

**STIG ALBECK**

# TRAVEL TO MILAN



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# Milan

Milan

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Milan

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Ciao Milano

## Travelling to Milan

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[www.Milano-infotourist.com](http://www.Milano-infotourist.com)

[www.regione.lombardia.it](http://www.regione.lombardia.it)

[www.enit.it](http://www.enit.it)

Milan is the dynamo of Italy, and it combines the Central European atmosphere with the mood of the Mediterranean.

Milan's history is a testimony to its central location on the Po plain's crossroads of the world. Roman ruins and old fortresses from its period as capital of Lombardy are some of the city's most fascinating attractions.

Milan's famous cathedral is the city's icon and definitely one of the attractions any visitor ought to see, but there are also other churches, art museums and the modern San Siro arena, one of Europe's true soccer cauldrons.

In the area surrounding Milan there are both interesting cultural cities and beautiful nature. Milan is not far from the Alps nor from the Mediterranean, and the lakes Lago di Como and Lago Maggiore, both surrounded by small, charming villages, are even closer.

Have a nice trip!

## Historical outline

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The Milan region has been inhabited for thousands of years, but it was only when the Celts settled the area around the River Po in 600 BC that a lasting development began.

The Romans defeated the Celts in 222 BC, and the city quickly gained significance in the Roman Empire as a link between Rome and north-western Europe.

Milan became more and more integrated in the Roman Empire, and after centuries of positive development it became capital of the region in the year 286. Milan kept growing after this and soon became Western Europe's most important city second only to Rome. In 313, Constantine made Christianity the official religion, and Milan's religious and cultural influence grew considerably. The Church also gained greater political power during this time.

The fall of the West Roman Empire in 476, meant that Milan was no longer a capital. The city was frequently attacked from the north, notably by the Goths. Milan allied itself with the enemies of the Goths in Byzantium, but lost. The Goths killed most of the city's population in 539 and Milan had to start its development all over.

Byzantium won back the city and surrounding area from the Goths in 568, but soon after the Langobards and the city of Pavia took over Milan. In this period there was no significant rebuilding of the city.

In 774, the Franks conquered the city and the Church once more ruled the city, which soon blossomed. Trade increased and a growing merchant class appeared, which created the foundation for Milan's further development. Milan became a city state in 1042, and it once again became the centre of the region.

The external foe was now the German-Roman Empire and its Emperor Barbarossa. In 1162, Barbarossa conquered Milan, and the city was completely destroyed for the second time. After the defeat, the Lombard League was formed with Milan at the head.

Subsequently Barbarossa was defeated by the Lombard League and the league members regained their independence.

For a period of several hundred years from the mid-13th century onwards, Milan was ruled by wealthy families: Torriani, Visconti and Sforza. The families erected large monuments and buildings, and they invited leading artists and architects to the city. Milan and its cultural life became leading in Italy, along with Florence, and the city's sphere of influence increased to include most of northern Italy.

The families in power were actively supporting art, culture and development, especially under Lodovico Sforza at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. These priorities attracted artists like Leonardo da Vinci to Milan.

The following years, Italy and Milan fell into a recession. The other Powers in Europe had grown stronger and Milan came under frequent attack. In 1535, Milan became a province in the Spanish Empire of Karl V

Spain built fortifications around Milan and the population increased, but the economy was still stagnating, and when the city was hit by the plague in 1630, the economy plunged and the population was halved.

The War of the Spanish Succession weakened Spain's control of Milan, and in 1706 Austria invaded the city. Milan quickly regained strength under the Austrians, especially in the cultural area. In 1796, Napoleon conquered the city. Under Napoleon, Milan became capital of the Cisalpine Republic, and Napoleon was crowned in its cathedral. After the fall of Napoleon, Milan again came under Austrian control until 1859.

At this time, there was an increasing nationalist sentiment in Italy, and in 1860 Milan joined the Kingdom of Italy.

Austria had left Milan with a good infrastructure, and the once more Italian city soon became the economic centre of the country. The population increased drastically with the industrialisation, and the city grew in size.

During the 2nd World War, Milan came into the historical focus. Mussolini's movement started there, the city sustained heavy bombardment because of its large industry and Mussolini was captured and executed in Milan in 1945.

Due to the general industrialisation after the war, Milan quickly started developing again, and the entire region became one of Europe's leading regions, which it still is today.

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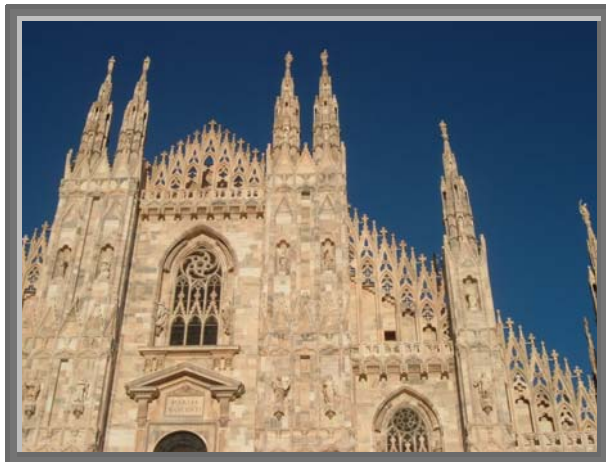
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## Trip 1: Milan

### 1. The Cathedral/Duomo



#### **Piazza del Duomo**

[www.duomoMilan.it](http://www.duomoMilan.it)

#### **Metropolitana: Duomo**

Milan's cathedral, with its five ships, its statues and its spire, is a unique sight. Its impressive dimensions are only surpassed by St Peter's Church in Rome and the Cathedral of Seville.

