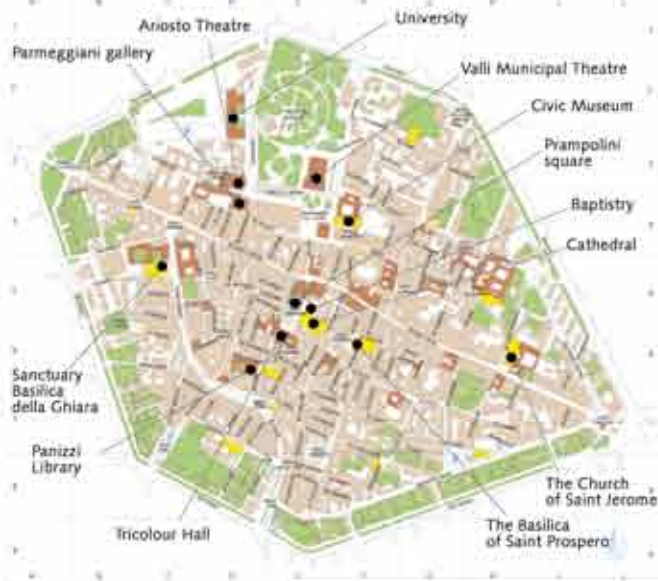


## Map Town centre



I.A.T.  
Informazione e Accoglienza Turistica  
www.municipio.re.it/turismo  
iat@municipio.re.it  
Via Farini, 1/A  
tel. 0522 451152  
fax 0522 436739

open every day  
8.30 - 13.00 / 14.30 - 18.00

Sunday  
9.00 - 12.00

For information



Comune di  
Reggio Emilia

Art

## Reggio and Contemporary Art



Photo by Jarno Zaffelli.

The three bridges designed by the Catalan architect Santiago Calatrava are the new doorways to the town of Reggio Emilia, and are visible to the car drivers who go through the Autostrada (Motorway) del Sole. It is also possible to see the connection between Art and Architecture through the project Invitation to... by Claudio Parmigiani, in which 5 artists have created permanent works located in historic urban places:

### Less than

by Robert Morris  
at the San Domenico Cloisters



### Whirls and Twirls 1

by Sol LeWitt  
at the Panizzi Library



### Araba Fenice

by Luciano Fabro  
at ex Caserma Zucchi,  
now seat of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia



### Dance of Planets and Stars

by Eliseo Mattiacci  
at ex Lombardini Foundry,  
now seat of the National Ballet Foundation

The latest Corten-steel sculpture,  
by Richard Serra, will be placed at the Malaguzzi International Centre for Childhood

### Maramotti Collection

The former Max Mara factory, creation place of fashion collections until a few years ago, is now the permanent seat of the Maramotti Foundation, one of the most interesting national modern art collections.  
Via Flli Cervi, 66



## Reggio and the Future

Reggio is to host the TAV high-speed railway station for the mid-Po valley. The logo of the station, resembling a series of waves alternating from one end to the other, the three bridges that link the station to the by-pass roads, and the new motorway exit are designed by the Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava.



## Products

### Parmigiano Reggiano cheese

is the most important typical product of Reggio Emilia and the key ingredient in the local cuisine. It is mentioned in the recipes of well-known culinary treatises of the past and is appreciated for its peculiar properties.



### The traditional Balsamic Vinegar

of Reggio Emilia is obtained from cooked must from local grapes which has to undergo a very long aging process (at least twelve years), in a set of barrels of different woods and in decreasing size order, transferred annually and periodically filled to the brim. The result of so much patient knowledge is a syrupy, dark brown liquid with a penetrating smell and an inimitable bitter-sweet taste.

Tortelli - Cappelletti



Erbazzone - Salsiccia and Cured Meats



Brasadela - Torta di riso - Spongata



Pig farming is also deeply rooted in the history of Reggio Emilia, from which fresh pork and a variety of delicious cured meats and salamis are obtained.



### Typical dishes

### Wines

Lambrusco Reggiano, certified since 1971, is a light tasting and extremely versatile wine that goes well with a variety of dishes.  
Bianco di Scandiano, certified since 1976, is a delicately fruity, sparkling, sweet, semi sweet or dry wine.

## Tour in the surroundings

### The Renaissance courts

Correggio/Novellara/Guastalla/Gualteri/Boretto/Brescello

The route through the plains to the north of the city, which takes you to the River Po, gives you the chance to see interesting works of art throughout the area. A visit to the more consolidated and qualified town planning centres gives you an idea of the historical significance of the small but prestigious Renaissance courts, rich in important architecture.



Correggio



Novellara



Guastalla



Gualteri



Boretto



Brescello



Scandiano

### Tour in the surroundings

Although situated to the south of the city of Reggio, another destination can be included in this route visiting the Renaissance court: Scandiano.

## Matildian Castles

### Rossena Castle,

named after the serpentine volcanic rock on which it is built, is one of the best-preserved Matildian Castles (950)



### Canossa Castle,

the place of the famous meeting in 1077, between the Emperor of Germany Henry IV and Pope Gregory VII, promoted by the strong-willed Countess Matilda herself. Just a few ruins are left (evidence of a history of wars and fighting which over the years destroyed the building).



