

The museums

National gallery

Started by the Dukes of Parma, Don Philip and Don Ferdinand of Bourbon, it was subsequently enriched by the acquisitions made by Marie Louise of Austria, Duchess of Parma, thereby originating the important collections of the picture gallery. The collections currently include works by Alessandro Araldi, Correggio, Parmigianino, Tintoretto, Annibale and Ludovico Caracci, Lanfranco, Canaletto, Da Vinci.

Farnese theatre

The Farnese theatre, a wooden masterpiece by Giovan Battista Aleotti, was built between 1618 and 1619 at the order of Ranuccio I with the aim to pay homage to Cosimo II de Medici, who had planned to stop in Parma during a journey towards Milan.

It was built in the former arms room of Pilotta palace and was opened in 1628 for the wedding of Margherita de Medici

and Duke Odoardo Farnese.

Chamber of San Paolo

Located in the former Monastery of Saint Paul, the chamber of the Abbess Giovanna Piacenza is a fresco by Correggio decorated in 1519. The room presents the illusion of a pergola with festoons of fruit held up by ribbons and an umbrella vault is divided into 16 segments by late Gothic ribs. The visit includes the room with frescoes by Alessandro Araldi.

Stuard gallery

This art gallery houses the most important private collection in the city, more than 270 paintings from the 14th to the 19th century, left in 1834 by will of Giuseppe Stuard to the Congregation of San Filippo Neri. The collection,

from the 14th and 15th century until the 20th, develops through twenty-two rooms and it includes different works of art and painting.

Museum Giordano Ferrari Puppets castle



Farnese theatre

sive and funny tour along the museum halls where are on display puppets, marionettes, scenographies, stage stuff and posters.



Santa Croce square

corations of the cross vault and the dome with the Transit of San Giovanni, the Fathers of the Church and the Evangelists on the pendentives.

Sanctuary of Santa Maria della Steccata

This outstanding Renaissance

House of Music and House of Sound

The House of Music houses the multimedia museum entitled Opera on stage. A journey into the music theatre in Parma through objects, posters, pictures, videos, music and information technology presenting four centuries of opera in Parma. The House of Sound displays a rich collection of communication devices and sound players, from phonographs to mp3 gathered by don Giovanni Patané, who collected more than 400 items including a wide range of crystal set, vintage, professional, military and standard radios.

Bithplace and Museum of Arturo Toscanini

The birthplace of the famous orchestra director Arturo Toscanini, on the west side of the river in the modest district called Oltretorrente, turned into museum in 1967, on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Old pharmacy of San Giovanni

The pharmacy can be found within the walls of the Monastery of San Giovanni and it was probably opened in 1201. It consists of three rooms, each of which contains wooden shelves, frescoes and ancient tools.

Diocesan museum

The museum houses significant archaeological finds of the Cathedral, Baptistery and Bishop's palace. Among the Middle age objects of the exhibition can be seen pieces of the Cathedral, four marbled lions and six original statues from the external niches of the Baptistery. The museum also holds the statue of the angel Raffaele replaced with a copy on the top of the tower bell of the Cathedral.

Costantinian museum

The most beautiful Renaissance church of Parma, the Sanctuary of Steccata,



Angel of dawn

on the reign of Marie Louise of Austria, with pieces of furniture, diaries, garments, jewels, documents and Bourbon curiosities. The museum also displays watercolours, engravings and painting of the 19th century, french painting of the 18th century and the Petitot collection.

National Archaeological museum

The collections are currently displayed on two floors: the first floor houses the finds from Veleja as well as the non-local Greek, Roman and Etruscan sculptures, ceramics, glassware and coins; the ground floor houses the pre and protohistoric sections and the one concerning Parma and the surrounding area in the Roman period.

Bodoni museum

The museum is entirely devoted to the typographer Giambattista Bodoni, who invented new typographical characters, later known as Bodonian, and as the head of Parma Royal Printing Works from 1768, managed to transform it in an international printing centre endowed with excellent quality standards. The most precious work is certainly the greek version of Iliad printed in 1808.

Amedeo Bocchi museum

The museum is dedicated to the parmesan painter Amedeo Bocchi, opened in 1999, it is hosted in the restored rooms of the ancient Sanvitale palace. The museum is now displayed through an itinerary that is mainly chronological, in order to follow and discover the artistic life of Bocchi.

