



# REGGIO EMILIA



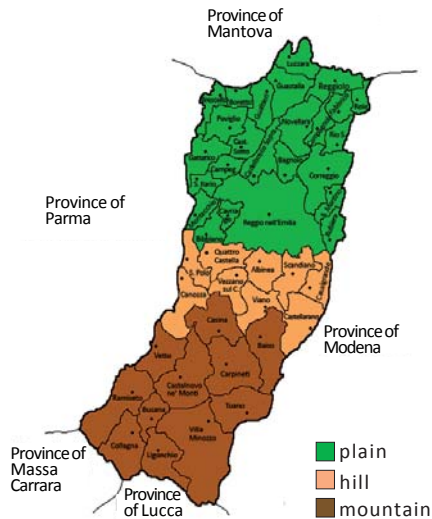
**ancient and contemporary**



## THE TERRITORY



Located in northern Italy, in the heart of the Po valley, the Province of Reggio Emilia is defined in its northern side by the Po river which separates it from the Province of Mantua. The Province of Reggio Emilia borders Parma in its western side, Modena in its eastern side, while the Apennines mark the border on Liguria and Tuscany in its southern side. There are more than 500,000 inhabitants, 229 for every square metre. It is one of the nine provinces of the Emilia-Romagna region, one of the wealthiest regions in Europe.



***The best seasons are spring and autumn because of the mild climate and the numerous events taking place in the town.***



The town of Reggio Emilia is best known as **Town of the Tricolour**. In the Tricolour Hall, January 7, 1797 representatives of the towns of Reggio, Modena, Bologna and Ferrara proclaimed the Tricolour as the official flag of the Cispadana Republic. It then became the national flag celebrated every year on January 7 through an important event.

## WHAT TO SEE

It is possible to start the tour of Reggio Emilia in the Tricolour Hall designed by the architect Bolognini inside the Municipal Building in 1774. On the first floor is the Tricolour Museum; on display are documents, objects and relics concerning the history of the national flag, its origin and historical events. It is also possible to find multimedia instruments.

5



1

1- Hall of the  
Tricolour Flag  
2- Tricolour Museum



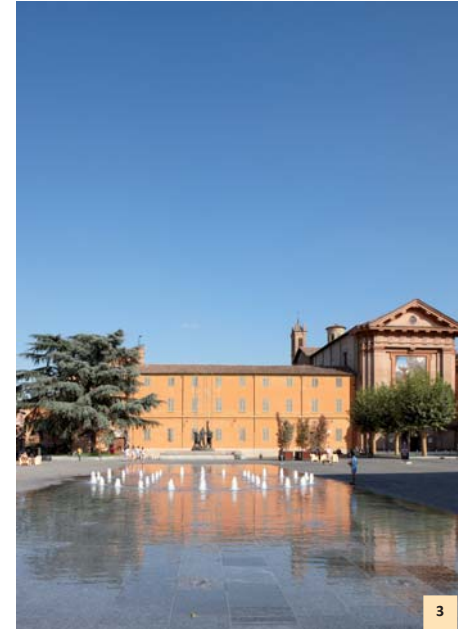
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The visit continues in the nearby **Piazza Prampolini** or Piazza Grande, the most important town square, where it is possible to find the main civic and religious buildings, including the Cathedral and Romanesque Baptistry, and the Town Hall. The religious buildings are on the east side, and the Town Hall is on the south side. The old house of the Notaries with an arcade is on the west side. On the north side, occupied by Del Monte Palace, is a statue depicting the **Crostolo River** which was in the Villa D'Este Park at Rivalta.



The Romanesque-construction **Cathedral** was built around 857. In the 15th century its style was adapted to the architectural styles of that time. The statue of the Madonna and Infant with Fiordibelli husband and wife (benefactors) dominates on the front of the tower. Made of gold-embossed copper plate, it is a goldsmith's work by the local artist Bartolomeo Spani. Inside are works by Guercino, Palma the Young, Passignano, Pomarancio as well as contemporary artists like Kounellis, Parmiggiani, Nagasawa, Spalletti and Pompili. A IV-century



mosaic belonging to a patrician domus was found in the Cathedral crypt (XII-XIII centuries) during restoration works in 2009.

