

Contemporary Brescia



The journey into contemporary art in Brescia starts underground, with **SUBBRIXIA**, a permanent "in progress" exhibition in the city's metro stations:

- **Brixia** by Marcello Maloberti (Metro Stazione FS): an upside-down road sign invites you to enter the other side of the city, underground and archaeological.
- **Incancellabile Vittoria** by Emilio Isgrò (Metro Stazione FS): a monumental work that exalts the Roman history of Brescia in its most iconic symbol, the Winged Victory.
- **Mind the gap** by Nathalie Du Pasquier (Metro Vittoria): lively ceramic tiles exalt the beauty of everyday life, from another perspective.

- **Gothic Minerva** by Patrick Tuttofuoco (Metro San Faustino): a fusion of old and new, where coloured neons lead into an exploration of the complex stratification of Brescia's history and culture.
- **BrixiaDue** by Andreas Angelidakis (Metro Bressiadue): imposing pvc Greek columns, "soft ruins", a modern tribute to the ancient history of Brescia.

Leaving the metro stations and returning to the surface, you can walk the UNESCO corridor and reach the space dedicated to the Roman gardens of the Santa Giulia complex, the Sculpture Park-Viridarium: works such as **Il Terzo Paradiso** by Michelangelo Pistoletto, **We started with a Flame** by Ariel Schlesinger, **Formiamo umanità** by Valerio Rocco Orlando and **Mondo d'acciaio** by Emilio Isgrò invite visitors to reflect on the nature of the human beings and their relationship with the environment.

The exploration of contemporary art continues in the urban fabric. Some suggestions? **La stele** by Mimmo Paladino and **Il peso del tempo sospeso** by Stefano Bombardieri in Piazza Vittoria, and Rivalta's **animalier sculptures** inside the castle.

And this is just the beginning. Learn more about contemporary art in Brescia at the following link: <https://bit.ly/TB-Arte-Contemporanea>

City activities



Secret Brescia

The **Associazione Speleologica Bresciana** (Brescian Speleological Association) offers guided tours suitable for everyone to the Castle, its dungeons, galleries, towers, and its most suggestive rooms. Reservation only and for groups: www.speleoasb.it

Accessible Brescia

A welcoming city is accessible to everyone. Find itineraries devised for those with mobility difficulties, and discover Brescia, at **ACCESSIBLE BRESCIA**: www.visitbrescia.it

Brescia for kids

Travelling with kids? Great, because visiting Brescia with children is easy and fun. Find family proposals and workshops at **VISIT BRESCIA WITH CHILDREN**: www.visitbrescia.it

Green Brescia

Hiking in Brescia is easy. Monte Maddalena, which surrounds the city to the East and North, offers numerous paths within Parco delle Colline. Find the description at **OUTDOOR CULTURE**: www.visitbrescia.it

Underground Brescia

An adventure under the surface: **Brescia Underground Association** offers tours in the belly of the city, among legends and strange characters, along underground rivers, and ditches. www.bresciaunderground.com

Brescia by bike

Itineraries in and around the historic centre, to visit Brescia in a short time and without any rush. Find the proposals at www.amicidellabicibrescia.it

Itineraries around Brescia



Colli dei Longobardi Strada dei Vini e dei Sapori

A food and wine itinerary that winds through the Brescian area, the foothills of the Brescian Pre-Alps and the initial planes to the South-East of the city. The starting point is the Santa Giulia Museum and the Pusterla vineyard in Brescia, the largest urban vineyard in Europe. www.stradadelvinocolliideilongobardi.it

La Strada del Franciacorta

A route through a fascinating wine-growing area, located between the city of Brescia and Lake Iseo. Organise a visit, complete with wine-tasting, at the most renowned wine cellars. www.franciacorta.wine

Strada dei Vini e dei Sapori del Garda

The pleasure of a holiday dedicated to typical local products, with an itinerary that winds through the Brescian coast of Lake Garda, from Limone to Sir-

mione, and the hills of the hinterland. Organise a visit to wine cellars, oil mills, and dairies. www.stradadeivinii.it

La Via delle Sorelle

A 130-kilometre path, organised in stages, that connects Brescia to Bergamo, crossing more than 30 municipalities. The Sister Way, which mostly develops on the hilly part of the two provinces, aims to be a green artery to discover lesser-known places, ancient routes and itineraries, traditions, and products of the territories, with Art at its centre. www.laviadellesorelle.it

East Lombardy

Discover the food and wine region of Eastern Lombardy, which unites producers and restaurateurs from Brescia, Bergamo, Cremona, and Mantua, warranting the culture of healthy, sustainable food that respects local biodiversity. www.eastlombardy.it

The Longobards and UNESCO



Longobards in Italy. Places of the Power (568-774 A.D.) is a UNESCO site that comprises seven monumental complexes that testify to the presence of the Longobard people in Italy between the 6th and 8th centuries A.D.