The cathedral's ground plan measures 158x92, the central ship is 45 metres tall and the tallest spire is 108 metres. The gilded statue of Maria, La Madonnina, measures 4.2 metres and the large church room accommodates 40,000 people.

The church was founded in 1386 on an initiative from Duke Gian Galeazzo Visconti, but it took almost 500 years before the building was completed in 1858. The style is Gothic, but the impressive facade, designed around the year 1800, contains other elements, mainly Baroque.

There is much to see both inside and outside. Thousands of statues adorn the cathedral and it is possible to get up on the roof and view the many towers and spires from there.

Inside the church, the more than 20 metres high stained-glass window in the apse is very impressive, as is the crucifix above the altar. There are also various cenotaphs for arch bishops, some beautiful altars by Pellegrino Pellegrini and Marco d'Agrates and a sculpture by St Bartholomew.

### 2. The Cathedral Museum/ Museo del Duomo

#### **Piazza del Duomo**

[www.duomoMilan.it](http://www.duomoMilan.it)

#### **Metropolitana: Duomo**

The Cathedral Museum details the 500-year history of the cathedral's construction, as well as some of the everyday life and activities around it. There are also various works of art, which are not on display in the church itself for one reason or another. The museum was founded in 1953, but the concept was formed in the 19th century.

### 3. The Royal Palace/Palazzo Reale





### Piazza del Duomo

[www.comune.Milan.it/palazzoreale](http://www.comune.Milan.it/palazzoreale)

#### Metropolitana: Duomo

Palazzo Reale was, as the name suggests, the residence of Milan's rulers, who count among them Austrian arch dukes.

The original building was from the 11th century, but after an almost complete rebuilding, the palace as it stands today was opened in 1778. Today, the palace hosts various exhibitions.

### 4. Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II



### Piazza del Duomo

#### Metropolitana: Duomo

Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II is Milan's most distinguished shopping arcade. It was designed in 1861, built in 1865-1877 and named in honour of the united Italy's first king.

The building is in typical 19<sup>th</sup> century arcade style, with monumental entrances and glass roof covered by a large glass dome.

If a visitor turns two times on his heel on the image of the bull in the floor mosaic in the arcade square, it will bring good luck and guarantee his return to Milan.

### 5. Scala Square/Piazza della Scala



### Piazza della Scala

#### Metropolitana: Duomo

Scala Square is one of Milan's central squares, and it is surrounded by interesting buildings. One of the arcades in Galleria Vittorio, Emanuele II, opens into the square. The 16th century palace, Palazzo Marino, is also located there. It was built for the Marino Family in 1557-1563, and it is the home of Milan's local government.

At the centre of the square, there is a statue of Leonardo da Vinci from 1872. Da Vinci was working in the city from 1482 to 1499.

### 5a. The Scala Theatre/Teatro alla Scala



[www.teatroallascala.org](http://www.teatroallascala.org)

Teatro alla Scala, or just "La Scala", is one of the most famous opera houses in the world. It opened in 1778 with a performance of Antonio Salieris opera in two acts; *Europa riconosciuta*. There is room for about 2,000 spectators in the beautiful theatre, which is adorned with gilded wood and red velvet.

La Scala replaced the Teatro Ducale, which burned down in 1776, and its name is derived from the church Santa Maria, or della Scala, which previously stood there. The design was approved by Empress Maria Theresia.

Scala's theatre museum, Museo Teatrale alla Scala, is visible from the hall. The museum exhibits various historical effects, such as costumes and paintings.

**6. Church of San Fedele/  
Chiesa di San Fedele**



**Piazza San Fedele**  
[www.sanfedele.net](http://www.sanfedele.net)

**Metropolitana: Duomo**

The Church of San Fedele is a Jesuit church, built in the 1550s. It is an interesting example of the building style of the opponents of the Reformation, and it also holds various works of art.

**7. The Poldi Pezzoli Museum/  
Museo Poldi Pezzoli**



**Via Alessandro Manzoni 12**

[www.museopoldipezzoli.it](http://www.museopoldipezzoli.it)

**Metropolitana: Montenapoleone**

The Poldi Pezzoli Museum has one of Milan's finest collections of art and various historical articles. The collection was established in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the noble Poldi Pezzoli, and the exhibits date as far back as the time of Ancient Rome.

Numerous Italian artists, as well as other European painters are represented among the exhibited works of art.

The museum building used to be Poldi Pezzoli's home, and it gives a good impression of the way of life of the Milanese aristocracy 200 years ago.

### 8. The Brera Pinachotek/ Pinacoteca di Brera



**Via Brera 28**

**[www.brera.beniculturali.it](http://www.brera.beniculturali.it)**

**Metropolitana: Montenapoleone**

This museum has one of Italy's finest art collections, with masterpieces by artists such as Raphael. All the main schools of art between the 13th and 20th centuries are represented.

The museum is situated in the Baroque palace, Palazzo Brera, which was a Jesuit monastery from 1572. In 1773, the monastery was dissolved, and in 1776 the Brera Academy of Art, Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera, was established, and the acquisition of artworks, notably from closed North Italian monasteries, began at a rapid pace.

