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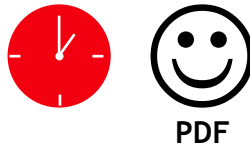
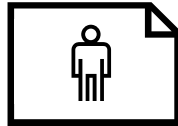
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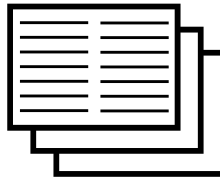
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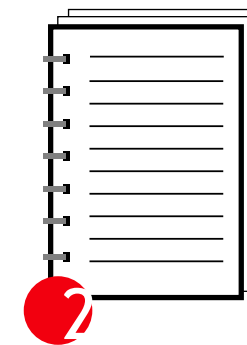
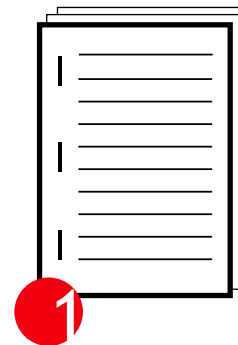
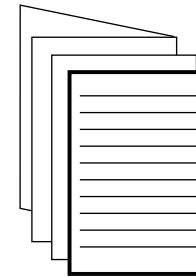
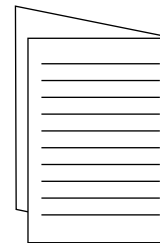
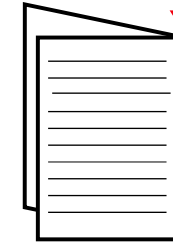
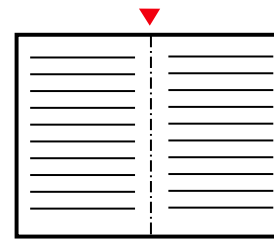
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assembling the guide



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THE BOLOGNA CITY GUIDE



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Getting there



Bologna: Piazza Maggiore

Bologna is conveniently located in relation to many other Italian cities. It can be reached quickly from Florence, Venice and Milan and is not too far from Rome or Turin.

By plane: "G. Marconi" Airport is located 6 km from the city and is connected to the center by frequent shuttle bus service. Many airlines fly out of the airport connecting the city with all major Italian and European destinations.

By train: Bologna is one of the main Italian train junctions, and is easy to reach from all parts of Italy. See the Trenitalia website for train schedules.

By car: if coming from **Florence**, take the A1 freeway to Bologna-Casalecchio and then follow the signs for the center (centro). Coming from **Milan**, take the A1 freeway to Bologna-Borgo Panigale and then follow the signs for the center (centro). From **Venice** or **Padua** take the A13 freeway to the Bologna-Arcoveggio exit. For those coming from **Rimini** and the Adriatic coast take the A14 freeway

to the Bologna-Arcoveggio exit. The historical center of Bologna is a pedestrian zone from 7:00am to 8:00pm every day including weekends and holidays, only authorized vehicles are allowed.

You need to show a copy of your hotel reservation to be able to drive to a hotel in the pedestrian zone. Once you get to the hotel you can get a pass which allows you to drive and park in the pedestrian zone. The pass needs to include the license plate number and date, time and hotel stamp to be valid.

History and culture



Bologna: Teatro Anatomico

The first inhabitants of Bologna date back to the Iron Age (10th century BC). The Etruscans lived in Bologna (called Felsina at that time) from the end of the 6th century to middle of the 4th and then it passed to the Gauls. The Romans defeated the Gauls in 191 BC, founding the colony of Bonomia along the Via Emilia. Originally inhabited by 3000 colonists, during the imperial age it reached 10,000 inhabitants.

Traces of the Roman city can be seen under Via Rizzoli and Sala Borsa, while numerous artifacts from all ancient epochs are displayed at the Museo Archeologico.

During the Middle Ages Bologna became a free commune, its golden century was the 13th: during this period the city developed greatly thanks to the university (the oldest in Europe), trade and the political backing of the Church; at the end of the 13th century Bologna was one of the top 10 cities of Europe.

During the 14th and 15th centuries the city was fought over by the Church and the Viscounts (noble family from Milan) and was gripped by civil wars between the aristocratic

families. Peace came with the reign of the Bentivoglio, which however marked the progressive domination of the popes over the city. Bologna lost its sovereignty in 1506 and was governed by one of the Pope's cardinals for two centuries.

The dominion of the Papal State was interrupted in 1796 when Napoleon's army entered the city. The Church's assets and property were expropriated and Bologna was transformed from an industrial city to a large agricultural province. The restoration of the Congress of Vienna in 1815 returned the city to the Church, but liberal ideas had already begun to gain ground.

The city actively participated in the Risorgimento fighting and became part of the new Italian state in 1859. Between the 19th and 20th centuries European town planning models took over: the city was embellished with public gardens and wide boulevards. Today Bologna has become a great industrial and cultural center, so much so that it earned the title **European Capital of Culture in 2000**.

