

tourist map



Culture

Bologna's cultural vocation has its roots in a long-distant past. It is the seat of the oldest European university, attended by a hundred thousand students and which celebrated the ninth centenary of its foundation in 1988. "European City of Culture" in 2000, Bologna was also recognized as a "Creative City of Music" by UNESCO in 2006.

Its network of libraries, museums, cinemas and theatres is vast. Three examples will have to suffice: the Biblioteca Sala Borsa, a cultural and multimedia space overlooking Piazza Nettuno, the MAMbo, heir to the Galleria d'Arte Moderna, inaugurated in 2007, and the Teatro Comunale, a sanctuary of opera since 1763.

The tenth muse also has its home in Bologna thanks to the presence of the Cineteca Comunale. Custodian of the Charlie Chaplin and Pier Paolo Pasolini Archives, every year it organizes and hosts important exhibitions and festivals dedicated to the cinema. Bologna is the native or adopted city of three major personalities who left their mark on 20th-century Italian culture: Giuseppe Carducci, Giorgio Morandi and Guglielmo Marconi. To pass through the places in which they expressed their genius and to visit the museums dedicated to them in the city and the Province is an unmissable experience for all lovers of art and science, as well as an ideal trip for a school outing.



Events

Bologna is a lively and stimulating city, with scores of events on its payroll every day, from exhibitions to concerts, from theatre shows to congresses and trade fairs. Along its forty kilometres of arcades, beneath its towers, in its piazzas, parks and gardens, the city pulses with life, day and night. The old city centre forever swarms with people crowding its taverns and meeting-places, its cinemas and theatres, visiting its art galleries, strolling among shops and boutiques.

offering live music, filling its cinemas and theatres, visiting its art galleries, strolling among its open-air markets, shops and boutiques.

Throughout the year Bologna is the seat of important national and international events. In January there is Arte Fiera, the international fair of contemporary art. For lovers of the cinema there is the "Future Film Festival" in January and "Il Cinema ritrovato" in June and July, which shows rare period films in suggestive venues of the old city centre.

The summer is enlivened by the rich programme of concerts and shows of "Bologna Estate", while "Artelibri", in September, is the appointment for bibliophiles, scholars and collectors of books on art. For those with a sweet tooth there is the "Cioccoshow", which in November gathers among the piazzas and streets of the city centre master pastry-cooks from the whole of Italy. And the passion of Bologna and the entire territory of Emilia Romagna for motors is catered for by "Motorshow", the international display window of motorcycles and automobiles.



Green Bologna

To the south of Bologna, the hills represent a green reserve only a few minutes away from the old city centre, with meadows, woods and terraces from which can be admired a landscape stretching from the city roofs to the lower Po plain and leading to the summits of the Alpine foothills of Veneto.

But the old city centre, too, conceals unexpected oases of green behind its red medieval walls; strolling among its streets, alleys and piazzas, it is not unusual to catch sight of ancient gardens, some of them open to the public.


Within the city walls, too, are the Botanical Garden, the Guasto and Baraccano gardens and the park of the Montagnola, which hosts Bologna's most famous market on Fridays and Saturdays.

In a central position, too, are the Gardens of Villa Casarini and the Giardini Margherita, the city park par excellence: inaugurated in 1879 and dedicated to Queen Margherita, the park shows evident links with the English or romantic garden, evoked by the strong visual impact of its harmonies and contrasts of leaves and plants.

Moving slightly outside the city centre, Villa Angeletti and Villa Spada are to be sought. A visit to Villa Ghigi and the Cavaioni Park on the Bolognese hills is worth making. The Parco della Chiusa, also known as Parco Taloni, is to be found at Casalecchio di Reno, while the Parco dei Cedri is at San Lazzaro di Savena.



Waters




An underground world awaiting discovery, a true water city which has been for Bologna since the Middle Ages a source of wealth and commercial development. In the 13th century Bologna was the fifth most populous European city and the largest textile centre in Italy. This was the merit of a complex system of water supply which fed the city via the Savena and Aposa torrents and the River Reno through one of the most modern canal systems in Europe. The most important was the Reno Canal, which brought the river into the city from the lock of Casalecchio. The Navile started from the centre of Bologna and was practically a water highway leading to the Adriatic, today transformed into a cycle track following the ancient canal towpaths from lock to lock.