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[www.job.oticon.dk](http://www.job.oticon.dk)

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## Trip 2: Milan

### 9. Sforza Castle/Castello Sforzesco



#### **Piazza Castello**

[www.Milancastello.it](http://www.Milancastello.it)

**Metropolitana: Cairoli/Cadorna/Lanza**

Castello Sforzesco is a “real” castle with a moat, walls and towers in an impressive complex, which, along with the cathedral, is Milan’s icon.

The original castle was built by the Vicente Family as a fortress in the 1360s, but, as the name suggests, it was the later Sforza Family that moved in there. In 1450, Francesco Sforza rebuilt and extended the complex, and later generations also made various changes.

The entrance to the castle is via the Filarete tower, Torre del Filarete, from 1521, which was rebuilt in honour of King Umberto in 1900-1905. Behind the tower, it is possible to go for a walk around the grounds or visit the various parts where some of the city’s museums are located. Visitors also have access to halls decorated with tapestries and frescos from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The art museum, Pinacoteca del Castello Sforzesco, holds some of the greatest attractions, such as Michelangelo’s last sculpture and several of Leonardo da Vinci’s manuscripts.

In the square in front of the castle, Piazza Castello, a number of 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings in Monumental style are arranged in a semi-circle.

### 10. Parco Sempione



#### **Viale Molière/Viale Gerolamo Gadio**

[www.triennale.it](http://www.triennale.it)

[www.acquariocivico.mi.it](http://www.acquariocivico.mi.it)

**Metropolitana: Cadorna/Lanza**

The beautiful park, Parco Sempione, lies next to Castello Sforzesco, and there is a beautiful view of the castle. It was laid out in 1893 in English landscape style with a lake at the centre.

One of the buildings in the park is the Palace of Art, Palazzo dell’Arte, built in 1933 to accommodate Milan’s Triennale, which hosts exhibitions of Modern art, industrial art and handicraft. Milan’s aquarium, Acquario Civico, is also found in the park..

## 11. Arena Civica

**Viale Giorgio Byron 2**

**Metropolitana: Lanza/Moscova**

The stadium, Arena Civica, is inspired by the Ancient Roman arenas. It was built in a neo-Classical style and opened in 1807. It is situated close by Castello Sforzesco, so the castle could form the backdrop of public celebrations as opposed to war.

## 12. Arc of the Peace/Arco della Pace

**Piazza Sempione**

**Metropolitana: Cadorna/Moscova**

At the end of Parco Sempione, stands the Arco della Pace. It was inaugurated in 1838 in memory of the European peace agreement at the Congress of Vienna in 1815, signalling the end of the Napoleonic Wars. The arc was originally meant as a monument over Napoleon's victories.

## 13. Corso Sempione

**Corso Sempione**

**Metropolitana: Cadorna/Moscova**

Corso Sempione begins at the Arc of the Peace and Sforza Castle. It was built during the time of Napoleon as a Milanese counterpart to Champs Elysées, with a triumphal arc as its icon. The shady boulevard is a nice place for a walk.

## 14. Cimitero Monumentale



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### Piazzale Cimitero Monumentale

[www.monumentale.net](http://www.monumentale.net)

**Metropolitana: Garibaldi FS**

As the name suggests, Cimitero Monumentale is a monumental churchyard. It opened in 1866, and in addition to the impressive entrance there are Greek temples, classical sculptures, obelisks and various other works of art, such as a scale model of Trajan's Column, Colonna di Traiano, from Rome.

The entrance is the Temple of Fame, Famedio, which is a colossal building of marble and stone, serving as a grave for some of Italy's most revered figures.

Many famous people have been buried in this churchyard. Notably, Eva Perón lay buried there between 1955-1971 under the name María Maggi.



## Trip 3: Milan

### 15. The St Ambrogio Basilica/Basilica



**Sant' Ambrogio**

**Piazza Sant' Ambrogio**

<http://santambrogio-basilica.it>

**Metropolitana: Sant' Ambrogio**

This basilica is one of Milan's oldest churches. It was originally built by a bishop in the years 379-386 and called Basilica Matyrum because many martyrs had been buried there.

It has since been extended several times, and the present Roman-style buildings were finished in 1099. The architecture is typical Lombardian-Roman, and the result is very impressive. The smallest of the two towers is from the 9<sup>th</sup> century, while the tallest was built in 1144 and extended in 1889.

The pleasant yard with a view to the two towers, the large church room, the mosaic and a sarcophagus from the 5<sup>th</sup> century are a few of the many historical attraction at St Ambrogio. In addition there is the grave of Emperor Ludovico II from 875 inside the church.

