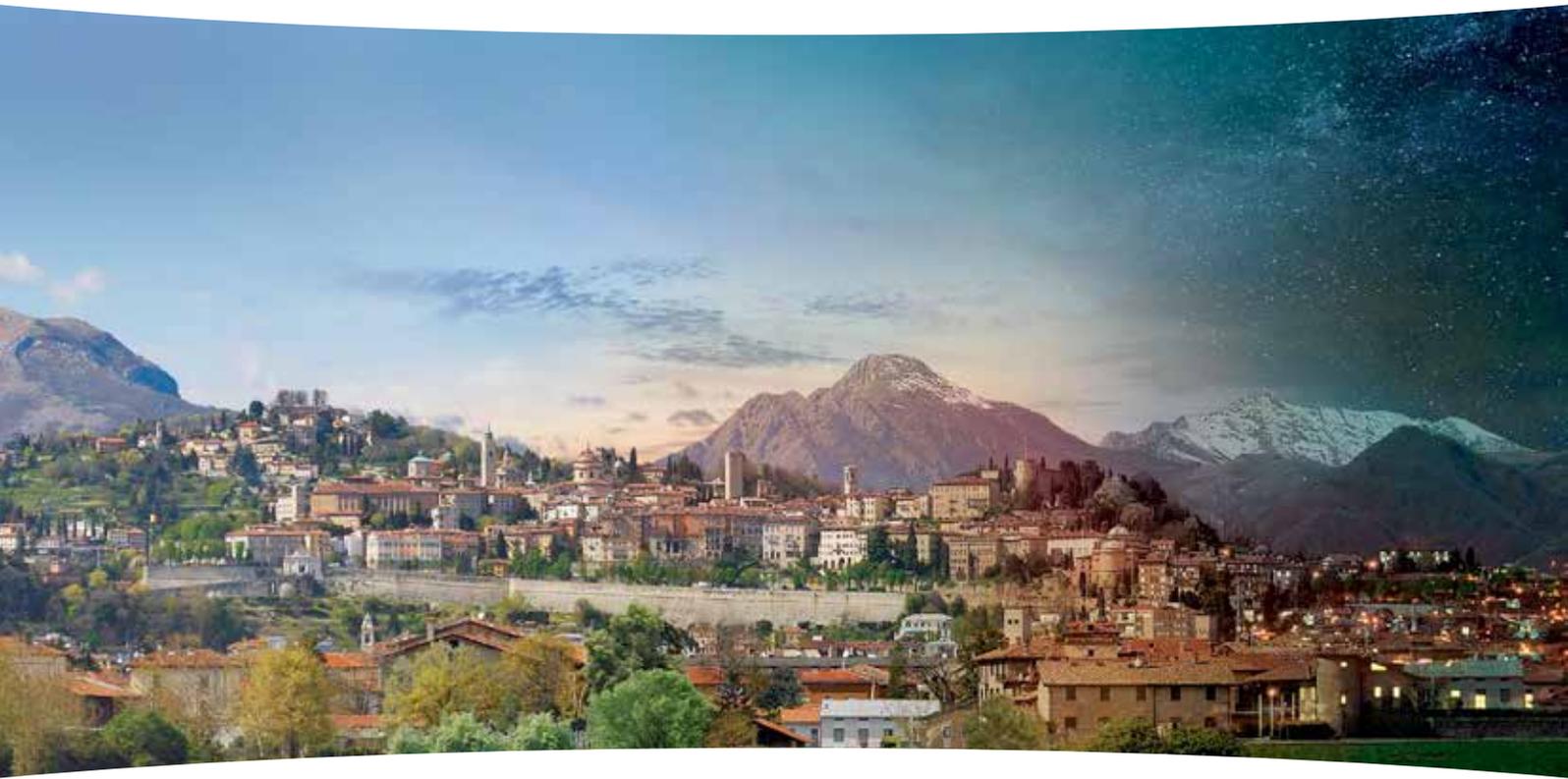


# BERGAMO

*HISTORY YOU'LL WANT TO SHARE*



## THE ROUTES OF HISTORY

THIS ROUTE RUNS THROUGH THE HEART OF THE CITY INSIDE THE VENETIAN WALLS. THE URBAN LAYOUT FROM THE ROMAN PERIOD REMAINS, WITH THE CARDO AND DECUMANO THAT INTERSECT AT THE GOMBITO TOWER. THE MOST IMPORTANT BUILDINGS DATE BACK TO WHEN THE CITY WAS A FREE COMMUNE. THE YEARS SPENT UNDER THE RULE OF THE SIGNORIE IS EVIDENCED BY THE FORTRESS AND THE CITADEL, THE MILITARY AND DEFENCE STRUCTURES BUILT TO PROTECT THE RULERS FROM THE CITY. VENICE BUILT THE CYCLOPEAN RAMPART WALLS. THE RENOVATION WORK PERFORMED DURING THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY AIMED TO PROTECT THE HERITAGE OF THE OLD CITY.

### STAZIONE FUNICOLARE CITTÀ BASSA - PIAZZA MERCATO DEL FIENO EX CONVENTO SAN FRANCESCO

This route runs through the ancient heart of the city. The ancient fortress offers stunning views, Via Gombito follows the Roman cardo, the former convent of San Francesco is enchanting for its stunning succession of cloisters, while the Lombard and Carolingian royal courts were located near Piazza di S. Pancrazio. Several alleys open up along the route, offering unexpected views. In the Piazza del Fieno area, the remains of the Roman baths were discovered in the cellars of buildings.

#### FUNICULAR STATION PALACE

##### Via Porta Dipinta, 1

Before it was owned by the Ghibelline Suardi family in the Middle Ages, it was home to the Consortium of Shoemakers and Butchers. The ground floor has three Gothic arches (entrances to the building, to workshops or storage rooms), on the first floor the portrait of Guidino Suardi is painted on the facade, depicting him holding a scroll with the inscription "vim will repel licet" ("It is lawful to repel force by force").

#### FORTRESS

##### Piazzale Brigata Legnano

Christians built one of the city's most ancient churches, in honour of St. Euphemia, on this scenic hill: the current church is a reconstruction dating back to 1928. The construction of the fortress began in 1331, with the coming of King John of Bohemia, marking the end of free communes and the rise of the Signoria. The mighty circular tower, built in the mid-fifteenth century, houses the Historical Museum.

