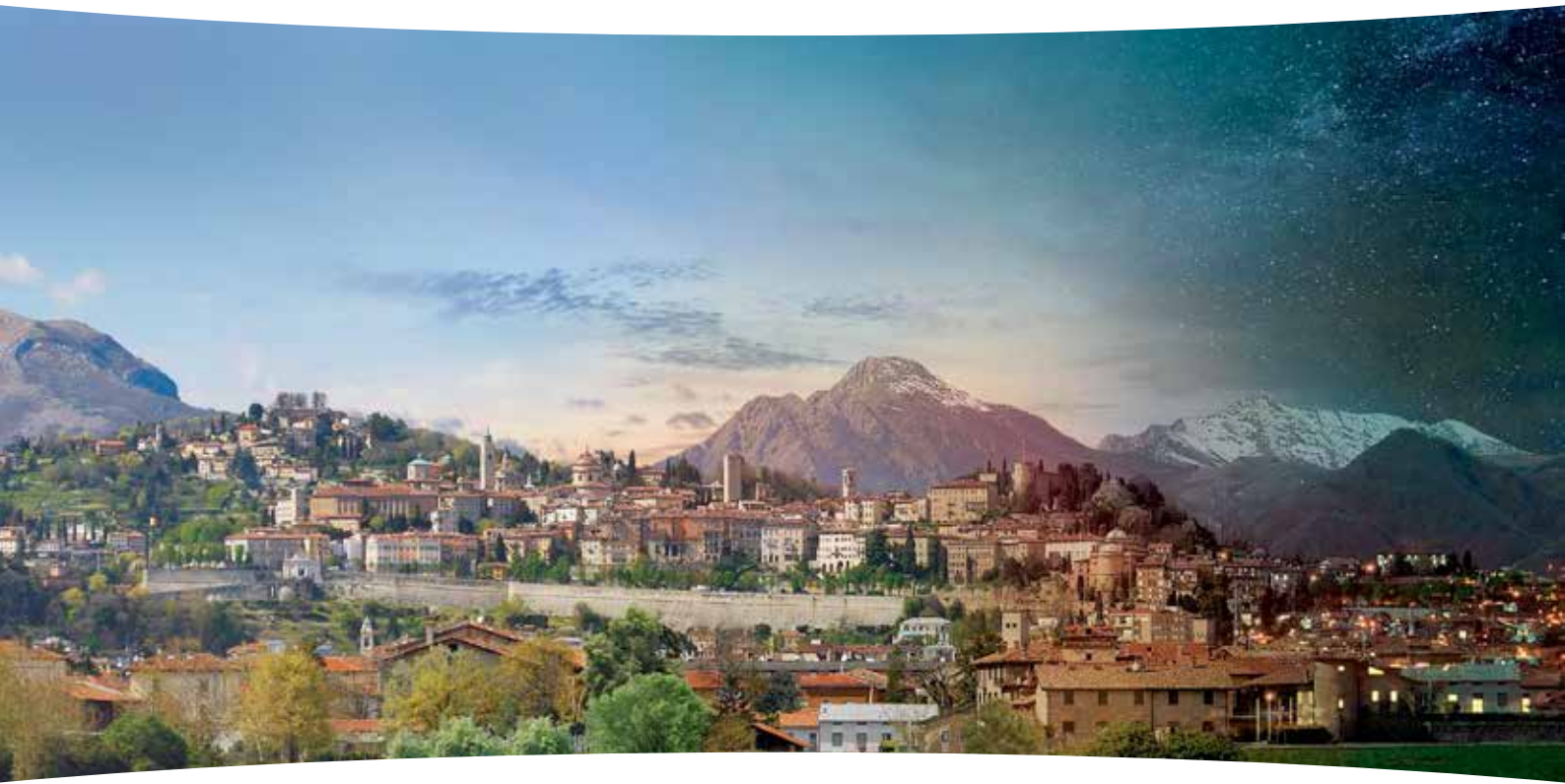


BERGAMO

HISTORY YOU'LL WANT TO SHARE



THE ROUTES OF TIME

THIS ITINERARY TOUCHES DOWN ON TWO DISTRICTS AND THE CENTRE OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY CITY. THE DISTRICTS STRETCH FROM THE UPPER TOWN TO THE PLAINS: PIGNOLO, IN THE DIRECTION OF VENICE, IS A DISCREET PLACE FULL OF NOBLE MANORS; S. LEONARDO, ALONG VIA S. ALESSANDRO, LED THE WAY TO MILAN AND IS CHARACTERISED BY ITS BUSTLING COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY. VIA XX SETTEMBRE AND SENTIERONE BOULEVARD, THE SHOPPING STREETS OF THE CITY, CROSS PATHS HERE. THE ITINERARY INCLUDES THE ACCADEMIA CARRARA MUSEUM AND A SCENIC STRETCH OF THE VENETIAN WALLS.



PIAZZALE DEGLI ALPINI/URBAN CENTER -
PORTA NUOVA/TEATRO DONIZETTI

Viale Papa Giovanni was built in the second half of the nineteenth century with the name of **Viale Roma** to connect the **Porta Nuova** gate to the Station. Extremely wide for its time, it constitutes the backbone of the twentieth century city's development. Its stunning views towards the **Upper Town** are softened by numerous chestnut trees that shade the path. The numerous commercial businesses located along the avenue make for an extremely pleasant walk.



PORTA NUOVA

Largo Porta Nuova - Viale Papa Giovanni XXIII

The city's new gate was made by creating an opening in the "Muraine", the tollhouse and medieval walls, the demolition of which was completed on New Year's Eve of 1900. The two neoclassical buildings, or propylaea, designed by Giuseppe Cusi in 1828, were built by Antonio Pagnoncelli in 1837. The completion of this work coincided with the inauguration of the "Strada Ferdinandea", the new road that offered a connection to the Upper Town.



SENTIERONE

Via Sentierone

Built in 1620 over a paved route that connected the commercial districts of San Antonio to the west and San Leonardo to the east, the route was completed in 1762 and entirely paved in the nineteenth century. The site of Bergamo's traditional Sunday stroll for two centuries, today it continues to host trade fairs, public, commercial and recreational exhibitions and events.



