



Cultura
è Bologna

Discover

The Renaissance in Bologna








Bologna is known primarily for its strongly medieval character and still contains an abundance of architecture, palaces and works of art from that period. But also during the Renaissance the city was one of Italy's most important centres in historical and artistic terms. So, along with the Florence of the Medicis, the Mantua of the Gonzagas and the Ferrara of the Este, we also have the Bologna of the Bentivoglios and Pope Julius II. And this itinerary leads us to a precious treasure trove of collections, museums and religious buildings and the discovery of masterpieces that sum up the cultural richness that Bologna can lay claim to.



How to get there

Bologna is easily accessible by most modes of transport.

Bologna

-  Bologna G. Marconi Airport
-  Bologna Centrale station
-  Motorways (A1-A13-A14)



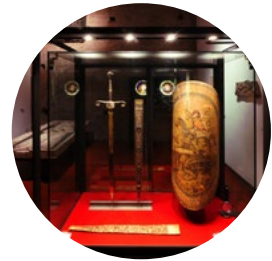
- 1 Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna
- 2 Collezioni Comunali d'Arte – Palazzo d'Accursio
- 3 Museo Civico Medievale – Palazzo Ghisilardi
- 4 Museo della Storia di Bologna – Palazzo Pepoli
- 5 Museo Davia Bargellini – Palazzo Davia Bargellini
- 6 Chiesa di San Giacomo Maggiore and Oratorio di Santa Cecilia
- 7 Museo di Palazzo Poggi
- 8 Complesso di Santa Maria della Vita
- 9 Basilica di San Petronio



Bolognese Renaissance in the Pinacoteca

Via delle Belle Arti, 56

The Renaissance wing of the Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna is divided into 20 chronological and thematic sections. It covers a time span from 1450 to the mid-16th century, emphasising crucial milestones while telling the story of the most prominent artists in Bologna during this period. Alongside masterpieces by local artists, the halls include paintings by great masters such as Raphael, Parmigianino, Titian, Tintoretto and El Greco.



Collezioni Comunalì d'Arte

D'Accursio Palace,
Piazza Maggiore, 6

The Municipal Art Collections are housed in D'Accursio Palace in Piazza Maggiore. Some of the building's Renaissance structures, such as the great Court of Honour, the Staircase or the Clock Tower, can still be admired by the public today. The collections contain some very important works such as the *Crucifixion with Saints John and Jerome* by Francesco Francia or the *Virgin and Child* by Amico Aspertini.

Museo Civico Medievale

Ghisilardi Palace,
Via Alessandro Manzoni, 4

Housed in one of the best-preserved Renaissance palaces in Bologna, the it possesses a unique collection. The Bentivoglio era is represented by artefacts like the *Stocco*, a sword given by Pope Nicholas V to Ludovico Bentivoglio, or the *Targone*, a shield adorned with a painting of *S. George and the Dragon*, or the multi-material tomb of Domenico Garganelli, one of Francesco del Cossa's masterpieces.

Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna
Raffaello Sanzio
The Ecstasy of Saint Cecilia
1518
Bologna, National Art Gallery



Museo della Storia di Bologna

Pepoli Palace,
Via Castiglione, 8

Pepoli Vecchio Palace was home to one of Bologna's most powerful families in medieval times and is now a museum charting the city's history. Amidst the centuries of history that unfold in the rooms of the Palace there is a large space is dedicated to the Renaissance Bologna. The tangled chronicles of that century saw the Bentivoglio family emerge triumphant; their ascension to power was portrayed by some of the era's greatest artists, such as Lorenzo Costa. The Museum of History is an essential visit for anyone wanting to understand the historical background to the Renaissance phenomenon in the city of Bologna.



Museo Davia Bargellini

Davia Bargellini Palace,
Strada Maggiore, 44

The Davia Bargellini Museum, housed in the beautiful palace of the same name, maintains the memory of the powerful family allied to the Bentivoglio dynasty. Gaspare and Virgilio in particular were prominent figures in the Bologna epic era. The numerous Renaissance works include the bust of Virgilio di Onofri, his supposed portrait attributed to Aspertini, the Raphael-esque paintings by Innocenzo da Imola depicting *Saint Lorenzo* and *Saint Petronius*, previously held in Santa Maria dei Servi.



