and reappears at each village.

## **When to go**

The ideal time to visit the Cinque Terre is the late spring/early summer when the weather is fine but not too hot and the area is not overrun with tourists. The months of June, July and August can get very busy and temperatures can reach 30 C. From November to March, much of the villages shut down as residents move back to the cities.



## **Where to Stay**

It is best to stay in Monterosso, the biggest of the five villages and the only village with a sandy beach. Being the largest, Monterosso also has multiple accommodation options

from hotels to B&Bs, and a wide variety of restaurants. The Cinque Terre tourist office is located in Monterosso near the train station and can help arrange accommodations for you.

## Highlights of the area

- Sit in the harbour at Vernazza, where you can have lunch, an ice-cream or a coffee. The harbour is a relaxing place with a view of the crystal blue Mediterranean Sea.



- Visit the 12<sup>th</sup> century, baroque style church of San Lorenzo in Manarola, a village surrounded by lemon trees.



- Try scuba diving off the coast of Riomaggiore.
- Taste a glass of Sclacchetrà, a sweet raisin wine.
- Have a swim in Monterosso, the only village in the national Park area that has a proper beach.

## On literary footsteps

Eugenio Montale (Nobel Prize for Literature in 1975) spent a long time during his childhood in the Cinque Terre, especially in Monterosso.

From his poetry, particularly in the book *Ossi di Seppia* ("Squid's Bone") it is possible to get the soul of this land, people and the Nature.