PIACENTINIANO CENTRE AND TORRE DEI CADUTI

Piazza Vittorio Veneto

The current heart of Lower Bergamo, which once hosted the eighteenth-century masonry fairgrounds, consists of all the buildings that overlook Piazza Vittorio Veneto and Piazza Dante, with two bank offices, the Torre dei Caduti (Tower of the Fallen), the Courthouse, the Chamber of Commerce, covered shopping galleries and the Quadriportico gallery on the Sentierone. The area is named after the man responsible for its design, the Roman architect Marcello Piacentini.



DONIZETTI THEATRE

Piazza Cavour, 14

Inaugurated by Giovanni Francesco Lucchini in 1791, the theatre was rebuilt after a major fire, in collaboration with Marcellino Segre. In 1897, with the monument of Jerace in the small square off to the side, the new facade by Pietro Via was created just a few years after the ceiling was completed, adorned with frescoes by Francesco Domeneghini. The most recent work performed on the theatre was by Pizzigoni and Galmozzi and Dell'Acqua.



SENTIERONE-VIA PIGNOLO / MUSEO BERNAREGGI

This route connects Sentierone boulevard to the Borgo Pignolo district through the so-called Nuova quarter, currently known as Torquato Tasso. The street is bustling with pedestrians thanks to the numerous commercial businesses and administrative and cultural offices that line the road. Considered the heart of the Lower Town, it is characterised by its numerous open and green public spaces, where Bergamo's residents have always come to meet with others, to do business and enjoy a drink.



CHURCH OF S.BARTOLOMEO AND S.STEFANO

Largo Bortolo Belotti, 1

The church and adjoining convent (of which only the southern wing remains, following the demolition of 1937 to build the modern State Offices) were founded in 1221 by Benedictine monks. The Dominican complex, dating back to 1571, was the seat of the father inquisitor and was home to a rich library. The church was rebuilt in the first half of the seventeenth century, while the facade dates back to 1897.



