



## 1) The Two Towers: Asinelli and Garisenda

They are the symbol of the city of Bologna. The larger of the two, the Asinelli, was raised to its current height of 97.20 meters when, towards the end of the 13th century, it became the property of the Municipality. Initially it was supposed to reach around 60 meters. The original purpose of the tower was in fact defense, so it was not necessary for it to be particularly high, while the Municipality, once raised, used it for light signals from the countryside. The Garisenda tower, on the other hand, should have been 60 meters high but was lowered to its current height of 47.50 meters in the middle of the 14th century, because it was feared that it would collapse, also following the earthquake of 1351. In fact, it is probably assumed that the tower began to lean due to a subsidence of the ground, creating a 3.2 meter overhang. Both the Asinelli Tower and the Garisenda Tower date back to the 11th century, a time when noble families in Bologna competed with each other, building ever-higher towers for prestige and fortification. Bologna came to have almost 200 towers!



## 2) Palazzo d'Accursio or Comunale

The oldest part of the palace dates back to 1293 and was owned by the ancient noble house of the noble Francesco d'Accursio. In 1444 the clock was placed in the Accursio tower. Inside the Palazzo d'Accursio, of enchanting beauty, we can admire the Sala Rossa, so called because of the purple tapestries, illuminated by elegant Bohemian crystal chandeliers resulting from a 19th century renovation, and which is today used for weddings.





### 3) Piazza e Fontana del Nettuno

The famous bronze statue of the God Neptune, located on the fountain in the square of the same name, represents the God Neptune in the act of calming the waves. The statue, as well as the dolphins and the mermaids are the work of the sculptor Giambologna (1563-1566).



#### 4) Basilica of San Petronio

To build the church dedicated to the patron saint of the city (who was bishop in the 5th century) an entire neighborhood was demolished. The work continued from 1390 to approximately 1658. Its imposing dimensions (32 m. long and 60 m. wide, with a vault height of 45 m.) make it one of the largest churches in Italy. It can hold approximately 28,000 faithful.



#### 5) Piazza Maggiore

It is the main square of the city of Bologna and is located right in the center exactly in front of Palazzo d'Accursio, which until a few years ago was the seat of the Municipality and all the municipal offices. Its construction began in the early 1200s during the construction of the Palazzo del Podestà.





## 6) Metropolitan Cathedral of St. Peter

The façade is in Baroque style and features two imposing sculptures of St. Peter and St. Paul on the sides. The church is enriched with paintings by Prospero Fontana (1579), Ludovico Carracci (1618), Marcantonio Franceschini (1728) and Donato Creti (1740). Of particular interest is a wooden crucifix between the Madonna and St. John the Evangelist from the 12th century. The bell tower of about 70 meters was built at the beginning of the 13th century around a pre-existing cylindrical tower from the 10th century. The bell tower is the second tallest building after the Torre degli Asinelli and offers one of the most beautiful views of the entire city of Bologna.



## 7) Palazzo del Podestà

It had been built built between 1201 and 1203, it overlooked Piazza Maggiore where the market was held, and had a large hall for government activities. The palace was equipped with a bell tower in 1212, which would be replaced by the current Arengo tower about forty years later. With the construction of the current Town Hall in the first half of the 15th century, the Palazzo del Podestà was used as an archive. A renovation was begun in 1484 by Giovanni II Bentivoglio, a member of one of the noble families who governed the city over the centuries, but was never completed.



## 8) Below Bologna there is a small great Venice

A dense network of rivers and canals, albeit hidden, cross Bologna and over the centuries contributed to the economic development of the city through the silk industry which required water to turn the mills. Between the 12th and 16th centuries, an urban system of canals developed, which allowed water to be available for domestic use, for sewers, for the ditches along the walls and for the grain and silk mills. The canal system was based on three waterways: the Aposa torrent which is the only waterway that crosses the town from the north, the Reno river and the Savena torrent which, from outside the city, brought the water inside the walls via 2 canals that arrived one from the west and the other from the east. At the end of the 19th century the canals were filled in to make way for the streets that today take the emblematic names of Via Del Porto, Via Delle Moline, Via Riva di Reno and Via Val D'Aposa. The canals are still visible in some small windows located between the buildings such as that of Via Piella, Via Oberdan. The excursion to the Aposa stream can be accessed from the central Piazza San Martino, going down a steep flight of steps.