### Sarzano Castle,

was built around the year 1000 AD, by one of the Attoni, the old rulers of Canossa.



### Carpinete Castle,

one of the Countess Matilda's favourite residences, is characterised by the strong keep.



### Castellarano Castle,

in the Secchia Valley is an important and well-preserved medieval town, characterised by the use of river rocks in building. The «Rocchetta» is from the Renaissance period, a small fortress protected by a ditch with an old drawbridge, characterised by a central tower and two others to the side.



CITY OF ART

city of the Tricolour



History

With the arrival of the Romans, at the beginning of the II century b.C., **Reggio Emilia (Regium Lepidi)** became an urban centre as part of the road network built along via Emilia, while the surrounding plain was drained and settled. Scattered remains testify to a period of intense economic activity for the entire imperial period until the barbaric invasions.

From the 8th century, the continuity of civil powers and the permanence of the urban structures were guaranteed by the Bishop. **In the 11th century** the heart of **Matilde's domain** was the Reggio territory, fortified by an imposing series of castles.

In 1077 one of the most famous episodes in the war of Investitures took place within the city walls of Canossa: the Emperor Henry IV, in the guise of a pilgrim, appeals to Pope Gregory VII for the annulment of his excommunication. Meanwhile, the **free municipalities** are being born on **the ashes of feudalism**: Reggio is among the first. At the beginning of the **15th century**, it comes under the powered of the **Este Family**.

*Prominent figures mark the Renaissance period of Reggio:* from **Matteo Maria Boiardo**, the Count of Scandiano, the great poet of Orlando Innamorato, who was governor of Reggio towards the end of the 15th century, to **Ludovico Ariosto**, the great poet of Orlando Furioso, born in Reggio in 1474.

**The 17th and 18th centuries** were tormented by wars, plagues and the plundering of works of art. In intervals of peace, the creativity of Reggio citizens expressed itself in the construction of sumptuous palaces and many religious buildings, prominent among which is the striking **Basilica della Ghiara**, erected in the first half of the seventeenth century with the contribution of exceptional artists and the amazing development of silk art.

Vault ceiling of Basilica della Ghiara

On **7 January 1797**, Reggio, the first site of the Italian parliament, on the occasion of the birth of the Cispadane Republic, saw the **birth of the "Tricolore"**, the future Italian flag. The spirit of resistance lived on in Reggio during the twenty years of fascism, culminating in the fight for liberation. In recognition of the part played by the city in the reconquest of freedom, the Reggio Emilia standard was decorated with the gold medal for military valour.

Squares and places of history

Prampolini Square

Piazza Prampolini is the main city square and is often called "piazza grande" (the big square). From left to right you can find, the **Baptistry**, the Bishop's Palace (the facade facing the square was commissioned by bishop Bonfrancesco Arlotti in 1481), the **Cathedral**, the **Canons' Hall** (built by Antonio Casotti, 1446) the **Town Hall** (whose building started in 1414 and finished before the end of the century, including the tower in Via Toschi, commonly called "**Torre del Bordello**" (the Brothel Tower), taking its name from the nearby building which was used as a brothel, the **Palazzo del Podestà** (which dates back to the fifteenth century, between Via Palazzolo and Casa Malaguzzi), the **palazzo delle Notarie** (the offices of the Board of Notaries who had their desks under the arcade until the middle of the fifteenth century, which was restored in the eighteenth century) and the main facade of the **Palazzo del Monte di Pietà**.



To one side of the square you can find the statue of **Crostolo**, which came from the **Ducal Villa of Rivalta**, where it was found in 1754.

Prampolini Square

Inside the Town Council is the historical

Tricolour Hall

**Designed in 1774 by Ludovico Bolognini**, Public Engineer of Reggio Emilia town council, it was originally the premises of the municipal archives, which were later transferred to Palazzo San Giorgio. The building is remembered today for the meeting, which was held on the 7th of January 1797, between the representatives of the cities of Reggio, Modena, Bologna and Ferrara for the **proclamation of the Cispadane Republic** and the adoption of the tricolour flag (green, white and red, originally in horizontal stripes with the coat of arms of the Republic at the centre). In 1848 this flag was chosen as the national colours.



Next door to the Tricolour Hall you can find the Tricolour Museum where evidence and relics which make it possible to follow the historical events regarding the origin of the Tricolour flag can be found.

San Prospero square also called Piasa Céca

Fontanesi square



The squares

Places of culture and performances



Valli Municipal Theatre

The majestic theatre complex, surrounded by the public gardens, characterizes the town centre. The complex was built between **1852 and 1857** according to a design by Modena architect Cesare Costa. It's **dedicated** to Reggio Emilia actor **Romolo Valli**.



Interior Valli Municipal Theatre

It hosts a prestigious opera and concert season, as well as a rich programme of ballet.

Ariosto Theatre

Built between **1740 and 1741** on a design by Antonio Cugini and destroyed in 1851 by a fire. It was rebuilt in 1878 respecting the original project and **dedicated to Ludovico Ariosto**, the great poet born in Reggio Emilia in 1474.