PROVINCIAL AUTHORITY BUILDING WITH OFFICES OF THE PREFECTURE

Via Torquato Tasso, 8

The first public project carried by the city in 1870, following Italian Unification, marked the transfer of political power from the Upper Town to the Lower Town. Designed by Pier Antonio Preda, the bas-reliefs on the facade are by Pagani, Ceruti and Maironi, while frescoes of mythological subjects by Giovan Battista Castello can be seen inside.



CHURCH OF S. SPIRITO

Via Torquato Tasso, 100

Located between the districts of San Antonio and Pignolo, this church was once part of a mid-fourteenth century monastery of the Celestine Fathers. After about a century it was passed on to the Canons Regular of the Lateran, the founders of another monastery, currently owned by educational institutes. Consecrated in 1311, the church has a rustic facade, enriched by a sculpture by Francesco Somaini (1926-2005) that represents the Holy Spirit.



CHURCH OF S. BERNARDINO

Via Pignolo, 59

Situated at the entrance of Bergamo's most aristocratic historic road, Via Pignolo, this church was most likely built following the saint's two visits to the city (1419-1422). Re-consecrated by Bishop Milani in 1593, perhaps after a major restoration, it was progressively decorated and furnished throughout the years. Its current neo-Gothic structure was created between the nineteenth and twentieth century: a single space, punctuated by 5 bays, 3 of which are believed to be fifteenth-century, with a gabled facade.



ADRIANO BERNAREGGI MUSEUM OF SACRED ART

Via Pignolo, 76

Housed in the sixteenth-century Bassi-Rathgeb palazzo, the museum displays liturgical objects, images of worship and works from the Bergamo area, especially paintings of religious themes. The collection includes a piece by Lorenzo Lotto entitled "The Trinity", painted around 1519 for the Confraternity of the Disciplines, which once hung in Bergamo's Trinita' church that no longer stands today.



CHIESA S. ALESSANDRO CROCE - S. AGOSTINO

This route winds through the noble palaces on via Pignolo, a representative district since the sixteenth century since it led to Venice, under whose rule Bergamo remained for nearly four centuries. Beyond the Dolphin Fountain, Borgo S. Tomaso leads to the Seriana Valley. The buildings on the left side, facing north, are middle-class dwellings, while those exposed to the south belonged to high-ranking families. Here you can visit trendy workshops in addition to the Accademia Carrara and GAMeC art galleries.



● **CHURCH OF S. ALESSANDRO DELLA CROCE**
Via Pignolo, 81

The building, documented for the first time in 1183, was given the name “ of the Cross” for its location at the intersection of four medieval villages. Consecrated in 1507, in 1613 major construction projects began on the church, until the bell tower was completed in 1714. Prominent decorations and works of art can be admired inside. According to popular tradition, the altar, a stone arch, is the first sarcophagus where the martyr Alexander was recomposed.



● **DOLPHIN FOUNTAIN**
Incrocio Via Pignolo, Via San Tomaso, Via Pelabrocco

Built in 1526 with white marble from Zandobbio (Bg), it was most likely commissioned by a noble family that lived in the district. The fountain was created with exquisite craftsmanship and noble proportions: in an oval tub a central stele holds up the figure of a triton, sitting on the back of a dolphin, with water pouring from the mouth, like the two masks representing sea gods.



● **GAMEC (MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY)**
Via San Tomaso, 53

The Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art was founded in 1991 to create an integrated cultural system, open to new artistic experiences. It houses works by Morandi, Balla, Boccioni, Manzà, De Pisis, De Chirico, Kandinsky, Richter and Sutherland. The collection includes paintings, sculptures, engravings and photographs along with medals, industrial designs, video installations and films.