Churches



Bologna: San Giacomo Maggiore

San Petronio The Basilica di San Petronio, dedicated to the city's patron saint, is the biggest and most important church in Bologna.

Its construction was started in 1390 and continued until the 1600's, when the roof and apse were completed.

The facade has remained unfinished. The main portal contains the Stories of the Old and New Testament, sculpted by **Jacopo della Quercia**, between 1425 and 1438. The solemn and majestic interior is divided into three naves supported by ten pillars. Twenty-two chapels open off the side naves. One contains an organ which still works built around 1470: the oldest in the world still in use.

San Pietro This is the cathedral of the city. Its origins date back to the 10th century, but it was rebuilt after a terrible fire in 1141. Nevertheless, the original Romanesque-Gothic layout underwent a profound transformation in the 17th and 18th centuries, which gave it its current Baroque appearance.

The interior is home to a lot of interesting

artwork, including the Annuciazione by Lodovico Carracci (1619) on the high altar and the frescoes in the rectory and apse.

The **Cathedral Treasure**, is also worth visiting, a extensive collection of furnishings and religious objects of a great artistic value, from the 15th to 20th centuries.

Santo Stefano Piazza S. Stefano is the old heart of Bologna. This enchanting triangular square contains the most sacred spot of Bologna, the Sette Chiese complex.

These churches (there are actually four) date back to the 10th - 13th centuries forming a symbolic reconstruction of the Passion of Christ.

The church of **Crocifisso** (on the right) contains a 1019 crypt and precious works of art; the church of **Calvario** (in the center) is a reproduction of Christ's tomb and contains the remains of San Petronio, patron saint of Bologna; the church of **Santi Vitale e Agricola** (on the left) is the oldest, marvelous in its bare simplicity, and holds the sarcophagi of two Bolognese martyrs, as well as the remains of the previous Byzantine constructions.

The Romanesque kiosk with dual loggias is not to missed, one of the most superb Romanesque creations in Emilia Romagna.

San Francesco The church was built in the 13th century, the first example of French inspired Gothic style in Italy. The most striking feature of the exterior is the apse part, with its famous arches and two elegant Gothic bell towers. Three monumental 13th century tombs sit at the foot of the apse. The marble altar piece stands out in the grandiose interior on the high altar. The walls contain various tombs including that of Pope Alexander V.

San Domenico The church, built upon the death of the saint 1221, overlooks one of the most beautiful squares of Bologna. If the exterior seems simple, the interior instead is filled with magnificent works of art, including paintings by Guercino, Luca Cambiaso,

Lodovico Carracci and Giunta Pisano. The main sight is definitely the **S. Domenico Chapel**: richly frescoed it contains a marble arch with the remains of the saint. This arch is considered one of the most important sculptures of Italian art, sculpted by famous artists like Nicolò Pisano and Michelangelo. The wood chorus by Fra'Damiano da Bergamo (1528-51) is also not to be missed, his contemporaries called it the eighth wonder of the world!

Santa Maria dei Servi. This extremely beautiful Gothic church, built between 1386 and 1437, is preceded by an airy square portico.

The Gothic inspired interior is divided into three naves. Numerous works of art can be seen, including the **Madonna in trono by Cimabue** (13th century), the marble altar piece on the high altar (1558-61), the 14th century frescoes by Vitale da Bologna and valuable paintings by the Bolognese school in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

San Giacomo Maggiore In the heart of the university area sits this church built between 1267 and 1315 by the hermit monks of S. Agostino and rebuilt at the end of the 15th century.

The single nave interior contains many remarkable works of art. The most admired work is the Cappella Bentivoglio, one of the major creations of the early Bolognese Renaissance.

Walking along the portico which flanks the Church you will find the entrance of the **Oratorio di Santa Cecilia**, an old church which houses the most important picture cycle of the Bolognese Renaissance, created by the best masters at the beginning of the 16th century.

San Michele in Bosco This impressive architectural complex stands in one of the most scenic spots of Bologna. There is a wonderful view of the city and plains from the

square in front of the church. The church was built in the Middle Ages, but was rebuilt in its current form in the 15th and 16th centuries by the Olivetani monks.

The Renaissance facade is decorated with a beautiful marble portal by Baldassarre Peruzzi (1522). The interior is formed of two floors and decorated with valuable paintings and sculptures from the 16th and 17th centuries.

One of the most charming parts is the **octagonal cloister**, from the end of the 16th century, decorated with famous paintings of the Carracci school.

Museums



Bologna: Ducati Museum

Bologna has an incredible museum heritage, one of the most extensive in Italy. Almost 50 museums ranging from art to history and science to technology.

Travelplan proposes a selection of the most significant museums. If you purchase the **Bologna dei Musei** card, you can get into many participating museums free.