These churches, fortresses, and monasteries have been inscribed on the World Heritage List because they express the important role the Longobard people played in the spiritual and cultural development of Europe. The Longobards migrated from Northern Europe and settled in Italy, where they developed their own culture: a synthesis of the heritage of ancient Rome, Christian spirituality, Byzantine influence, and Germanic Northern Europe.

They valued diversity and merged different cultures into a singular, original element, mixing the classical and the contemporary. They initiated the cultural process (later inherited by Charlemagne) that contributed to the emergence of medieval Europe, thus marking the next thousand years of Western history.

The inclusion of these sites on the UNESCO World Heritage list underlines the importance of their work and contradicts the aura of "decadence" and "barbarism" that often surrounds the High Middle Ages, emphasising the continuity of the historical process and the interpenetration of different civilisations. The sites are scattered all around Italy: in addition to Brescia, they can be found in Cividale del Friuli, Castelseprio – Torba, Spoleto, Campello sul Clitunno, Benevento and Monte Sant'Angelo.

In Brescia, the sites included in the World Heritage List are the **Monastery of San Salvatore - Santa Giulia**, the **Archaeological Park** with the **Capitolium**, the **Theatre**, and the **Republican Sanctuary**.

www.longobardinitalia.it
www.bresciamusei.com

A city to live



Besides history, monuments and culture, Brescia is a city that offers quality leisure time, to be enjoyed through unique experiences and events. Meetings, music, lots of theatres, squares to live, and vibrant neighbourhoods that light up at night. International events such as the **1000 Miglia** (June), the International Piano Festival (April to June), the **Opera Festival** (June), the **Music Festival** (June), **Festival la Strada** (August to September) enrich the cultural offer.

And then there is the feast of the senses, with the authentic flavours of the Brescian cuisine,

where every dish is a journey into culinary tradition. The absolute stars are casoncelli, malfatti with butter, the spit, tender beef in oil, but also codfish and a rich selection of delicious cheese. A special mention goes to the products labelled as **Denominazione Comunale** (De.Co.). The gastronomy in Brescia seduces with passion and authenticity! Try the **Pirlo** (De.Co) or a glass of Franciacorta as an aperitif. And, finally, sweets such as the fragrant **Persicata** (De.Co), **Biscotto Bresciano** (De.Co) or the soft **Bossolà** (De.Co), which also make for perfect gifts to offer on your return.

Brescia

History to see

EN Tourist guide



Shops and artisanal workshops, restaurants and bars, craft enterprises and innovative services: there are so many faces behind the shop windows, so many intertwined stories that give life to the urban landscape, between arcades and historical squares, along the most famous streets and the hidden corners of the centre of Brescia. They are the soul of the **UDC**, the Urban Commercial District.



TOURIST

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INFOPOINT

in

LOMBARDIA

i

C3

Via Trieste 1 / Piazza Paolo VI
Tel. +39 030 3061266
Monday – Friday 9 am – 7 pm
Saturday – Sunday 9 am – 5 pm

i

A4

Piazzale Stazione
Tel. +39 030 3061240
Monday – Friday 9 am – 7 pm
Saturday 9 am – 5 pm

i

D3

Piazza del Foro
Tel. +39 030 3749916
Monday – Sunday 10 am – 6 pm

Ask for information at:
infopoint@comune.brescia.it
Whatsapp +39 342 6058111

BS

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BRESCIAPP!

