

Itineraries

BRESCIA

**Your (kind of)
tourist guide**

Ten ways to tour the city and the province

Index



PHOTO BY WOLFGANG MORODER

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In less than one kilometre

MORE THAN 2500 YEARS OF HISTORY

1

In the heart of Brescia, you can take a one kilometre stroll through 2,500 years of history: the UNESCO Corridor, a unique experience that brings you to Brescia. The journey begins in the Roman Age, continues into the early Middle Ages, makes a quick stop in the Renaissance, and ends in the present day.



© The remains of the Capitulum, built in the 1st century AD and resurfaced in 1823

So, where shall we start? In Ancient Brixia, with the remains of the **Capitulum**, the great temple built by Emperor Vespasian in the 1st century AD in honour of Jupiter, Juno and Minerva, the 'Capitoline Triad'. Can you go inside? Yes, and you can admire up close the preserved parts of the decorations, the furnishings in the large chambers and the original floors of coloured marble.

Most importantly, you will find the statue of the **Winged Victory**, one of the most famous symbols of the city of Brescia (and we tell you all about the history of the statue in the [kind of] tourist guide of

Unmissable Sights).

Underneath the Capitolium there is another treasure: the remains of a temple which dates back even further to the first decades of the 1st century B.C., known as the '**Republican Sanctuary**'. Visitors can walk through the pronaos and the western chamber, admiring the frescoes painted by Pompeian artists: the incredibly vivid colours have resisted for more than twenty-one centuries!

Another pearl of Roman Brixia is the **Theatre**, built during the Augustan age and then progressively improved and enlarged. The cavea, partially lying on the slope of Cidneo hill, could hold up to fifteen thousand people. Even today, it has the power to evoke the emotions aroused by the performances in such large audiences so long ago.

© The cloisters of the Monastery of Santa Giulia



© Above, the frescoes in the Republican Sanctuary

© Below, the Nuns' Chancel in the Monastery of Santa Giulia: a treasure of the Brescian Renaissance

As the curtain falls on Roman Brescia, another rises to reveal medieval Brescia, with the **monastic complex of Santa Giulia**. This monastery dating back thousands of years was founded in 753 by Desiderius, last king of the Lombards, and is now a uniquely designed museum. There is the silence of the **Basilica di San Salvatore**, featuring repurposed Roman columns and beautiful frescoes; and the **Nuns' Chancel**, overlooking the altar from a hidden but crucial viewpoint. Below, the crypt held remains of the Christian martyr, Saint Giulia.



Are you looking for a bit of Renaissance? Just step inside the **church of Santa Maria in Solario**, which dates back to the 12th century, home to a splendid series of frescoes painted in the first half of the 16th century by Floriano Ferramola. He is said to have continued to work, undeterred, even when the French ransacked his house during the terrible Sack of Brescia.

This journey through time can end wherever you want. Ideally, we like to end in the **Viridarium** — the garden of time rediscovered. A natural oasis at the heart of the UNESCO corridor, where you can stop, breathe, and enjoy the surroundings. Here you will find the **Park of Sculptures**, an open-air museum in constant evolution, where contemporary artworks dialogue with ancient stones, resting on the grass, interwoven with light and history. Each sculpture speaks to the future: we know where we come from, we don't know where we're going. And that's okay.

© The frescoes in Santa Maria in Solario. The church is a small gem, renowned for having guarded the treasure of the Monastery of Santa Giulia through the centuries

Ma tu guarda,
Brescia to listen to!

Episode 1

Far too high to play with



An ancient chessboard, carved into stone... and wedged three metres high. No one knows who put it there, nor why.

This is the story at the centre of the first episode of *Ma tu guarda, Brescia to listen to!*



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All the squares in 18 minutes

AND WITHOUT RUSHING

2



If squares are the soul of a city, then Brescia's is a shimmering and elusive soul. Every square in our city is different. Each one has its own character, its own voice, its own distinctive atmosphere.

And you can visit them all in just 18 minutes! Come with us. Hurry up! Then slow down.

The starting point is the city's most iconic square: **Piazza della Loggia**. Designed when the Renaissance was in full bloom, this is the elegant heart of Brescia, with Palazzo della Loggia, the arcade, and its harmonious façades. We know, you've already stopped running. Good call, well done! Now that you've paused to enjoy the wonders around you, look up to the Clock Tower. Do you see the two figures, Tone and Battista? They are known as the Màcc de le Ure, the 'madmen of time': automata made of copper who have been sounding out the hours since the 16th century by striking the bell with their hammers.