Pinacoteca Nazionale (National Picture Gallery) Traces Emilia's painting from 1200 to 1800 and possesses works by Giotto, Raphael, Titian, Tintoretto, Carracci and Guido Reni. Hours: Tuesday-Sunday: 9am - 7pm Closed: Monday which are not holidays

Galleria d'Arte Moderna (Modern Art Gallery) Displays avant-garde works from the period after WWII to present and hosts temporary exhibits dedicated to various forms of artistic expression.

There is also a space reserve for experiments of contemporary artists.

Hours: Tuesday-Sunday: 9am - 6pm Closed: Monday

Morandi Museum Entirely dedicated to Bologna painter Giorgio Morandi, the museum contains a collection of 250 works, including paintings, watercolors, drawings and etchings. Hours: Monday-Sunday: 9am - 6pm Closed: Monday

Museo Civico Archeologico (Archaeological City Museum) Traces the development of the city from prehistoric times to the Etruscans up to the Roman age.

The museum also has one of the most extensive ancient Egypt sections in Europe. Hours: Tuesday to Saturday: 9.00am - 6:30pm; Sunday: 10.00 - 18.30

Museo Civico Medioevale (City Museum of Middle Ages) Contains remains from the Middle Ages and Renaissance in Bologna including illuminated manuscripts, ivories, weapons and sculptures..

The copper statue of Boniface VIII is very interesting. Hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 9:00am-6:30pm; Sundays and holidays: 9am - 6:30pm Closed: Monday

Collezioni Comunali d'Arte (Municipal Art Collections) The museum is located in Palazzo d'Accursio, now called Palazzo Comunale. It is a furnished museum, the frescoed monumental halls of the old building contain furniture, works of art and decorations from the 14th to 19th centuries.

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 9.00am - 6:30pm; Sunday and holidays: 9am - 6:30pm; Closed: Mondays which are not holidays

Museo della Comunicazione (Museum of Communication) Eight hundred pieces, still in working order, tell the story of radio, phonographs, movies and television.

There is also a collection of historic computers and juke boxes and entire sections dedicated to Guglielmo Marconi and the Ducati brothers.

Telephone: 051 6491008 - Hours: by reservation

Ducati Museum An extensive exhibition tells the story of the Ducatis from the 1940's to present, including antique motorcycles, billboards and accessories. Telephone: 051 6413259 Hours: by reservation - Closed: Sunday and holidays

Palazzo Poggi Museums The building dates back to the end of the 15th century, when it was acquired by the Poggi family, who transformed and expanded it.

The interiors were decorated with powerful murals, which tell of the personality of Giovanni Poggi, who ordered them painted. The building became the home of the **Istituto delle Scienze** in the 18th century, with the purpose of housing all the scientific knowledge of the time in one space and contains laboratories, galleries and even an astronomical observatory.

At present the building is one of the most interesting museums in Bologna, it traces the history of science from 1500 to 1800. In addition to the numerous **frescoed rooms**, which make this building one of the most charming private decorative complexes in Italy, many museums can be visited. Travelplan recommends the following:

- **Museo della Specola:** the museum is housed in the rooms which were once dedicated to the astronomical observatory.

The development of astronomical research from 1700 to 1800 can be experienced through the vast collection of astrolabes, telescopes, globes and star maps. Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:30am - 5:30pm; Saturday-Sunday: 9-18.30

- **Museo delle Navi e delle Antiche Carte Geografiche** (Museums of Ships and Ancient Maps): a complete collection, started in the 18th century, containing globes, maps, antique volumes, weapons, wooden models of ships from the 17th and 18th centuries. Hours: Tuesday-Friday: 9:00am - 5:30pm; Saturday-Sunday: 9am - 6:30pm Closed: Monday.

- **University Museums** In addition to Palazzo Poggi, the entire university area is home to various scientific museums, demonstrating the importance of Bologna in the international knowledge scene.

These museums revolve around anthropology, zoology, anatomy, palaeontology, geology, physics, mineralogy, botany as well as containing one of the oldest botanical gardens in Europe.

Historical buildings and monuments



Bologna: Two Towers

Piazza Maggiore

This is the salon of the city. It was once the center of political and religious power, but is now one of the main gathering places of the city, used for meetings, concerts or simple evening strolling.

The square was built in the 13th century to create a complex of buildings for public events. The **fountain of Neptune**, symbol of Bologna, stands at the entrance to the building.

Palazzo Re Enzo

Built in 1244, for 23 years it was the "residence" of the son of the Emperor Frederick II: King Enzo of Sardinia, taken prisoner during the battle of Fossalta (1249). The first floor contains weapons and war machines of Bologna's army, the second floor was used to hold sessions of the popular councils.

The Sala del Trecento is impressive. Next to Palazzo Re Enzo, stands **Palazzo del Podestà**; the building, the first seat of the citizen's government is surmounted by a square tower

containing a 2 ton bell: called the Campanazzo it rings during important occasions. The vaults of the building were once enlivened with the workshops of haberdashers, green grocers and artisans.

