

BRESCIA, A CITY RICH IN HISTORY.

The city of Brescia lies at the foot of the hills below the Pre-Alps, bordering on the Po Plain. Its situation is favourable to town settlement, industry, trade and

tourism. The first settlement goes back to the Bronze Age, when the Ligurians established in Brescia. Later the Etruscans settled there, while the Celts occupied the city at the end of the VIIth century B.C. In 27 B.C. *Brixia* was raised to the rank of Roman "Colonia".

At the time of the dissolution of the Roman Empire, Brescia became the capital of a Lombard duchy (VIIth century A.D.). During this period the convent of San Salvatore (later called Santa Giulia) was founded by King Desiderio. Its cloisters are the setting Alessandro Manzoni chose for "Adelchi"; the famous tragedy tells the story of Ermengarda, the king's unhappy daughter married to Charlemagne, the king of the Franks who subdued the city. In the XIth century Brescia became a city-state and took part in the struggle against Federico Barbarossa at Legnano. In this period the local citizen Arnaldo, who was a monk, was burned alive because he preached against the corruption of the clergy and was considered a heretic

During the XIIIth century Milan and Venice disputed the rule of Brescia. In 1438 the Visconti besieged the city, but there is a popular belief that Saints Faustino and Giovita appeared to the enemies and managed to put them to flight.

In 1512 Brescia was besieged by the French army led by Gaston de Foix. During the XVIth century in the artistic field the painters Foppa, Romanino, Moretto and Savoldo created the most famous works of the Brescian Renaissance, which are now in the Municipal Art Gallery and churches. Afterwards, under the rule of Venice, Brescia prospered. The long period of peace brought great economic progress in agriculture and handicraft, especially in the manufacture of arms, which was renowned all over Europe.

At the end of the XVIIIth century, the French army led by Napoleon put an end to Venetian rule, so Brescia became part of the Cisalpine Republic and of the Regno d'Italia.

On the fall of Napoleon, Brescia became a possession of the Austrians. They governed the city as part of the Regno Lombardo Veneto until 1849, when the people of Brescia rebelled against Austrian rule during the "X Giornate" (Ten Days) of 1849.

The city was called the "Leonessa d'Italia' (the Lioness of Italy) because of the courage showed during these memorable days. After the unification of the Regno d'Italia, the Brescian citizen Giuseppe Zanardelli was appointed Minister several times, then he became Prime Minister (1901-1903). During the Thirties Piazza della Vittoria was inaugurated. The square was an important example of the change of direction in Brescia's urban development during the Fascist period.

During the post-war period there was an enormous increase in industrial production and private enterprise and Brescia became a very important industrial centre. Giovanni Battista Montini, who became Pope by the name of Paolo VI, is one of the most distinguished Brescian citizens.

The square that was formerly called Piazza del Duomo is named after him. Nowadays the southern area of the city called "Brescia Due" is considered a model of modernity



Piazza Paolo VI

heart of the old city, is

Grida, incorporated

into the Broletto, the

Cathedral) and the

(The Old Cathedral).

The Duomo Nuovo

(The New Cathedral)

and was completed

is dominated by the

works of art. The new

the most important

Romanesque style. The

XIIth centuries. In its

attention.

The Broletto.

authorities as well.

internal courtyard:

The building has a large

it presents three sides of

medieval period, while

on the north side there

is a XVIIth century

colonnade. Nowadays

the building houses the

province and council

offices.

Prefecture, a Police station

in 1825. The grandiose

Duomo Vecchio

Piazza della Loggia

It is the most beautiful square in Brescia and was inaugurated in 1433. It is dominated by the magnificent Renaissance Palace of the Loggia, nowadays the town hall. Its building began in 1492. The upper part was finished circa 1570 to the design of Iacopo Sansovino and Andrea Palladio. The splendid decorative sculpture that adorns the palace is in classical style. On the south side, the XVth and XVIth century façades of the Monti di Pietà are worthy of note as tombstones and other pieces of Roman stonework have been set into their walls. The east arcade is surmounted by a building that incorporates the beautiful sixteenth century mechanical Clock Tower, where two human figures. popularly called: the "Macc dè lé ure" (the hourly dafties), strike the hours on the bell.