#### BERGAMO HISTORY MUSEUM

##### Piazzale Brigata Legnano

The nineteenth-century section of the Bergamo History Museum is set up inside the main tower of the fortress. The collection, which consists of environmental reconstructions, multimedia stations, information sheets and findings, begins with the arrival of French troops in 1796 and traces the city's development in relation to Lombard and national history up until 1870.

#### FORMER CONVENT OF S. FRANCESCO

##### Piazza Mercato del Fieno, 6/a

Construction on the convent began in the late thirteenth century, following the arrival of various Franciscan friars. Transformed over the centuries, remains of the original structure include sarcophagi of urban families, which stand against the walls of the fifteenth-century cloister, which the chapter house faces with its mullioned and arched portal. Today it serves as the headquarters of the Bergamo History Foundation.





## PIAZZA MERCATO DEL FIENO - MUSEO STORICO DELL'ETÀ VENETA

Via Colleoni brings you back to the Roman cardo up to the heart of Piazza Vecchia, the heart of the Upper Town: this is where the city's most important buildings and interesting museums are found. Despite the diversity of styles and eras, an overall architectural harmony can be seen that makes this square one of the most beautiful in Italy.



### GOMBITO TOWER

**Via Gombito, 13**

Tall towers were built by the city's noble classes at the time of the medieval communes, initially a sign of power and distinction, and later a mark of military hegemony in the long struggle between the city's factions. This medieval tower is a symbol of the city, built in the early thirteenth century. 52 metres tall, it is impressive for its size, height and the composition of its walls. It was donated to the city in 1877.