The facade facing the square was remodelled in Renaissance style by local aristocrat Giovanni Il Bentivoglio. The two buildings are opened for exhibits and events.

Palazzo Comunale

This is an impressive building-fortress overlooking Piazza Maggiore, today the seat of the municipal government.

It is characterized by a succession of overlapping styles; the part in Gothic style with marble mullioned windows and terra cotta decorations, dates back to 1400. On the left is the 16th century portal surmounted by a statue of Gregory XIII. Inside the complex it is possible to visit (if not in use) a succession of wonderful halls and chapels, climbing the 16th century stairway designed for a triumphant ascent on horseback. Sala Farnese leads to the **Collezioni Comunali d'Arte** and **Museo Morandi**.

The Archiginnasio

Sits on the eastern side of Piazza Maggiore, built by Cardinal Borromeo between 1562 and 1563 as the sight of the university Law and Arts schools. It currently houses the town library. Interior: the walls of the halls, vaults of the stairways and loggias are decorated with the engravings of thousands of students' coats of arms and names.

The **Teatro Anatomico** in carved wood, was built by Antonio Levante in 1637 for teaching anatomy. Visiting hours: Monday-Saturday 9:00am-1:00pm.

Two Towers

Bologna's towers were important for warning and defensive purposes and were naturally a sign of prestige for the families who lived in them. At the end of the 12th century there were one hundred of them, today around

fifteen remain. The two towers are the symbol of Bologna.

The taller one is **Asinelli Tower** built in the 10th century. It is 97 m high with a 2.23 meter inclination. The base was modified in 1488 to house guards.

The smaller is **Garisenda Tower**, a contemporary of its neighbor. Its strong inclination (3.22 m) is striking, caused by an earlier greater settling of the land.

Palazzo Bevilacqua

One of Bologna's most remarkable buildings is located in Via D'Azeglio, built between 1477 and 1482 by jurist Niccolò Sanuti. The building greatly differs from Bolognese architectural canons, and looks more like Tuscan Renaissance buildings.

The use of rustication on the facade like the Palazzo dei Diamanti in Ferrara is interesting. The charming internal courtyard with its two loggias one over the other is ornately decorated with sculptures and terra cotta relief work.

Palazzo Pepoli Campogrande

A large residence of nobility built by Count Odoardo Pepoli starting in 1653 opposite the family's medieval building.

All of the decor of the building was aimed at celebrating the family and is an extraordinary example of late 17th century Bolognese art. The internal courtyard contains a great staircase with a square layout.

It is possible to visit the frescoed **main hall** and other magnificent decorated rooms which compose the apartment, where works of the **Zambeccari Collection** are displayed with works of Emilia's leading painters. Open: Saturday 3:00pm - 7:00pm - Sunday 9:00am-7:00pm

Isolani Houses

Casa Isolani, at 19 Strada Maggiore, is one of the rare examples of 13th century civil buildings. The facade is unusual, as is a very tall portico formed by oak beams supporting

the third floor of the house. A charming arcade (**Corte Isolani**) starts from the house which crosses a series of internal courtyards opening onto Piazza S. Stefano at the **Palazzo Isolani**.

This 15th century building contains a mixed style combining Bolognese Gothic and Tuscan Renaissance.

The faces of the six figures inserted in circular medallions "curiously" display 19th century hair styles.

Secret Bologna



Bologna: Climb to Santuario di San Luca

Bologna's canals

Very few visitors know it, but under Bologna there is a dense network of canals which supplied energy in the past to make silk and grind wheat. Most of these were covered in the 1900's.

To see a glimpse of these canals go to **Via Piella 18**. A window under the portico reveals a surprising scene.

Underground Bologna

Underground locks, canals and streams, age-old remains covered over time, in a virtually unseen before Bologna can now be visited thanks to the "Amici delle Acque di Bologna" association.

The association organizes guided tours to the various secret sights of the city: **Bagni di Mario** (Mario's Baths) a large underground 16th century cistern with Renaissance decoration and fascinating tunnels with ogive vaults.

An ingenious system for collecting water built based on Nero's Domus Aurea.

Sala Borsa (entrance from Piazza Nettuno) an Art Nouveau hall built at the end of the 19th

century to house Bologna's stock market, is currently the site of a library with an extensive multimedia collection.

A network of tunnels start under the crystal floor revealing Roman and Etruscan Bologna. Associazione Amici delle Acque di Bologna Telephone: +39.051.522401 (Mon to Fri 8:30am -1:00pm) - Fax: +39.051.557794

Jewish ghetto

Bologna's ghetto, in the medieval part of the city, preserves its original structure.

Dark passageways, narrow alleys and courtyards where the Church confined Bologna's Jews from 1556 to 1593, when they were exiled from the city for more than 2 centuries.

The ghetto is located between Via dell'Inferno and the adjacent streets: an area once enclosed by two gates.

The synagogue was located at 16 Via dell'Inferno.

