

Bergamo

Lombardy · Italy

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Bergamo is a two-layer city in the foothills of the Alps, an hour from Milan by train. Its walled hilltop old town, Città Alta, sits above a busier lower city, and two historic funiculars connect them. The upper town keeps its Venetian-era fortifications and medieval streets almost intact, while the lower town has grand 19th-century boulevards and everyday Italian city life.

It suits a traveler who wants an easy day or two: a compact, walkable old town with strong Renaissance and Venetian architecture, good food, and none of the crowds of Venice or Florence. Many visitors pass through only because of budget flights into the city's airport, but Bergamo rewards an overnight stay far more than a quick layover. The composer *Gaetano Donizetti*, one of opera's great names, was born here in 1797 and is still closely tied to the city's identity.

When to visit

Spring and early autumn bring mild days and the clearest views from the old town's walls; summer is warm and can be humid, and winter is cold with occasional snow. Plan around the *Donizetti Opera* festival each November, when the composer's operas fill Teatro Donizetti and other venues around the city for about three weeks.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 11° Feels like 3°	-1° / -5°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	9° / 15° Feels like 5°	0° / -5°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for sightseeing	13° / 19° Feels like 10°	3° / -3°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 22°	7° / 2°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 26°	11° / 7°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 31°	16° / 11°	Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	28° / 33°	18° / 13°	Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	28° / 33°	18° / 13°	Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 28°	13° / 8°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 23°	9° / 4°	Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	11° / 17°	4° / -2°	Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 12° Feels like 3°	0° / -5°	Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: June, September

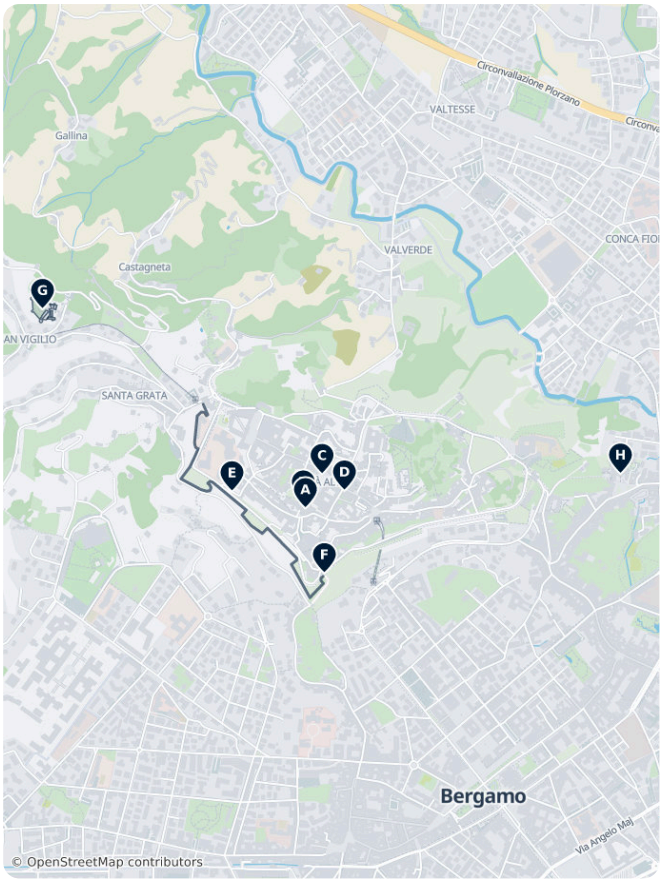
Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

September combines warm days with less of summer's humidity, making it a particularly good pick for a visit.

Top sights

Start in *Città Alta*, the walled upper town, where nearly everything worth seeing sits within a 15-minute walk.

- A Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore is Bergamo's grandest church, a Romanesque exterior wrapped around a lavish Baroque interior with tapestries and inlaid wood panels.
- Next door, B Cappella Colleoni is a Renaissance mausoleum built for the condottiero Bartolomeo Colleoni, its striped marble facade among the finest in Lombardy.
- C Piazza Vecchia is the old town's monumental heart, ringed by council buildings and cafes that have hosted city life for eight centuries.
- Climb D Torre del Gombito for a rooftop view over the tiled roofs of the upper town.
- E Mura Venete still encircles Città Alta almost completely and is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site recognizing Venetian defensive architecture.
- F Porta San Giacomo is the best preserved of the wall's four gates, and a good place to start or end a walk along the ramparts.
- Above the old town, G Castello di San Vigilio crowns the hill of San Vigilio, reachable by a short second funicular and rewarding the climb with views over the plain toward Milan.
- Down in the lower town, H Accademia Carrara holds one of Lombardy's best collections of Italian Renaissance painting.



