

# MANTUA CITY MAP



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- BUS STOP
- SHUTTLE BUS
- TAXI
- TRAIN STATION
- TOURIST BOAT
- PARKING
- CAMPERVAN PARKING AREA
- HOSPITAL
- INFORMATION CENTRE
- RIGOLETTO'S HOUSE INFORMATION CENTRE
- TOILETS



## MANTUA AND SABBIONETA UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

These two cities, connected by the ideas and ambitions of the ruling Gonzaga family, stand as an exceptional testament to Renaissance city planning, architecture and art. They represent the synthesis of Renaissance urban ideals: Mantua as an evolving city and Sabbioneta as a newly-founded one.



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scan the QR code.



### 1 PALAZZO DUCALE CASTELLO DI SAN GIORGIO MUSEO ARCHEOLOGICO NAZIONALE BASILICA DI SANTA BARBARA\*

This complex is made up of three structures: the Corte Vecchia Museum, the San Giorgio Castle and the Corte Nuova Museum. An official residence of Mantua's ruling Gonzaga family from the late 14th century, it houses masterpieces from the 1400s and 1500s such as the Sala del Pisanello, the Studiolo di Isabella d'Este, Giulio Romano's Appartamento di Troia, the complete series of Flemish tapestries based on Raphael's cartoons and other extraordinary treasures. Inside the castle, built between 1390 and 1406, visitors can admire the famous Camera degli Sposi ('Bridal Chamber'), decorated by Andrea Mantegna between 1465 and 1474 for the Marquis Ludovico II Gonzaga. The Palazzo Ducale complex also contains the Basilica di Santa Barbara, home to Graziadio Antegnati's famous organ built in 1565. The Museo Archeologico Nazionale (National Archaeological Museum) is located in Piazza Castello inside the vast historical complex of Palazzo Ducale. The museum's collections include Mantuan artefacts from the Neolithic and Bronze Age, as well as the Etruscan, Veneti, Celtic, Roman, Longobard, Goth, medieval and Renaissance periods. It also displays two Neolithic skeletons discovered buried together in an embrace. The 'Amanti' (or 'Lovers'), as they are known, were unearthed in Valdarò, near the city.



### 2 DUOMO CATTEDRALE DI SAN PIETRO\*

Located on the northern side of the square, Mantua Cathedral is an unusual combination of three styles: a late Baroque façade (the original was demolished in 1756, the year the current one was built, and is documented in Domenico Morone's painting 'La cacciata dei Bonacolsi', on display in Palazzo Ducale), a Gothic left-hand wall and a Romanesque bell tower. The interior was renovated in 1545 by Giulio Romano.



### 3 RIGOLETTO'S HOUSE\*

Behind the part of the Cathedral that descends towards the lake are a few houses, the last of which has been identified as the home of legendary court jester Rigoletto, the main character in Giuseppe Verdi's famous opera. Redesigned in the 15th century, this originally medieval building houses a small internal courtyard with a statue of the jester by Aldo Falchi.



### 4 TEATRO SCIENTIFICO BIBIENA\*

This theatre was designed by architect Antonio Galli Bibiena. One of the treasures of the Baroque period, with a rare bell-shaped floor plan, it was built as a venue for academic meetings and concerts. On January 16, 1770, shortly after it opened on 3 December the previous year, it hosted a concert by the 14-year-old Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. His father Leopold, who had accompanied him, wrote a letter to his wife praising the wonderful place where their son had performed. The theatre is part of the larger Palazzo Accademico complex, home to the Accademia Nazionale Virgiliana, the oldest and most prestigious cultural institution in the city, with its library, archive and fascinating display of 18th-century surgical instruments.



### 5 BIBLIOTECA TERESIANA\*

With its particularly rich historical collection, the Teresiana Library, named after and founded by Maria Theresa of Austria in 1780, is one of Italy's most important libraries. The historical library and archive contain valuable works related to the history of the city and region, such as manuscripts, incunabula, letters and prints, as well as the world's most important Jewish cabalistic fond. The impressive reading rooms were designed by Paolo Pozzo.