The **Jewish Museum** (Museo Ebraico) is located on Via Valdonica: it traces the history of the Jews over 4000 years, with particular focus on the link between the Jewish community and Emilia Romagna. It also has a specialized library. Hours: Sunday-Thursday 9:00am-6:00pm; Friday 10:00am-4:00pm; Closed: Saturday and Jewish holidays.

Il Collegio di Spagna

A very beautiful medieval college founded in 1365 to house the Spanish students enrolled in the famous university. The complex is protected by high walls, and is built in a style halfway between a monastery and fortified building. The entrance portal leads to a pretty 16th century cloister with double loggia.

The upper loggia is decorated with frescoes in the Gothic vaults. Even now the college house 16 lucky Spanish students enrolled at the University of Bologna at no charge. Visits by request only.

Via Saragozza

Leaving Collegio di Spagna, we recommend

walking down Via Saragozza until the gate that encloses it in the walls. Its long red arcades form one of the most spectacular sights of the city.

Climb to Santuario di San Luca

Located on a hill dominating Bologna, Santuario di San Luca is one of the symbols of the city.

The most charming way to reach it is to walk along the 666 arches of the longest portico in the world! The portico, built in the 18th century, starts from Via Saragozza and leads to the sanctuary with a route lasting almost four kilometers, which starts on flat ground and ends at 220 meters on Colle della Guardia.

The views over the city that can be seen from the portico and hill will fully repay the effort. Inside the Sanctuary you can see the famous picture of the Madonna, a Byzantine painting that legend attributes to the evangelist Luke.

Eating and Drinking



Bologna: tagliatelle

Few cities in the world boast a heritage of gourmet tradition like Bologna. However, one of the three epithets of the city if "la grassa" (the fat one), well-deserved considering the local passion for good food. So it is not surprising that many of the most famous Italian dishes in the world come from Bologna.

Pasta dishes include famous names like *tortellini*. There are many varieties, but the ones in Bologna are stuffed with meat, prosciutto, mortadella, parmesan and are served in broth. Then there are *tortelloni* stuffed with ricotta. This is also the land of egg pasta, including the stars *tagliatelle* and *lasagna*. Tagliatelle, according to tradition are served with meat sauce, and the pasta for real lasagna is green, since it is made with spinach. **Meat** is not missing in Bologna, and pork is the undisputed king.

A traditional dish is *cotoletta alla bolognese*, a cutlet covered with prosciutto and cheese, bollito misto (assorted boiled meats) and various roasts are also popular, for example

stracotto di manzo (beef stew). Cold cuts are another prerogative of Emilia: the glory of Bologna is *mortadella*. Nearby cities provide prosciutto from Parma, salami from Felino, coppa from Piacenza, ham and *zampone* (stuffed pig's trotter), which is served cooked. Among the cheeses, it is impossible not to mention *Parmigiano Reggiano*, one of the most famous cheeses in the world, but we also suggest trying *squaccherone*, a very soft cheese.

Bologna's residents like to eat cold cuts and cheeses with specials bread made with lard: *tigelle*, *crescentine* and *piadine*.

Dessert: to finish a meal with dignity you can try the typical *pan speciale*, a Christmas cake made with dried fruit and torta di riso (rice cake).

Wine: the most famous product of these lands is *Lambrusco*, a sparkling red wine grown between Bologna and Reggio Emilia.

It is not a particularly expensive wine, but with its pleasant light taste and fruity bouquet it has conquered major success throughout the world.

The hilly area behind Bologna has a much different vocation, this is the *Colli Bolognesi* DOC area. Excellent wines are produced here including the whites Albana, Pignoletto, Sauvignon, Pinot Bianco and Riesling or reds Barbera, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Shopping



Bologna: Mercato di Mezzo

Bologna is definitely one of the Italian meccas for shopping, an enormous outdoor shopping center which is home to the leading designer boutiques as well as design and furniture shops, and many book stores, antique shops and art galleries.

The so-called "quadrilatero" - an area enclosed by Via Rizzoli, Via D'Azeglio, Via Farini and Via Castiglione - reveals the most elegant nature of Bologna, which reaches its peak in Galleria Cavour where the most famous designers are located. Via Indipendenza is another golden mile of shopping, decidedly the most popular in Bologna. There are tons of shops, with a wide range of goods and affordable for everyone. If you are looking for a more original and refined style, the right address is Via San Vitale. If Via dell'Archiginnasio, which flanks Piazza Maggiore, is famous for jewelry, Strada Maggiore, Corte Isolani and Via S. Stefano are good streets for antiques and furniture.

To take a plunge into Bologna's gourmet scene head for the so-called Mercato di Mezzo,

a characteristic area located between Via Drapperie, Via Clavature and the surrounding side streets. Here you'll find the city's best gourmet shops, which display foodstuffs as if they were gems. The prices are a bit on the high side but the quality is guaranteed. The more popular Mercato delle Erbe, a covered markets with all kinds of stalls, is located in the central Via Ugo Bassi. A large clothing market including a nice section with used and vintage clothing, is held every Friday and Saturday in Piazza 8 Agosto. For antiques and bric-à-brac there are markets in Piazza 8 Agosto every Thursday and in Piazza S. Stefano every second weekend of the month.