© Above, the iconic Piazza della Loggia

© Piazza Paolo VI, with the Duomo Vecchio (in the foreground) and the Duomo Nuovo (immediately behind)

Walk on for three minutes and you'll find yourself in **Piazza Paolo VI**. Here, face to face, stand the Duomo Vecchio, round and austere, and the Duomo Nuovo, imposing and theatrical. Beside them is the Broletto, the ancient seat of civil power. We recommend walking through its inner courtyard, one of the most charming pedestrian passages in the city centre, open at all hours.

© The severe lines of Piazza della Vittoria

No time to lose (well, actually, you can take as much time as you want): continue walking along Via X Giornate, and in five minutes, you'll reach **Piazza della Vittoria**. Opened in 1932, it is the perfect representation of Rationalist Brescia: severe lines, monumental architecture, travertine stone. This square also features the Torrione INA, Italy's first reinforced concrete skyscraper: 57 metres of vertical ambition.



© Statue of the boy with the cornucopia, overlooking Piazza del Mercato from atop the Fontana dell'Abbondanza

Can you locate the South? Good. Head in that direction, and in two minutes you'll reach **Piazza del Mercato**. Today it's a peaceful corner of the city, but it was once the realm of the textile trade, where bustling sellers traded fabrics and linen with customers in search of the best deal.

Now walk East (yes, a map on your smartphone will come in very handy) and in five minutes you'll reach **Piazzale Arnaldo**. Today, it is a nightlife hub, but it still retains the historic traces of its former role of a grain market. In the middle stands the statue of Arnaldo da Brescia, who watches the city movida of aperitifs, chatter, and laughter.

Final stop: **Piazza Tebaldo Brusato**. Just a short walk from Piazza Arnaldo, it offers a welcoming discreet and elegant atmosphere, like an open-air lounge.

According to our calculations, this whole whirlwind tour can be covered in 18 minutes, moving from one piazza to another, from one era to the next.

But why rush it? We recommend instead that you enjoy it at your own leisurely pace.

From museum to museum

WITHOUT GETTING BORED,
WITHOUT GATHERING DUST

3

In Brescia, there's no need to tiptoe into the museums. There's no need for serious faces. No need to pretend you know more than you actually do. In Brescia, you simply walk in with curiosity, either confident or hesitant, and leave a little different from when you arrived.

Where shall we start? Well, with the **Santa Giulia Museum**. Possibly the most popular and which never fails to amaze, revealing something new at every visit.

The building is an ancient monastic complex founded by Desiderius, King of the Lombards, in the 8th century.

The collection is a journey that runs from the stone age to the modern day, through archaeological finds, works of art, and priceless treasures, such as the Cross of Desiderius. This cross, featuring 212 precious stones, cameos, and coloured glass, is the largest example of Carolingian jewellery still preserved today.

And do you know what a lipsanoteca is? No need to Google it. At Santa Giulia, you can see one with your own eyes.

© Santa Giulia Museum





© One of the rooms in the Pinacoteca Tosio Martinengo

from fashion to advertising, landscapes to portraits: a maelstrom of memory and research. Do you like a bit of speed? Do you enjoy the smell and sound of vintage engines? Then, you can't miss the **Mille Miglia Museum**: a one-of-a-kind collection of historic cars housed in a former Benedictine monastery in the Sant'Eufemia area. Where else in the world can you find a place like this?

Finally, two locations for History enthusiasts with a capital H. The first is the **Museo del Risorgimento - Leonessa d'Italia** (the title earned by Brescia during the Risorgimento uprisings). With its relics, artworks, and everyday objects, you can truly feel the atmosphere of those challenging and glorious years.

The second is the **Luigi Marzoli Weapons Museum**, one of the largest collections of ancient weapons and armours in Europe. Both museums are located in a place that represents the history of Brescia: the Castle on top of Cidneo hill. It's worth a visit even just to enjoy the sunset from its walls.

And now for a change of scenery. The **Pinacoteca Tosio Martinengo**, housed in Palazzo Martinengo da Barco, is a must for all art lovers.

Here you'll find Raphael, Lotto, Canova, and Hayez - names that need no introduction. But our advice is to go hunting for the works of Giacomo Ceruti, known as *il Pitocchetto*. A (still underrated) genius of the 18th century who put the 'margins' at the centre of his paintings, with some astonishingly modern portraits of beggars, wanderers, and outcasts.

The **Diocesan Museum** - our third stop on this journey - is also a pleasant surprise, taking visitors on a gentle journey through paintings, sculptures, religious jewellery, illuminated manuscripts, and liturgical textiles. All displayed in an elegant 16th century building that conveys a sense of calm, a slower pace. If you take a stroll under the external loggia, you'll enjoy a spectacular view over the Pegol Tower and the dome of the Cathedral, which will certainly be one of the memories you take home with you.