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An area to discover

Lake Garda

- **Sirmione**, a real jewel, with its thermal baths, the archaeological area of the "grotte di Catullo", the Scaliger Castle and its elegant streets.
- **Desenzano**, a renowned locality, offers visits to the Roman villa and the Archaeological Civic Museum.
- The historical hills where the Italian unification battle of **San Martino** and **Solferino** took place, now covered in beautiful vineyards.
- The **UNESCO World Heritage prehistoric pile-dwelling sites** in Sirmione, Desenzano, Manerba and Polpenazze to travel back to the mists of time.
- **Lonato**, the Maguzzano Abbey, the Podestà house-museum and the Visconti-Venetian Fortress.
- **Salò**, the Magnificent Venetian Patria, has a charming lakeside promenade which is perfect for strolling, and a splendid late Gothic cathedral.
- **Toscolano Maderno** with its Paper Museum and the Paper Mill Valley.
- In **Gardone Riviera**, the Vito-

riale degli Italiani, the house-museum of Gabriele D'Annunzio.

- In **Limone**, **Tignale** and **Gargnano**, the ancient lemon houses that characterise the landscape of the Alto Garda Natural Park.

Lake Iseo and Franciacorta

- **Iseo**, with the Oldofredi Castle, is the ideal starting point for boat trips on the lake.
- The **Torbiere**, a unique nature reserve in Europe, perfect for birdwatching, overlooked by the Abbey of San Pietro in Lamosa in Provaglio.
- **Monte Isola**, Italy's largest lake island, with its picturesque villages inhabited by fishermen and net-makers.
- The **Pyramids**, towering spires of stone shaped by the erosion of water. An awe-inspiring natural landscape.
- **Franciacorta**, production area of Italy's most famous sparkling wine, characterised by pleasant hills inland from the lake, with stately homes, vineyards, and castles.

- In **Rodengo Saiano** the Olivetan abbey of San Nicola, with important paintings by Romanino and Moretto.
- In **Ome** an ancient mallet from the 15th century.
- In **Pisogne**, in the Santa Maria della Neve church, frescoes by Romanino.

Lake Idro and Valle Sabbia

- In **Anfo**, there is the Rocca, the Venetian fortress; at **Sabbio Chiese**, the bastion-shelter later converted into a church.
- **Bagolino**, a stone village, famous for the Bagöss cheese and for one of the oldest carnivals in Italy.
- The thermal waters of the Castello spring at **Vallio Terme**.
- The Archaeological Museum in **Gavardo**, with finds dating back to the Middle Paleolithic.

Valle Trompia

- **Gardone Val Trompia**, Italy's largest production centre for artfully chiseled small arms.
- In **Concesio** there is the birth house and the Collection of Contemporary Art and Culture of Pope Paul VI.
- The Serafino Zani astronomical observatory in **Lumezzane**, for those who want to set their eyes on the sky.

Valle Camonica

- The **Via del Romanino**, one of the greatest Italian painters of the 16th century, in the sanctuaries of Bienno, Pisogne and Breno, where you can visit the medieval castle and the Sanctuary of Minerva.
- The thermal baths surrounded by greenery in **Darfo Boario**.

- The seventeenth-century iron-working hammers in **Bienno**.
- The Via Crucis in **Cerveno**, with life-size wooden statues.
- The remarkable Convent of the Annunciata in **Piancogno**.
- The Romanesque art of the Parish Church of San Siro and the Monastery of San Salvatore in **Capo di Ponte**.
- In **Cividate Camuno**, the National Archeological Museum, with the Roman theatre and amphitheatre.
- The famous **Camuni rock carvings**, Italy's first UNESCO site, can be visited at Capo di Ponte, Ceto, Cimbergo, Paspardo, Darfo Boario, Ossimo Superiore, Sellero and Sonico.
- **Ponte di Legno**: a well-known ski resort, with the Passo del Tonale and the Presena glacier.
- **Adamello** natural park and Stelvio National Park.

The Plane or Lower Brescian Area

- The Bonoris castle and Pieve di San Pancrazio in **Montichiari**.
- The **Pinacoteca Repossi** in **Chiari**, with paintings and prints from the Longobard and Venetian schools.
- The **Martinengo castles** in Padernello, Villagana, Villachiana and Barco di Orzinuovi.
- The course of the **River Oglio**, from Palazzolo to Pontevico, ideal for walking or cycling in the Natural Park.
- In the museums of **Remedello** and **Manerbio**, you can admire local artefacts from the Neolithic period (6th millennium BC).
- In **Verolanuova** the large canvases by Tiepolo kept in the parish church.