● **ACCADEMIA CARRARA**
Piazza Giacomo Carrara, 82

One of Italy’s most important art galleries, it was founded by a scholar and collector named Count Giacomo Carrara (1714-1796). The collection is home to renowned masterpieces of art: works by Sandro Botticelli, Raphael, Titian, Mantegna, Giovanni Bellini, Vincenzo Foppa, Pisanello, and major artists working in Bergamo (Lorenzo Lotto, Giovan Battista Moroni, Frà Galgario and Piccio).



● **FORMER CONVENT OF S. AGOSTINO**
Piazzale della Fara

Founded in the late 1200s by the Friar Hermits of St. Augustine, then passed on to the Augustinian Observance, for centuries it was a renowned centre of culture, suppressed by the French in 1797: it consists of a church, rebuilt in the second half of 1400 with a late-Gothic facade, and two cloisters. Today the convent is home to the University of Bergamo, the departments of which are located in various buildings throughout the city.

◆ **S. AGOSTINO - MONASTERO S. BENEDETTO**

Along the walls, between the city’s two most beautiful gates, a wonderful view opens up over the plains and hills with Monte Orfano in the background, an isolated mountain on the edge of the final ridges in the Franciacorta area. The pedestrian path with its colourful chestnut trees is a popular destination that opened to the public in the first half of the nineteenth century. It is recommended to lengthen the itinerary by following along via Porta Dipinta to visit the church of San Michele al Pozzo Bianco.



● **SAN MICHELE EMBRASURE**
Viale delle Mura/Baluardo San Michele

The large manoeuvre area (at the bottom end of a curved tunnel) consists of three rooms with a vaulted ceiling and central column. Two ventilation stacks for the gases produced by shots can be found on the highest vault, with holes for artillery and an escape tunnel for soldiers. The lime used to seal the stones of the armoury was responsible for the formation of the stalactites and stalagmites.



● **VENETIAN WALLS**

The walls of Bergamo, one of the most famous fortifications built by Venice, constituted the Repu-

blic's westernmost defence system, while the fortress of Famagusta, on the island of Cyprus, was the Venetian outpost located farthest to the east. Never used for military purposes, from the nineteenth century the walls became a privileged site for taking a stroll, after the bastions and battlements were converted into a park.



● VENETIAN GATES

The four doors that open along the perimeter of the walls are named, except for the gate of Sant'Agostino, after neighbouring churches, demolished in order to build the walls, including the early Christian basilica of Sant'Alessandro. The facade of the Gate of San Giacomo (1593), facing Lower Bergamo, features the lion of San Marco. The stone bridge was built in 1780 by the Podesta' Alvise Contarini.

◆ VIA S.ALESSANDRO - MONASTERO S.BENEDETTO PIAZZA VITTORIO VENETO - PIAZZA DANTE

Coming out from the San Giacomo gate, embellished with white Zandobbio marble, the route runs through the ancient Borgo di S. Leonardo district to the heart of the twentieth century city. The first stretch of the route follows along the high walls of the orchards and gardens of ancient buildings, including the convent of San Benedetto. Beyond via Garibaldi you will enter the most animated part of the district, where shops and eateries invite you to stop and sample a tasty dish or appetizer.



● MONASTERY OF S. BENEDETTO

Via Sant'Alessandro, 51

This 13th century monastery, founded through the unification of two female Benedictine communities and minor monastic orders, is home to a sixteenth-century church and convent that constitute fine examples of Renaissance religious architecture: terracotta, sandstone and stone decorate the facade, emphasising the main ornamental elements. The cloister houses lunettes with frescoes depicting the stories of St. Benedict.



● FORMER CHURCH OF MADDALENA

Via Sant'Alessandro, 39

The former thirteenth-century church, built by the Brotherhood of the Disciplini Bianchi starting from the fourteenth century, is the oldest part of the building: it is divided into four bays by pointed arches with numerous frescoes in the presbytery rooms. In 1775, a new square-shaped cloister with a Serlio-style arcade and a stone balustrade were added. Deconsecrated and converted into a school, today the building is used by the city for hosting exhibits.