Then, the pace changes dramatically. The **La Cavallerizza, Centro Italiano della Fotografia** is not only a photography museum, but a journey through the second half of the 20th century in Italy. More than 250 images by 48 different photographers draw you into a visual narrative that ranges

© One of the installations in the Museo del Risorgimento



One city, many façades

DOZENS OF BUILDINGS,
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF BOOKS

4

© Palazzo
Broletto,
now the
hub of local
government

Alright, now forget about the map for a little while. Look up from your smartphone and try to walk without a set destination. The city opens before you like a book, telling a story that spans through centuries, a testament to everything that has happened – and changed – in the world around it. A great way to get an overview of this story is by observing the façades of the buildings.



© **Palazzo Martinengo Cesaresco Novarino**: entering its underground spaces is a journey back in time to the Iron Age

What's the point in listing them all? None. We'd only spoil the charm of discovery.

However, there is one place we do want to mention, just to make sure you won't miss it: **Palazzo Martinengo Cesaresco Novarino**.

Once you have found it, step through the main door, but instead of going up... go down. Its underground spaces are a vertical journey through history. Few places reveal Brescia's archaeological layers as clearly as this basement. You begin in the present and travel back in time, all the way to the Iron Age: three thousand years of urban memory.



PHOTO BY WOLFGANG MORODER



© **Palazzo Martinengo Colleoni**, now home to MO.CA., the centre for modern culture



© The interior courtyard of **Palazzo Beretta**, built in the 16th century as a residence of the Martinengo da Barco



PHOTO BY WOLFGANG MORODER

Ⓢ A detail of the façade of **Palazzo Martinengo Cesaresco dell'Aquilone**

Ⓢ One of the stone muses on the façade of the **Queriniiana Library**



And wait, we've got another tip for you.

An 18th-century façade, in full neoclassical style. The building, though, is even more precious for what's held inside: the **Queriniiana Library**, home to over 150,000 ancient volumes, incunabula, 16th-century books, and manuscripts. A true paradise for bibliophiles.

Ma tu guarda,
Brescia to listen to!

Episode 2

A statue that speaks



In the heart of Brescia, there's a statue that has been talking for hundreds of years.

Locals call her *Lodoiga*.

This is the story whispered by a marble figure who has been listening, without judging, for five hundred years.



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Places of worship

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH, WHO LOVE ART,
WHO KNOW HOW TO LISTEN TO SILENCE

5

In Brescia, spirituality sometimes whispers through the Romanesque naves, other times it bursts from the baroque stuccoes. Sometimes, it hides behind a simple portal, in others it appears in full view. One way or the other, it is an invitation to pause amidst the bustle of the city.



© Piazza Paolo VI, at night, with the two artificially-lit cathedrals

The tour dedicated to the places of worship has to begin in **Piazza Paolo VI**, which we have already passed through in the previous pages.

Before, we just took a quick glance; now it's time to slow down and focus on the details.

First of all: **would you be able to recognise Botticino marble?** It's quarried in the Brescia province. It's the marble used to build the imposing baroque façade of the Duomo Nuovo. It took over two centuries to complete the cathedral, from the 16th to the 19th century, ending with the construction of the great dome: it's the third tallest in Italy, but this exceptional feature is somewhat lesser known... after all, the people of Brescia like to get things done, but without shouting about it. It's part of our character.

In the same square, the **Duomo Vecchio** – built five hundred years before the Duomo Nuovo – offers an almost theatrical contrast. Romanesque, massive, circular, its stones speak an ancient language, one of rigor and contemplation. Inside, it houses precious relics and frescoes. And beneath the surface lies a hidden treasure: the **crypt of San Filastrio**.

When you think of faith in Brescia, the first face that comes to mind is that of Pope Paul VI, born in 1897 in Concesio, just a few miles from the city.

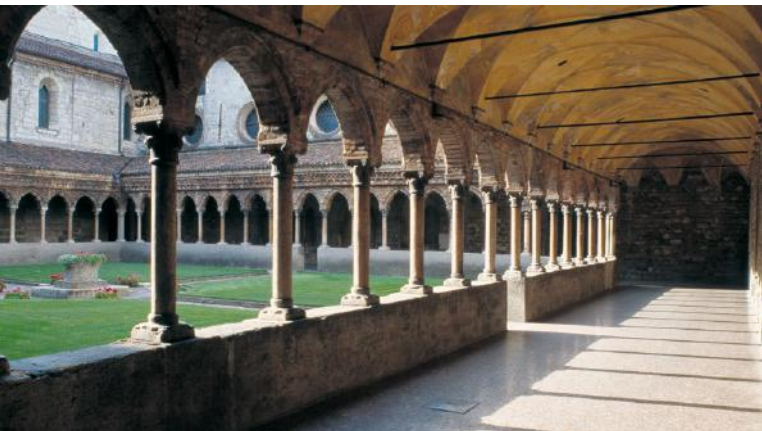
The Pope had a particularly profound connection to the **Sanctuary of Santa Maria delle Grazie**. He lived nearby for a long time and celebrated his first Mass right inside that magnificent building, with its three richly decorated naves, its stuccoes, and frescoes: a symphony that turns light into a triumph.