Bergamo – Plan Your Trip
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What to experience

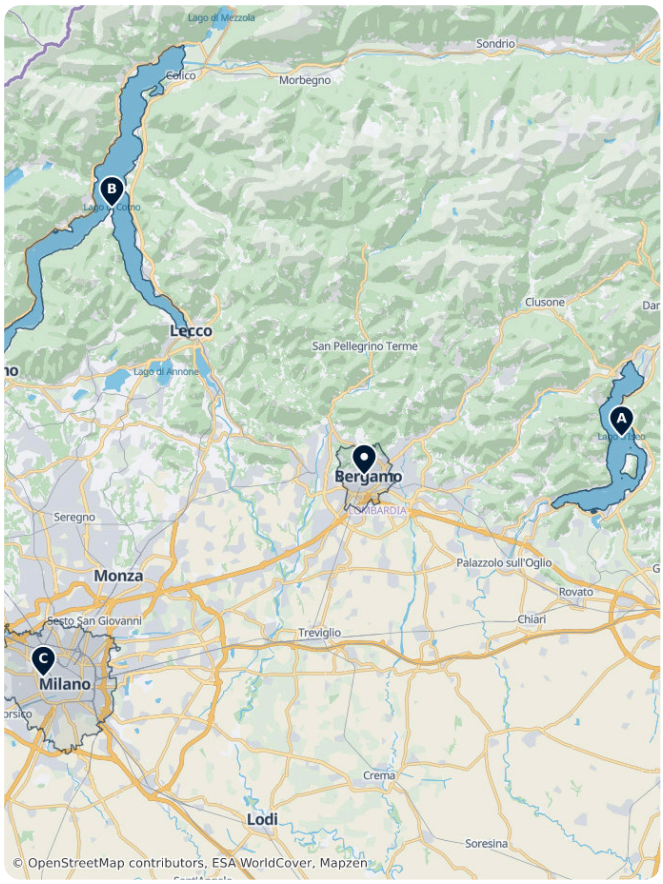
Bergamo's best rituals are tied to its two levels and its native composer.

- Ride the Funicolare funicular up to Città Alta, then take the second, smaller funicular further up to San Vigilio for the view over the plain — riding both is part of the Bergamo experience, not just a way to get somewhere.
- Catch a performance during the *Donizetti Opera* festival each November, when Teatro Donizetti and other venues around the city stage the composer's own operas.
- Walk a stretch of the city walls at sunset, when the light over the Alpine foothills and the plain below is at its best.

Day trips

Bergamo makes a good base for day trips into the wine country, lakes, and mountains of Lombardy.

- **Franciacorta wine region** — about 30–40 minutes by car. Italy's leading sparkling-wine region, with dozens of small producers open for tastings and cellar tours.
- **A Lake Iseo** — about 40 minutes by car or direct bus. A quieter, less crowded lake than Como or Garda, with boat trips out to Monte Isola, the largest lake island in southern Europe.
- **Val Seriana and Val Brembana** — about 30–45 minutes by car or bus (Val Seriana also has a light-rail line to Albino). The mountain valleys just north of the city offer hiking trails and small alpine villages, an easy escape from summer heat in the lowlands.
- **B Lake Como** — about an hour by car, longer by train with a change. One of Italy's most famous lakes, with dramatic mountain scenery and grand lakeside villas.
- **C Milan** — about 50 minutes by direct train. Italy's fashion and design capital makes an easy day trip from Bergamo, which is often cheaper to fly into than Milan itself.



Getting there

- **By air**: **Milan Bergamo Airport** (BGY, also known as Orio al Serio), about 5 km from the centre, is a major hub for low-cost flights across Europe. Airport buses reach the centre of Bergamo in around 15 minutes; other buses connect directly to Milan's centre in under an hour and to Linate in about the same time, while reaching Malpensa by bus takes closer to 90 minutes.
- **By train**: Bergamo's railway station has direct trains to Milan (about an hour) and to Brescia, Lecco, and other towns in Lombardy.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches connect Bergamo to Milan and other Italian and international cities, mainly from the bus station next to the railway station.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: ATB runs the local bus network, plus the two funiculars linking the lower town to Città Alta and on to San Vigilio. Tap a contactless bank card or phone directly on board to pay as you go — this now works across the ATB network. Tickets can also be bought in advance from tobacconists, ATB machines, or the ATB app.
- **On foot**: The lower town is flat and easy to walk. Città Alta is compact but steep and cobbled in places — the Funicolare funicular is the easiest way up if you would rather not climb.
- **Cycling**: Practical in the flat lower town, less so on Città Alta's hills and stairs.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

Città Alta is compact and pedestrian-friendly despite its cobbled slopes; the funiculars cover the steepest climbs. The lower town's wide boulevards are flat and easy to navigate on foot.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The lower town has some cycling infrastructure and flat ground, but Città Alta's hills, stairs, and cobbles make cycling impractical there.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the historic centre — it's compact and walkable, and Città Alta has a restricted traffic zone (ZTL) enforced by camera. A car is useful for reaching Franciacorta, the lakes, or the mountain valleys at your own pace.
- **Parking**: Park in one of the multi-storey car parks in the lower town near the base of the walls, or at a park-and-ride further out; the historic centre itself has very limited street parking.
- **Restrictions**: Città Alta's ZTL is closed to non-resident traffic; check signage before driving up, since fines are issued automatically by camera.