● CHURCH OF S. ALESSANDRO IN COLONNA

Via Sant'Alessandro, 35

Used as a basilica since 1997, its early existence dates back to 1133: rebuilt numerous times, it wasn't completed until 1780 (except the bell tower, completed in 1902). Dedicated to the patron saint of Bergamo (who, according to popular belief, was beheaded at a column in the churchyard), it has the largest interior of all city churches: with a single nave and a Latin cross layout, housing numerous paintings including those by Bergamo masters from the sixteenth and seventeenth century.



● FOUNTAIN IN PIAZZA DANTE

Piazza Dante

The square in the centre of the Fair of Sant'Alessandro, built in stone in the 1700s, was maintained by Marcello Piacentini, who also conserved the Triton Fountain by Antonio Callegari and Giovan Battista Caniana. The fair, held each year in late August, was fundamental for Bergamo's economic development until the mid-nineteenth century.

JUNCTION ITINERARY 1 AND 2

In Largo Belotti, not far from Piazza Dante, stands the Post Office Palace and along the same street there is the interesting Museum of Matris Domini, housed in an ancient Dominican monastery.

Walking along the same road you cross Viale Vittorio Emanuele: going through the right side you reach Porta Sant'Agostino while on the left side you find the funicular station for Upper Town.



● POST OFFICE PALACE

Via Antonio Locatelli, 11

Designed by Angiolo Mazzoni in 1929, the building's facade bears allegorical bronze sculptures by Nino Galizzi (Italian Etruscan, Roman, papal and fascist). Inside, you will find glass lamps and sculptures by Venini and the age-old Hall of Telegrams houses two large paintings by Mario Sironi from 1933 entitled *Work in the city* and *Work in the fields*.



● MUSEUM OF MATRIS DOMINI

Via Antonio Locatelli, 77

Formerly a dining hall and later a wash-house for the ancient Dominican monastery, the building dates back to the second half of the 1200s (enlarged in the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries) and exhibits a cycle of frescoes from the twelfth, fourteenth and sixteenth centuries (stories of the Virgin and Christ). The structure unearthed during the last restoration provides the backdrop for antique stained glass windows of the facade and part of the original trussed ceiling in frescoed terracotta.



● UPPER TOWN FUNICULAR LOWER STATION

Viale Vittorio Emanuele II, 62

The original steam plant, built by the engineer Alessandro Ferretti in 1887 to ensure a direct link between the railway station and the Upper Town, was replaced in 1892 by an electric traction system and modernized various times in 1920, 1964 and 1984-85. The lower station, with the side bar, was built at the same time the avenue was widened in 1953.

GETTING HERE

- For those arriving by train, the itinerary begins at the train station
- For those arriving by air, take the airport bus to the last stop at the train station
- For those taking public transportation: bus lines no. 1, 5, 8 stop at the train station
- For those arriving by car: several paid parking spaces (marked with blue lines) can be found near the station and the city centre with a maximum time limit. Free long-term parking (marked with white lines) is available in Piazzale della Malpensata (except Monday morning, market day) or in the via Grataroli area.

Services along the way

- Tourism Information Office;
- ATB public transportation office;
- Local police station
- Caversazzi library;
- public toilets at the bus station.

Parks

- Suardi Park;
- Marenzi Park;
- Frizzoni Park.

LOWER TOWN

Itinerary

The Routes of Time



i Urban Center - Tourist office I.A.T. Lower Town

- 1** Porta Nuova
- 2** Donizetti Theatre
- 3** Church of Santi Bartolomeo and Stefano
- 4** Church of Santo Spirito
- 5** Church of San Bernardino
- 6** Adriano Bernareggi Museum of Sacred Art
- 7** Dolphin fountain
- 8** GAMeC
(Modern and Contemporary Art Gallery)
- 9** Accademia Carrara

- 10** Former Convent of Sant'Agostino
- 11** San Michele Embrasure
- 12** Venetian Walls and gates
- 13** Piazza Pontida
- 14** Cloister of Santa Marta
- 15** Piacentiniano Centre
- 16** Museum of Matris Domini
- Funicular of Upper Town