Now it's time to experience a masterpiece suspended between heaven and earth, the work of art of a genius from the late Renaissance: Titian Vecellio. To admire his *Averoldi Altarpiece*, you need to go to the Collegiate **Church of Saints Nazaro and Celso**, a harmonious combination of 15th-century Renaissance and 18th-century neoclassicism.



© The red brick and white stone façade of the Church of San Giovanni Evangelista

The Church of **San Giovanni Evangelista** is instead one of the oldest in the city. Built in the 4th century, it has since undergone many transformations. Once inside, head towards the left transept, where you'll find the **Cappella del Santissimo Sacramento**, where Moretto and Romanino painted two different walls, one facing the other: two masters in close dialogue.



© The cloisters in the Church of San Francesco

Just a short walk from here is the **Church of San Francesco** with its two cloisters. Built in the 13th century, it's a bridge between the Romanesque and Gothic styles. Simple, essential, almost austere... yet, the frescoes and altars inside create a visual counterpoint that surprises and encourages contemplation.

In the nearby vibrant and bohemian Carmine district, there is a Lombard-Gothic treasure: the **Church of Santa Maria del Carmine**. Outside, people and music. Inside, silence.



© Madonna with Child in the Church of Santa Maria del Carmine

There are also two patron saints of Brescia: **Faustino and Giovita**, celebrated on 15 February, to whom another church is devoted. Once inside, don't miss the fresco by Tiepolo, depicting the martyrdom of the two saints.

One final stop, in the shadow of Cidneo hill, between the Roman Archaeological Park and the Santa Giulia complex, is a lesser-known marvel: the **Church of Santissimo Corpo di Cristo**, dating back to the Renaissance. It's known as the Sistine Chapel of Brescia. Once you step inside, you'll understand why.

The rising city

AN ITINERARY WITH YOUR
HEAD UP IN THE AIR

6

Ever since humans stood on two feet, we've been creatures that look upwards... and build upwards. To defend ourselves, to dominate, to reach for the sky.

Every era has its own vertical ambitions. In Brescia, your journey to the sky begins a thousand years ago.

In the heart of the historic centre, **Torre del Popolo** – also known as **Pegol Tower** – has stood tall since the 11th century.

This secular bell tower, rising beside the Broletto, is a symbol of civic power and is 54 metres high. Try to picture it in 1849, during the uprising known as the Ten Days of Brescia. While adults fought for freedom at its base, the children rang the bells at the top.

© The Torre del Pegol, built between the 7th and 8th century





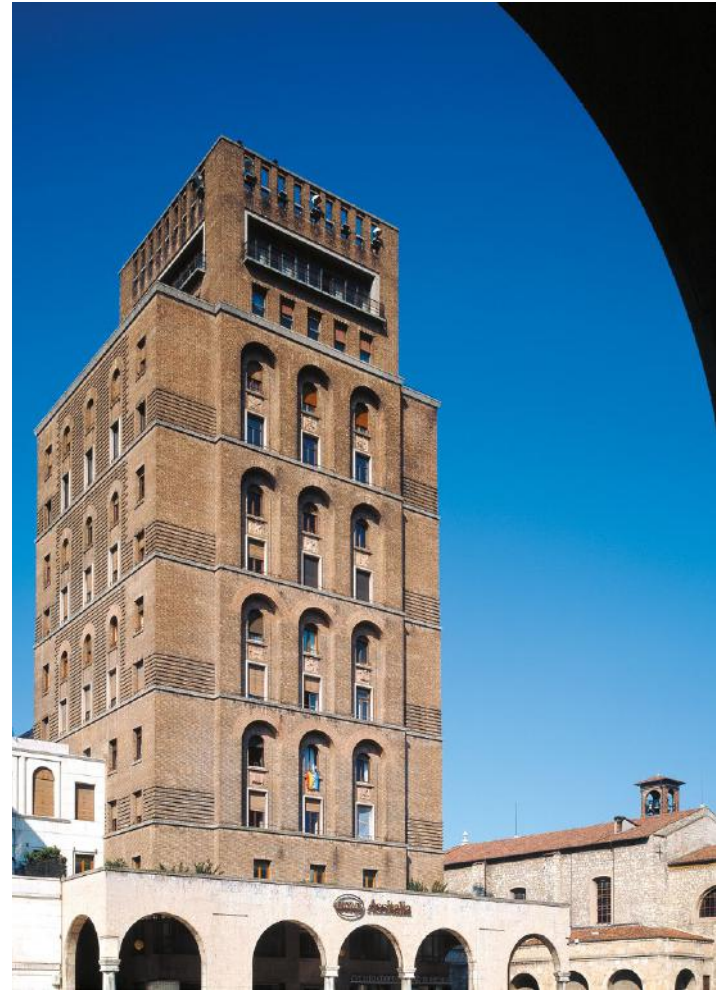
© A detail of the monumental fountain at the base of the Torre della Pallata