Natural history museum

Established in 1764 by J.B. Fourcault, the museum preserves the Vittorio Botteggi Zoological Collection, with over 600 specimens from Eritrea, including madrepore coral from the Gulf of Massawa.

Chinese art and ethnographic museum

Located in the Institute of the Saveriani missionaries, the museum offers a panoramic view on the chinese artistic world through a collection of ceramics, bronze items, paintings and everyday objects. The ethnographic section displays works from Japan, Indonesia, Brazil, Mexico and Africa.

buttresses at regular intervals, the Annunciation is celebrated on the Friars' commission above the main portal.

Church of Santa Maria del Quartiere

This votive church stands in the centre of an area known as Quartiere since the times it used to house a military garrison. Its hexagonal plan with rectangular chapels was designed in 17th century by G.B. Aleotti and later modified by G.B. Magnani.

Church of Santa Croce

The church of Santa Croce, was built in the early decades of 12th century along the path of pilgrims bound to Rome following the Francigena route. It was altered in 1415 and radically transformed in the 17th century, traces of the original building can still be seen in the capitals of the pillars of the three naves.



Useful numbers

Comune Amico City hall

Tel. +39 0521 40521
www.comune.parma.it

Duc Municipal offices

Tel. +39 0521 031788 - 031786

Municipal police

Strada del Taglio, 8/a
Tel. +39 0521 218730 - 218740

Giuseppe Verdi Airport

Via dell'Aeroporto, 44
Tel. +39 0521 982626
www.parma-airport.it/italiano

Fairs of Parma

Via Rizzi, 67/a località Baganzola
Tel. +39 0521 9961
www.fiereparma.it

Central post office

Via Pisacane, 1
Tel. +39 0521 222412

Radio Taxi

Tel. +39 0521 252562

Infomobility

parking and traffic info
Viale Mentana, 29
Tel. +39 0521 1680211
www.infomobility.pr.it

Bikes rental

Parma Punto Bici
Viale Toschi, 2
Tel. +39 0521 281979

Police station

Tel. +39 0521 2194

Sanitary emergency

118

Firemen station

115

Carabinieri

112

Police

113

The churches

Cathedral

Dedicated to the Virgin Mary, can be considered one of the finest examples of Romanesque architecture in Italy. It was erected around the year 1059 and consecrated in 1106. The façade is made from blocks of sandstone and decorated with a row of loggias and two tiers of galleries. The bell tower is topped by a copy of a gilt copper angel, whose original is at the Diocesan museum. The interior of the Cathedral is shaped on a Latin cross. The ceiling and walls are frescoed in the Mannerist style. A 16th century red Verona marble staircase leads up to the transepts where, on the right, is the famous relief of the Deposition by Benedetto Antelami, one of the finest examples of Romanesque sculpture. The great void of the dome was frescoed by Correggio in 1526 with the Assumption

of the Virgin. Concentric circles of clouds and heavenly hosts that inspired much of the Baroque work of the following century.

Monastery and Church of San Giovanni the Evangelist

It was built for the Benedictine order between 1498 and 1510 but its elaborate white marble Baroque façade contrasts with the Renaissance architecture of the cloisters and convent; the bell tower on the right side was added in 1613. The inside, in the shape of a Latin cross, has three nave columns and six chapels. A frieze with the Jewish and Pagan Sacrifice running along the central nave, was painted by Correggio and realized by F. M. Rondani. By Correggio are also the decorations of the hemipillars, the under side of the arch of the fifth chapel, San Paolo fallen from a horse, the de-

The monuments

Pilotta palace

This Farnese palace was designed not as a residence but as the headquarters for court and state services and its building began in 1583 under the Duke Ottavio Farnese. It was named after the game "pelota" that was played in one of the courtyards. It houses the National gallery, the Farnese theatre, the Archaeological museum, the Bodoni museum and the Palatina library.

Baptistry

Located beside the Cathedral, the Baptistry of Parma is one of the greatest examples of art in Italy. This octagonal monument, made of Verona marble with four tiers of open loggias topped by a row of blind arches and crowning pinnacles, is certainly the most outstanding example of the transi-

tion from Romanesque to Gothic art in Italy. Benedetto Antelami supervised its construction and executed almost all the decorative sculptures, typical of the medieval iconography. The lowest part is encircled by a zoophorus with bas-relief sculptures of animals, fabulous beasts, creatures from Hell, sea monsters, centaurs, mermaids, unicorns and Zodiac signs. In the interior are the notable sculptures by Benedetto Antelami depicting the Months, the Seasons and the Signs of Zodiac. Above the altar, in the semi-dome, is a Christ in Glory surrounded by the symbols of the four evangelists and two angels.