Food & drink

Bergamo's kitchen is built around hearty mountain food: *casoncelli*, pasta parcels stuffed with meat, breadcrumbs, and pancetta, and polenta served alongside braised meats or small game birds. Look out too for local cured meats and cheeses from the valleys just north of the city.

For something special, Caffè del Tasso is a historic cafe on Piazza Vecchia that has served coffee and drinks since the 15th century. Otherwise, the streets around Via Colleoni in Città Alta and the Sentierone promenade in the lower town both cluster good, casual places to eat.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Pizza Margherita
Thin-crust pizza topped with tomato, mozzarella, and basil, invented in Naples and still best there.

DINNER

Spaghetti alla Carbonara
Pasta with egg, cured pork cheek (guanciale), pecorino cheese, and black pepper, a Roman classic.

Risotto alla Milanese
Creamy saffron-infused rice dish from Milan, often served alongside braised veal shank.

Lasagna · Lasagne al Forno
Layered baked pasta with ragu, bechamel, and cheese, a staple of Emilia-Romagna cooking.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Prosciutto and Cheese · Prosciutto e Formaggio
Cured ham paired with regional cheeses, a common antipasto plate found nationwide.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Gelato
Dense, slow-churned Italian ice cream, traditionally lower in fat and air than American-style ice cream.

Tiramisu · Tiramisù
Layered dessert of coffee-soaked ladyfingers and mascarpone cream, dusted with cocoa.

DRINKS

Espresso · Caffè
A short, strong shot of coffee drunk quickly, usually standing at a bar counter.

Wine · Vino
Italy is one of the world's largest wine producers, with regional styles from Piedmont's Barolo to Tuscany's Chianti.

Aperol Spritz
A bittersweet orange aperitif mixed with prosecco and soda water, a staple of the early-evening aperitivo.

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Safety & health

Bergamo is a safe city for travelers, with petty crime largely limited to pickpocketing in crowds around Piazza Vecchia, the funicular stations, and the railway station. Keep bags zipped and be aware of your belongings in these spots, as anywhere else in Italy.

Tap water is safe to drink throughout the city.

History

Bergamo's split identity comes from its history. The lower town's Roman and medieval origins as *Bergomum* gave way to a self-governing medieval commune, visible today around Piazza Vecchia, where the arcaded Palazzo della Ragione once housed the city's law courts and public assemblies.

From 1428 to 1797, Bergamo was a border outpost of the Republic of Venice, and this period left the deepest mark: the Mura Venete were built in the late 1500s to defend the city and are now recognized, together with similar Venetian defenses elsewhere in Europe, as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Each evening, the bell of the Campanone still rings 100 times, a tradition recalling the old curfew that once closed the city gates.

The composer *Gaetano Donizetti*, born in Bergamo in 1797, is the city's most famous native son; Teatro Donizetti carries his name and stages his operas every November.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Italy at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

Type C / Type F / Type L
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Italian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Walks

Audio Guides by Tripomatic
Walk it with an audio guide
Available in 9 languages · **Plays when you arrive** · **Works offline**
Scan to get the app