- 1- Piazza Prampolini
- 2- Crostolo River statue
- 3- Cathedral



Close to the Cathedral is the **Baptistry** dating back to 1040-1049. There are notable frescoes with the Baptism of Christ (XV century) and the Verona-red-marble baptismal font. On the outside, it is possible to see marks linked to the market that took place in Piazza Prampolini at that time.



The **Town Hall** has a composite appearance as it is a derivation of pre-existing buildings. The date of 1414 inscribed on a sandstone block indicates the start of its construction. The Town Hall façade, enhanced by a three-arched portico with coupled pillars, was re-built in 1774, according to a design by Ludovico Bolognini. **The Town Hall** coat of arms is located under the roof cornice. Some internal rooms are decorated with XVIII-century frescoes and XIX-century paintings.



- 1- Baptistry
- 2- Marble Font
- 3- Town Hall
- 4- Coat of Arms



Walking through the **Broletto arcades**, it is possible to reach **Piazza San Prospero** with the Basilica of the same name dedicated to the Holy Patron of Reggio Emilia. The Church is characterized by the imposing XVI-century bell tower made of



octagonal stone which is, although still unfinished, one of the most remarkable Renaissance works in Reggio Emilia. Inside are works by Ludovico Carracci and Alessandro Tiarini. Piazza San Prospero is known as «Piasa Céca», market square characterized by traditional



arcades, stalls and its Verona-red-marble lions.

Close to Piazza San Prospero is **Piazza Fontanesi**, one of the nicest squares that hosts the farmer's market every Saturday, as well as the traditional market with Piazza San Prospero, Piazza Prampolini and Piazza Martiri del 7 luglio.

- 1- Broletto arcades  
2- Basilica di San Prospero  
3- Piazza Fontanesi





Along Corso Garibaldi, winding avenue that was the layer of the Crostolo river in the past, is **Palazzo Magnani**. It is the main exhibition seat of the town, hosting exhibitions all year long, with a particular preference for photography and modern art. The Palace has a neo-classical façade and is located along the flow of the Crostolo river, whose pebbles were used during its construction.



- 1- Palazzo Magnani
- 2- Don Mc Cullin, exhibition
- 3- Shozo Shimamoto, exhibition



1



2

Another remarkable monument is the **Basilica of Madonna della Ghiara**, whose name comes from the fact that it was built along the flow of the Crostolo river with big gravel sediments. The Church, designed by Alessandro Balbo (1597-1619) and finished by Francesco Pacchioni, has a Greek-cross plan and deep apse. The art critique Federico Zeri defined it “the most important example of Emilian Mannerism”. Inside are valuable works of art like Guercino’s Crucifixion, paintings by Tiarini, Carracci and Talmi, as well as a cycle of frescoes on the female characters of the Old Testament. That’s why the Basilica della Ghiara is traditionally called “the woman’s church”.



3

Along Corso Cairoli it is possible to find **Spazio Gerra**, where are on display numerous expressions of contemporary art, like photography, advertising, television, cinema, graphic art, illustration, comics, projections, video and computer.

- 1- Basilica della Ghiara, sight  
 2- Basilica della Ghiara, inside  
 3- Spazio Gerra



Not to be missed is the neighbouring **Piazza Martiri del 7 Luglio** with the imposing **Municipal Theatre**, built in neoclassical style in 1852-1857 and dedicated to the Reggio Emilia-born actor Romolo Valli. The new fountain, with its water and colour effects, was inaugurated in 2008.



- 1- Piazza Martiri del 7 Luglio
- 2- «Romolo Valli» Municipal Theatre
- 3- Theatre with fountain, at night



Inside an odd and eclectic building is **Parmeggiani Art Gallery**, that hosts a wide collection of objects and paintings by Ignacio Escosura and Cesare Detti, as well as a collection of fake works of the XIX century from Paris-based Marcy goldsmith's shop.

The **Civic Museum** inside **Palazzo San Francesco** is characterized by nature collections (Spallanzani Collection), art collections (Fontanesi Gallery and Antonio Ligabue Hall) and archaeological collections (Chierici Museum and Roman Museum).