Hotels & lodgings



Bologna: around the city

With more than 20 trade shows per year, Bologna is the second trade show center in Italy. Thus the city has one of the widest offerings of accommodations in Italy. You can choose from many hotels, rooms to let or bed-and-breakfasts based on your needs and budget.

If you prefer the complete service of a hotel, Travelplan proposes a selection of **hotels in Bologna**. If are looking for a more economic solution but without giving up comfort, you can opt for a cozy **bed-and-breakfast in Bologna**. If you are planning a long stay an excellent solution is a **residence in Bologna** or an **apartment in Bologna**. For those who desire contact with Mother Nature there is plenty to choose from: there are many **country guesthouses in Bologna**, in a wonderful position of the hills around the city.

Events



Bologna: Motor Show

Bologna, as a great cultural capital and trade show center, hosts an impressive series of all types of events: music, art, dance, culture, sports, trade shows and markets. Travelplan proposes a selection of the most significant recurring events.

Netmage - creative and innovative images on art, media, communication. In January, various locations in the city. International festival dedicated to live media and new trends in electronic and digital creative production.

Artefiera - end of January, Fiera di Bologna. International exhibition and market of contemporary art, one of the longest running shows in Italy for the art market, with more than 250 exhibiting galleries.

Bologna Festival a classical music festival which has brought the most prestigious names of the international concert world to Bologna for more than 20 years. The festival is held at two separate times during the year:

in the spring between March and May and in fall between October and November. Various venues: Europa Auditorium, Teatro Comunale and others.

Celebrations of Madonna di San Luca. The weekend of the 6th Sunday of Easter Bologna's most important religious festival is held: the image of the Madonna kept in the Santuario di San Luca descends into the city for the blessing in the church of S. Petronio. The celebration closes with the solemn return procession of the image to the Sanctuary.

San Marino Formula 1 Grand Prix - Imola racetrack, in May. The Formula 1 calendar takes to the legendary circuit of Imola. The racetrack was built in a land where engines are a religion, the hometown of companies like Ferrari, Lamborghini, Maserati and Ducati. The race is held on Sunday, trials are on Friday and Saturday.

Made in BO For the entire summer the location of performance and music in the Parco Nord presents great art, music and performance happenings, including rock concerts like Flippaut Rock Festival (June), Independent Days Festival (September) and MTV Day (September).

Danza urbana - end of July. International dance festival in urban spaces. An itinerary of extraordinary performances in the most important squares of the city.

Artelibro - end of September. The only event of this kind in Italy. A great art book festival, which covers each product connected to the sector: from show catalogs to art books for children. The show is held in Palazzo Re Enzo, in the heart of the city. A full schedule of related events: book presentations, meetings with the author, debates and exhibits.

Superbike World Championship - Imola racetrack, between September and October.

All of the most important motorcycle manufacturers will race in the Superbike championship: in addition to Ducati, all the Japanese will be present and the Malay Petronas. The race is run on Sunday, in two rounds.

Bologna e le Città del Cibo, in October. A festival dedicated to gastronomy. Some of the squares in the center are transformed into stages for performances, typical dishes and presentation of typical Bolognese gourmet products.

Motor Show - in December, at the Fiera di Bologna. International car and motorcycle trade show, which has been sold out for years. The best of two wheel and four wheel international production, with numerous debuts and a thrilling race and exhibition schedule.

Opera and Ballet Season at Teatro Comunale - from October to May. Teatro Comunale is the historical theater of Bologna, a masterpiece by Antonio Galli Bibiena, famous 18th century architect, set designer, painter and decorator. The season proposes an excellent lineup of opera and symphony music. Infoline: 199 107070

La Dolce Vita



Bologna: crowd in Piazza Maggiore

Bologna is known throughout Italy as the mecca of fun, a hedonistic city, where night life and fun can be found for all generations & A city which, thanks to the massive presence of students, is open to all forms of expression, even the most alternative.

Taking time for **cocktail** is a must in the alleys of Mercato di Mezzo or in Piazza Maggiore, where you can sip a glass of good wine accompanied by the tastiest appetizers of the local cuisine.

Bologna would not be the same without its traditional "**osteria**", which once represented the center of the city's social life. There are very many of them scattered throughout the city, some open to less than traditional influences, but all maintain the irresistible charm of partying. The greatest concentration is found in **Via del Pratello**, the focal point of Bologna's night life, where nothing ever shuts and you can drink wines and hang out with friends. The **university area** is another hot spot for Bologna's nocturnal crowd: Via Zamboni, Piazza Verdi and Via delle Belle Arti

are filled with swarms of young people from happy hour (7:00pm) until late at night.