Traces of this intense water system remain on the city maps. The canals have almost all been covered over, as has the one natural watercourse, the Apsoa torrent, which flows beneath the streets of the old city centre and can still be visited today by those seeking an exciting trip in the Bologna underworld.

Water has thus provided for centuries the essential energy to feed the city's manufacturing and commercial activities, and especially its silk mills, today reconstructed in the Museo del Patrimonio Industriale [Museum of Industrial Heritage]. It is not by chance that the symbol of modern Bologna is the Fountain of Neptune.



Gastronomy & Wines

 "When you hear speak of Bologna cuisine make a bow, for it deserves it". These are the words of Pellegrino Artusi, author of the celebrated "La Scienza in cucina e l'Arte di Mangiar bene", which so lauded the city's gastronomy in the 19th century. For Bologna is versed in the art of cooking no less than that of learning, and the specialties of its cuisine are famous throughout the world. It is enough to speak of tagliatelle, ragù, tortellini or mortadella (elsewhere known simply as "Bologna") for the mind and palate to evoke Bologna at once.


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The "Learned", then, but also the "Fat", the title which the city earned itself in the past as a result of the abundance of its characteristic products and dishes, the warmth of its taverns and restaurants and the wealth displayed in the windows of its traditional delicatessen shops, visited and photographed as authentic museums of local culture.

And to accompany the dishes of the restaurants and taverns under the arcades of the old city centre, the hills of Bologna and Imola offer noble and ancient wines such as the Albana, the Trebbiano, the Barbera and the Sangiovese, which ideally match the flavours of the territory of Emilia Romagna. A classic combination is that of tortellini in broth and a good bottle of Pignoletto, considered the King of the wines of the Bologna Hills.



Sports



Bologna is also a capital of sports. Here traditional sports are practiced at the highest level, including baseball, cricket and handball, attracting sporting events of national and international calibre. But Bologna is above all the Italian "basketball city"; thanks to its two teams, Fortitudo and Virtus, basketball is perhaps its most popular sport and the ribbed ball outshines the football in the city's sports fields and parks. Football is nonetheless represented by the glorious tradition of Bologna F.C., romantically defined as "the mighty team before which the whole world trembles".

