

# MANTUA CITY MAP



-  CYCLE LANES
-  BUS STATION
-  FREE SHUTTLE BUS
-  TAXI
-  TRAIN STATION
-  TOURIST MOTORSHIP
-  PARKING
-  CAMPER PARKING AREA
-  HOSPITAL AND EMERGENCY
-  INFOPOINT
-  RIGOLETTO'S HOUSE INFOPOINT
-  TOILETS



Area sosta camper

Campo Canoa

Unesco Area

A22 MN NORD  
PADOVA  
FERRARA  
ROVIGO

25

A22 MANTOVA SUD  
MODENA  
REGGIO EMILIA

## MANTUA AND SABBIONETA UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

Site "Mantua and Sabbioneta" has joined the World Heritage List in July 2008. According to UNESCO, the two cities that deserve recognition as they are in an exemplary way how the two

most emblematic of the urban design of the Renaissance. In fact, while Sabbioneta is a city "foundation", Mantova over the centuries has been able to develop and bring to fruition in the period domain Gonzaga, the ideals of urban planning, architectural and artistic renaissance, keeping up to date and the characteristics of the urban and numerous works of art that are absolutely fundamental to the historical reconstruction and understanding of European culture. The inclusion in the List of World Heritage emphasizes the value of the two cities as well universal, inescapable legacy of the past to safeguard and transmit to future generations.



### MUSEUM COMPLEX OF PALAZZO DUCALE (Palazzo Ducale, San Giorgio Castle, National Archaeological Museum, Basilica Of Santa Barbara)

The complex includes three conglomerates: the Corte Vecchia Museum, the San Giorgio Castle and the Corte Nuova Museum. The museum complex became the official residence of the ruling family of Mantua, the Gonzaga, in the second half of the 14th century. Its rooms now house masterpieces from the 1400s and 1500s, for example: the Sala del Pisanello, the Studiolo di Isabella d'Este, the Appartamento di Troia by Giulio Romano, the complete cycle of Flemish tapestries based on Raphael's cartoons and other extraordinary treasures. Inside the castle, built between 1390 and 1406, visitors can admire the famous bridal chamber, the Camera degli Sposi, decorated by Andrea Mantegna between 1465 and 1474 on orders from the Marquis Ludovico II Gonzaga. The Basilica of Santa Barbara is also part of the museum complex, and houses the famous organ built by Graziadio Antegnati in 1565. The National Archaeological Museum is located in Piazza Castello inside the vast monumental complex. The museum's collections include artefacts from the Neolithic Period, Bronze Age, Etruscans, Veneti, Celts, Romans, Longobards, Goths, Medieval Period, and the Renaissance, all collected from the Mantuan territory. The museum also displays two skeletons that were found embraced in their Neolithic burial place. Known as the Amanti, they were discovered in an area called Valdaro, near the city.



### DUOMO (Cathedral of San Pietro)

Set on the northern side of the square, the Cathedral is an unusual combination of three different styles: a late Baroque façade (demolished in 1756, the original façade can be seen in the painting La cacciata dei Bonacolsi by Domenico Morone, in Palazzo Ducale), Gothic wall on the left-hand side and a Romanesque bell tower. The interior was remodelled in 1545 by Giulio Romano.



### RIGOLETTO'S HOUSE

Where the Cathedral descends towards the lake is a row of houses, the last of which has been identified as house of legendary court jester Rigoletto, the main character in the famous opera by Giuseppe Verdi. It is a building of medieval origin restyled in the 15th century, with a small internal courtyard in the middle of which is a statue of Rigoletto (sculpture by Aldo Falchi).



### BIBIENA ACADEMIC THEATRE

This theatre was designed by architect Antonio Galli Bibiena. It is one of the treasures of the Baroque period with a rare bell-shaped ground plan. Created for scientific meetings and concerts, just a few days after its opening on Dec. 3, 1769, it hosted a concert on Jan. 16, 1770 given by the 14-year-old Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, accompanied by his father Leopold who wrote a letter to his wife praising

the wonderful place where their son had performed. The theater is part of the wider complex of the Palazzo Accademico which houses the National Virgilian Academy, the oldest and most prestigious cultural institution in the city, in which there is a library, an archive and an interesting exhibition of surgical instruments of the 18th century.



### "TERESIANA" LIBRARY

The Municipal Library, founded in 1780 by Maria Theresa of Austria and named after her, is distinguished by the particular value of its ancient heritage that makes it one of the main Italian historical libraries. It contains valuable works related to the history of the city and the Mantuan territory, such as manuscripts, incunabula, letters and prints. In addition, the most important Jewish Kabbalistic set of documents of the world is here preserved. The imposing reading rooms were built to a design by Paolo Pozzo.



