



7.2 Map of Genoa waterfront.

The port of Genoa is the seventh busiest in Europe and first in the Mediterranean in terms of traffic volume. In 1997, the port handled a total of 1.2 million TEU of containers and 2.4 million passengers through its twenty-five terminals.

Genoa is ideally located for commercial trade activities in Europe with an efficient road system to France, through the Tyrrhenian corridor to the north, plus a reliable railroad network linking it with the Po Valley and the rest of Europe. Plans exist to build a third mountain pass with a high-speed train line to improve connections with Milan, and an additional line to France.

Genoa is a polycentric city. In the middle of the urban area, in direct contact with the old port, lies the historic center. A newer nineteenth-century center lies outside of the historic core. An industrial city for more than a century, with a strong public sector, and the leading port in the Mediterranean for cargo and passenger traffic, Genoa has undergone profound changes over the last ten years. It has gone from being an industrial city to one that accommodates modern tertiary services as well as small to medium-sized companies, many of which operate in the computer, electronic and telecommunication sectors. Genoa has also invested heavily in culture and tourism and in the construction of new and remodeled hotels. This redevelopment initiative has also enhanced the value of monuments and important historic buildings as well as the urban environment and public parks. One of these projects, the City of Children, dedicated to the youngest residents of Genoa, lies within the old port. In terms of the quality of initiatives and the number of visitors, this project has already surpassed its model, the "Cité des Enfants" in Paris.

Genoa is the first Italian city to have a Port Master Plan that, together with the city's General Master Plan, has made it possible to develop urban and strategic planning for the near future. Many abandoned areas are now undergoing redevelopment, redesign and reuse as new business sites