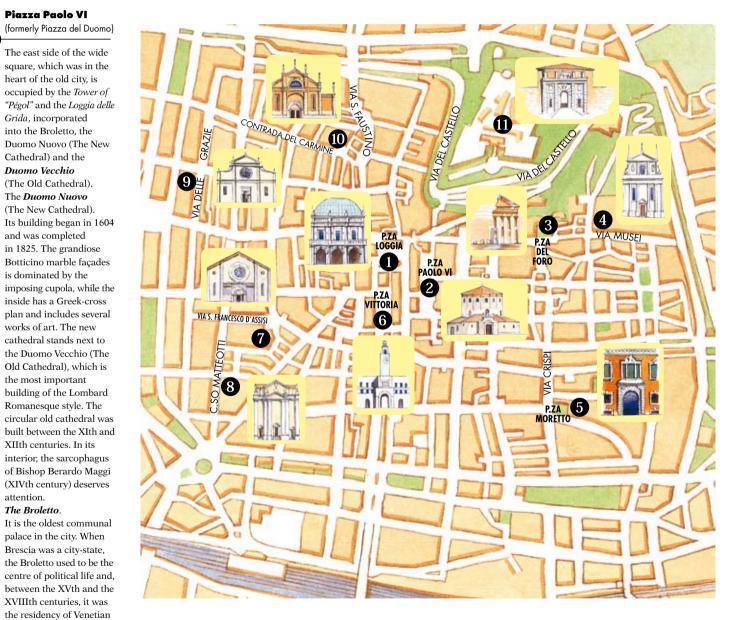


The centre of Brescia

were enclosed by an arcade with a double order of columns. There were numerous shops opening off the arcade. Nowadays Roman remains, aristocratic palaces and old houses offer a remarkable

scenografic effect. The Capitolium Temple The Temple was built by Vespasian between 74 and 73 A.D. at the north end of the Forum. Between the IVth and the Vth centuries the temple was partially destroyed in a dreadful fire. It was found in 1823, but it is only since 1939 that it has assumed the present structure. The three cellae

of Greek and Etruscan pottery, Roman glassware and household items are now in the monastic complex of Santa Giulia, the City Museum. Palazzo Martinengo The palace faces the Forum and Via Muse It comprised several buildings which nowadays house art exhibits and a cultural institute. The façades looking onto the square. completed in 1663, has two bossed portals with Martinengo-Cesaresco's coats of arms, while the XVIIth century facades looking onto Via dei Musei has an imposing portal



Eastward tour

During the Roman occupation and the alliance between Brescia and Rome, the Forum was the centre of business political life and the

The Forum

fulcrum of religious life as well. The Capitolium Temple and the Basilica faced the square, while the other sides of the Forum

house a museum, where there are numerous epigraphs, altar stones, tombstones and objects found in the city and its province. The archeological items of the Roman Museum such as fragments belonging to the temple, bronzes (the most famous of which is "Winged Victory"), collections

with two eagles that support a balcony. In the courtvard there are a statue of Cesare IV Martinengo and a fountain of Neptune

Westward tour and visit to the Castle

Santa Giulia the City Museum

The site of the convent encloses millenary remains. It was founded by king Desiderio in 753 A.D. Nowadays, the superimposition of buildings on the foundations of old ones is evident from the mosaics of the old Roman villa. the Lombard Basilica of San Salvatore, the Renaissance church of Santa Giulia. In the church of Santa Maria in Solario, with frescoes by Floriano Ferramola under the cupola, the "Treasure of Santa Giulia" is displayed. The most important items are: the Great Cross of king Desiderio, covered in jewels and cameos and the Lipsanoteca, a VIth century ivory reliquary.





and some paintings

by Giacomo Ceruti,

(Ragamuffin).

nicknamed "il Pitocchetto"

The Tosio Martinenad **Art Gallery** 5

The XVIIth century building, which was donated by the former owner to the city, provides space for a collection of paintings of the most famous Brescian artists of the Renaissance, Foppa, Romanino, Moretto and Savoldo, but also for other masterpieces such as the "Angelo" by Raffaello da Urbino





The monumental square was built in the city centre on the site of an old medieval quarter. There are a colossal Pos Office and a brick Torrione (high tower) on the north side. The facings of the other buildings and

the paving of the Quadriportico and of the arcades are of two coloured marble.