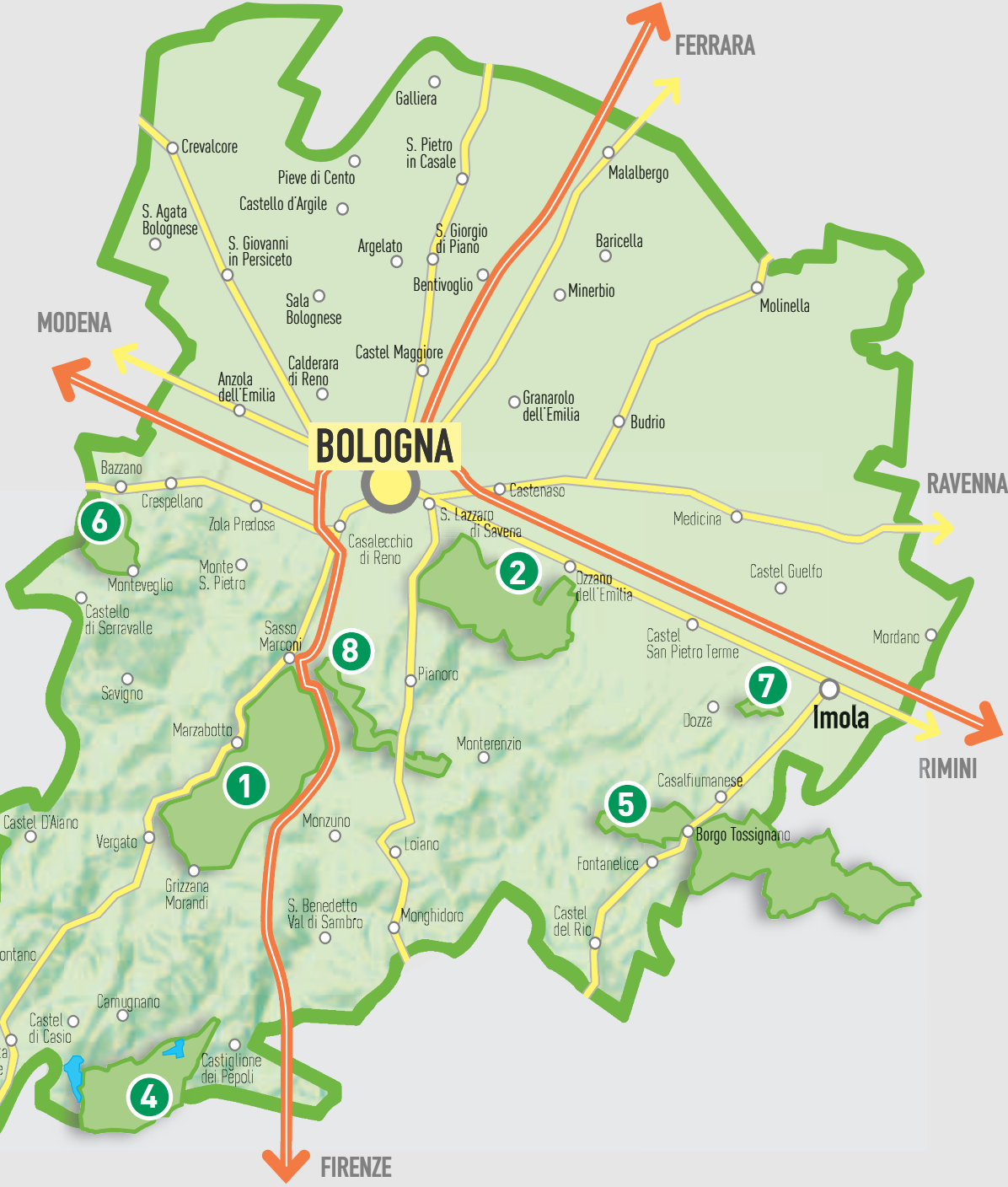
Emilia-Romagna is traditionally the "Land of the Motors" and Bologna is its epicentre. Halfway between Maranello and Imola, Bologna is the seat of Ducati: not to be missed is the Museum of the world champion motorcycle company. Passing from one museum to another, it is worthwhile visiting the Museo Lamborghini of Sant'Agata Bolognese, a few kilometres outside the city. And a curiosity: have you ever noticed the symbol of the Maserati? A couple of strides in Piazza Nettuno will unveil for you the Bolognese origins of the automobile producer of Modena.

Another completely Bolognese passion is that for dancing, crowned in 2007 by its hosting the national championships of sportive dancing.

Province of Bologna

PARKS AND RESERVES

- 1** PARCO STORICO REGIONALE DI MONTE SOLE
www.parcostoricomontesole.it
- 2** PARCO REGIONALE DEI GESSI BOLOGNESI E CALANCHI DELL'ABBADESSA
www.parcogessibolognesi.it
- 3** PARCO REGIONALE DEL CORNO ALLE SCALE
www.parcocornoallescale.it
- 4** PARCO REGIONALE DEI LAGHI DI SUIVIANA E BRASIMONE
www.ilparcodellaghi.it
- 5** PARCO REGIONALE DELLA VENA DEL GESSO ROMAGNOLA
www.venadelgesso.org
- 6** PARCO REGIONALE DELL'ABBAZIA DI MONTEVEGLIO
www.parcoabbazia.it
- 7** RISERVA NATURALE ORIENTATA DEL BOSCO DELLA FRATTONA
www.comune.imola.bo.it/boscofrattona
- 8** RISERVA NATURALE GENERALE CONTRAFORTE PIOCCINO
www.provincia.bologna.it/ambiente



Evolutio urbis: the evolution of the old city centre of Bologna from the Roman city to the last circle