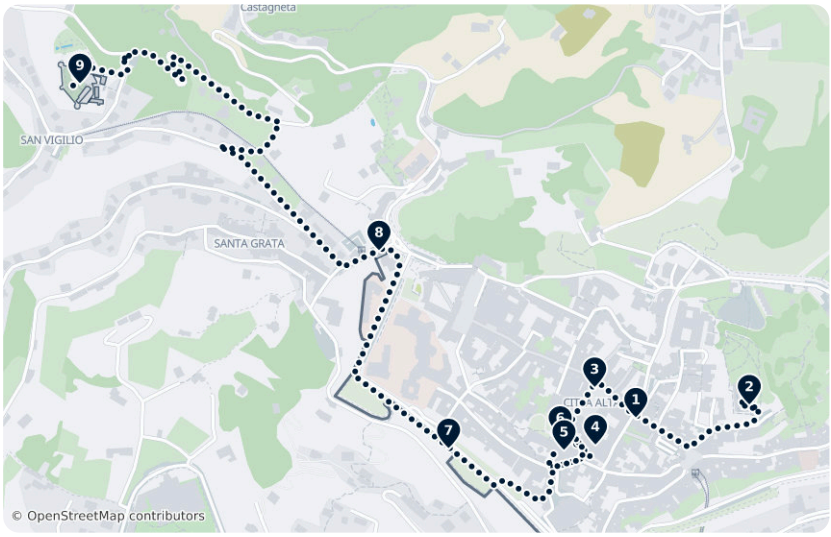
Bergamo Highlights

1h 17min · 3.4 km · 9 stops



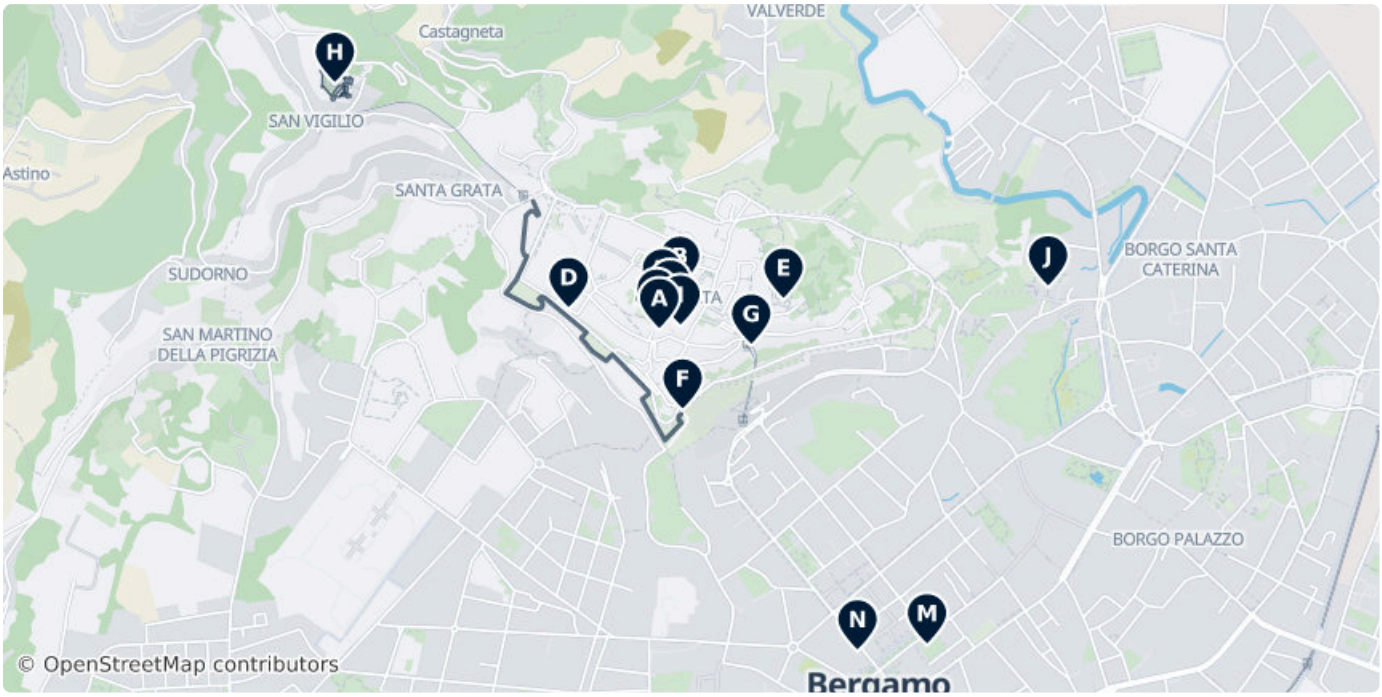
1. Torre del Gombito
2. Rocca di Bergamo
3. Piazza Vecchia
4. Duomo di Bergamo
5. Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore
6. Cappella Colleoni
7. Mura Venete (Venetian Walls)
8. Porta Sant'Alessandro
9. Castello di San Vigilio

Bergamo's Città Alta is a walled Renaissance hill town lifted almost intact above the modern city below. This walk crosses its medieval gate towers and Venetian ramparts, and the square where the cathedral, a great Romanesque basilica, and a mercenary captain's marble mausoleum stand side by side. Nine stops, roughly an hour of walking plus time to linger, with an optional climb to a hilltop castle at the end. The walk starts at Torre del Gombito on Via Gombito, a short walk up from the top station of the Città Alta funicular.



Bergamo Unmissables

Bergamo is defined by its two distinct levels: the medieval Città Alta and the modern Città Bassa. This selection features the UNESCO-listed 16th-century Venetian walls, the historic Piazza Vecchia with its 12th-century civic tower, and the Accademia Carrara's Renaissance masterpieces. The list spans the city's history from the Romanesque Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore to the 19th-century Teatro Donizetti, connected by a vintage funicular system that offers panoramic views over the Lombardy plains.





Ⓐ Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore

Bergamo Cathedral is a Roman Catholic cathedral in Bergamo, Italy, dedicated to Saint Alexander of Bergamo, patron saint of the city.

Piazza Duomo, 24129 Bergamo BG, Italy
(45.70320, 9.66220)

fondazionemia.it/it/basilica, +39 35 22 33 27



Ⓑ Piazza Vecchia

An imposing old square, once the most important part of the city, with unique Palazzo della Ragione and Biblioteca Angelo Mai buildings.

Piazza Vecchia, 24129 Bergamo BG, Italy
(45.70423, 9.66292)



C Colleoni Chapel

The Cappella Colleoni is a chapel and mausoleum attached to the Basilica of St. Mary Major in the northern Italian city of Bergamo.

Piazza del Duomo, 24129 Bergamo BG, Italy (45.70343, 9.66211)

lombardiabeniculturali.it/architetture/sch..., +39 35 210 061



D Mura Venete

A UNESCO World Heritage site consisting of six kilometers of 16th-century defensive fortifications built by the Republic of Venice to protect the Upper Town.

