



Culture
is Bologna

Discover

Bologna LGBTIQA+








Bologna is also known for being a place with a long tradition of openness to diversity and acceptance of minorities. Even as far back as the 1970s, the city had meeting and entertainment venues where the LGBTIQA+ community could gather.

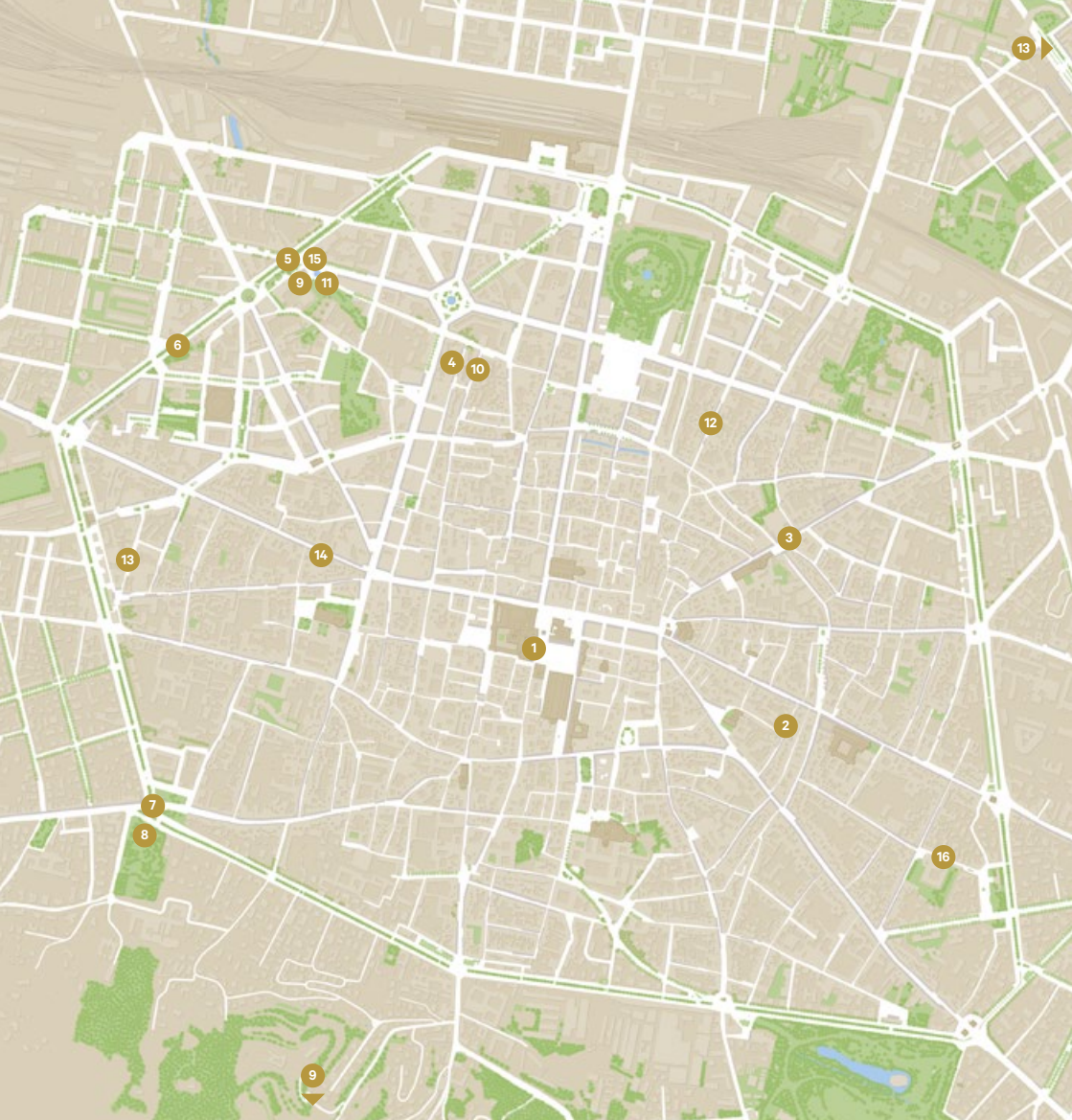


How to get there

Bologna is easily accessible by most modes of transport.