If **movies** are your thing, there are 30 movie theaters in Bologna, where young can enjoy the latest blockbusters and real gems for movie fans.

The **theatrical offering** is equally good with experimental performances, musicals, dance, opera and symphony. The "Bologna dei Teatri" circuit unites the main city facilities, the performances are published every week on a single playbill.

To listen to good **jazz** in Bologna, we recommend two excellent places: Cantina Bentivoglio and Chet Baker.

To finish a Bologna night, the traditional rite involves indulging in a croissant or warm doughnut that many of the city's bakeries offer starting in the early hours of the morning.

Modena and the land of Ferrari



Modena: the Galleria Ferrari

This itinerary winds around the hills between Bologna and Modena, in a gentle landscape dotted with castles, old convents and vineyards. This land is also the undisputed heart of the creativity and passion of Italian engines. Four simple names are sufficient for understanding this phenomenon: Ferrari, Maserati, Lamborghini and De Tomaso.

The itinerary can be done in two or more days, it is worth spending the night to explore these historical cities at a relaxing pace. You can choose from a selection of **hotels in Modena** for a stay characterized by relaxation and charm. For those who prefer a different type of accommodation, there is a vast selection of cozy **bed-and-breakfasts in Modena** or one of the numerous **country guesthouses in Modena**, scattered amidst the Lambrusco vineyards.

Monteveglia

In a picturesque position on a hill dominating the plains, sits the age-old castle and abbey reigned over by Matilde di Canossa. While only the tower remains of the castle, the

really interesting sight is the **S. Assunta Abbey**, from the 12th century, which became very important in the 14th century. The old crypt dating back to before 1000 and the two cloisters are worth seeing.

Vignola

A small city known for its beautiful fortress and cultivation of famous cherries. The **fortress** is square with towers attached, which existed in the 9th century. Once past the drawbridge and moat you enter a hall decorated with 15th century frescoes. The visit continues to the upper floors, with fascinating medieval spaces, and basements. Hours: Winter: 10.00-12.00 / 14.30-18.00. Summer: 10.00-12.00 / 15.30-19.00

Maranello is headquarters of the most prestigious car manufacturer in the world: Ferrari. Each year thousands of enthusiasts from all over the world converge on this corner of Emilia to visit the **Galleria Ferrari**. Located right near the manufacturer, the Gallery is an extraordinary 2500 square meter museum organized in four areas: Formula One, special exhibits, technological innovation and photo exhibits. All of the race cars which have made Ferrari's history on circuits all over the world are exhibited here.

There are also two simulators of real Formula 1 available to try the thrill of driving a single-seater in a World Championship race. Open: every day, from 9:30am to 6:00pm

Spezzano Castle

In Fiorano, near the Ferrari test circuit, is the beautiful Castello di Spezzano. The manor dates back to the 11th century, and is formed in a square around a central courtyard. The interiors can be visited and are decorated with military scenes and the pretty **Museo della Ceramica**.

This area is one of the most important ceramic producing zones in Italy. Open: from April 9th to October 30th, Saturday and Sunday 3:00pm-7:00pm.

MODENA

One of Emilia's historical city, mainly famous for its **Piazza Grande**, its vital center and on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The Duomo and Palazzo Comunale are located on the square. The **Duomo** (cathedral), built starting in the 12th century 1099, is considered one of the best European Romanesque masterpieces. It is striking due to its architectural appearance as well as the decorations on the facade, work of the sculptor Wiligelmo and the Maestri Campionesi. The sculptures of the Stories of Genesis on the facade and main portal are of note. **The gates** that open along the sides are considered excellent expressions of Romanesque sculpture. The majestic interior contains sculptures created by the Maestri Campionesi between the 12th and 13th centuries and the wooden stalls of the choir. A terra cotta group created by Guido Mazzoni around 1480 stands out in the crypt. A short distance from the Duomo stands the 87 meter Torre della Ghirlandina.

The **Palazzo Comunale** sits on the other two sides of the square. The interior can be visited, with marvelous halls frescoed in different epochs, like Sala degli Arazzi, Sala del Fuoco and Sala del Vecchio Consiglio.

A short distance away in Piazza Sant' Agostino, is the **Palazzo dei Musei**, which contains the "most beautiful illuminated book in the world": the Bible which belonged to Borso d'Este. Do not miss the Galleria Estense inside the building, which was the private art gallery of this noble Modena family. It is one of the most important Italian collections with works by Bernini, Velasquez, Correggio and El Greco.

Palazzo Ducale, is currently the seat of the Military Academy, built starting in 1634 for Duke Francesco I with the help of the best artists of the time, including Bernini, Borromini and Pietro da Cortona. The construction incorporated the preexisting structure of the older 14th century castle.