### 16. Università Cattolica

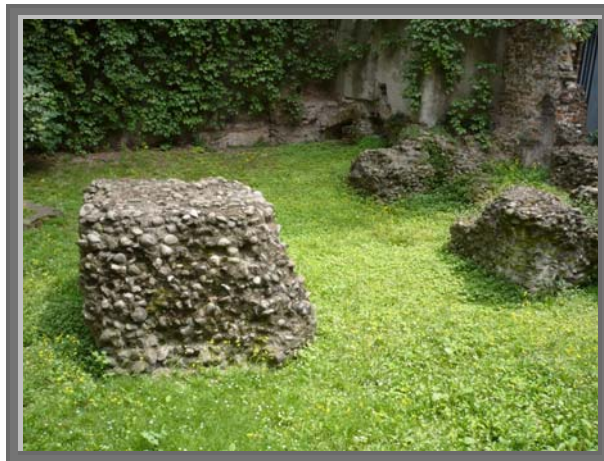
**Largo A. Gemelli 1**

[www.unicatt.it](http://www.unicatt.it)

**Metropolitana: Sant-Ambrogio**

Behind the St Ambrogio Basilica stands the church's monastery complex from the 15th century. In 1921, Milan's Catholic university moved into the beautiful facilities, with the delightful inner courtyards and impressive cloisters.

### 17. The Circus/Circo



**Via Circo**

**Metropolitana: Sant' Ambrogio**

The most important cities in the Roman Empire all had a circus; an arena where the Emperor could receive the homage of the people. Milan was one of two cities in Northern Italy that had a circus. The impressive facility was almost 500 metres long and 80 metres wide, and it is thought to have been built by Emperor Maximian in the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

Today, there is not much left of the circus, which was situated between the current Corso Magenta to the north Via Circo to the south, Via Cappuccio to the west and Via Brisa and Via Morigi to the east.

### 18. Roman Ruins in Via Brisa/ Resti romani di Via Brisa

**Via Brisa**

**Metropolitana: Cardona**

Visitors to Via Brisa can see the preserved remnants of Emperor Maximian's residential palace, built in the 4th century when Milan was capital of the West-Roman Empire. It is thought that the palace spanned an area between the current Via Meravigli and Via Torino.



## 19. The Archaeological Museum/Civico Museo Archeologico

**Corso Magenta 15**

**Metropolitana: Cadorna**

Milan's Archaeological Museum has various interesting exhibitions. The main attraction is the exhibition about Milan at the time of Ancient Rome, but the collection of Greek and Etruscan ceramics and the antique coin collection are also interesting.

## 20. The Litta Palace/Palazzo Litta



**Corso Magenta 24**

[www.teatrolitta.it](http://www.teatrolitta.it)

**Metropolitana: Cadorna**

The Litta Palace was built as residence for Count Bartolomeo Arese in 1642-1648. Since Arese was one of Milan's most important families, the Litta Palace became a place of culture and entertainment.

By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, there were no more male heirs in the Arese Family and the palace was taken over by

the Litta Family, who rebuilt parts of it. The present facade was built in 1752-1761.

The palace is exquisitely furnished, and today it contains part of the Italian State Railways' administration. The palace also houses Milan's oldest theatre, Teatro Litta di Milano.

## 21. Santa Maria delle Grazie



**Piazza Santa Maria delle Grazie 2**

[www.cenacolovinciano.it](http://www.cenacolovinciano.it)

**Metropolitana: Cadorna**

Santa Maria delle Grazie is a church and monastery complex, built on an initiative by Duke Francesco I Sforza. Construction began in 1463 and was completed in 1469. The church was completed in 1490, and its exterior is quite different from Milan's other churches. Inside, there many decorations and frescos dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, among them Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, "The Last Supper"/Il Cenacolo. It was painted in 1495-1498, while da Vinci lived in Milan, and it measures 8.8 x 4.6 metres. It is on display in the refectory.

22. San Siro



**Via Piccolomini 5**

[www.sansiro.net](http://www.sansiro.net)

[www.sansirotour.com](http://www.sansirotour.com)

[www.acmilan.com](http://www.acmilan.com)

[www.inter.it](http://www.inter.it)

**Metropolitana: Lotto Fiera 2**

San Siro is the popular name of the Stadio Giuseppe Meazza. This stadium is homeground for two of Italy’s most succesful football clubs, A.C. Milan and F.C. Internazionale (Inter).

The Stadium celebrated its opening in 1926 with a match in which Inter beat A.C. Milan 6-3. San Siro has undergone several extensions and today it accomodates more than 80,000 spectators. With its steep stands, it is said to have a unique atmosphere during matches.

The Stadium also has a museum (entrance in gate 14), and guided tours of the impressive facility.

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## Trip 4: Milan

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### 23. Biblioteca & Pinacoteca Ambrosiana



**Piazza Pio XI 2**

[www.ambrosiana.it](http://www.ambrosiana.it)

**Metropolitana: Duomo**

Biblioteca Ambrosiana

Is a historical library in Milan, which also houses the art collection Pinacoteca Ambrosiana. The library was founded by Cardinal Federico Borromeo around the year 1600, and he had his agents buy books and manuscripts from all over the world. Entire libraries were bought and new works were constantly added to the collection.

Construction of the library building was begun in 1603, and the first public reading room, Sala Fredericiana, was opened in 1609, which made this library the second public library in Europe.

The art collection was made public in 1618, after 7 years of preparation. The collection has many works from the 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries

### 24. Chiesa di Santa Maria presso San Satiro



**Via Falcone**

**Metropolitana: Duomo/Missori**

This church was built in 1472-1482 in a spot where a small place for prayer had existed since 879. The architect, Donato Bramante, was one of the people involved in building the church, and he created the sacristy, which is the church's largest attraction. The special thing about the sacristy is that there was no room for the planned extension. Instead, Bramante painted an illusion, a so-called trompe l'oeil, one of the first in art history.