### PALAZZO NUOVO (ANGELO MAI LIBRARY)

**Piazza Vecchia, 15**

Construction work, which began in 1604, continued in 1611 based on a design by Vincenzo Scamozzi, a pupil of Palladio. The monumental Zandobbio marble facade was finally completed in 1928 by Ernesto Pirovano, in keeping with the original designs. Home to the Town Hall until 1873, it currently houses the Municipal Library, with a collection that includes scrolls, codices, incunabula, and music of great value and globes by Vincenzo Coronelli.



### PIAZZA VECCHIA

**Piazza Vecchia**

Fully completed in the mid-1400s with the demolition of various buildings and incorporating an older and small square, in the place where the grain and fodder market was once held, for centuries it was the representative seat of the city government. The home of the Venetian Podestà rises up to the west. The Civic Tower overlooks the square. A fountain donated to the city in 1780 by the Podestà Alvise Contarini stands in the centre of the square.



### PALAZZO DELLA RAGIONE

**Piazza Vecchia**

Built during the city's most flourishing period as a Free Commune (late 1100), this is the oldest existing municipal building in Lombardy. Several changes were made under the Venetian Republic's rule, such as the reversal of the front from Piazza Duomo to Piazza Vecchia, along with its complete reorganisation. Even the entry staircase, which leads up to the Salone delle Capriate, was built in the mid-1400s.



### CIVIC TOWER (CAMPANONE)

**Piazza Vecchia, 8**

Built towards the end of 1100 by the Suardi family, then sold to the City in 1200, its height of 52.76 meters makes this tower the city's tallest. In the past, the main bell would ring out to signal the evening curfew, city council meetings and other public events. From the top of the tower, accessible on foot or by elevator, you can enjoy a spectacular view of the city, the Orobic Mountains and the surrounding plains.



### PODESTÀ PALACE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA

**Piazza Vecchia, 8A**

The excavations carried out between 2001 and 2011 led to the recovery of large ruins dating back to different historical periods, including the time spanning between the protohistoric settlement and the Middle Ages. A complex of workshops arranged on a paved road, believed to be a street or a square, dates back to the Roman Empire. Three tombs and a setback of the foundation on the south side of the civic tower date back to the Dark Ages.



### INTERACTIVE HISTORIC MUSEUM OF THE 16TH CENTURY VENETIAN ERA

**Piazza Vecchia**

Housed in Palazzo del Podestà in Piazza Vecchia, the museum consists of seven interactive rooms

that exhibit ingenious sound, graphic and sensory solutions that allow visitors to delve into the everyday life and the secrets of sixteenth century Venetian Bergamo. A fascinating journey spanning a century. Thanks to the latest technologies, traces of the past are brought to life.



## PIAZZA DUOMO - TEMPIETTO S. CROCE

Behind Piazza Vecchia the road plan becomes less regular, as it was likely of pre-Roman origins. The ups and downs of the route are reminiscent of the small hills on which the city rose up. The chatter in the streets in the Upper Town is less intrusive, allowing you to enjoy the magical atmosphere to the fullest.



## PIAZZA DUOMO

### Piazza Duomo

The religious heart of the city owes its name to the impressive cathedral that overlooks it, situated opposite the baptistery, the bishop's palace and the Curia. Before the Venetian Republic created what is known today as Piazza Vecchia, this was the city's medieval square, dedicated to St. Vincent, and the centre of the city and political life where decrees were announced, deeds were written and trades and negotiations took place.



## CATHEDRAL OF S.ALESSANDRO MARTIRE

### Piazza Duomo

Built over the fifth century cathedral dedicated to S. Vincenzo, enlarged and rebuilt starting in the Romanesque period, in 1459 based on a design by Filarete, the present church is the final result of the seventeenth-century project by C. Fontana. The dome and the facade were completed in the second half of the nineteenth century. The splendid interior houses, among other, paintings by G.B. Moroni and Tiepolo.