In the 13th century, another proud stone structure rose up to the sky: **Torre della Pallata**. The people of Brescia built it partly using repurposed blocks from Roman buildings. Defensive and austere, over the centuries the tower has changed in shape and purpose, housing once a clock, a monumental fountain, and even the city's treasury.

© 'Il peso del tempo sospeso' (The Suspended Weight of Time) by Stefano Bombardieri, in Quadriportico of Piazza della Vittoria



Higher up, on Cidneo Hill, partially hidden behind the castle walls, stands the **Mirabella Tower**. It is most likely medieval, as it was part of the defensive system, first under the Visconti, then the Venetians. Silent and austere, for centuries it has been a discreet observer of its surroundings. Once up close, you realise that it has a lot to tell: stories of artillery, wind, of watchful eyes scanning the horizon.



© Torrione INA, the first Italian skyscraper

Now we leap forward to the 1930s, when **Torre della Rivoluzione**, designed by architect Marcello Piacentini, was built in Piazza della Vittoria. Rationalist, geometric and solemn.

On the same square rises another iconic building. You might have glimpsed it already, wandering through the piazzas a few pages back. It's the very first Italian skyscraper: commonly known as **Torrione INA**, it is named after the National Insurance Institute that financed its construction. Its 57-metre height might not seem all that remarkable today... but at the time, it was something never seen before!

The invisible city

A JOURNEY INTO
THE BRESCIAN UNDERWORLD

7



Brescia is many cities all in one. And there's also one hidden beneath the ground.

On the surface-level, Brescia is all façades, squares, and bell towers. The underground city, on the other hand, offers tunnels, crypts, buried stones, and voices rising from the depths.

It is open to the public?

Of course.

With a torch in your hand and a pair of sturdy boots on your feet, you can join one of the tours organised by the association **Brescia Underground**. The journey begins from a hatch that opens like a parenthesis in the pavement.

And then, down you go. Venturing along hidden canals and ancient waterways, you'll be reminded that Brescia once was (and in many ways still is) a city of water, medieval conduits, wells, and forgotten

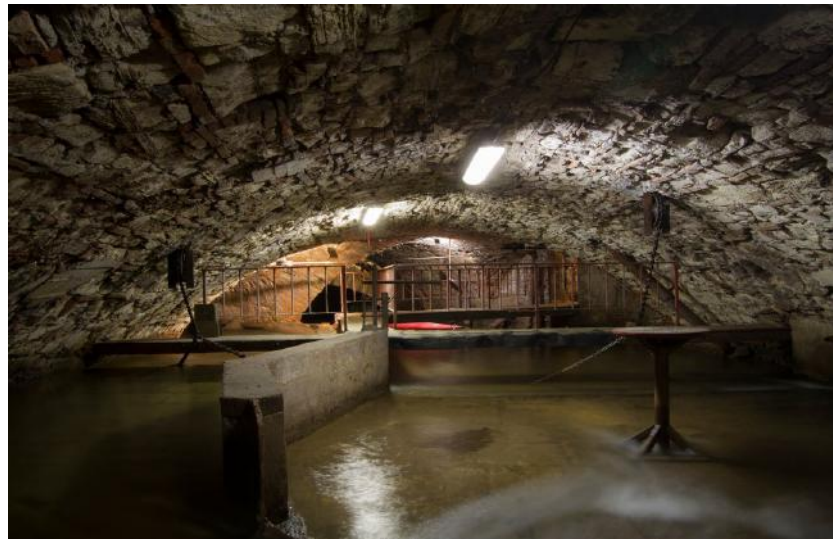


© One of the sections of the Strada del Soccorso

mechanisms of old hydraulic systems.

Up Cidneo hill... and then back down again, into the **castle's underground chambers**.

Beneath your feet lies an invisible network that connects the fortress to the city's strategic points: **Mastio Visconteo** and **Torre Mirabella**, **Torre Coltrina** and **Torre dei Francesi**. Trenches, passageways, prisons and tunnels: many can be explored on guided tours



© Two images from the Brescia Underground tour



accessible to everyone, led by the experts of the **Brescia Speleological Association**.