INFOPOINT
in LOMBARDIA

Get the complete list of InfoPoint in Brescia and its surrounding area at: https://bit.ly/Brescia_InfoPoint

Information about Brescia and its surrounding area: www.visitbrescia.it

visit brescia

Brescia Metro

Info about bus and metro [Bicimia - Bike Sharing](https://www.bresciamobilita.it)
Whatsapp **+39 3400702227** In every station
Tel. **+39 030 3061200**

www.bresciamobilita.it

Points of interest



Santa Giulia, the City Museum

It's the ideal place to embark on a journey through Brescia's art and history, from prehistoric times to the present day. The building was erected by the last Longobard king Desiderius and his wife Ansa in 753 A.D. as a women's monastery; since then, it played a leading religious, political, and economic role in the history of the city. The museal complex stands on an area once occupied by important domus in Roman times, which are now included in the museum tour, and it is composed by the Longobard Basilica of San Salvatore and its crypt, the Romanesque oratory of Santa Maria in Solario, the Nuns' Choir, the 16th-century church of Santa Giulia and the cloisters. The museum, which is partially accessible, shows at every step the link between "container" and exhibits, with a total of around 11,000 items: Celtic finds, Roman portraits and bronzes, Longobard testimonies, funerary objects, mosaics, frescoes and the Cross of Desiderius, a masterpiece dating back to 9th-century A.D. The monastery is annexed to the Viridarium, a reproduction garden of ancient Roman Brescia, now enriched by contemporary artworks, including Michelangelo Pistoletto's *Terzo Paradiso* and Ariel Schlesinger's *We started with a flame*.



Brixia, Roman Archeological Area

In Roman times, Brescia – Brixia – was one of the most important cities in Northern Italy. Its most significant buildings are still visible today in the archaeological area: the Sanctuary from the Republican period (1st century B.C.), with its astonishing frescoes and mosaics; the Capitolium (73 A.D.), a temple dedicated to Jupiter, Juno and Minerva, with its large cells where the original decorations and the extraordinary bronze statue of the Winged Victory are still visible; the Theatre (1st-3rd century A.D.), with its cavea and robust galleries. The Capitolium area is one of the most important and well-preserved archaeological sites in Italy, recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site with "Longobards in Italy. Places of the Power (568-774 A.D.)."



The Castle and its museums

The fortress, which stands on the Cidneo hill, is characterised by imposing bastions, connected by a curtain of walls, built in the mid-16th century by the Republic of Venice; whilst the 14th-century Mastio, with the nearby Torre della Mirabella, was erected by the Visconti family of Milan: today it houses the Marzoli Museum, a rich collection of sidearms, firearms and armours dating back to the 15th and 16th centuries. The Grande and Piccolo Miglio host the new multimedia exhibition of the Museo del Risorgimento Leonessa d'Italia.

Piazza della Vittoria

Designed by the architect Piacentini and inaugurated in 1932, Piazza della Vittoria is an example of architecture and town planning of the Fascist period. On the North side stands Palazzo delle Poste (Post office); on the West side rises the Torrione, Italy's first skyscraper, 60-metres-high; on the North-East corner there is the Quadriportico, topped by Torre della Rivoluzione. The red stone Arengario is adorned with bas-reliefs representing the history of Brescia.



Piazza Paolo VI

It encloses the buildings that symbolise the civil and religious power of the medieval city. The Broletto, with its Pégol tower and Loggia delle Grida, is the oldest public place in town, the seat of the civic magistrature in the Medieval commune times. The Duomo Nuovo (New Cathedral), in late Baroque style, with its imposing Botticino marble façade, rises over the early Christian Basilica of San Pietro de Dom; the construction works began in 1604 and were completed in 1825 by Vantini. It boasts the third highest dome in Italy. The Duomo Vecchio (Old Cathedral), built at the end of the 11th century on the remains of the previous basilica of S. Maria Maggiore, is a rare and valuable example of Romanesque architecture with a central plan. Inside, the transept area contains Roman remains and early Christian mosaics, the Antegnati organ with its doors painted by Romanino and, below the presbytery, the crypt of San Filastrio; it also displays important paintings by Moretto and Romanino. The Chapel of the Holy Crosses houses the Treasury, which includes an 11th-century ivory reliquary cross and the 10th-century Field Cross.