## CATHEDRAL MUSEUM AND TRESURE

### Piazza Duomo

The museum tells the history of Bergamo's Duomo starting in the fifth century A.D. and offers a fascinating archaeological journey between early Christian and Roman ruins, medieval frescoes and Renaissance and Romanesque walls, which surprisingly correspond in most part to the perimeter of the present church. The cathedral's collection includes some of the most valuable pieces owned by the diocese.



## BASILICA OF SANTA MARIA MAGGIORE

### Piazza Duomo

Built starting in 1137, the Gothic porticoes were added by Giovanni da Campione in 1300. Since 1449 it has been managed by the Congregation of Mercy on behalf of the city, which has patronage over the structure. Inside, visitors can admire frescoes, stucco work, tapestries and wood inlays designed by Lotto. Musical masters such as Simone Mayr, Donizetti's tutor (both buried in the Basilica), have directed the old chapel.



## COLLEONI CHAPEL

### Piazza Duomo

Commissioned in 1472 by Bartolomeo Colleoni and designed by Amadeo, this chapel represents Bergamo's finest example of Renaissance architecture. Although still incomplete, the leader was buried there in 1475. Inside visitors can see his sarcophagus with marble reliefs of Amadeo and the equestrian statue of Sixtus of Nuremberg in gilded wood. Frescoes by G.B. Tiepolo (1733) can be seen in the spandrels and lunettes.



## AULA PICTA OF THE CURIA

### Piazza Duomo, 5

Supported by a massive rounded arch, the walls of this room are richly covered with thirteenth cen-

ture frescoes, discovered in 1937: Last Supper and Washing of the Feet (left wall), Annunciation (on the large arch), Passion, Christ in Glory and Christ the Judge (beyond the large arch), St. Narnus and St. Viator, the city's first Bishops, (in a double lancet window), and St. Alexander on horseback (in a mullion and in the lunette).

## ● TEMPLE OF S.CROCE

### **Piazza Duomo**

Located near the ancient bishop's palace, this chapel with a quatrefoil central layout was documented for the first time in 1133, while it was referred to as the bishop's chapel in 1169. It was rearranged in the sixteenth century and restored in 1937. The recent restoration project brought to light the lower trefoil part of the building, which rests on the ancient aqueduct of the Antescolis fountain.

## ◇ MUSEO DONIZETTIANO - ORTO BOTANICO

**Via Arena**, most likely a reference to the location of the Roman arena, goes down towards the walls. From the ramparts of San Giovanni you can enjoy a splendid view of the underlying Conca d'Oro, behind which you can see the flatlands of the Po Valley and the Apennines on clear days. Behind the terraces of the vegetable gardens and the gardens of the Monastery of Santa Grata, who lived until the year one thousand, is where the remains of St. Grata rest, the city's patron saint along with St. Alexander.

## ● DONIZETTI MUSEUM

### **Via Arena, 9**

The collection dedicated to Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848) is displayed in what was once the Sala del Consiglio della Misericordia Maggiore in Bergamo, painted by Vincent Bonomini in neoclassical style. The museum allows visitors to discover evidence that traces the biographical and artistic works of the great composer from Bergamo.

## ● S.GIOVANNI EMBRASURE

### **Viale delle Mura/Baluardo San Giovanni**

The bastions of the Venetian walls conceal a complex system of embrasures, escape routes and tunnels. This bastion defence system became operational in the city in 1590. It houses an old armoury (open to the public in 2009 - please check open hours), consisting of large rooms used to house artillery and ammunition, two firing holes and a tunnel that leads to the foot of the walls.

## ● LORENZO ROTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

### **Scaletta Colle Aperto**

The 2,400 square metre gardens are home to over 1,200 types of plants, the majority of which in micro-habitats, which replicate or imitate their natural environments. The gardens are only accessible by foot from a staircase of 141 steps, offering a unique panorama with sweeping views over the Upper Town's rooftops and monuments and the first offshoots of Bergamo's Alpine foothills.