Bologna

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



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c/o Cassero
LGBTI Center
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Palazzo d'Accursio

Piazza Maggiore, Bologna

Palazzo D'Accursio is the historic seat of the Municipality of Bologna. Marcella Di Folco held office here after being elected City Councillor in 1995 – the first trans woman in the world to hold a public position. During her previous film career in the 1970s, she (at the time, he) worked with major directors including Federico Fellini, Roberto Rossellini, Dino Risi and Alberto Sordi. In 1988 she became President of MIT – Trans Identity Movement and in 1997 Vice President of the National Observatory on Gender Identity. Her idea was to create a self-managed clinic for transsexual people – the world's first.. Opposite the boundary wall behind the main entrance of Palazzo d'Accursio, look out for the Waldensian Evangelical Church (Via Venezian 1), as it is home to the city's gay choir: Komos - Coro LGBTIQA+ di Bologna.



Igor Bookshop

c/o Senape Vivaio Urbano
Via Santa Croce 10/ABC
Bologna

IT IS the only bookshop in Bologna totally dedicated to LGBTQI culture and takes its name from the two owners' friendly little dog who welcomes you at the entrance. The shop often hosts book presentations and meetings on LGBTQI issues. It started as a foreign publishing selling agent in 1975, and can order books from abroad on request.



P.P. Pasolini's birthplace

Via Borgonuovo 4, Bologna

Italian film director and intellectual Pier Paolo Pasolini was born on this street in Bologna in 1922. He symbolises the rediscovery and development of the Italian gay community's identity. Here he spent the years of his schooling (attending Galvani high school), his University studies (degree in Arts) and his first poems. Together with Francesco Leonetti and Roberto Roversi, he founded the magazine Officina in 1955. The Pier Paolo Pasolini Study Centre-Archive is based in the Renzi Library of the Fondazione Cineteca di Bologna, which houses, among other things, the artist's documents, magazines, monographs and essays by scholars on Pasolini's work and more than 1,000 audiovisual aids with Pasolini's films, photographs and taped speeches.



University Area

Via Zamboni, Bologna

Over the years, various forms of activism have taken place, with young participants in feminist, lesbian, gay, trans and queer collectives often linked to university faculties or environments. Number 1 Via Zamboni was home to the now historic meeting and entertainment venue for the LGBTQI community: the Kinky Club. In the 1970s, it was one of the first places in the city to welcome the LGBTQI community without prejudice, at a historic time when few cities in Italy had openly gay-friendly bars or clubs.



Trans Identity Movement (MIT) Headquarters

Via Polese 22, Bologna

The MIT, founded in 1982, is a Social Promotion Association that defends and supports the rights of transgender and non-binary people. The movement engages at national and European level in the fight against gender identity discrimination, provides special services and promotes important cultural activities. Also in Via Polese was the Paquito, the city's historic cruising bar, one of the first to appear anywhere in the country.



Stefano Casagrande Gardens

Via Calori, Via Graziano and Viale Silvani, Bologna

Located within the medieval walls and inaugurated in 2012, this garden is dedicated to one of the best known artists and activists of the Bologna gay movement, Stefano Casagrande. He was one of the founders of the Cassero and originator of the event. The Italian Miss Alternative in 1994, launched to raise funds for associations involved in the fight against AIDS. And it was precisely because of AIDS that Casagrande died prematurely in 2000 at the age of 39.



BLQ Checkpoint

Via S. Carlo 42, Bologna

Opened in 2015, it is the first Italian "checkpoint", a community-based dedicated space for the queer community where people can monitor their sexual health and get detailed information about

it through health tests and screenings. The centre uses a "peer" approach, meaning it is managed by people who openly adopt an LGBTIQ+ identity and/or an HIV+ identity.

It is managed by the PLUS Persone LGBT+ HIV-positive association, the first in Italy for LGBTIQ+ people with HIV.