Chiesa di San Giacomo Maggiore and Oratorio di Santa Cecilia

Piazza Gioacchino Rossini
and Via Zamboni, 15

The Bentivoglio family chapel is housed in the Church of San Giacomo Maggiore and is a true masterpiece of the Bolognese Renaissance. The chapel was decorated by the two most prominent artists working in Bologna in the late 15th century: Lorenzo Costa and Francesco Francia. From 1506 they also worked with Amico Aspertini on the creation of one of the most important pictorial cycles of the Bolognese Renaissance, preserved in the Oratory of Santa Cecilia.



Museo di Palazzo Poggi

Via Zamboni, 33

From the Renaissance of the courts and the great artists we move to the “other Renaissance” of the early scientists, collectors, and observers of nature. The rooms of Palazzo Poggi, decorated with frescoes from the Mannerist period, are where the University of Bologna houses an exceptional treasure: the collection assembled by Ulisse Aldrovandi (1522-1605), professor and inventor of the modern science museum. The Aldrovandi museum, donated to the Municipality of Bologna, has resisted dispersal over time and comes to us almost intact.



Complesso di Santa Maria della Vita

Via Clavature, 8/10

The “Scream of Stone” was how Gabriele D’Annunzio defined the sculptural group *The Lamentation over the Dead Christ* by Niccolò dell’Arca, dating from around 1463. The work resides in the church of Santa Maria della Vita, which dates back to 1200, the year in which the eponymously-named institute was founded to care for the sick, prisoners and those condemned to death. In the chapel to the right of the high altar of this important place of worship, visitors can admire a sculptural masterpieces that still arouses pathos and awed admiration after six hundred years.



Basilica di San Petronio

Piazza Maggiore

During the Renaissance, this majestic basilica symbolised the devotion of the Bolognese population and was central to a number of important artistic programmes. It has many notable features, such as the decoration of the side windows, on which Niccolò dell’Arca and Francesco di Simone Ferrucci also worked, or the current layout of the façade. The interior contains masterpieces by all the key artists of the era, including Costa Attivo with the De’ Rossi Chapel, Onofri with *the Lamentation*, and the various paintings by Aspertini.

Museo di Palazzo Poggi

Detail of the fresco in the Concert Hall with the Labours of Hercules by Nicolò dell’Abate
© Alma Mater Studiorum
– University of Bologna | Sistema Museale di Ateneoph. Baldassarri

In search of the Renaissance in Bologna

Traces of the Renaissance period in Bologna are still visible in today's urban layout and in many of the city's buildings. Delving into the Bolognese Renaissance also means getting to know the main artists associated with the Bentivoglio court: Francesco Francia and Amico Aspertini, as well as the Ferrara-born Francesco del Cossa, Ercole de Roberti and Lorenzo Costa.

What are the opening hours of the places listed in this leaflet?

All information you need is available at bolognawelcome.com: address, opening hours and contact people. Bologna Welcome is in constant contact with the museums and cultural sites listed in this publication and on the site; however, we do recommend that you also check the official sites of the places you intend to visit to make sure you can plan your visit as you wish.

Are there Renaissance-themed guided tours in Bologna?

The staff of Bologna Welcome will be happy to introduce you to the Renaissance era in Bologna through guided tours tailored to your or your group's needs. For more information please visit bolognawelcome.com or email booking@bolognawelcome.it

I am interested in the Renaissance in Bologna and want to know more. Where can I find more information?

Many other places in Bologna are Renaissance landmarks, including: the Basilica of San Domenico; the Basilica of San Francesco; Cathedral of San Pietro; the Church of San Martino Maggiore; the Church of San Giovanni in Monte; Church of the Misericordia; Church of the Annunziata. For interesting facts, information and anecdotes on the history of the masterpieces from this era, visit bolognawelcome.com or, if you are in the city, call in at the Bologna Welcome Tourist Information Point.

Find out more and listen to the Renaissance in Bologna podcast



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PINACOTECA
NAZIONALE
DI BOLOGNA

bologna
MUSEI