Piazza della Loggia

Built at the behest of the Venetian Republic and dominated by Palazzo della Loggia which, today as in the past, is the seat of the city government. On the East side there are elegant porticoes and the Clock Tower, a jewel dating back to 1546, surmounted by two male figures ("i macc de le ure") who still strike the hours; the vault below hosts Carlo Scarpa's monument in memory of Piazza della Loggia massacre of May 28th, 1974. On the Southern side there are Monti di Pietà, connected by an elegant loggia and decorated with inserts from the Roman time, which constitute the first lapidary museum in Europe. To the North-East there is the 1864 *Bella Italia* monument, donated by King Vittorio Emanuele II to the city in memory of the Ten Days of Rebellion against the Austrians in 1849, which earned Brescia the nickname "Lioness of Italy".

Mille Miglia Museum

Inside the former monastery complex of St. Euphemia, a permanent exhibition presents the famous car race through a rich collection of vintage cars coming from the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart and private collections, with displays and scenery recalling the various historical periods that characterised the race.



Pinacoteca Tosio Martinengo

It's an important collection of artworks – by Raphael, Foppa, Savoldo, Moretto, Romanino, Lotto, Ceruti, Hayez, Thorvaldsen, Pelagi, Canella and Canova among the best-known – ranging from the late Gothic to the early 19th century, with a remarkable selection of Brescian and Renaissance painting, featuring large canvases, altarpieces, and frescoes, displayed in a spectacular setting. Also on display are precious specimens of decorative arts: gold, ivory, enamel, medals, and glass, from rich city collections.

Museo Diocesano

A rich collection of illuminated manuscripts, sacred jewellery, and liturgical fabrics, dating back to the 15th century. The Quadreria houses the works of the most important Brescian artists, including Moretto, Romanino and Celesti.



Teatro Grande

Built in Napoleon's honour in 1810, the Teatro Grande has a beautiful hall with five tiers of boxes, decorated with frescoes, stucco and gilding. At weekends, inside the dazzling Salone del Ridotto, the finest example of Brescian Rococo, opens the Caffè del Teatro Grande – Berlucchi.



Biblioteca Queriniana

The Queriniana Library was founded in 1747 by Cardinal Angelo Maria Querini, bishop of Brescia and passionate bibliophile. Not only did he endow the library with his private bibliographic collections, but he also had the architect Marchetti build a splendid palace to worthily house the new institution. Donated by the founder to the Municipality of Brescia, it opened to the public in 1750. During the reconstruction following the bombing in 1944, the library reopened its reading room and three study and reference rooms in the monumental 18th-century wing.

Churches and Sanctuaries

For centuries, Brescia's churches have preserved extraordinary artistic treasures and testimonies of faith. From the sober Romanesque spaces of the Duomo Vecchio to the sumptuous Baroque decorations of Santa Maria delle Grazie, each church has its own story to tell and its own unique charm to unveil. Whether you are an art lover or simply curious, Brescia's churches will lead you to discover the beauty and spirituality of the city. <https://bit.ly/orari-chiese>