### 6 MUSEO STORICO NAZIONALE DEI VIGILI DEL FUOCO

This museum dedicated to firefighting throughout history is the only one of its kind in Italy. Its collection includes artefacts and documents illustrating the evolution of the equipment used by the fire brigade between the 18th and 20th centuries.



### 7 BASILICA DI SANT'ANDREA\*

According to tradition, the present Basilica stands on the site where Saint Longinus, the soldier who pierced Jesus' side, hid the blood collected from beneath the cross. In 1472, Marquis Ludovico II Gonzaga commissioned Leon Battista Alberti to redesign the former church dedicated to Andrew the Apostle. The façade has classical elements while the bell tower, erected in 1413, is Gothic in form. Inside is a single nave with large square chapels on the sides. Mantegna's tomb and the 'Sacra Famiglia e la famiglia del Battista' ('Holy Family and the Family of Saint John the Baptist') painting attributed to Mantegna and his school are particularly interesting elements, along with the crypt with the Sacred Vessels containing the Blood of Christ relic. Visitors can also make the climb to the cupola and enjoy a panoramic view over the city.



### 8 SONNABEND COLLECTION MUSEO DI PALAZZO DELLA RAGIONE

The Palazzo della Ragione, built between the 11th and 12th centuries as the Palatium Novum del Comune, is one of the architectural icons of medieval Mantua. Built to host assemblies, meetings and, when it rained, the city market, it was modified several times over the centuries. In 1472, the Torre dell'Orologio (clock tower) was added. Its famous clock designed by Bartolomeo Manfredi tracked the hours, planets, signs of the zodiac and even the best days for travelling or sowing seed. In the 18th century, the architect Doricilio Moscatelli modified the windows, but these were later removed during Aldo Andreani's 20th-century restoration works, which restored the building's original appearance. A symbol of public city life, from 2025 it welcomes the Sonnabend Collection Mantova, a contemporary art museum featuring pieces from the famous New York collection.



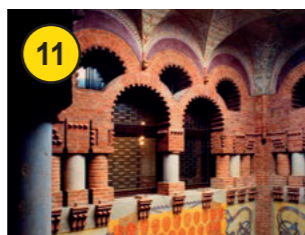
### 9 PALAZZO DEL PODESTÀ MUSEO VIRGILIO

The museum consists of eight rooms that provide access to the recently restored areas of the Palazzo del Podestà, Arengario and Masseria in the beating heart of the city. Three main sections dedicated to the works of Virgil – the Eclogues, Georgics and Aeneid – feature multimedia and multisensory installations that immerse the audience directly in these works, recreating the themes and sensations evoked by Virgil's verses. Displayed alongside the installations are the most important artefacts from the Civic Collections of the Municipality of Mantua relating to the great poet and the Palazzo del Podestà.



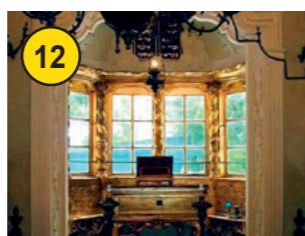
### 10 ROTONDA DI SAN LORENZO\*

This is the city's oldest church, standing 1.5 metres below the level of the piazza. Built in 1082 for Matilda of Canossa, it has a circular floor plan reminiscent of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Over the years, other buildings and houses around the square gradually incorporated it. It came to light again at the beginning of the 20th century when these newer structures were demolished.



### 11 LOGGIA DEL GRANO PALAZZO DELLA CAMERA DI COMMERCIO

This Palace of the Chamber of Commerce was built between 1911 and 1914 by architect Aldo Andreani and represents all the ambitions of artisanal and industrial entrepreneurship of the era. Inside you will find the 'Galleria Arte e Arti' with its display of prestigious antique paintings and 20th-century painting and sculpture collection.