Nicola Bettoli, the Regio theatre was built between 1821 and 1829. The neoclassical facade has a portico with ten ionic columns, a double row of windows and decorations by Tommaso Bandini on both sides of the tympanum representing the allegories of Fame and the Lyre. It's the temple of the lirica.

Regio theatre

Commissioned by Marie Louise and designed by



Monument to Verdi-Pilotta palace

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Park and Ducal palace

The elaborated green architecture of the old trees in the Ducal Park was designed in 1560 and extended in the 18th century. Decorated with sculptures by J.B. Boudard, it was subsequently adapted to the French style. The Ducal palace was created by Vignola

in 16th century for Ottavio Farnese, later transformed and enlarged by Ennemond Petitot in the 18th century. It houses frescoes in the Mannerist style with 18th century stucco-works and 16th century frescoes by Jacopo Berroja and Agostino Carracci.

Palazzetto Eucherio Sanvitale

It is an H shaped building, with four corner towers connected by loggias and windows decorated with sandstone candlesticks. In the interior, recent restoration works have revealed fragments of 16th century frescoes by Parma school artists, depicting landscapes and still lifes.

Governor's palace

Seat of the Capitano del Popolo at the end of the 12th century, the palace is now how it was redesigned in 1760 by Ennemond Alexandre Petitot. It houses temporary exhibitions organized by the Municipality of Parma.

Auditorium Paganini

A former sugar factory built in 1899 and dilapidated since the end of the 60's, the Auditorium Paganini has been converted into a concert hall by famous architect Renzo Piano who turned it into a peculiar example of industrial archaeology. The Auditorium has a hall with 780 seats, a foyer, rehearsing rooms and offices.

Monumental cemetery of Villetta

Built in 1817 on the will of Marie Louise of Austria, the cemetery is an octagon with four long opposed sides and four short ones, it hosts graves of famous people, among the others, Niccolò Paganini.

Botanical garden

Created in 1770, it plays host to wonderful examples of botanical species, Bonsai collections, Pelargonium, old Roses. It also houses the didactical section of the Natural history museum.

Monument to Verdi

On the right side of the Pilotta palace sets the monument to Giuseppe Verdi, a big bronze plate by Ettore Ximenes created in the first years of the 20th century. The statues on the two façades recall scenes of the operas and episodes of the life of the Maestro.



Monument to Correggio



dogs. Structures of the ancient Cittadella can be noticed in the pentagonal shape and the main entrance in marble with an ashlar base, with a huge badge of Farnese on top.

Monumental Cemetery of Villetta

The monumental cemetery of the Villetta was built in 1817 on the will of Marie Louise of Austria, Duchess of Parma, after Napoleon's edict of

Curiosities

The **Gazzetta di Parma** contends with Mantova the record of the oldest newspaper in Italy: the first copy preserved is dated 19 April 1735, but probably it had already been printed. In the 18th century it was a leaflet reporting news from the european courts; from 1772 to 1779 it was printed by Giambattista Bodoni.

The **name Parma** probably derives from documented names of Etruscan tribes «Parmi» or «Parmnial», though the existence of an Etruscan village in the territory is not sure. According to others, the name comes from the latin word parma/parmae, a round shaped shield that was the equipment belonging to the infantry, that recalls the strategic function of the city.

For every city of the Duchy and for every kind of work were used

different unit of measurement and samples. At the beginning of the 19th century they were gradually replaced with the decimal metric system units and abolished with the Unification of Italy. A sample of local unit of measurement known as **“Brick of Parma”** can be seen on Piazza Garibaldi, on the right side of the Governor's palace, corner with Strada Cavour.