## 25. The San Lorenzo Maggiore Basilica/Basilica di San Lorenzo Maggiore



### **Corsa di Porta Ticinese** **Metropolitana: Missori**

The San Lorenzo Maggiore Basilica was founded around the year 370, and it is one of the earliest church buildings in the world. Much of the construction has been preserved in the original Byzantine style, with the central cupola surrounded by four towers, modelled on the Hagia Sofia in Constantinople.

In front of the basilica, there is a colonnade consisting of 16 Corinthian columns; the Colonne di San Lorenzo. The columns are from the 3rd century, and they were previously part of a bath built by Emperor Maximian. They are among the few remnants of Ancient Rome in Milan.

## 26. The Ticinese Gate/Porta Ticinese

### **Piazzale XXIV Maggio** **www.ticinese-Milan.it** **Metropolitana: Missori**

The city gate, Porta Ticinese, was built by the Visconti Family in the 13th century as a part of the reconstruction of Milan's city wall after Barbarossa's destruction of the city. The gate was restored once more in the 19th century.

## 27. The Velasca Tower/Torre Velasca



### **Piazza Velasca 5** **Metropolitana: Missori**

Torre Velasca is a peculiar looking, 106 metres tall high-rise, built in 1956-1958. The building style was meant to be reminiscent of the architecture of the area's old fortresses, such as Castello Sforzesco, and it is a splendid example of Modern Italian architecture.

## 28. The San Nazaro in Brolo Basilica/Basilica di San Nazaro in Brolo



### **Piazza San Nazaro** **Metropolitana: Crocetta**

The San Nazaro in Brolo Basilica is one of Milan's oldest church buildings. Construction began in 382 by the main road between Milan and Rome, dedicated to the apostles Andrew, John and Thomas.

The church has been rebuilt in 1075 and in 1571, but there are still elements in the church from all three periods. Next to the church stands the Trivulzio Mausoleum, Mausoleo Trivulzio, whose construction began in 1512 in Renaissance style. It is, as the name suggests, the mausoleum of the Trivulzo Family.

## 29. The Great Hospital/ Ospedale Maggiore

### **Via Festa del Perdono 3** **Metropolitana: Crocetta**

Milan's great central hospital was built in 1456 by Duke Francesco Sforza as a replacement for all of the city's existing hospitals. Architectural styles from the 15<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> century are represented, and the atmosphere in the complex, with its many yards, is fantastic. The hospital was in use until 1932, when a new Ospedale Maggiore was opened. Today, the old buildings are part of the University of Milan.

## 30. The Palace of Justice/ Palazzo di Giustizia

### **Corso di Porta Vittorio** **Metropolitana: San Babila**

Milan's Palace of Justice was finished in 1940 to serve as a new court house building. The architectural style is typical of the clean monumental building style of the Fascist era.

## 31. The Besana Rotunda/Rotunda della Besana



### **Via Enrico Besana 12** **Metropolitana: San Babila**

This large rotunda is from 1695, and it located on the grounds of an old churchyard. Today, it houses various exhibitions and activities.

### 32. The Church of Santa Maria della Passione/Chiesa di Santa Maria della Passione



#### Via Vincenzo Bellini 2 Metropolitana: San Babila

This church is one of Milan's largest. It was finished in 1486, but was later rebuilt. Giuseppe Rusnati's facade from 1729 and octagonal tower are very beautiful and well worth a visit.

The monastery buildings next to the church have been converted into a museum, which has Italian paintings from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, among other things. The church itself has various interesting frescos and portraits of saints.

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## Trip 5: Milan

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### 33. The New City Gate/ Archi di Porta Nuova

#### **Piazza Cavour**

#### **Metropolitana: Montenapoleone/Turati**

The new city gate is part of the city wall that was built in 1171, subsequent to Barbarossa's campaign. The wall was reinforced in the year 1330-1339, and it has been restored and rebuilt several times since, which has influenced the look of the gate.

Today, there are arcs traversing one of the busy streets from the square Piazza Cavour. On each side of the gate, there are preserved parts of the defence towers which used to protect the entrance. North of the city gate, at the Piazza Cavour, there is a statue of Camillo Benso, Conte di Cavour, who was one of the most important figures in the Italian Gathering in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Next to the statue stands the high-rise, Centro Svizzero Milan, which was built in 1949-1951. It was the tallest office building in the city until 1960.

### 34. Giardini Pubblici

#### **Corso Venezia/Via Palestra**

[www.villabelgiojosobonaparte.it](http://www.villabelgiojosobonaparte.it)

#### **Metropolitana: Turati/Palestro/Porta Venezia**

Giardini Pubblici is Milan's first public park and the home of various interesting buildings. The lovely park was laid out in 1782-1786. The Park's buildings include museum of Natural History, Museo di Storia Naturale, and the Palazzo Belgiojoso Bonaparte, from 1790-1796.

The art museum Museo dell'Ottocento (Via Palestra 16) is located in the palace.