- 1- Palazzo San Francesco seat of the Civic Museum
- 2- Parmeggiani Art Gallery
- 3- Parmeggiani Art Gallery, inside
- 4- Civic Museum, inside

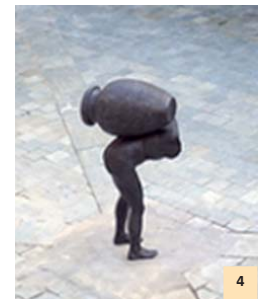
Not to be missed are also recent **contemporary art installations**: from Fabro to Morris, from Sol Lewitt to Mattiacci. Through the construction of four permanent works of art located in historical areas of the town, the Municipality of Reggio Emilia has planned to give a new look to the urban fabric, upgrading it through a dialogue between art and architecture. A new kind of museum where artwork lives in constant dialogue with its surroundings. The artist Claudio Parmiggiani is the author and editor of the project.

1- *WHIRLS AND TWIRLS 1*, Sol LeWitt  
- Panizzi Library

2- *DANZA DI ASTRI E STELLE*, Eliseo Mattiacci  
- National Dance Foundation

3- *L'ARABA FENICE*, Luciano Fabro  
- University

4- *LESS THAN*, Robert Morris  
- Cloisters of San Domenico





**Loris Malaguzzi Childhood International Centre** (via Bagnoli, 1) is dedicated to the pedagogist who created and inspired Reggio Approach, the worldwide famous educational method for pre-school children. It is an internationally-renowned meeting place for researchers and teachers, but also for children and families. Inside the centre are: exhibition area, auditorium, ateliers/workshops open to both children and their families, as well as the Documentation and Educational Research Centre. The Centre also hosts the main headquarters of “Reggio Children Foundation”, the association established to promote and defend children’s rights. In addition to the numerous municipal nursery schools, the first primary school inspired to Reggio Approach was built here in 2009.



In what was previously known as the headquarters of Lombardini foundry (via della Costituzione, 39), today is the **National Dance Foundation “Aterballetto”**. It is the main dance production company in Italy, the most important for ballet, and has therefore gained international recognition.



1- RAGGIO DI LUCE ATELIER, International Centre  
2- Aterballetto



1

The former headquarters of Max Mara (via F.lli Cervi, 66) now host **Maramotti Contemporary Art Collection**, which hosts remarkable artworks as well as exhibitions and contemporary projects.

1- *Collezione Maramotti, inside*

2- *UNTITLED*, Evgeny Antufiev

3- *PARALLEL UNIVERSE*, Jules de Balincourt

Evgeny Antufiev, *Untitled*, 2010



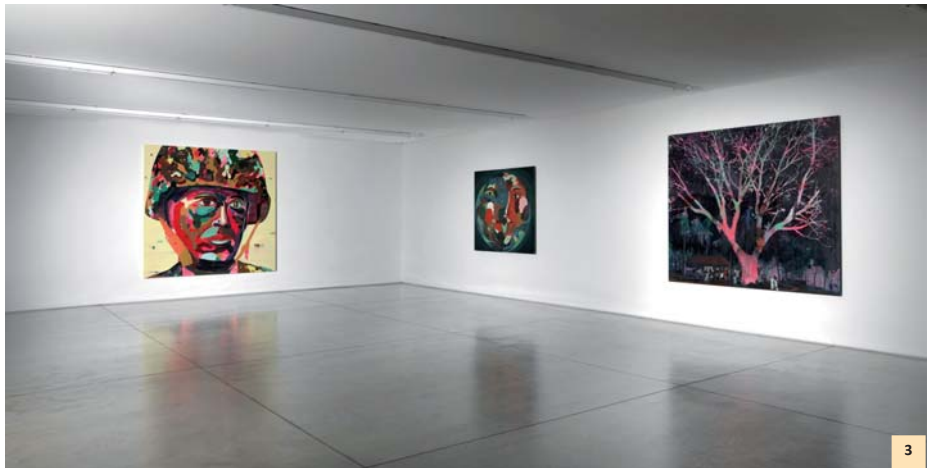
wire, fabric, glue, dog's and wolf's teeth

Evgeny Antufiev, *Untitled*, 2012



Chinga meteorite, silk, deer's horn

2



3

**The three bridges**, which were built from a design by the Spanish architect **Santiago Calatrava**, are now the doorway to Reggio Emilia. Through their light and curvy shapes, they present Reggio Emilia in the XXI century.