The **colour yellow Parma**, typical of the ducal city, still exists in two different shades: one dated back to the 18th century, of french origins and the other more intense, of the century after, arrived with Marie Louise and the Austrian age. The yellow used to colour villas and buildings has become darker and darker until the end of the 19th century. A few examples of the yellow palaces in Parma are the Regio theatre, the Riserva palace, the Governor's palace and the monumental cemetery of the Villetta.

the Villetta cemetery was the poet Angelo Mazza (1741 - 1817), now it hosts graves of famous people, among whom Niccolò Paganini, Ildebrando Pizzetti, General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, Pietro Barilla, Padre Lino Maupas, Paola Borboni. At the Villetta on some days of the year it is possible to have fascinating guided tours with musical moments on special themes.



Detail of Monumental Cemetery of Villetta

Parma take it easy

Parma is a city of art of the Pianura Padana with about 185.000 residents, its modest dimensions allow citizens and guests to appreciate the quiet side.

Parma is not only art, music and theatre, it is also life outdoor, strolling along pedestrian roads of the city centre, have a drink at one of the several cafes, moving around by bicycle along the many paths for bikes to reach quiet spaces surrounded by nature.

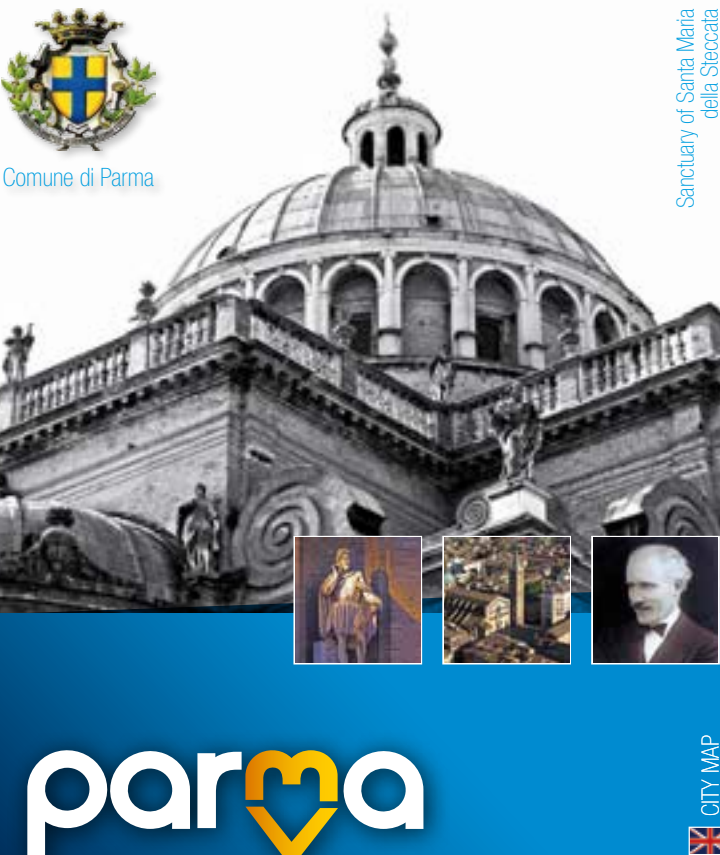
Ducal Park

The Ducal park can be considered the symbol of the city not only for its naturalistic side but also for the important historical-artistic remains that it preserves. Created around the half of the 16th century, it has a de-

sign that was based in origin on the established principles of the Italian garden with pergolas and orchards. A new design of the Garden was then commissioned to the architect Ennemond Alexandre Petitot, whose work was inspired by the elegance of French classicism. During the Duchy of Marie Louise of Hapsburg (1814-47) it was restored again to become a Municipal public Garden in 1886. At the entrance of the Garden there is the great étoile, the starting point for the main avenue running through the Park, flanked by horse-chestnuts, limes and plane-trees; on the background stands out the Fish pool. Noteworthy are also the sculptures and vases by Jean Baptiste Boudard, the Temple of Arcadia by Petitot and the Trianon fountain. In the park lies the ancient Ducal palace and the Eucherio Sanvitale palace.



Entrance to Cittadella Park



Comune di Parma

Sanctuary of Santa Maria della Steccata

parma

CITY MAP

Legend

- Tourist Information Office
- Payment parking
- Free exchange payments
- Public bills
- Traffic cameras
- Churches
- Pick up/drop off passengers for tourist coaches
- Parkings for tourist coaches
- Parking space for campers
- Parma Puntobici
- Universities
- Cinemas
- Theatres
- Commercial malls
- Swimming pools

Map scale: 1:8,500 (1 cm = 85 m)

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