### 35. The Gate of Venice/Porta Venezia

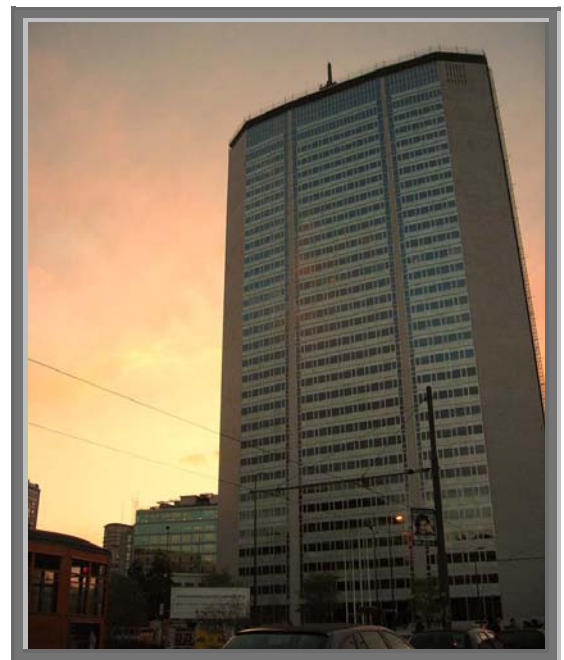


#### **Piazza Guglielmo Oberdan**

#### **Metropolitana: Porta Venezia**

Porta Venezia was previously known as Porta Orientale since it was the East Gate. Today there are two pavilions with loggias, built in 1827-1828.

### 36. The Pirelli Tower/Grattacielo Pirelli



#### **Piazza della Repubblica**

[www.regione.lombardia.it](http://www.regione.lombardia.it)

#### **Metropolitana: Centrale FS**

Pirelli's high-rise from 1956-1960 stands in the spot where the company's first tyre factory used to be. With its 127 metres, it was the first building in Milan that was taller than the Cathedral. Today, the slender, elegant house is occupied by the provincial government

### 37. The Central Station/Stazione Centrale



#### **Piazza Duca d'Aosta**

#### **Metropolitana: Centrale FS**

Milan's Central Station is an impressive building, and it is among Europe's largest railway stations. It was opened in 1931 after 19 years of planning and construction. The architectural style is Art Nouveau and the facade is more than 200 metres wide



# Day Trips from Milan

## 38. Bergamo



**Bergamo, 50 kilometres East**  
[www.turismo.bergamo.it](http://www.turismo.bergamo.it)  
**Station: Bergamo**

The charming city of Bergamo has a medieval part, beautifully situated on a hilltop overlooking the modern parts of the city. Bergamo is one of the historical cities on the Po plain.

## 38a. Bergamo Alta



### Piazza Vecchia

[www.bibliotecamai.org](http://www.bibliotecamai.org)

To reach the old city part of Bergamo Alta, it is necessary to get on the funicular from the street Viale Vittorio Emanuele II. Alta is the part of the city that the Venetians defended against Milan in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It has its own city walls and gates which are still visible various places in the city.

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 Education: Chemical Engineer

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From Bergamo Alta, there is a beautiful view of the rest of Bergamo, and its narrow streets alternating with open squares filled with various restaurants and shops make for a very pleasant experience. Piazza Vecchia, the central square, is a natural starting point for excursions in the city. It lies surrounded by beautiful Renaissance buildings.

The city's old library, Civica Biblioteca (Piazza Vecchia 15), built in the 17th century, and Palazzo della Ragione (Piazza Vecchia) are some of the attractions. Palazzo della Ragione previously served as City Hall. The building is from 1199, but it was rebuilt subsequently. There is an excellent view from the top of the adjoining 13th century tower.

On Piazza del Duomo, stands the cathedral Santa Maria Maggiore from around the year 1100. In addition to the building itself, there are various mosaics and tapestries to see. The Colleoni Chapel, Cappella Colleoni, was built in 1475, but the frescos were added in the 1730s.

At the opposite end of the relatively small Bergamo Alta, stands the castle, La Rocca, which was built in the 14th century. In earlier times, there was a Roman fortress in the same spot. There are also a park with a nice view and an exhibition about Bergamo's history.

### 38b. The Carrara Academy/Accademia Carrara



**Piazza Giacomo Carrara 82**  
[www.accademiacarrara.bergamo.it](http://www.accademiacarrara.bergamo.it)

The art museum Accademia Carrara is located below the castle La Rocca. The Museum specialises in Venetian art and the large collection is considered to be among Italy's finest of its kind. The Museum building was built in neo-Classical style in 1810.

### 39. Verona



#### **Verona, 140 kilometres East**

[www.tourism.verona.it](http://www.tourism.verona.it)

#### **Station: Verona**

Verona was one of the most important cities in the Roman Empire, and it also forms the background for Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliette*.

For the tourist, Verona is a journey from the fantastic buildings of Ancient Rome to monuments dating from the city's own heyday and the years under Venetian rule.

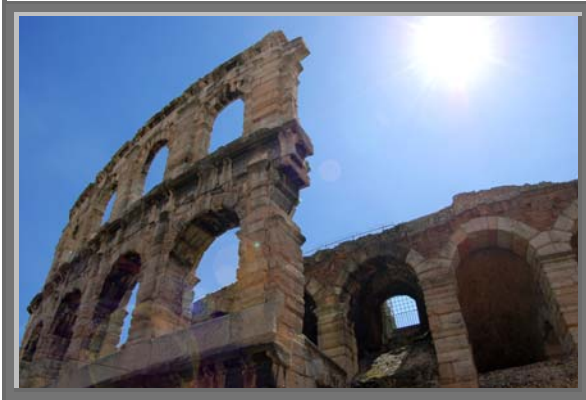
### 39a. Castelvechio



#### **Corso Castelvecchio 2**

Verona's castle, Castelvecchio is situated by the Adige River. It was built in the years 1355-1375. The castle, as well as the local bridge and the remnants of the old city wall are interesting places to visit, and there is also a fascinating collection of paintings at the place.