La Salara

Via Don Minzoni 18, Bologna

This ancient salt warehouse is located in the Manifattura delle Arti cultural district, close to the Cineteca, the MAMbo and the Departments of Music and Entertainment and Communication Sciences of the University of Bologna. The Salara is home to:

Cassero LGBTQIA+ Center: the longest-running Italian LGBTQIA+ association and Bologna offices of Arcigay. Its documentation centre, founded in 1983, preserves and provides critical material on sexuality, gender identity and social exclusion. It also houses one of the largest libraries in Europe, as well as festivals, cultural events and evenings open to the community.

Lesbiche Bologna: an association active for over twenty years. Through the Lesbian and Anti-Violence Line, it supports LBT* victims of violence in relationships. It also organises cultural, political and social events for LBT* people.



Porta Saragozza

Villa Cassarini Gardens and Piazzale Marcella di Folco

Porta Saragozza symbolises the long presence of the LGBTQI community in Bologna. Not without controversy, one of the first queer collectives in the city, the Circle of Gay Culture 28 June, was licenced in 1982 and remained at this address until 2002. It is now home to the museum of the Blessed Virgin of San Luca. Bologna was the first city in Italy to create a public memorial to victims of Nazi-Fascist persecution. A short distance away are the Villa Cassarini Gardens. Here, a pink marble triangle designed by the architect Corrado Levi recalls the symbol that homosexual people were forced to wear on their jackets in the death camps. Each year, on 27 January and 25 April, commemoration ceremonies are held here in honour of these events. In front of the monument, Piazzale Marcella Di Folco was inaugurated in 2021 as a tribute to the renowned trans movement activist.



Villa Aldini

Via dell'Osservanza 35, Bologna

It was built between 1811 and 1816 on the commission of Count Antonio Aldini to commemorate the exploits of Napoleon Bonaparte in those places in 1805. The building is designed as a temple on the Acropolis, with a U-shaped plan, an avant-corps supported by eight Ionic columns, and symmetrical side staircases. The construction incorporated the Rotunda of the Madonna del Monte (12th century), of which some pieces of 13th century fresco are still visible. It was here that Pasolini set the exterior shots of his last film *Salò* or *The 120 Days of Sodom*. Inspired partly by the work of the Marquis De Sade, Pasolini undertook an extreme journey into the darkest part of the human soul.

The film created quite a few scandals at the time, due to its strongly explicit and sometimes homoerotic imagery.

Why is Bologna considered a historically important and safe city for LGBTQIA+ people?

Bologna is considered the historical capital of the LGBTQIA+ movement in Italy. Since the 1970s, it has been home to some of the first Italian organisations. It stands out for its continuous commitment to activism, cultural promotion and the protection of civil rights. Thanks to its well-known open-mindedness, also linked to the presence of the historic university, the city is generally considered welcoming and safe for people from the LGBTQIA+ community.

How can I explore these places during my visit to Bologna?

The places indicated in the brochure can be visited freely or independently. Some sites are open to the public at specific times, while others are outdoor spaces or can be visited by appointment. We recommend checking online for any openings, events or exhibitions in progress.

Where can I find more information?

To learn more about the history, events and activities related to the places in the brochure, visit bolognawelcome.com. We also recommend that you visit the websites and official channels of the organisations involved, to better plan your visit around your needs.

Are there guided tours or LGBTQIA+ experiences in Bologna?

Yes, at certain times of the year themed tours or experiences related to the city's LGBTQIA+ history and culture are organised. Some are part of special events or festivals. For updates and bookings, visit bolognawelcome.com, write an email to booking@bolognawelcome.it or contact intersectionalitiesandmore@gmail.com for initiatives taking place.

Originally designed by Jonathan Mastellari for the Cassero LGBTQIA+ Center.

Updated in May 2025 by Jonathan Mastellari (IAM Intersectionalities and more APS)

Initiative carried out within the framework of the collaboration pact for the promotion and protection of the rights of LGBTQIA+ people and their community in the city of Bologna.

Find out more at
bwelcome.it/lgbtiqa-en



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