In 2013 the new **High-Speed Railway Station** was inaugurated according to the Catalan architect's design, and is the only stop between Milan and Bologna on the High-Speed railway line.



In the same year, the first regional **Tecnopolo (Technical Work-shop) for Research and Innovation** was inaugurated in a warehouse of the former Officine Meccaniche Reggiane (piazzale Europa, 1) in the heart of the Park of Knowledge, Innovation and Creativity.



1- Calatrava's bridges  
2-3-4- High-speed Mediopadana  
Railway Station  
5- Technical Workshop  
for Research and Innovation



## NEARBY

20 km south of the town, in the hills near Reggio Emilia, the importance of the Medieval period has been well preserved in time through the castles of Bianello, Sarzano, Montecchio, Carpineti, Rossena and Canossa, which form the heart of the ancient County of Matilda. The castle of Canossa has only a portion of the outer walls still standing



and, inside this area, are the crypt of Saint Apollonio Church and the small “Naborre Campanini” National Museum. The phrase “Andare a Canossa” (Go to Canossa), translated into over 30 languages, is used as a synonym of repentance and forgiveness for what happened in the cold winter of 1077: Emperor Henry IV waited three days and three nights - barefoot, naked, in sackcloth and ashes - for Pope Gregory VII’s forgiveness through Matilde di Canossa’s intercession.



In the Apennines is the **Pietra di Bismantova** (Rock of Bismantova), mentioned by Dante Alighieri in his Divine Comedy: a huge natural sandstone monolith that towers over the town of Castelnovo né Monti, whose height is 1047 metres.

The Apennines are mainly located in the Tuscan-Emilian National Park.

- 1- Rock of Bismantova  
 2- Apennines ridge with Mount Cusna  
 (2121 mt) \_photo by Gianluca Fantini  
 3- Battisti Refuge (1759 mt) \_photo  
 by Giovanni Fontanesi



North of Reggio Emilia are **Gualtieri**, with its majestic piazza Bentivoglio and its Museum dedicated to Antonio Ligabue, the famous painter who lived there, and **Novellara** with Gonzaga fortress and museum. North-east of Reggio Emilia is **Correggio**, with its well-preserved old town centre and its Palazzo dei Principi. South of the city another destination is **Scandiano**, with its impressive Boiardo fortress.



- 1- Piazza Bentivoglio, Gualtieri
- 2- La Rocca, Novellara
- 3- Palazzo dei Principi, Correggio
- 4- Boiardo Fortress, Scandiano



Along the Po river, 30 km from Reggio Emilia, are **Guastalla, Brescello and Boretto** where it is possible to visit the “Don Camillo and Peppone” Museum and/or enjoy a boat trip.



- 1- Picture from the film *DON CAMILLO*, by the novel of Giovanni Guareschi
- 2- Sunset on the Po river
- 3- Museum of Don Camillo and Peppone

# FLAVOURS

Do not leave the town without tasting and buying the excellent delicacies of its gastronomy: **cappelletti** or caplètt, **spinach and pumpkin tortelli**, **Parmigiano-Reggiano Cheese** and the **Traditional Balsamic Vinegar**. It is possible to find **erbazzone** and **chizze** in the bakeries, as well as **spongata**, the traditional **rice cake** and **biscione** in the



*Spongata*



*Rice cake*



*Biscione*



pastry shops. For a sparkling itinerary like **Lambrusco wine**, follow the “Route of Wines and Flavours”.

- 1- Cappelletti
- 2- Parmigiano-Reggiano Cheese
- 3- Traditional Balsamic Vinegar of Reggio Emilia
- 4- Erbazzone
- 5- DOC Lambrusco wine





More useful tools to discover our city, are available at our Tourist Information Office (IAT)

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*Regione Emilia-Romagna*  
**informazione  
accoglienza  
turistica**

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tourist information  
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