9A Via Tre Armi, Bergamo 24129, Italy (45.70371, 9.65903)



E Fortress of Bergamo

A 14th-century defensive complex on Sant'Eufemia hill containing the Historical Museum of the 19th Century and offering views of the surrounding mountains.

Rocca, Via alla Rocca, Bergamo, Lombardy 24100, Italy (45.70395, 9.66655)

fondazione.bergamoestoria.it/museo_ottocento.aspx



F Porta San Giacomo

An ornate white marble gateway constructed in 1592, serving as the primary pedestrian entrance to the Upper Town from the lower city.

13 Via San Lorenzino, Bergamo 24129, Italy (45.70124, 9.66302)



G Funicular Bergamo

Operating since 1887, this historical cable railway provides a direct link between the modern lower town and the medieval center of the Upper Town.

Piazza Mercato delle Scarpe, 1, 24129 Bergamo, Province of Bergamo, Italy (45.70282, 9.66542)

H Castello di San Vigilio

Situated at the city's highest point, this medieval castle served as a strategic military outpost and residence for Bergamo's rulers for centuries.

Via al Castello, 24129 Bergamo BG, Italy (45.70922, 9.65085)



I Bergamo Cathedral

Bergamo Cathedral is a Roman Catholic cathedral in Bergamo, Italy, dedicated to Saint Alexander of Bergamo, patron saint of the city.

Duomo di Bergamo, Piazza Duomo, Bergamo, Lombardy 24100, Italy (45.70329, 9.66294)

cattedraledibergamo.it, +39 35 21 02 23



J Accademia Carrara

The Accademia Carrara,, officially Accademia Carrara di Belle Arti di Bergamo, is an art gallery and an academy of fine arts in Bergamo, in...

Via San Tomaso 82, 24121 Bergamo (45.70425, 9.67581)

Mo	10:00–19:00
Tu	10:00–13:00
We–Th	10:00–19:00
Fr–Su	10:00–20:00

lacarrara.it, +39 035 234396



K Campanone

This 12th-century civic tower stands 52 meters tall and traditionally rings its bell 100 times every night at 10 PM to signal the historic closing of the city gates.

Piazza Padre Reginaldo Giuliani, 24112 Bergamo BG, Italy (45.70393, 9.66230)

Mo	Closed
Tu–Fr	10:00–18:00
Sa–Su	10:00–20:00

museodellestorie.bergamo.it/luogo/cam..., +39 035 247116



L Palazzo della Ragione

One of Italy's oldest communal palaces, this 12th-century building features a ground-floor loggia with an 18th-century solar meridian and historical frescoes.

8 Piazza Duomo, Bergamo 24129, Italy (45.70365, 9.66259)



M Donizetti Theatre

The Teatro Donizetti is an opera house in Bergamo, Italy. Built in the 1780s using a design by architect Giovanni Francesco Lucchini, the...