### 12 THE NORSA SYNAGOGUE

The present-day temple at no. 13 Via G. Govi was built at the beginning of the twentieth century and is a faithful and complete translocation of the private Norsa-Torrazzo Synagogue, which existed in 1480 inside the Ghetto. Today, the synagogue is the only one remaining of the six that originally comprised and nourished Jewish religious life and culture in the city. Inside, chandeliers monogrammed with the family name are supported by a large rectangular wrought-iron frame noted for its originality and workmanship.



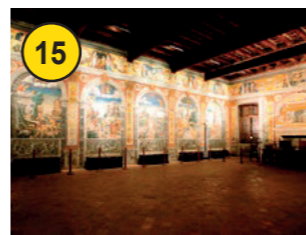
### 13 MUSEO DIOCESANO FRANCESCO GONZAGA\*

Opened in 1983 and refurbished in 2008, this museum is located in the surviving cloister of the 14th-century monastery of Sant'Agnese, and is named after Francesco Gonzaga, Bishop of Mantua (1546–1620). Part of the museum is dedicated to liturgical artefacts, with a selection of furniture pieces as well as fine chalices, pyxes, ostensories, reliquaries, astylar crosses, rings and pectoral crosses that retrace the development of goldsmithing from the 13th to the 20th centuries. Another part is dedicated to the history of the diocese, with paintings of bishops and often surprising documents concerning specifically Mantuan devotions, in particular the 'Most Precious Blood of Christ' and Patron Saint Anselm. A further interesting section houses nearly all the Gonzaga jewellery items that escaped sale and looting.



### 14 MADONNA DELLA VITTORIA\*

The Marquis Francesco II Gonzaga commissioned this church to celebrate his victory over the army of Charles VIII King of France (Fornovo, 1495), which was attributed to intercession by the Virgin Mary. The altarpiece was specially painted for the occasion by Andrea Mantegna. Three centuries later, French invaders took it away to the Louvre. The church, divided into two floors, would later be used for lay purposes. Recently, the ground floor has been restored, along with the remains of the original ornamentation; the decoration of the vaults in the inaccessible first-floor hall are perhaps even finer.



### 15 MUSEO DI PALAZZO D'ARCO\*

Dominating the square of the same name, this palace was built in 1782 by Antonio Colonna for the d'Arco Counts, who came to Mantua from the Trentino area in 1470. In 1973, it became a foundation, according to the wishes of the family's last remaining descendant. Today, it is a museum with fully furnished rooms recreating the way an aristocratic Mantuan house would have appeared in the 18th and 19th centuries.



### 16 TEATRO SOCIALE

Overlooking what was once Piazza Impero, this theatre was designed by Luigi Canonica and built between 1818 and 1822. Its style is Neoclassical, with six columns and a triangular pediment on the main façade. With its three tiers of boxes and two of balconies, the theatre was also used as a cinema for many years. Today it hosts theatre, ballet, concert and opera productions.



### 17 PESCHERIE DI GIULIO ROMANO

Built for the Gonzaga family in 1546, this is the only public building attributed to Giulio Romano, 'Prefect of Works' in Mantua at the time. Its central position on one of the city's main roads and proximity to the river made the building particularly suitable for use by traders. Recently restored, the Pescherie is an emblem of Mantua's connection with the water, in the heart of the old town, and a place to learn about the Mantua and Sabbioneta UNESCO World Heritage Site.



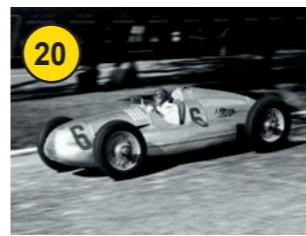
### 18 GALLERIA MUSEO VALENTI GONZAGA

Now a gallery and museum, the historic house of the Marquises Valenti is Mantua's most sumptuous example of Baroque architecture. The exhibition space is decorated with frescoes by Flemish painter Frans Geffels and lavish decoration by Giovan Battista Barberini.