### 39b. Verona's Arena/Arena di Verona



#### Piazza Bra

[www.arena.it](http://www.arena.it)

Verona's Arena was built in the 2nd century, during the Roman Empire, and its size is only surpassed by the Coliseum in Rome. Despite earthquakes and part demolition, the arena still has room for 22,000 spectators when plays are performed there in the summer.

### 39c. Piazza della Erba



#### Piazza della Erba

Piazza della Erba was one of the Ancient Roman market places, and today it is the centre of Verona's shopping streets. The square has been shaped through many centuries and the many buildings in various styles bear witness to this: Palazzo Maffei

from 1668 has interesting statues of Roman gods; the Gardello tower was built in 1370, the Madonna fountain was built at the same time and the statue of Mark's Lion, the icon of Venice, was placed there in 1523.

### 39d. Piazza dei Signori



#### Piazza dei Signori

The elegant Piazza dei Signori, with its statue of Dante, lies end to end with the Piazza Erba. Next to the Dante statue stands the tower, dei Lamberti, which is 84 metres tall and offers a spectacular view of Verona's city centre.

### 39e. Juliette's Hus/Casa di Giulietta



#### Via Cappello 27

Those who have seen Romeo & Juliette will be able to recognise the scene from the yard by Juliette's

house. It is still possible to visit the 13th century house with the famous balcony in Verona.

### 39f. The Cathedral of Veronal/ Cattedrale di Verona



### Piazza Duomo

Verona's Cathedral was built in the 12th century, but the Gothic style is due to later rebuilding. The baptismal font was hewn from a single piece of marble in the year 1200, and the floor mosaics in the adjacent monastery yard are from the 6th century.

### 39g. The Pietra Bridge/Ponte della Pietra



### Ponte della Pietra

Ponte della Pietra is an ancient Roman bridge from the 1st century. The beautiful bridge is built across the Winding Adige River.

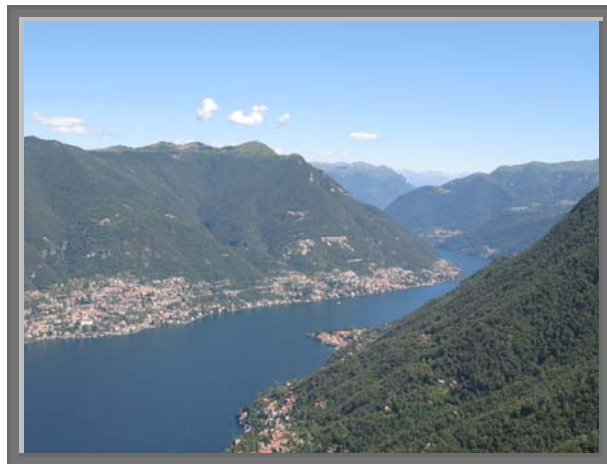
### 39h. The Roman Theatre/Teatro Romano & The Archaeological Museum/Museo Archeologico



### Rigaste Redentore 2

Verona's Roman Theatre overlooks the Adige River and the Pietra Bridge, and the view from both the theatre and the nearby archaeological museum is fantastic. The theatre dates back to around the year 0, but it is still in use.

### 40. Lake Como/Lago di Como



The great lakes north of Milan, situated between the Po plain and the Alps, are breathtakingly beautiful. Lake Como is the one closest to Milan and it offers lovely nature, cosy cities and various other attractions. Both tourist boats and local boats offer opportunities for sailing trips from various points around the lake.

#### 41. Como



**Como, 50 kilometres North**

[www.comune.como.it](http://www.comune.como.it)

**Station: Como San Giovanni/**

**Como Ferrovie Nord**

The city of Como is situated at the south end of Lake Como. It is a natural starting point for a trip on or along the lake.

Another attraction is Como's Cathedral, Duomo (Piazza del Duomo). Construction of the marble building began in 1396, and it is a fine example of Como's medieval building style, although the great dome was not finished until 1740. Next to the cathedral stands the 13<sup>th</sup> century City Hall, Il Broletto di Como (Piazza del Duomo). Visitors can also go for a walk in the small, cosy streets.

From the city centre (Via Prudenziaria), it is possible to ride the funicular on a long beautiful trip to Faro Voltiano, 700 metres above the city. The view of Como city, Lake Como and the Alps from Faro Voltiano is fantastic. In clear conditions it is possible to see Milan and the characteristic Swiss Matterhorn Mountain

#### 42. Cernobbio



**Cernobbio, 55 kilometres North**

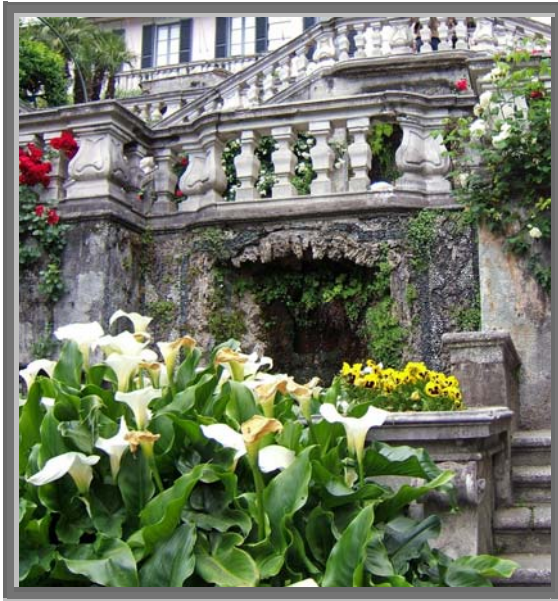
[www.villadeste.it](http://www.villadeste.it)

