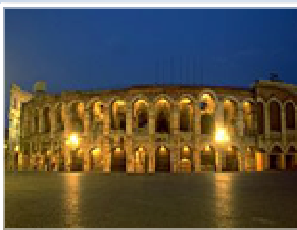


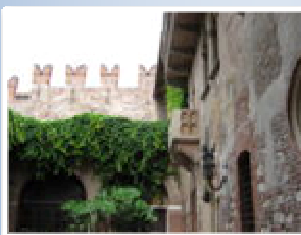
VERONA

Verona is a city in **Veneto**, northern **Italy**, one of the seven provincial capitals in the region. It is one of the main tourist destinations in north-eastern Italy, thanks to its artistic heritage, several annual fairs, shows and operas, such as the lyrical season in the Arena, the ancient amphitheatre built by the Romans.

Verona owes its historical and economical importance to its geographical location, in a loop of the **Adige River** near **Lake Garda**.



The Arena. An enormous, spectacular **Roman amphitheatre**, crumbling on the outside but still functioning today. It was erected in the 1st Century AD in an elliptical shape, and is the world's third-largest amphitheatre to survive from antiquity. Much of the outer ring was damaged during the earthquake of 1117 but the inner part is still intact. If you can, plan your trip during the Opera season and see a performance in the Arena. Outside the opera season you can visit it during the day.



Juliet's House and Balcony Juliet's House (Casa di Giulietta), **Via Cappello**, just off the **Piazza delle Erbe**. Supposedly the location of the famous balcony love scene from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. The house is a major destination for tourist pilgrimage, as the tiny courtyard is normally packed with lovestruck teenagers photographing each other on the famous balcony. In fact, the house has no connection with Shakespeare's fictional characters - although the house is old, the balcony was

added in 1936 and declared to be "Juliet's house" to attract tourists. The balcony overlooks a tiny courtyard containing a statue of Juliet.

Castelvecchio. A 14th-century, red brick, fortified castle on the banks of the river **Adige**. The main castle buildings house the city art museum which is packed with a rich collection of medieval sculpture and Renaissance paintings. As well as the museum, the extensive castle ramparts are great for exploring - ideal for families with children who enjoy running around castle fortifications. The Castelvecchio has an adjoining bridge over the river which is open all the time - walk over the bridge for some fantastic views of the castle on the river.



Piazza delle Erbe. Home of the Forum in Roman times this is still a focal point of the city. Contains the 'Madonna Verona' fountain, 14th century '**Gardello Tower**', and a market that, while picturesque, seems to have become another tourist cliché during its recent refurbishment.

Lamberti Tower (Torre Lamberti) - completed in 1463, this is the tallest of **Verona's towers**. The unmistakable clock tower looms over the Piazza delle Erbe, and you enter via the palace courtyard. Although there are 238 steps to the top, there is a lift! Views from the top are breathtaking.

Porta Borsari. The remains of a Roman gate, dates to at least the 2nd Century AD, but is almost certainly older.

Giardino Giusti. One of Italy's most important renaissance/mannerist gardens, with grottos, fire-breathing masks carved into the hillside.

Verona Cathedral. (Duomo) was built to replace an 8th-century church which was destroyed in the earthquake of 1117. Consecrated in 1187, the church features an ornate marble Romanesque façade by the **Veronese architect Nicolò**; its pillars are supported by two griffins. Stone reliefs around the door include Biblical scenes. The smaller side door is also worth a look - medieval carvings include Jonah being swallowed by a whale. Inside, the nave has many Gothic alterations, and oil paintings around the side chapels include an Assumption by Titan. The Romanesque baptistery adjoining the chapel of Sant'Elena is preserved, with its exquisite marble font and collection of medieval paintings.



Basilica of St Zeno (San Zeno Maggiore), located slightly outside the centre. A 10-15 minute walk from the Castelvecchio, but well worth the walk, as it is possibly the richest in devotional artwork and historical preservation in **Verona**. The church is dedicated to Verona's patron saint, Zeno, a 4th-century North African and a keen fisherman who was ordained Bishop of Verona in 363. Zeno's tomb lies in an atmospheric shrine in the church undercroft, and he is also commemorated with a grinning medieval **statue of**

Zeno in full episcopal robes, dangling a golden fish on the end of a fishing rod. The entrance to the church is graced with a ornate Romanesque façade by Nicolò; like the cathedral, this church was erected after the earthquake of 1117. The church itself was a centre of European pilgrimage for centuries; pilgrims were greeted by huge 10-metre frescoes of St Peter, patron saint of pilgrims. Visitors across the centuries have left their mark - pilgrims happily inscribed graffiti in the frescos, and signatures dating from 1390 survive to this day. There is also graffiti left by the invading Austrians in 1865.

Castell San Pietro (St Peter's Castle), across the **Ponte Pietra** (Peter Bridge). Climb the steps up the hill above the Roman Amphitheatre to the Castell San Pietro. This former Austrian barracks dates back to the Austrian occupation of the left bank, and while the building is not open to the public, the views from the hill over Verona are spectacular. Go up in the early evening and enjoy a romantic sunset for free!

DA FARE

- Take the Bus 41 for having a breathtaking view from S. Maria di Lourdes Sanctuary, placed on the edge of Verona's highest hill.
- Eat an icecream in one of Piazza Bra's many bars.
- Take a short walk to Castel San Pietro for a great lookout on the town center.

INFORMATION

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