And finally, there's the main route. We're talking about **Strada del Soccorso**, built during the Visconti era as an escape and supply route in case the Castle came under siege. You can still walk it today – the full 210-metre stretch – all the way up to the **Montagnola Botanical Garden**.

Beautiful Brescia by bike

THE CITY AND THE PROVINCE
ON TWO WHEELS

8

Are you an avid cyclist and like to take your bike everywhere with you? No problem. You don't have a bike? Still no problem. In Brescia, there is Bicimia, its bike-sharing service. Helmet on, and you're good to go.

We think the ideal bike ride is one without any particular destination. Where you can feel the breeze on your face as you cycle through the city centre, and perhaps end up in one of the squares just in time for an aperitivo.

We do have one recommendation for something a bit different: **Parco delle Cave**, south-east of the city centre, where old quarries have turned into lakes, and lakes have turned into ecosystems. Here, you can ride past water, willows, people on a quiet stroll: a gentle, contemporary image of

© On the Brescian shore
of Lake Garda



© Cycling lakeside near
Limone del Garda



a regenerated city. Brescia is also a departure point for longer rides, for those gifted with more time and stronger legs.

One of the most spectacular routes is **Via delle Sorelle**, which links Brescia to Bergamo along more than 130 km, passing through 34 towns, moraine hills, vineyards, small towns, and trails. It's a hiking route, but also perfect for cycling. A living dialogue between the two sister cities and their common traits: landscape, community, history. This brand-new path was created in 2023, when the two cities were jointly named Italian Capital of Culture.

Looking for more?

No worries, there's plenty more. Just follow the **Greenway of Valli Resilienti**: a cycling network that winds through the Trompia and Sabbia Valleys, climbing and descending through woods, small villages, and former railway lines now turned into cycle paths. This is the Brescia that



© A section of the Ciclovía
dell'Oglio in Valcamonica

never gives up, the city that recognises its identity in hard work, the city that considers mountains both a refuge and a home.

And then there's the **Ciclovía dell'Oglio**, often called 'Italy's most beautiful cycle route', stretching out over 280 kilometres.

Also not to be missed is the **Brescia-Paratico cycle path**. Around thirty kilometres that take you straight to Lake Iseo, passing through Franciacorta, where vineyards stretch in neat rows and cellars are filled with the scent of harvest (the only risk is stopping too soon!).

And then there are other routes for those who prefer to hike. If this sounds like fun to you, start in Brescia and follow **Via Valeriana**, an ancient route connecting the city to the Camonica Valley. It's long, wild, and stunning. Perfect for those with stamina, strong lungs, and love for the great outdoors: from farmland to forest, from Lake Iseo all the way up to the Tonale Pass, among chamois and along mule tracks.

How's the food like? And drinks?

YOU TELL US

9

In Brescia, the food and drink are excellent. But above all, they're authentic.



PHOTO BY VINCENTO LONATI

© Pirlo, the most classic
Brescian aperitif

Let's start with an aperitivo. Pirlo or Franciacorta?

Let us help you decide.

Still white wine, aromatic bitter and soda water: the **Pirlo** recipe is incredibly simple. But it's all about the proportions and bartender's touch. It's the drink in Brescia, and always has been. Just be careful never to call it a spritz!



And what about Franciacorta?

Franciacorta – and this is no exaggeration – is not just any sparkling wine. It was the first traditional method wine in Italy to be awarded DOCG status. Produced in a terroir that has successfully transformed its agricultural vocation into a world-class excellence. Enough with talking. Order a glass and let us know what you think.

Do you prefer a still white wine? There's **Lugana**, the best of the southern shores of Lake Garda.



PHOTO BY VINCENZO LONATI

© Above, manzo all'olio (beef in oil) with polenta

© Below, the typical little cubes of persicata (peach jellies)

And what shall we pair with our glasses?

In Brescia, it has to be the **Bertagni**, the typical battered and fried salt cod. Now, let's take a look at the local dishes, starting with the great classics, the ones you never mess with in Brescia: **casoncelli**, **polenta taragna**, **manzo all'olio di Rovato**. Rich, deep flavours, no compromises.

And then there's the **spiedo Bresciano** (Brescian spit). More than just a main course, it is a ritual that requires time, glowing embers, slowly dripping butter, patience and skill. And when it's ready, it's always a meal to be shared, because the time it takes shouldn't be wasted alone.

Entering the world of our local cheeses



PHOTO BY VINCENZO LONATI

© A wheel of Bagòss

means setting off on a journey through mountain pastures and grazing lands, where men and women love and protect their land.

Our personal recommendations are **Bagòss**, a cheese full of flavour; from Valcamonica: **Silter**, made with raw milk, and **Fatuli**, an unusual, slowly smoked goat's cheese.