### 9) Sanctuary of the Madonna of San Luca

The church was built by Carlo Francesco Dotti between 1723 and 1757 to replace a previous church from the 1400s, while the two external stands were completed by his son Giovanni Giacomo in 1774. The portico of almost 4 kilometers connects the Sanctuary to the city of Bologna and hosts the procession that every year since 1433 carries the icon of the Madonna with Child of Byzantine origin, during the week of the Ascension, from the Sanctuary to Bologna and back to the Sanctuary. The start of the climb to the Sanctuary is marked along via Saragozza, by the Arco del Meloncello, designed by Carlo Francesco Dotti.



## 10) The Porticoes of Bologna

Bologna, with its 35 km in the historic center and the other 15 km outside the walls, is known as the city of Porticoes. The Bologna of the Roman era first and then of the Lombard era, with its narrow streets and the limited space for the growing urban development due to the increase in population, pushed the search for alternative solutions to obtain new spaces, among which there was that of extending the load-bearing beams of the floors of the first floors of the houses towards the street, to build small wooden buildings, which protruded outwards. This led to the birth of the current city portico which showed all its usefulness both as a place of work for artisans and merchants and as a pedestrian street sheltered from the elements.



## 11) The ancient Jewish ghetto

With its secluded and quiet streets, the ghetto is ideal for a relaxing walk. You can start from Via de' Giudei, the entrance to the ghetto from Piazza di Porta Ravegnana where the wide open space of the square makes room for the two towers. These streets of the Jewish ghetto were once a frenetic crossroads, where merchants, bankers and rag and bone dealers practiced their professions. Via dell' Inferno was the main artery into which a network of small streets converged: Via De' Giudei, Via Canonica, vicolo San Giobbe, vicolo Mandria, via del Carro and via Valdonica. At number 16 of Via Dell' Inferno, the building in which the only synagogue of the ghetto was located overlooks. A plaque on the external wall recalls the terrible events suffered by the Jewish community of Bologna in the 15th and 16th centuries (in 1569 the Jews were expelled from Bologna) and during the criminal racial persecution of the years 1938-45 by the Nazi-fascists.





## 12) Palazzo Re Enzo

It was built between 1244 and 1246. It owes its name to King Enzo, son of Emperor Frederick II of Swabia who, in the 13th century, was imprisoned here and never freed by the Bolognese after being captured in the battle of Fossalta in 1249, despite a lot of money offered by his father. The body of King Enzo is buried in the Church of San Domenico.



### 13) Palazzo dell' Archiginnasio

Commissioned by Pius IV to provide a permanent home for the University and unify the schools of Law and Arts, the building was built based on a design by Antonio Morandi (1562-1563). It is decorated with coats of arms, sculpted or painted, that commemorate the rectors, priors and students who attended it between 1500 and 1700. The Archiginnasio housed the University until 1803. Since 1838 it has been the seat of the prestigious Municipal Library, still present with a collection of over 800,000 works. In the anatomical theatre located inside the Palazzo dell' Archiginnasio there is a sculpture of the anatomist Mondino de' Liuzzi who was the first to perform autopsies for educational purposes in Bologna, starting around 1315.





#### 14) Basilica of Santo Stefano (The Seven Churches)

It was founded by Bishop Petronio in the 5th century AD. Dedicated to Saint Stephen the martyr, in the following centuries it saw the construction of other places of worship desired by the Benedictine friars. The complex is in fact known as the "Seven Churches" even though, to date, there are 4 remaining places of worship. The church of the Crucifix is of Lombard origin (8th century). The church of Calvary, with the reproduction of the holy sepulchre, once housed the relics of San Petronio, now kept in the basilica of the same name. The third church of San Vitale and Agricola, houses the sarcophagi of the two Holy Martyrs of Bologna. In the fourth place of worship, in the church of the Trinity, you can admire a wooden sculpture from the 13th-14th century by Simone dei Crocifissi, which represents the adoration of the Magi and is considered the oldest nativity scene in the world.