Carpi

This small town is located a short distance from Modena. It is worth going there to see the spectacular **Piazza dei Martiri**, the third largest square in Italy. Palazzo dei Pio, the Cathedral, theater, Palazzo Comunale and Mercato del Grano are located on the square. **Palazzo dei Pio**, composed of different buildings dating from the Middle Ages to the 18th century, stands on the eastern side of the square. The Pio family transformed the first fortress into a flamboyant Renaissance dwelling. The interior of the building can be visited in Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Hours: 10-12.30/15.30-19.00

Ferrara and the Po Delta



Bologna: Po Delta Natural Park

This itinerary will accompany you to discover Ferrara, a city rich in art and history, and the characteristic lands of the Po Delta, where Italy's main river meets the Adriatic Sea, giving rise to a unique environment of woods and lagoons.

The itinerary can be done in two or more days, it is worth spending the night to explore these areas at a relaxing pace. You can choose from a selection of **hotels in Ferrara** for a stay characterized by relaxation and charm. For those who prefer a different type of accommodation, there is a vast selection of cozy **bed-and-breakfasts in Ferrara** or one of the numerous **country guesthouses** in Ferrara and the Po Delta.

FERRARA

Ferrara, a city on **Unesco's World Heritage List**, is striking due to its own special charm, a city suspended between the Middle Ages and Renaissance. We suggest visiting it by bike, the preferred method of transportation for 90% of its inhabitants. In the past it was the capital of the rich Este dukedom, which is

why the inhabitants of Ferrara are still called "estensi".

The heart of the city is the medieval square the **Cathedral** stands on. The Cathedral, started in the 12th century, it is a harmonious mixture of different styles. The lower part of the three cusp facade is Romanesque, the upper part is a splendid example of Gothic architecture decorated with a grandiose "Universal Judgement: sculpted in the central part. The southern side is characterized by a portico of the medieval workshops. The interior, rebuilt in the 17th century, houses lovely works of art, including: on the altar next to the right transept, "Martyr of San Lorenzo" by Guercino; and "Universal Judgement" by Bastianino in the apse.

Estense Castle dating back to the 14th century, when it was built to defend the Este family from popular revolts. It became the official residence of the Dukes in the 16th century and was completely redesigned, becoming one of the most admired aristocratic residences of the time. The interior with 16th century frescoes can be visited in its entirety; the "Giardino degli Aranci" deserves special mention.

The Herculean Expansion: in 1942 Duke Ercole d'Este ordered the expansion of the city towards the north with a state of the art design. The new quarter shaped by wide straight streets, contains elegant buildings like Palazzo dei Diamanti and the famous Piazza Ariostea.

Palazzo dei Diamanti owes its name to the wonderful rustication facade which recalls the shape of diamonds. Its current appearance dates back to the end of the 16th century when Cesare d'Este chose it as his residence. Splendid decorated halls and even more importantly the Pinacoteca Nazionale can be visited inside it. The latter is home to works by Gentile da Fabriano, Ercole de'Roberti and Carpaccio among others. International level

art shows are regularly held in the building. **Palazzina Marfisa** is another flamboyant Este family residence dating back to the 16th century. It is worth visiting to see its extensive collection of art objects and antique furniture on display in its rooms.

From Ferrara the itinerary continues heading east to Comacchio, the entrance to the large **Po Delta Natural Park**, an area of 54 hectares filled with woods, rivers, lagoons and marshy valleys. It is the vastest protected wetland in Italy, an area filled with natural environments which are home to hundreds of animal and plant species. An infinite number of excursions on foot or by bike are possible in the Park. Numerous boats depart from the ports of Goro and Gorino and follow fascinating routes along the river.

Comacchio is the most original and fascinating town on the Po Delta. It was built during the Middle Ages on thirteen islands and based its development exclusively on the water. Today it is a city with intact and unique architectural characteristics, made up of canals, 17th century buildings, low, colorful houses and famous landmark bridges. The town overlooks **Valli di Comacchio**, a marshy lagoon of 13,000 hectares where the eel and a myriad of birds reign. It is possible to visit it on foot, by bike or in comfortable boats. The **Museo delle Valli** opens in the area called Casone Foce, an itinerary along the banks and canals inside the valleys which illustrates the age-old relationship between civilization and nature in these fascinating environments.

Pomposa Abbey is a Benedictine abbey situated at the edge of Mesola Wood. The abbey dates back to the 6th century and was a great center of culture and prayer. The interior of the church conserves the columns with Byzantine and Romanesque capitals and a wonderful series of frescoes. The over 50 meter Romanesque bell tower is famous.

Mesola Wood is what now remains of a very vast woody area dating back to the year one thousand. The wood is an intact reserve and has different landscapes, including areas with marsh vegetation and fauna. Do not miss the area called "Taglio della Falce" at the southern edge of the wood, where it is possible to see an extremely charming view. The wood can be visited on foot or by bike from March to October: Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and holidays. Bikes can be rented at the entrance to the Wood.



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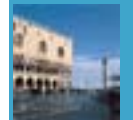
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