### FIRE BRIGADE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

It is the only museum of its kind in Italy. The collection includes pieces and documentation illustrating the evolution of the equipment used by the Fire Brigade between the 18th and 20th centuries.



### BASILICA OF SANT'ANDREA

According to tradition the present Basilica stands on the site where San Longino, the soldier who pierced Jesus' side, hid the blood collected beneath the cross. In 1472 Marquis Ludovico II Gonzaga commissioned Leon Battista Alberti to plan reconstruction of the former church dedicated to Sant' Andrea the Apostle. Its façade is Classical in style whereas the bell tower, erected in 1413, is still Gothic in form. Inside

there is a single aisle with large square chapels at the sides. Particularly interesting are the tomb of Mantegna and the painting La Sacra Famiglia e la famiglia del Battista attributed to Mantegna and his school, as well as the crypt with the Sacred Vases containing Christ's blood.



### PALAZZO DELLA RAGIONE AND THE CLOCK TOWER

Built in 1250, it was the palace where justice was administered. It is a large building with battlements. The façade overlooking the square is made up of a 16th century portico with shops. The upper part, lit by the big three-mullioned windows you can see from outside, contains a large space now used for exhibitions. The Tower was built in 1472 from a project by Luca Fancelli.

The clock was added in 1473. Designed by Bartolomeo Manfredi it shows the phases of the moon, the best days for doing certain tasks and the position of the sun in relation to the signs of the Zodiac. In 1639 the statue of the Immaculate Virgin was placed in the niche under the clock-face.



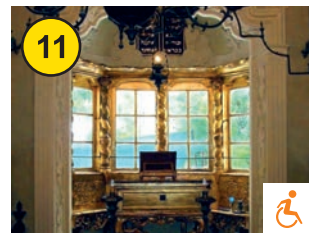
### ROTONDA OF SAN LORENZO

This is the oldest church in the town and it stands 1.5 metres below the level of the piazza. Built in 1082 by Matilde di Canossa, it has a circular plan reminiscent of the Church of the Sacred Sepulchre in Jerusalem. As time went by it gradually became part of the buildings and houses facing the square. It came to light again at the beginning of the 20th century when these buildings were demolished.



### PALACE OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Palace of the Chamber of Commerce was built between 1911 and 1914 by architect Aldo Andreani and represents all the ambitions of artisanal and industrial entrepreneurship of the era. Inside you will find the Gallery "Arte e Arti" with prestigious antique paintings and a collection of paintings and sculptures of the 20th century.



### THE NORSA SYNAGOGUE

The present-day Temple at no.13 Via G. Govi was built at the beginning of the twentieth century and is an accurate and complete transposition of the ancient, private Norsa - Torrazzo Synagogue, which already existed in 1480 inside the Ghetto. Today, the Synagogue is the only one still remaining of the six that originally formed and enlivened the religious life and Jewish culture in the town. The large complex with its unusual

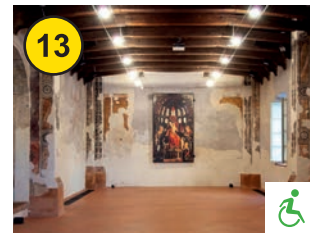
workmanship is original and is made entirely from wrought iron, consisting of a rectangular frame supporting chandeliers monogrammed with the Family name.



### FRANCESCO GONZAGA DIOCESAN MUSEUM

It opened in 1983 and was reorganized in 2008; its premises are located in the surviving cloister of the 14th century monastery of Sant'Agnese. One section of the museum is dedicated to liturgical furnishings, with a selection of furniture and fine chalices, pyxes, ostensories, reliquaries, astylar crosses, rings and pectoral crosses that document the development of the goldsmith's

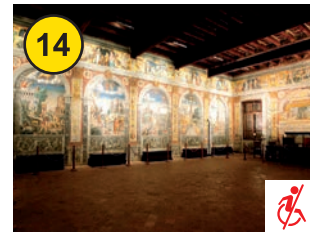
art from the 13th to the 20th century. Another section is dedicated to the history of the diocese, with paintings of bishops and documents, often surprising, concerning specifically Mantuan devotions, in particular the Most Precious Blood and the patron Sant'Anselmo. Another interesting section holds nearly all the Gonzaga jewellery that was not sold or looted.



### MADONNA DELLA VITTORIA

The Marquis Francesco II Gonzaga commissioned this church to celebrate his victory over the army of Charles VIII King of France (Fornovo, 1495). His triumph was attributed to intercession by the Virgin Mary and the altarpiece was expressly painted for the church by Andrea Mantegna. Three centuries later the French invaders took it away to the Louvre. The church, later divided into two storeys, was then

used for lay purposes. Recently, the ground floor has been restored, along with the remains of the original ornamentation; the decoration of the vaults in the inaccessible room on the upper storey are perhaps even finer.