There's always room for dessert. Perhaps a **Persicata** – a little peach-based treat once loved by Gabriele D'Annunzio himself. Or a **Spongada**, a traditional Easter sweet from Valcamonica, a kind of *brioche* with a rustic soul. If you come around Christmas time, there's no debate: it has to be a **Bossolà**. A ring-shaped cake with butter and vanilla, thought to bring good luck.



PHOTO BY VISIT BRESCIA



© The Carmine district
– the perfect place to enjoy
dishes from all over the world

A city with deep, solid roots is not afraid of opening up to the world. Brescia does it naturally, even in the kitchen.

Moroccan **tajine**, Japanese **ramen**, Peruvian **ceviche**, Ethiopian **injera**, and Indian **biryani** have all become part of Brescia's gastronomic landscape.

Take a walk around the **Carmine district** and choose for yourself which part of the world you'd like to see on your plate.

Ma tu guarda,
Brescia to listen to!

Episode ③

Who are the tramvierine?



The First World War rages on, but trams in Brescia keep rattling along. It's no longer men at the wheel. It's the *tramvierine*: women who not only drove public transport, but also a piece of the future.



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A whole lifetime of things to do and see

THE BRESCIAN PROVINCE HAS EVERYTHING

10

Lakes that attract visitors from all over the world (and yes, you can swim in them!). High mountains with unspoiled trails, some ideal for families, others suitable for experienced hikers. Rock carvings dating back to ten thousand years ago. Castles standing proud in the middle of the plains. Hiking trails and cycling routes. Honestly, it's hard to know where to begin. So here are just a few tips, divided by geographical area.

How much time have you got?
Whatever the answer, it won't be enough.
But luckily, you can always come back.



Lake Iseo

A treasure nestled among the mountains, between the provinces of Brescia and Bergamo. You can explore the small villages scattered along its shores or discover the unique ecosystem of the natural reserve of Torbiere del Sebino.

In Sulzano, you can hop on a boat for Monte Isola - Italy's largest lake island - with its charming villages, once home to fishermen and net makers.

If you're a nature lover, don't miss the hiking routes in the surrounding mountains.

If you're more of a foodie, you'll enjoy the traditional dishes of lake fish.

Of course, you can always do both!



The Brescian shore of Lake Garda

Beaches where you can unwind. Lakeside strolls. Charming villages. Unique traces of both ancient and recent history.

Here are a few must-see spots: Sirmione, with its thermal baths and the archaeological site of Grotte di Catullo. Elegant Salò, home to a beautiful cathedral. Gardone Riviera and the famous and extravagant Vittoriale degli Italiani, designed and commissioned by Gabriele D'Annunzio. Tremosine, with the spectacular Strada della Forra, once described by Winston Churchill as 'the eighth wonder of the world'.

And finally, in the very special Limone, where you can wander along the narrow lanes, explore the historic lemon groves, and walk or cycle along one of the most breathtaking paths in Europe.

© The Manerba fortress

© The Vittoriale degli Italiani



The mountains

Family-friendly hikes, trails for experienced hikers, rock climbing walls, unspoilt nature, ski resorts, high mountain huts, crystal-clear alpine lakes, and cycle paths.

The choice is up to you: from the great classics like the ski resort of Ponte di Legno, with the Tonale Pass and the Presena Glacier, to the breathtaking landscapes of the Adamello Nature Park and the Stelvio National Park.

And then there are historic villages such as Bagolino in Valle Sabbia, famous for its *Bagòss* cheese. Or the hidden corners of Valle Trompia, where secret treasures are just waiting to be discovered.



Rock drawings in Valle Camonica

Signs that take us back in time to some 10,000 years ago, to the Palaeolithic era, and reach as far as the first millennium BC. Signs and symbols so astonishing they couldn't go unnoticed by UNESCO, which added them to the World Heritage List back in 1979. Drawings that, even today, have the power to bring you face to face with our most distant ancestors and their everyday lives.

The tour stretches across the entire valley, covering 8 parks, 24 towns and an impressive 180 different sites. No way you can see it all in one go! But a great place to start is the best-known site of Naquane, in Capo di Ponte... and then, of course, you can always come back.

© The rock drawings in Valcamonica are the first UNESCO World Heritage site in Italy

☉ The Bonoris Castle,
in Montichiari

☉ Padernello Castle



PHOTO BY WOLFGANG MORODER



PHOTO BY VIRGINIO GILBERTI E BAMS PHOTO RODELLA

Last but not least, the plain

The Brescian plain is anything but flat... at least when it comes to things to do and sights to see. You can go looking for castles: like Bonoris Castle in Montichiari, or the castles of the Martinengo family in Padernello, Villagana, Villachiarra, and Barco di Orzinuovi.