15 Piazza Camillo Benso Conte di Cavour, Bergamo 24121, Italy (45.69550, 9.67158)

gaetano-donizetti.com/DoniPortal/homePageProcess.jsp



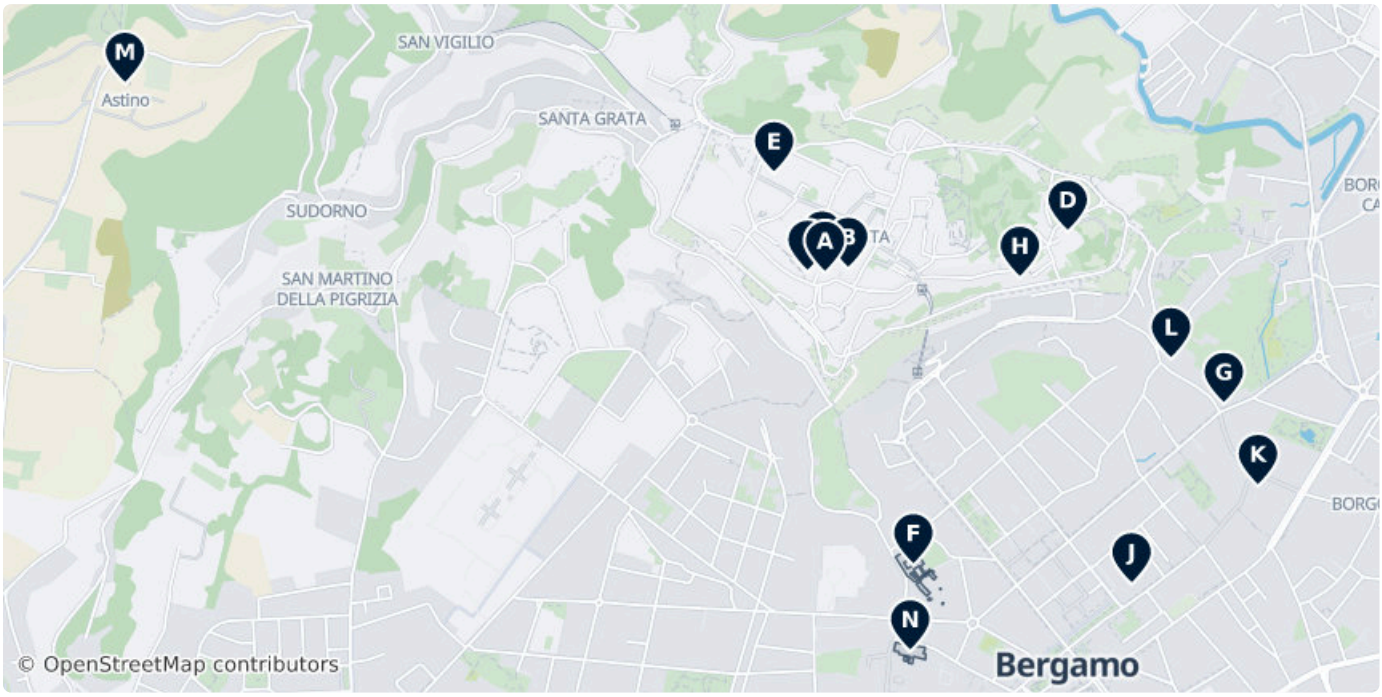
N Torre dei Caduti

A 45-meter memorial tower in the Lower Town built in the 1920s to honor fallen soldiers of World War I, featuring a clock and panoramic viewing platform.

8 Piazza Vittorio Veneto, Bergamo 24122, Italy (45.69535, 9.66914)

Churches and Shrines

Bergamo's spiritual landscape is defined by architectural landmarks spanning centuries. The Upper Town features the Romanesque Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore with its Renaissance Colleoni Chapel and the octagonal Tempietto di Santa Croce. In the Lower Town, Baroque churches like Sant'Alessandro in Colonna and Sant'Alessandro della Croce house significant religious artworks. Notable sites include San Michele al Pozzo Bianco with its Lorenzo Lotto frescoes and the tranquil Astino Abbey, reflecting the city's evolution from medieval strongholds to ornate Renaissance and Baroque centers.





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fondazionemia.it/it/basilica, +39 35 22 33 27



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cattedraledibergamo.it, +39 35 21 02 23



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Piazza del Duomo, 24129 Bergamo BG, Italy
(45.70343, 9.66211)

lombardiabeniculturali.it/architetture/sch..., +39 35 210 061



D San Michele al Pozzo Bianco

San Michele al Pozzo Bianco is a church in the upper town of Bergamo, on a small piazza of the same name, near Porta Sant'Agostino, on Via...

43 Via Porta Dipinta, Bergamo 24129, Italy
(45.70411, 9.66990)

chiesa-di-san-michele-al-pozzo-bianco.business.site



E Church of Sant'Agata nel Carmine

Originally a 14th-century Gothic structure, this church was extensively remodeled in the 18th century. It features a Baroque interior housing significant paintings by Giovan Battista Moroni and Enea Salmeggia, and is part of a complex that once served as a Carmelite monastery.

Via Bartolomeo Colleoni, 19, 24129 Lombardy, Italy
(45.70541, 9.66059)



F San Benedetto, Bergamo

San Benedetto is a Renaissance-style, Roman Catholic church in Bergamo, Italy.

49E Via Sant'Alessandro, Bergamo 24122, Italy
(45.69674, 9.66500)



G Chiesa di San Bernardino in Pignolo

A 15th-century church located in the Pignolo district, most notable for housing Lorenzo Lotto’s 1521 masterpiece, 'Madonna and Child with Saints.' The interior reflects a mix of Renaissance and Baroque styles, showcasing the artistic wealth of Bergamo's historic noble quarters.

4 Via San Giovanni, Bergamo 24121, Italy
(45.70030, 9.67485)



H Sant'Andrea, Bergamo

Sant'Andrea is a Neoclassic church in Bergamo, rebuilt by Ferdinando Crivelli in 1837.

35 Via Porta Dipinta, Bergamo 24129, Italy
(45.70309, 9.66838)



I Tempietto di Santa Croce

The Tempietto di Santa Croce is a small octagonal Romanesque chapel found in the upper city of Bergamo, near the Santa Maria Maggiore.

4 Via San Salvatore, Bergamo 24129, Italy
(45.70323, 9.66165)



J Chiesa di San Bartolomeo

This 17th-century church in Bergamo’s lower city is home to the 'Martinengo Altarpiece' by Lorenzo Lotto, the artist's largest work in the city. The Baroque interior also contains notable 18th-century frescoes and intricate wooden choir stalls.

5 Via Torquato Tasso, Bergamo 24121, Italy
(45.69632, 9.67193)



K Santo Spirito, Bergamo

Santo Spirito is a Roman Catholic church located on piazzetta Santo Spirito in Bergamo, region of Lombardy, Italy.

2 Piazzetta Santo Spirito, Bergamo 24121, Italy (45.69849, 9.67593)



L Sant'Alessandro della Croce, Bergamo

Sant'Alessandro della Croce is a Baroque style, Roman Catholic church located on Via Pignolo in Bergamo, region of Lombardy, Italy.