The Church of San Francesc d'Assisi

It is one of the most remarkable monastic churches in Italy, where the peaceful and serene atmosphere has been the result of the realization of a simple, unadorned late Romanesque interior. It was completed in 1265 The inside has a nave and two aisles with pointed arches supported by cylindrical pillars. The gabled façades has a magnificent rose window. The paintings decorating this church are of great value; there are many medieval frescoes, a XVIth century altar-piece by Romanino and a remarkable cloister



of the end of the XIVth

century



The Church of Santi Nazaro and Celso 8

The XVth century church was totally restored during the first half of the XVIIIth century, when numerous altars were decorated with polychrome marbles stucco works and late baroque sculptures. The most important painting in the church is the "Averoldi Polyptych", commissioned from Titian in 1520-22.

> Its building was begun in 1429 and completed fifty years later. The monumental brick facades, surrounded by slender pinnacles dominates the narrow thoroughfare. The wonderful portal has a fresco by Ferramola on top, which represents the "Annunciazione". In the interior, among the numerous works of art the sculpture of the "Compianto di Cristo morto" is worthy of note: the polychrome terracotta statues portray the greatest human drama and are by a XVIth century unidentified sculptor from Lombardy or Emilia The three cloisters adjoining the church belong to the same building.

The Castle

settlements on the Cidneo Hill since prehistory. During the Roman period there must have been an enormous temple there From Middle Ages onwards the summit of the hill was reinforced: the Mirabella Tower and the XIVth century Visconti Keep were constructed. Afterwards. the Venetians added a strong defensive system of bastions and warehouses. The XVIth century entrance to the Castle fitted with a drawbridge in the past, leads to the garden, where one can enjoy a wonderful view of the whole city, and to two museums as well. The Museum of the Risorgimento The Grande Mielio (the com store) houses the Museum of the Risorgimento, where portraits, pictures documents and relics from the period of the Risorgimento are displayed. The Arms Museum The Visconti Keep, built on top of the fortified complex, houses the Arms Museum, where there is a selection of arms and armour produced between the XIVth and the late XVIIth century. Among the numerous items the rooms of the museum have shields and armour, decorated with engravings and reliefs, on show.



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COMUNE DI BRESCIA

ASSESSORATO AL TURISMO

SUD

PROJECT BY URBE Organisation for the promot and research of history June 2010

TEXTS Maria Carini · Anna Denza

GRAPHIC LAYOUT

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TALIA LANGOBARDORUM Italian Nomination 2010 WORLD HERITAGE LIST UNESCO COMUNE DI BRESCIA ASSESSORATO AL TURISMO



The Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie

> The building of this church was begun in 1522. The Renaissance interior with a nave and two aisles has been altered by Baroque frescoes. The Sanctuary dedicated to Santa Maria is next to the delightful cloister with corinthian columns. Its appearance today, dated late XIXth century, is the result of its reconstruction in neo-gothic style.







THE LARGEST PROVINCE IN LOMBARDY

The extension of the Brescian territory between the Alps and the river Po, presents a wide range of landscapes, varying from the vast plains of the South, furrowed by

rivers, to the hills bordering the shores of the lakes, rising higher and higher into mountains, as one proceeds northwards. The people of Brescia have always striven to exploit the advantages offered by the region, thus creating flourishing enterprises, not only in the fields of metallurgy and mechanical engineering, but also in agriculture and zootechnics, all of which play a significant role in the economy of the whole country

> History, culture and even gastronomy will encourage visitors to discover the real Brescia and its territory to their full merits



Airports

Brescia Montichiari

Verona Villafranca

Milano Malpensa

Useful number

Open chemists

tel. 800296157

tel 030 35111

Carabinieri

Local Police

tel. 030 45001

Road Police

tel. 030 37131

Police Flying Squad

Assistance to Motorists

is ensured by the Aci

tel. 116 (Emergency

Breakdown Service)

tel. 112

tel. 113

Firemen

tel 115

(for emergencies)

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Taxi

Milano Linate

Bergamo Orio al Serio

air theatre.

arranged in terraces

overlooking the lake.

part of Lake Garda.

Valvestino: picturesque

• Valtenesi: a district that

and rustic hamlets among

villages lie in an oasis of

peace and vegetation.

is strewn with castles

olive groves and vines.