Interior Ariosto Theatre

In mainly hosts prose performances

Cavallerizza Theatre

The Cavallerizza Theatre is the third public stage of Reggio Emilia and is mainly used for theatre performances or contemporary music shows. The name of the building derives from its original destination.

Culture and performances



Interior Cavallerizza theatre

Civic Museum

The premises of the Civic Museum have been situated in San Francesco Palace since 1830. On display are archaeological collections (Roman Mosaics, Chierici Museum, Roman section in the marble Gallery, Roman Museum, Prehistory Museum), Ethnography, Art History (Fontanesi Gallery, Mazzacurati Museum, medieval section in the marble gallery, medieval Mosaics), Natural History (Spallanzani Collection, zoological, anatomy, botanic, geo-mineralogy and palaeontologic collections), Town History (Industrial Art Museum, showcases of Reggio Emilia-born scientists).



Parmeggiani Gallery

The Gallery brings together the art collection which belonged to Luigi Parmeggiani. It includes: European arms and cutlery, goldsmithery, enamels and jewels, European costumes from the XVII to the XIX century, sculptures in stone and polychrome wood, Italian, Spanish and Flemish paintings, and other artistic objects.



Tricolour Flag Museum



San Domenico Cloisters

Exhibition place



Two-faced janus - Palazzo Magnani

Panizzi Library

Via Farini, 3

Central University

(Ex Zucchi barracks)  
Via A. Allegri, 9

Palazzo Magnani

Exhibition place  
C.so Garibaldi, 29

International Centre

for children "Loris Malaguzzi" via Bligny, 1

Culture and performances

Places of worship

The Cathedral

Built on **pre-existing Roman ruins around 857**, the Cathedral was progressively adapted first to the Roman then to the Renaissance style, according to the solution proposed at the end of the sixteenth century by Prospero Sogari, called Prospero the Clement, realized only for the lower order (as can be seen in the important wooden model in the Public Museums).



Cathedral in Prampolini Square

Prospero Sogari called the Clement is also the creator of the sculpture of Adam and Eve, which can be seen under the lunette of the main door. The famous artist **Bartolomeo Spani**, who worked from the end of the fifteenth century to the middle of the sixteenth century, created the sculptures of the **Madonna in trono con il Bambino e i coniugi Fiordibelli** (Virgin Mary on a throne with the baby Jesus and the Fiordibellis) in gold plate and embossed copper which decorates the octagonal tower above the façade.



Interior Basilica della Ghiara

The Sanctuary

of the Basilica della Ghiara

Designed by the architect Alessandro Balbi from Ferrara construction work on the Basilica supervised by Francesco Pacchioni from Reggio starting in 1597, the Basilica was built and decorated in the first decades of the seventeenth century and is a splendid and homogeneous piece of Emilia Baroque culture, which has recently been restored. The interior, in the form of a Greek cross with apsidal extensions, preserves an extraordinary number of frescoes and altarpieces, works of art by the best Emilian artists of the seventeenth century. The artists who worked on the frescoes include Luca Ferrari, Lionello Spada, Camillo Gavassetti, Pietro Desani, Alessandro Tiarini and Carlo Bononi.

Furthermore, in the second chapel on the right (called "the chapel of the Virgin of the Ghiara", a famous fresco has been painted depicting the **Blessed Virgin of the Ghiara**, painted in 1569 by G. Bianchi called the Bertone, based on designs by Lelio Orsi who witnessed the miracle of the deaf and dumb Marchino. Among the most important altar pieces, Madonna con il Bambino (The Madonna and Infant) and Saint Francis by **Alessandro**.

Places of worship



ceiling of Basilica della Ghiara

**Tiarini**, 1629 (first chapel on the right) and by the same artist, L'Annunciazione (The Annunciation), 1629 c. (third chapel on the right), Saint Filippo Benizzi and l'Addolorata (Our Lady of Sorrows) by **Orazio Talamini**, 1673 (third chapel on the left), I Santi Giorgio e Caterina condotti al martirio (Saint George and Saint Catherine suffering martyrdom) by **Ludovico Carracci**, 1618 (third chapel on the left, The Crucifixion with the Madonna, Magdalena, Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Prospero by **Guercino** (second chapel on the left, the chapel of the Reggio Community), Saint Francis and the Saints Lucy, Apollonia and Agatha before the Blessed Virgin with the infant by **Alfonso Chierici**, 1847-54 (First chapel on the left).

The Basilica of Saint Prospero

Founded in 997 probably in order to guarantee a safe refuge for the relics of the city's patron saint, the church was seriously restored for the first time at the beginning of the sixteenth century. It was on this occasion that the **six lions in Red Verona marble** were installed (probably pieces from the late Roman period).



The Basilica of Saint Prospero



Baptistry

A few years later the church was completely restored, with a project which ended in 1527. The facade on the other hand (recently restored, along with the interior of the church) dates back to the eighteenth century and a work by **Giovanni Battista Cattani**.

The Church of Saint Jerome