S. Afra in S. Eufemia

S. Angela Merici

S. Agata

S. Giorgio

SS. Nazaro e Celso

S. Lorenzo

S. Clemente

S. Alessandro

S. Giuseppe

S. Giovanni

S. Pietro in Oliveto

S. Cristo

S. Maria in Calchera

SS. Faustino e Giovita

S. Maria delle Grazie

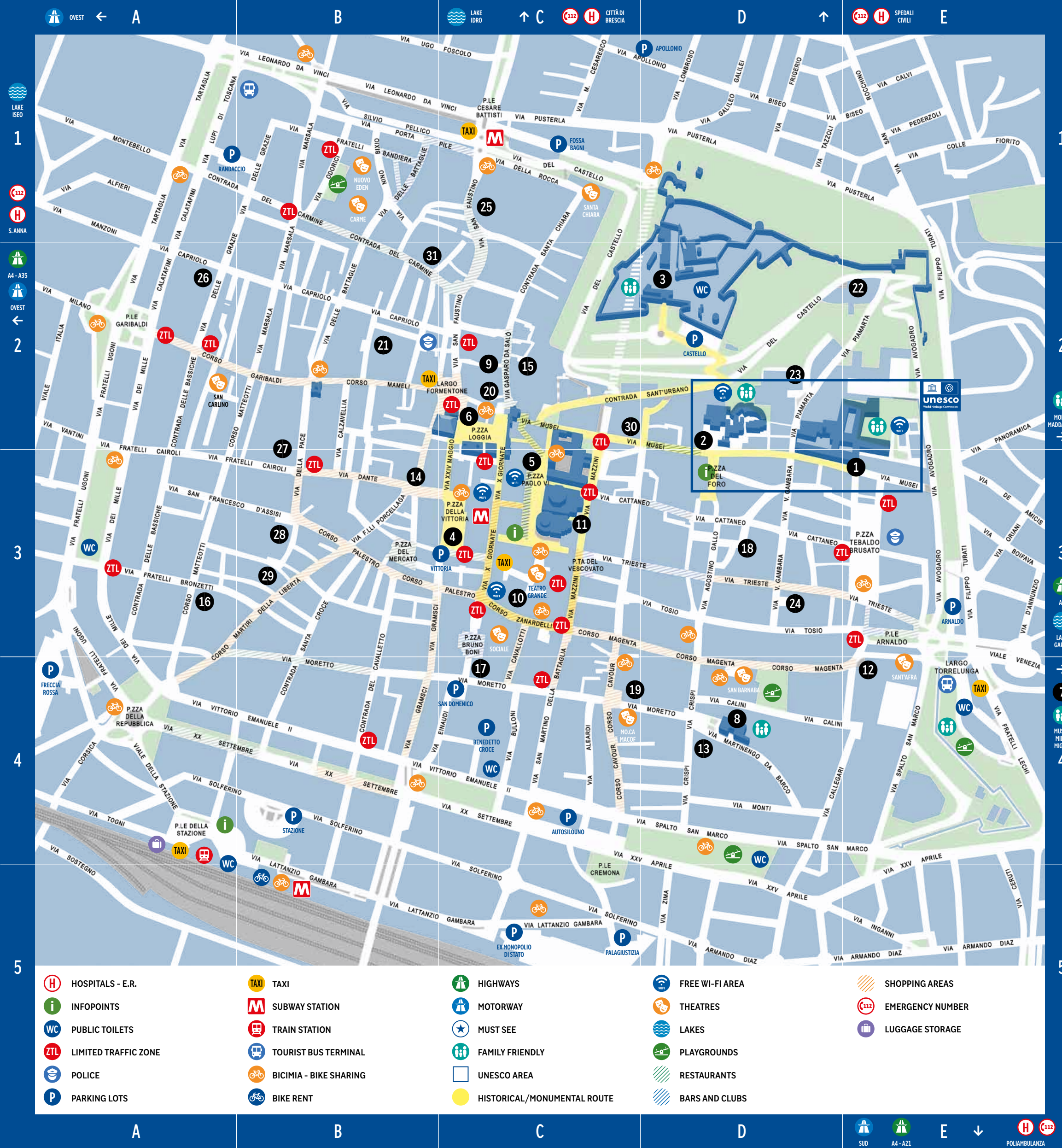
S. Maria della Pace

S. Francesco

S. Maria dei Miracoli

S. Maria della Carità

S. Maria del Carmine



Shopping, food and crafts districts

Brescia is a city with a welcoming and vibrant soul. Discover it by walking through the elegant streets of the city centre, where big brands and small shops merge into a skillful mix of experience, care, and emotion.

- Starting from Piazzetta Arnaldo, a classic meeting place for aperitifs and dinners at night, we arrive to the very central Corso Magenta, which, amidst historical buildings and gardens, offers a wide range of boutiques, bookshops, and clothing shops. Going on, we reach Corso Zanar-

delli: with its entirely arcaded side, it offers fancy shopping temptations on the backdrop of the magnificent Teatro Grande. The natural prosecution to our walk, then, is the "parlour" of Corso Palestro, the ideal shopping destination for stylish purchases.

- Also, don't miss Via X Giornata, with its elegant shops under the arcades, and Via San Martino della Battaglia, another avenue full of boutiques, which leads into Via Mazzini. A short distance away is Corso Cavour where,



in addition to design shops and food artisans, you can find Piazzetta S. Alessandro, a delightful and protected corner for a gourmet pause.

- Lovers of creative handicrafts, small boutiques and bars will appreciate the Carmine district and the San Faustino area.
- Finally, don't miss Corsetto Sant'Agata, Via Trieste and Via Carlo Cattaneo, where historic shops coexist with young establishments that stand out for their refined proposals. All to be discovered!