83 Via Pignolo, Bergamo 24121, Italy (45.70130, 9.67317)

parrocchiadipignolo.it



M Astino Abbey

Astino Abbey is a former Roman Catholic monastery in the Astino Valley, in the Province of Bergamo, region of Lombardy, Italy.

13 Via Astino, 24129, Italy (45.70739, 9.64002)



N Sant'Alessandro in Colonna

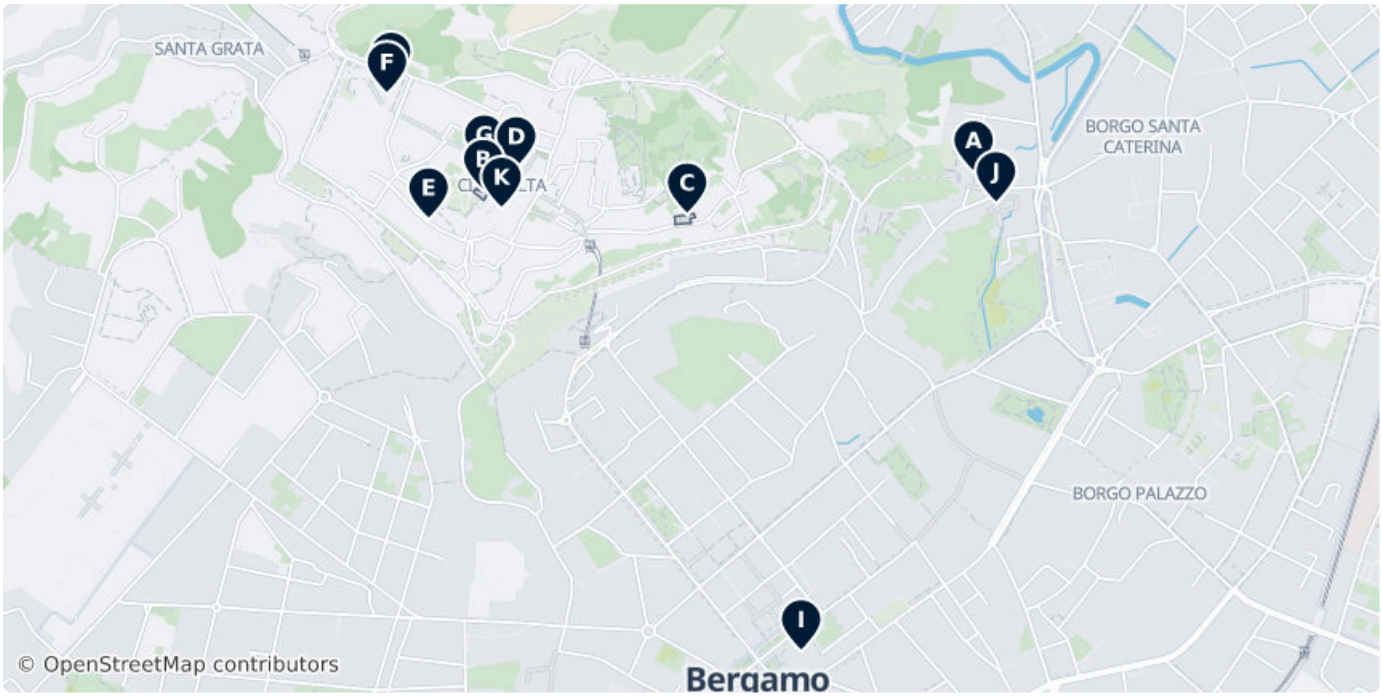
Sant'Alessandro in Colonna is a Baroque style, Roman Catholic church located on Via Sant'Alessandro in Bergamo, region of Lombardy, Italy.

15 Via Borfuro, Bergamo 24122, Italy (45.69483, 9.66491)

santalessandroincolonna.it

Art & Culture in Bergamo

Bergamo's cultural landscape spans from the Renaissance masterpieces at the Accademia Carrara to the contemporary exhibitions at GAMeC. The upper town, or Città Alta, hosts historic venues like the 19th-century Teatro Sociale and the Palazzo del Podestà, which features interactive exhibits on 16th-century Venetian history. Musical heritage centers on composer Gaetano Donizetti, honored at both his namesake theater and museum. Specialized collections include the Civic Museum of Natural Science and the Archaeological Museum, both located within the historic Piazza Cittadella.





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Tu	10:00–13:00
We–Th	10:00–19:00
Fr–Su	10:00–20:00

lacarrara.it, +39 035 234396



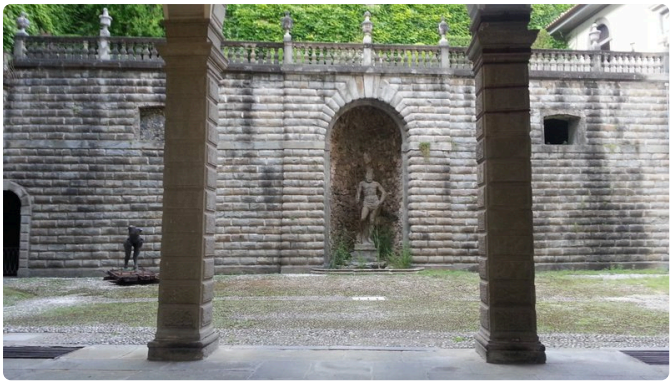
B Palazzo del Podestà, Museo del Cinquecento

Located on Piazza Vecchia, this museum features interactive exhibits focusing on 16th-century Bergamo during the period of Venetian rule.