In the museums of Remedello and Manerbio, you'll find fascinating local artefacts dating back to the Neolithic period. The parish church in Verolanuova jealously guards some large paintings by Tiepolo. But art lovers will also appreciate the Reposi Art Gallery in Chiari, which features paintings and prints from the Lombard and Venetian schools.

And finally, a recommendation for the more active visitors: enjoy a walk or a bike ride along River Oglio, from Palazzolo to Pontevico.

Ma tu guarda, Brescia to listen to!

A podcast that takes you on a journey of discovery of the many cities within the city, revealing what's hidden in plain sight.

Far too high to play with

An ancient chessboard, carved into stone... wedged three meters high. No one knows who put it there, or why. It's a Roman tabula lusoria, a silent witness to games, laughter, quarrels, and bets from two thousand years ago.

Via X Giornate, 87



A statue that speaks

Locals call her *Lodoiga*. This is the story whispered by a marble figure who has been listening, without judging, for five hundred years.

Palazzo della Loggia, Piazza della Loggia



Who are the tramvierine?

While the First World War rages on, trams keep rattling through Brescia. But men are no longer at the wheel. It's them: the *tramvierine*—women who drove not just public transport, but a piece of the future.



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Saturday – Sunday 9 am – 5 pm



Piazzale Stazione

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Saturday 9 am – 5 pm



Piazza del Foro

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visit brescia



Brescia,
La Tua Città
Europea.

BRESCIA

Your (kind of)
tourist map

Itineraries

Ten ways to tour the city and the province

IN LESS THAN ONE KILOMETRE

- ❶ **Capitolium**
Via dei Musei 55
- ❷ **Republican Sanctuary**
Via dei Musei 55
- ❸ **Roman Theatre**
Via dei Musei 55
- ❹ **Monastic complex of Santa Giulia**
Via dei Musei 81/a
- ❺ **Church of Santa Maria in Solario**
Via dei Musei 81/a
- ❻ **Viridarium**
Via dei Musei 81/a

ALL THE SQUARES IN 18 MINUTES

- ❷ **Piazza della Loggia**
- ❸ **Piazza Paolo VI**
- ❹ **Piazza della Vittoria**
- ❺ **Piazza del Mercato**
- ❻ **Piazzale Arnaldo**
- ❼ **Piazza Tebaldo Brusato**

FROM MUSEUM TO MUSEUM

- ❸ **Santa Giulia Museum**
Via dei Musei 81/a
- ❹ **Pinacoteca Tosio Martinengo**
Piazza Moretto 4
- ❺ **Diocesan Museum**
Via Gaspero da Salò 13
- ❻ **La Cavallerizza, Centro Italiano della Fotografia**
Via Fratelli Cairoli 9
- ❼ **Mille Miglia Museum**
Viale della Bornata 123
- ❸ **Museo del Risorgimento - Leonessa d'Italia**
Via del Castello 9
- ❹ **Luigi Marzoli Weapons Museum**
Via del Castello 9

ONE CITY, MANY FAÇADES

- ❹ **Palazzo Broletto**
Piazza Paolo VI, 29
- ❹ **Palazzo Martinengo Cesaresco Novarino**
Via dei Musei 30

- ❹ **Palazzo Martinengo Colleoni**
Via Moretto 78
- ❹ **Palazzo Beretta, formerly Martinengo da Barco**
Corso Magenta 25/27
- ❹ **Palazzo Martinengo Cesaresco dell'Aquilone**
Via Trieste 17/b
- ❹ **Biblioteca Queriniana**
Via Mazzini 1

PLACES OF WORSHIP

- ❹ **Duomo Vecchio**
Piazza Paolo VI
- ❹ **Duomo Nuovo**
Piazza Paolo VI
- ❹ **Sanctuary of Santa Maria delle Grazie**
Via delle Grazie 13
- ❹ **Church of Saints Nazaro and Celso**
Corso Matteotti 31
- ❹ **Church of San Francesco**
Via San Francesco d'Assisi 1
- ❹ **Church of Santa Maria del Carmine**
Contrada del Carmine
- ❹ **Church of San Giovanni Evangelista**
Contrada San Giovanni 12
- ❹ **Church of Santi Faustino and Giovita**
Via San Faustino 74
- ❹ **Church of Santissimo Corpo di Cristo**
Via Giovanni Piamarta 9

THE RISING CITY

- ❹ **Torre del Pegol**
Piazza Paolo VI
- ❹ **Torre della Pallata**
Via della Pace
- ❹ **Mirabella Tower**
Via del Castello 9
- ❹ **Torre della Rivoluzione**
Piazza della Vittoria
- ❹ **Torrione INA**
Piazza della Vittoria