### 19 CASA DELLA BEATA OSANNA ANDREASI

Residence of the noble Andreasi family, this house is a well-preserved record of the life of Osanna of Mantua (1449-1505), the Lay Dominican and advisor to the Gonzagas who was beatified in 1515. The house was designed by Luca Fancelli, and is an example of a highly frescoed and decorated 15th-century noble residence.



### 20 TAZIO NUVOLARI MUSEUM

This museum is dedicated to the memory of Tazio Nuvolari, the unforgettable champion and 'greatest racing driver of the past, present and future' according to Ferdinand Porsche. It contains the trophies, plaques and cups won by the 'Flying Mantuan', as well as a large collection of his gold medals and personal items.



### 21 ANDREA MANTEGNA'S HOUSE\*

Work began on the building in 1476 but took many years to complete. Probably designed by Mantegna himself, this highly original structure is in fact a square containing a circle. Visitors enter the square building but find themselves inside a circle as soon as they step into the round courtyard. Today the ground floor and first floor rooms overlooking the courtyard are used for exhibitions and shows.



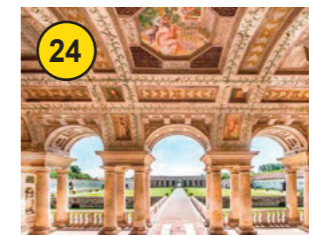
### 22 TEMPIO LEON BATTISTA ALBERTI\*

Known as the Chiesa di San Sebastiano, this was the first building in Mantua to be designed by Leon Battista Alberti. Rapid progress was made in the 1460s, but after the building's patron, Ludovico Gonzaga, turned his attention to the new Sant'Andrea church, work slowed, leaving much of the structure incomplete. Andrea Schiavi's 20th-century restoration heavily altered the initial design, adding side staircases that were absent from Alberti's plans. The upper church contains an exhibition on late-15th-century Mantuan architectural decoration. The lower church is a 'Famedio ai Caduti', dedicated to the memory of those fallen in battle.



### 23 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO MACA MUSEUM\*

Palazzo San Sebastiano was the prince's only permanent residence to be built outside the vast court complex of the Palazzo Ducale; a unique instance in the Gonzaga tradition of power. The palace was built and decorated by Francesco II Gonzaga between 1506 and 1512. It was an exclusive personal residence – serving both governmental and delegatory purposes – where Francesco II lived and received illustrious guests from 1508 to 1519. As well as numerous rooms frescoed with fantastical and exotic forms, and lavishly painted vaults featuring family symbols and heraldry, the Marquis had a 224-square-metre hall built on the main floor as a fittingly splendid home for Andrea Mantegna's famous and impressive 'Triumphs of Caesar' painting series (now in Hampton Court, London). Restored and converted into a museum in 2004, the palace is now fully renovated and home to the MACA Museum for the city's ancient collections.



### 24 PALAZZO TE\*

Built between 1525 and 1535 by Giulio Romano for Marquis Federico II Gonzaga, who desired a stately suburban villa, Palazzo Te is located on an island called Tejetto: the name probably derives from the presence of small houses with straw roofs called 'teze'. The complex is made up of four structures set around a central courtyard. A spacious garden at the back is enclosed by a large exedra and accessible through a magnificent loggia overlooking fish ponds. The palace contains some particularly fascinating rooms, such as the Sala dei Cavalli (Hall of Horses), the Camera di Amore e Psiche (Hall of Psyche) and the famous Stanza dei Giganti (Hall of Giants), with its extraordinary acoustic and visual effects.



### 25 CHIESA DI SANTA MARIA DEL GRADARO

This church was built in 1256 and belonged to the order of the nuns of San Marco. The façade, with its Romanesque-Gothic features, has an asymmetrical 'hut' design and a beautiful entrance surmounted by a rose-window. Inside you can still see the remnants of an old wall which used to separate the members of the religious order from the congregation during services. There are three aisles separated by arches supported on brick columns, and on pillars nearer the altar.

\*ACCESSIBILITY INFO: [ViviAmo Mantova mantovasabbioneta-unesco.it](http://ViviAmo Mantova mantovasabbioneta-unesco.it)

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