Piazza Vecchia, 24112 Bergamo BG, Italy (45.70388, 9.66236)

Sa–Su	10:00–19:00

museodellestorie.bergamo.it/luogo/pala..., +39 035 247116



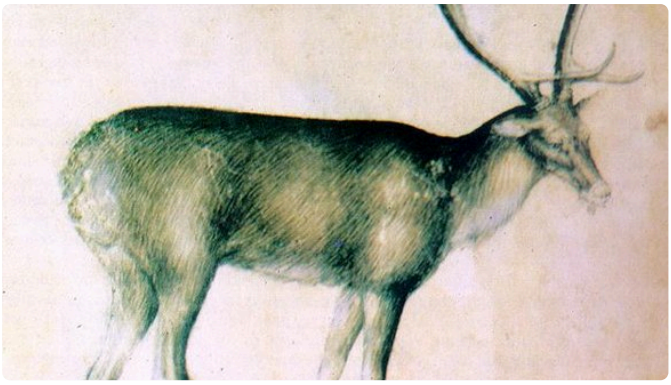
C Palazzo Moroni, Bergamo

The Palazzo Moroni is a palace located on Via Porta #12 in the historic center of the upper town of Bergamo, Italy.

14B Via Porta Dipinta, Bergamo 24129, Italy (45.70343, 9.66795)

We–Su	10:00–18:00

fondoambiente.it/luoghi/palazzo-moroni, +39 035 0745270



D Biblioteca Civica Angelo Mai

est. 1760) of , , is a founded by . Its headquarters occupy the Palazzo Nuovo di Bergamo on the Piazza Vecchia.

15 Piazza Vecchia, Bergamo 24129, Italy (45.70432, 9.66326)

bibliotecamai.org



E Donizetti Museum

The Donizetti Museum is a cultural site in Bergamo, in Lombardy, Italy.

Via Arena 9, 24129 Bergamo (45.70334, 9.66085)

Mo	Open
Tu–Fr	10:00–13:00
Sa–Su	10:00–13:00, 15:00–18:00

museodellestorie.bergamo.it/luogo/mus..., +39 035 247116



F Natural History Museum

Civic Museum of Natural Science Enrico Caffi is a natural history museum in Bergamo, Italy.

Piazza della Cittadella 10, 24129 Bergamo (45.70574, 9.65971)

Mo	Closed
Sa–Su	09:30–17:30

museoscienzebergamo.it/web/, +39 035 286011



G Teatro Sociale

An 1808 theater designed by architect Leopoldo Pollack. Located in the Città Alta, it hosts opera, drama, and concerts within its restored historic interior.

Via Bartolomeo Colleoni 4 (45.70435, 9.66238)

teatrodonizetti.it/it/il-teatro-sociale-bergamo/



H Archaelogical Museum

Housed in the 14th-century Palazzo della Cittadella, this museum displays artifacts ranging from the prehistoric era to the Lombard period, documenting Bergamo's ancient origins.

Piazza della Cittadella 9, 24129 Bergamo (45.70594, 9.65982)

Th–Fr	09:00–13:00, 14:00–17:00
Sa–Su	10:00–13:00, 14:00–17:30

museoarcheologicobergamo.it, +39 035 286070



I Teatro Donizetti

The Teatro Donizetti is an opera house in Bergamo, Italy. Built in the 1780s using a design by architect Giovanni Francesco Lucchini, the...

15 Piazza Camillo Benso Conte di Cavour, Bergamo 24121, Italy (45.69507, 9.67108)

teatrodonizetti.it/it/teatro-donizetti-bergamo/

J Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea

Located in a restored 15th-century monastery, this gallery hosts temporary exhibitions of contemporary art alongside a permanent collection of 20th-century Italian works.

Via San Tomaso 53, 24121 Bergamo (45.70365, 9.67643)

Mo	15:00–19:00
Tu	Closed
We–Fr	15:00–19:00
Sa–Su	10:00–19:00

gamec.it, +39 035 270272

Museo e Tesoro della Cattedrale

Situated beneath the Cathedral of Sant'Alessandro, this museum reveals archaeological remains of paleo-Christian churches and displays a collection of sacred art and liturgical treasures.

Piazza Duomo, 24129 Bergamo (45.70354, 9.66286)

Th	15:00–19:00
Fr	10:00–13:00, 15:00–19:00
Sa–Su	10:00–13:00, 14:00–19:00

fondazionebernareggi.it/it/museo-della-... , +39 035 219893

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