• Desenzano: one of the

of Lake Garda. There are

several places of interest,

Roman villa with its rich

Archaeological Museum

The morainic amphitheatre

of special historic interest

• Sirmione is situated on

a tiny, narrow peninsula.

The beauty of the place,

its thermal springs, the

the "Grotte di Catullo"

the castle built by the

archaeological area with

most famous centres

including the ancient

polychrome mosaics.

provides an itinerary

in connection with

the Risorgimento.

and the Municipal

· Historic Hills.



BRESCIA



Bus terminal CIBA via Solferino 6 - tel 030 44915 Sia Rus terminal vle Stazione 14 tel. 030 3774237



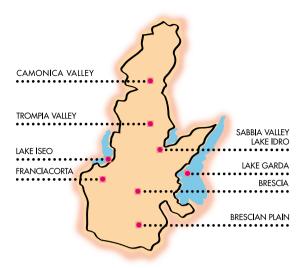
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PLACES OF INTEREST AND ITINERARIES **ACROSS THE PROVINCE**



and boutiques contribute to the picturesque of the town.

LAKE ISEO

· The Oldofredi Castle: one of Iseo's outstanding places of interest. Now a cultural institute.

· The Palazzo dell'Arsenale, a prison as late as 1980 has now been converted into a cultural centre, featuring significant art exhibitions. • The peat Swamps of Iseo: the ancient Abbey of San Pietro in Lamosa in • Limonaie: citrus orchards Provaglio dominates an eerie landscape of water interspersed with groves • Natural Park of the upper and marsh reeds, unique in its kind, an attraction to both botanists and zoologists; extraordinary the late spring blossoming of the water-lilies. • Montisola is connected



with the Brescian shore of the lake by ferry-boats from Sulzano. Iseo and Sale Marasino. The tourist discovers Montisola by walking among olive-groves and picturesque hamlets inhabited by fishermen and net-makers. On the top of the mountain lies the Santuario della Madonna della Ceriola. • The "Piramidi d'erosione" at Zone. (remains of a Roman villa), The village of Zone can be reached by road from Scaligeri family, the narrow Marone. The erosion streets with many shops pyramids, heaps of detritus

eroded by water in the shape of spires, with a large stone on top, are worthy of note · Franciacorta a hilly region in the hinterland of Lake Iseo. Villas and castles deserve attention. This district's production of well-known quality wines and sparkling Cross) in wood, in its wines occupies a very important role in the economy of the region.



relaxing thermal resort.

• Breno: the chief town

of the valley. Its medieval

Castle deserves attention

· XVIIth century drop

hammers for ironwork

• Cerveno. This rustic

village is famous for its

"Via Crucis" (Way of the

at Bienno.

Parish Church

Historiated rocks

are to be found in the

"Parco Nazionale delle

("National Park of Rock

Engravings") at Naguane.

on stone at Capodiponte.

patrimony of drawings lef

by a pre-historic people,

· Ponte di Legno is the

possible itineraries and

climbs. Skiing in summer

on the snow-fields of Mount

starting point to many

· Wild natural Park

of the Adamello group

and "Parco Nazionale

Park of the Stelvio").

and the Church of

of note.

(3554 metres, i.e. 11,660 ft.)

dello Stelvio" ("National

THE BRESCIAN PLAIN

Montichiari: the Castle

San Pancrazio are worthy

Chiari The Pinacoteca

Palazzolo and Pontevico

is a Natural Park.

Repossi (Repossi Art

Venetian artists.

It is the largest known

30000 figures are engraved

incisioni rupestri"

LAKE IDRO AND THE SABBIA VALLEY · The "Rocca d'Anfo" is a fortress built by the

Venetians. · The "Rocca di Sabbio Chiese" is an ancient fortress situated on an isolated rock as a shelter the Camuni.

against plunderers' forays. Recently, it has been transformed into a sanctuary with two churches superimposed one upon the other. • **Bagolino** has picturesque Presena. old stone houses piled against one another along the principal street. It is reputed for its Carnival



with musicians and dancers Gallery) is a place of artistic performing folk dances and interest, with paintings and its local cheese Bagoss. prints by Lombard and

