

## BOLOGNA

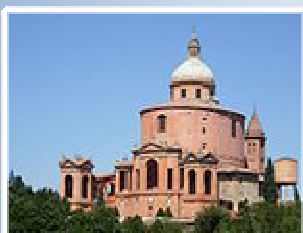
**Bologna**, from the Latin Bononia, Bulāggna in Bolognese dialect) is the capital city of **Emilia-Romagna**, in the Po Valley (Pianura Padana in Italian) of northern **Italy**. The city lies between the Po River and the Apennine Mountains, more specifically, between the **Reno River** and the **Savona River**. Home to the oldest university in the Western world, "University of Bologna", founded in 1088, Bologna is one of the most developed cities in Italy. Bologna often ranks as one of the top cities, in terms of quality of life in Italy. This is due to its strong industrial tradition, its wide range of highly-developed social services, and its physical location at the crossing-point of the most important highways and railways in the country.



**Santa Maria dei Servi** is a Catholic basilica in **Bologna**. It was founded in 1346, as the church of the Servite Community of the Blessed Virgin Mary and was designed by **Padre Andrea da Faenza** whose work can also be seen at the Basilica of San Petronio, also in Bologna. It was raised to the status of basilica by **Pope Pius XII**. The basilica is 100 metres long by 20 metres wide. It has the form of a Latin cross but the transepts do not project beyond the aisles. The shallow apse is five segments of an octagon, as is common in Italian Gothic churches.

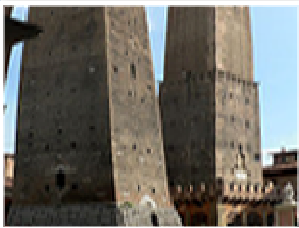


**Santo Stefano** is a complex of religious edifices in the city of **Bologna**. Located in the eponymous square, it is locally known as **Sette Chiese** ("Seven Churches"). According to tradition, it was built by Saint Petronius, who was bishop of the city during the 5th century, over a temple of the goddess Isis. The church of St. John the Baptist (or of the Holy Crucifix) dates from the 8th century, while that of the Holy Sepulchre from the 5th (renovated in the 12th century), as well as that of San Vitale ed Agricola (renovated in the 8th and 11th centuries). A 13th century portico known as "Pilatus' court" connects the other buildings to the church of the Holy Trinity (13th century).



**The Sanctuary of the Madonna of San Luca** is a basilica church in a forested hill some 300 meters above the plain, just south-west of the historical center of the city. While a road now leads up to the sanctuary, it is also possible to reach it by traversing a long (3.5 km) monumental roofed arcade (**Portico di San Luca**) consisting of 666 arches, which was built in 1674-1793. It was meant to protect the icon as it was paraded up the hill. A yearly procession proceed from the church of San Pietro in

the center of **Bologna** to the Sanctuary along this path. Originally the arches held icons or chapels erected by the patron family.



**The Towers of Bologna** are a group of **medieval structures**. The two most prominent ones, also called **the Two Towers**, are the landmark of the city. Each tower had a quadratic cross-section with foundations between five and ten meters deep, reinforced by poles hammered into the ground and covered with pebble and lime. The tower's base was made of big blocks of selenite stone. The remaining walls became successively thinner and lighter the higher the structure was raised, and were realised in so-called "a sacco" masonry: with a thick inner wall and a thinner outer wall, where the gap was filled with stones and mortar.

**The University of Bologna** (Italian: **Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna**, UNIBO) is the oldest continually operating degree-granting university in **Europe**, the word 'university' being first used by this institution at its foundation. The true date of its founding is uncertain, but believed by most accounts to have been 1088. Since 2000, the University's motto has been Alma mater studiorum (Latin for "fostering mother of studies"). The university of Bologna received a charter from **Frederick I Barbarossa** in 1158, but in the 19th century, a committee of historians led by Giosuè Carducci traced the birth of the University back to 1088, making it arguably the oldest university in the world. The university is historically notable for its teaching of canon and civil law.

**The Orto Botanico dell'Università di Bologna**, is a botanical garden operated by the University of Bologna. It is located at Via Irnerio and open daily except Sundays. Established in 1568, the garden is one of Europe's oldest, after those of **Pisa, Padua, and Florence**. Although early records indicate a Bolognese medicinal herb garden dating to 1365, today's garden arose from the proposals of botanist Luca Ghini (1490-1556), who left to create the Orto botanico di Pisa, and became a reality under his successor Ulisse Aldrovandi (1522-1605). Those first gardens were located in the Palazzo Pubblico, in a courtyard near today's Sala Borsa, but partially moved in 1587 to a larger site in Borghetto S. Giuliano (today's **Porta S. Stefano**), with an area of about 5000 m<sup>2</sup>. By 1653 the garden's catalog listed approximately 1500 species. Today's garden contains about 5,000 specimens representing 1200 taxa.

**The Basilica of San Petronio** is the main church of Bologna, the old città d'arte in the **Emilia Romagna** region of Italy; however, it is not the metropolitan cathedral of the city, which is the Cathedral of Saint Peter. It dominates the **Piazza Maggiore**. It is the fifth largest church in the world, stretching for 132 meters in length and 60 in width, while the vault reaches 45 meters inside and 51 meters in the facade. It can contain about 28,000 persons. It is dedicated to the patron saint of the city, Saint Petronius, who was the bishop of Bologna in the fifth century. Following a council decree of 1388, the first stone of construction was laid June 7, 1390, when the town council entrusted Antonio di Vincenzo with raising a **Gothic cathedral**.

See also:

- **Museo Civico Archeologico**
- **Jewish Museum**
- **Gallery of Modern Art of Bologna**
- **Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna**
- **Museo di Antropologia**
- **Giardini Margherita**
- **Fontana di Nettuno**
- **Villa delle Rose**
- **Villa Guastavillani**

## INFORMATION

### **Tourism Office of Bologna**

I.A.T. (Ufficio Informazioni e di Accoglienza Turistica)

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