## ◇ CITTADELLA VISCONTEA - TEATRO SOCIALE

This last route does not require much walking, but it will take time if you plan to visit the Natural History and Archaeological Museum, housed in the fourteenth-century defensive structure built by the Visconti. From the Visconti citadel, this route leads back to the heart of the old city, a popular site for taking a Sunday stroll, shopping and enjoying fine food, which ends with a discovery of its other treasures. Be sure to include the Lantro Fountain on your list of sites to see.

## ● VISCONTI CITADEL

### **Piazza della Cittadella**

The Citadel stands witness to the Visconti family's rule over Bergamo, which began in 1332 and lasted up to 1428, when the city passed under Venetian domination. Built in 1379 when Rodolfo Visconti commissioned the construction of the garrison's housing units, the complex, known as the Hospitium



Magnum, has undergone numerous interventions. The Visconti porch with its pointed arches was restored from 1958 to 1960.



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

### Piazza della Cittadella, 9

Housed since 1960 in the fourteenth century Palazzo Visconti Citadel, this museum tells the long history of the territory of Bergamo. It offers a fascinating journey through time on the trail of the Celts, Romans and Lombards. The museum houses ancient artifacts, including various polished stone axes from the Neolithic period, and interesting frescoed plaster works (I-II cent. AD) recovered from a domus of the city.



## ENRICO CAFFI MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES

### Piazza della Cittadella, 10

Founded in 1918 with a collection of geological, botanical, zoological and ethnographic artefacts. Known for its collection of ancient fossils, including a deer dating back 700 million years ago, the museum houses collections of mammals, invertebrates and specimens from the main classes of plants and animals from different geological eras. Worthy of note is an exceptional flying reptile that lived 220 million years ago.



## TEATRO SOCIALE THEATRE

### Via Colleoni, 2

Built on the initiative of noble citizens and inaugurated in 1808 and designed by Austrian architect Leopoldo Pollack, it would become the city's most important theatre (1300 seats, 88 theatre boxes distributed over three levels and a gallery). It remained in operation until 1929, when it was used as a venue for occasional parties and carnival dances. Following decades of neglect, it was restored and reopened to the public in 2009.

## GETTING HERE

### There are many ways to reach the Upper Town from Lower Bergamo:

- with the funicular to the Upper Town;
- with ATB bus no. 1;
- on foot, following the numerous flights of steps, such as the one to the side of the funicular station in Lower Bergamo;
- by car. It is not recommended to travel to the Upper Town by car: there are many ZTL (limited traffic) areas that are completely closed off to traffic on weekends and summer evenings. If necessary, cars can be parked for a limited time along the walls, in the two parking lots in Piazza Mercato del Fieno and next to the lower station of the San Vigilio funicular. Another option is to park your car for free near via Grataroli then take the nearby steps to the Upper Town or walk up to the funicular in the Upper Town.

### Services along the way

- Tourism Information Office;
- post office;
- public toilets.

### Parks

- Rimembranze Park;
- La Crotta Park;
- lawns of the city walls.

# UPPER TOWN

Itinerary

## The Routes of History



● Funicular building Upper Town

17 Piazza Mercato delle Scarpe

18 Rocca (Fortress)

19 Former Convent of San Francesco

20 Gombito Tower

i Tourist office I.A.T. Bergamo Alta

21 Piazza Vecchia

22 Palazzo Nuovo (Angelo Mai Library)

23 Palazzo della Ragione

24 Campanone (Civic Tower) - Historical Museum of the Venetian Age - The interactive 16<sup>th</sup> century

\* Piazza Duomo

25 Baptistery

26 Colleoni Chapel

27 Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore

28 Duomo - Cathedral Museum and Treasure

29 Donizetti Museum

30 San Giovanni Embrasure

31 "Lorenzo Rota" Botanical Garden

32 Archaeological Museum

33 Enrico Caffi Museum of Natural Sciences

34 Teatro Sociale