THE TROMPIA VALLEY . Orzinuovi: there is a castle · Gardone Valtrompia with remains of Venetian is world-famous for its fortifications. production of chased sports · Borgo S. Giacomo rifles and fire-arms. in the hamlet of Padernello Peaceful summer and there is a medieval castle winter resorts: pleasant with moat. walks in the mountains. • The River Oglic the area that lies between

THE CAMONICA VALLEY · Darfo Boario is a very



legend

P	Arnaldo
2	Autosilouno
32	Autostazione
42	Benedetto Croce
5	Castelini
62	Ex Monopoli di Stato
72	Fossa Bagni
82	Freccia Rossa
92	Ospedale Nord
102	Ospedale Sud
112	Palagiustizia
12	Piazzale lveco
13	Randaccio
142	San Domenico
15	Sferisterio
16	Vittoria
172	Apollonio
18	Goito
	N 10 1
	Piazza Vittoria
	Stazione
	Ospedale
<u></u>	P.le Arnaldo
(1)	
X	Cycle hire
i	Tourist Office
m_1	Tempio Capito l ino
m 2	Santa Giu li a, the City Museum
m 3	Museum of the Risorgimento
<u>m4</u>	The Arms Museum "Luigi Marzo l i"
m 5	The "Tosio Martinengo" Municipal Art Gallery
m 6	The Municipal Natural Sciences Museum
m7	The Diocesan Museum
m 8	The Ken Damy Museum
1119	National Photografic Museum
<i>m</i> 10	Mille Miglia Museum
m_{II}	Beatles Museum
t 1	Teatro Grande
t 2 t 3	Teatro Sociale
t 3	S. Chiara
14	Sancarlino
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	Università deg l i Studi di Brescia
	The Faculty of Economics
	The Law Faculty

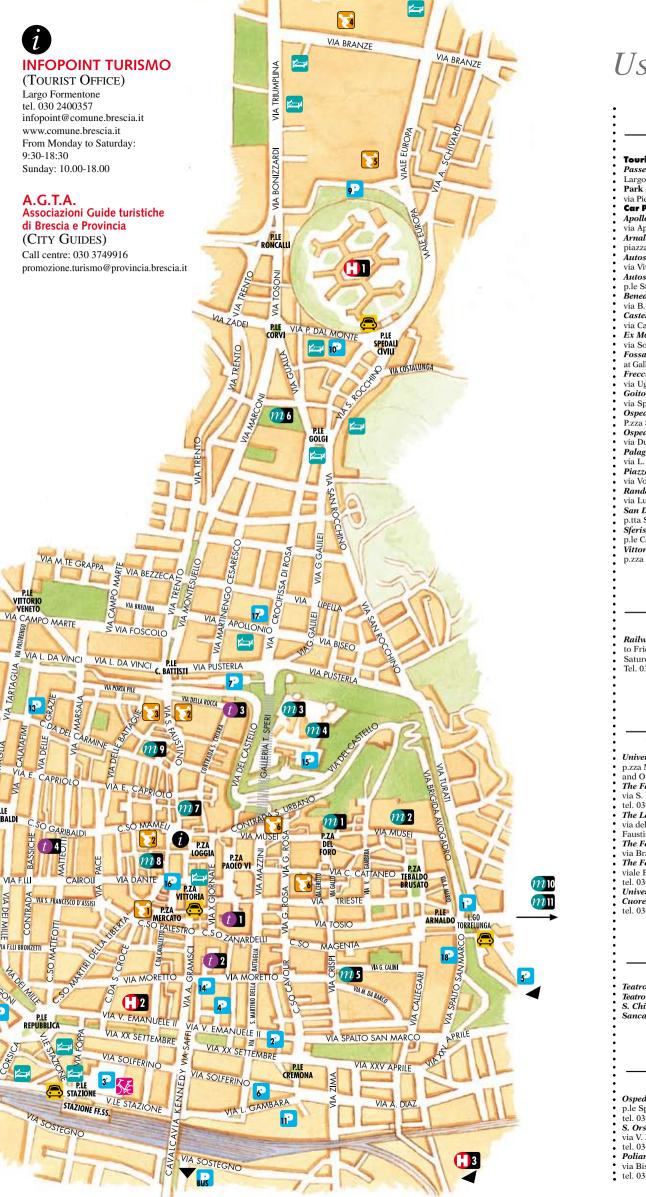






Studi di Brescia

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Useful information...



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