### PALAZZO D'ARCO MUSEUM

The palace dominates the square of the same name and was built in 1782 by Antonio Colonna for the d'Arco Counts, who came from the Trentino area to Mantua in 1740. In 1973 the palace became a foundation, according to the wishes of the last descendant of the family. Today it is a museum with fully furnished rooms that illustrate what an aristocratic Mantuan house was like in the 18th and 19th centuries.



### TEATRO SOCIALE

Overlooking what was once called Piazza Impero, the theatre was designed by Luigi Canonica and was built between 1818 and 1822. Its style is Neo-classical, with six columns and a triangular pediment on the main façade. The theatre, with its three tiers of boxes and two of balconies, was also used as a cinema for many years. Today, after refurbishing, it hosts theatre, ballet, concert and opera performances.



### NUMISMATIC MUSEUM

With its 2160 pieces in gold, silver and bronze the coin collection of Banca Agricola Mantovana is the most complete collection in the world, along with that of former Italian King Vittorio Emanuele III, of coins and medals struck in Mantua in the period of the communes and the Gonzaga.



### VALENTI GONZAGA GALLERY AND MUSEUM

The historic house of the Marquises Valenti Gonzaga, now Gallery and Museum, represents Mantua's most sumptuous example of the Baroque. The exhibition space is decorated with frescoes by Flemish painter Frans Geffels and lavish decoration by Giovan Battista Barberini.



### HOUSE OF THE BLESSED OSANNA ANDREASI

The residence of the noble Andreasi family is a well preserved reminder of Osanna (1449-1505), the co-patroness of Mantua, beatified in 1515, who was a lay Dominican and counselor to the Gonzaga family. The house was designed by Luca Fancelli and it is a beautiful 15th century building.



### TAZIO NUVOLARI MUSEUM

The museum is dedicated to the memory of the unforgettable champion, defined by Ferdinand Porsche as "the greatest racing driver of the past, the present and the future". It contains the trophies, plaques and cups won by the "Flying Mantuan", as well as a vast collection of gold medals and personal effects that belonged to the champion.



### ANDREA MANTEGNA'S HOUSE

The building was begun in 1476 but took a great many years to complete. The project design is probably to be attributed to Mantegna himself, who designed an extremely original building in which a square contains a circle (the courtyard). Today the ground floor and first floor rooms looking on to this circular courtyard are used for exhibitions and shows.



### TEMPLE OF SAN SEBASTIANO

Designed by Leon Battista Alberti, its construction began in 1460 under the direction of Luca Fancelli and lasted many years. In 1925 it was restored and given the current staircases that lead down from the façade. Originally, however, its façade was characterized by five doors above which were five windows that now form the front part of the entrance. Once, the entrance (still visible today) was at the side. Today it is a War Memorial.



### PALAZZO DI SAN SEBASTIANO

Commissioned by Marquis Francesco II and built between 1506 and 1508 to host the Trionfi di Cesare - by Mantegna (today part of the Royal Collection at Hampton Court). Situated along the axis that connects Palazzo Ducale and Palazzo Te, Palazzo San Sebastiano became the City Museum in 2005, housing finds and works of art owned by the municipality and associated with Mantua's various historic periods, from its origins to the 18th century. Inside, modern technology and multimedia stations help set the town planning and art in context, providing an insight into the connection between the City Museum and its surroundings.



### PALAZZO TE

It was built between 1525 and 1535 by Giulio Romano, commissioned by Marquis Federico II who wished for a stately suburban villa. The palace was built on the island called Tejeto: its name probably derives from the presence of small houses with straw roofs called "teze". The building is made up of four buildings set around a central yard and a spacious garden in the back delimited by a large exedra. Access is provided

through a magnificent loggia overlooking the fish ponds. Inside the palace are some particularly striking rooms such as the Sala dei Cavalli, the Camera di Amore e Psiche and the well-known Stanza dei Giganti, with its illusionistic use of perspective and acoustic effects.



### CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA DEL GRADARO




This church was built in 1256 and belonged to the order of the nuns of San Marco. The façade, characterized by Romanesque-Gothic features, has an asymmetrical hut design and a beautiful portal surmounted by a rose-window.

Inside you can still see the remnants of an old wall which used to separate the members of the religious order from the congregation during functions. There are three aisles separated by arches supported on brick columns, and on pillars nearer the altar.



### MASTeR

MASTeR is an interactive and permanent workshop for classes and individuals. It is a space for experimentation, research and scientific activities, a training centre for the teaching of science and environmental education and an opportunity to make discoveries and have fun.

 Accessible  Partially accessible  Not accessible

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