[www.villaerba.it](http://www.villaerba.it)

**Station: Como San Giovanni/Chiasso**

Cernobbio is situated north of the city of Como on the western bank of Lake Como. From Cernobbio northward, the lake is known for the fine villas and gardens. Villa d'Este (Via Regina 40) from 1570 and Villa Erba (Largo Luchino Visconti 4), both from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, are magnificent examples of such villas. Villa d'Este is currently a hotel and there is a gallery in Villa Erba.

43. Villa Carlotta



**Via Regina 2, Tremezzo, 80 kilometres North**  
[www.villacarlotta.it](http://www.villacarlotta.it)

**Station: Como San Giovanni/Chiasso**

Villa Carlotta in the city of Tremezzo has one of the most magnificent examples of a villa with garden facilities. The villa was built in 1690, and it is now a museum surrounded by a beautifully laid out garden with terraces and plants from all over the world. It is one of Lake Como's greatest attractions.

Great artists have been furnishing and decorating the villa on a continuous basis. Some of the details are a freeze and a marble fireplace by the Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen.

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#### 44. Bellagio



**Bellagio, 80 kilometres North**

[www.comune.bellagio.co.it](http://www.comune.bellagio.co.it)

[www.bellagio.info](http://www.bellagio.info)

[www.giardinidivillamelzi.it](http://www.giardinidivillamelzi.it)

[www.villaserbelloni.com](http://www.villaserbelloni.com)

**Station: Como Ferrovie Nord**

Bellagio is Lake Como's most famous city. It is known for its unique location at the point where the lake parts towards both sides of the city. Bellagio has many gorgeous villas, and especially if one approaches the city by boat, the beauty of the scenery is striking.

Villa Melzi (Lungo Lario Manzoni) was built in 1808 by Napoleon's friend, Duke d'Eril. It is possible to visit the villas' park, which is situated on the banks of Lake Como, and the local museum. Villa Serbelloni (Via Roma 1) from 1850 has been converted into a hotel. It was built in a neo-Classical style by one of Milan's noble families, and it commands a beautiful view of the lake.

Bellagio's Basilica de San Giacomo (Piazza della Chiesa) was built in the period 1075-1125. It contains mosaics from the 10th century and an altar from the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 45. Varenna



**Varenna, 90 kilometres North**

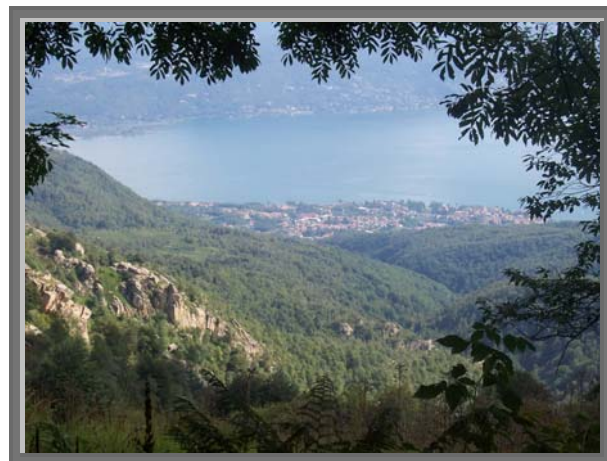
[www.varennaitaly.com](http://www.varennaitaly.com)

[www.castellodivezio.it](http://www.castellodivezio.it)

**Station: Varenna-Esino**

The city of Varenna is situated on the eastside of Lake Como. It has an atmospheric ambience, dating back to medieval times. Its cosy old part of town is ideal for walks, and there are also a couple of remarkable villas, as well as the city's castle, Castello di Vezio.

#### 46. Lake Maggiore/Lago Maggiore




**Fx Arona, 70 kilometres North-west**[www.illagomaggiore.com](http://www.illagomaggiore.com)**Station: Arona**

Lake Maggiore lies to the west of Lake Como and northwest of Milan, stretching from Italy to Switzerland. Like Lake Como, Lago Maggiore is surrounded by beautiful nature and atmospheric towns and cities.

The trip to Lake Maggiore could begin in Arona, which is the largest city on the south-western coast. Visitors can take a walk in the cosy city centre or go for a boat trip on the lake. North of Arona on the western bank lies the resort town of Stresa. From the Monte Mottarone viewpoint, there is a view of the lake-studded landscape all the way to the Alps and, in clear conditions, Milan. In the lake, across from Stresa, there are two islands, and on the opposite bank stands the monastery Santa Catarina del Sasso Ballaro (Via Santa Catarina) from the 12<sup>th</sup> century 1100-tallet. It is built into the rock close to the lake, and this unique place is one of the most beautiful and interesting attractions at Lake Maggiore

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# CHALLENGE YOURSELF

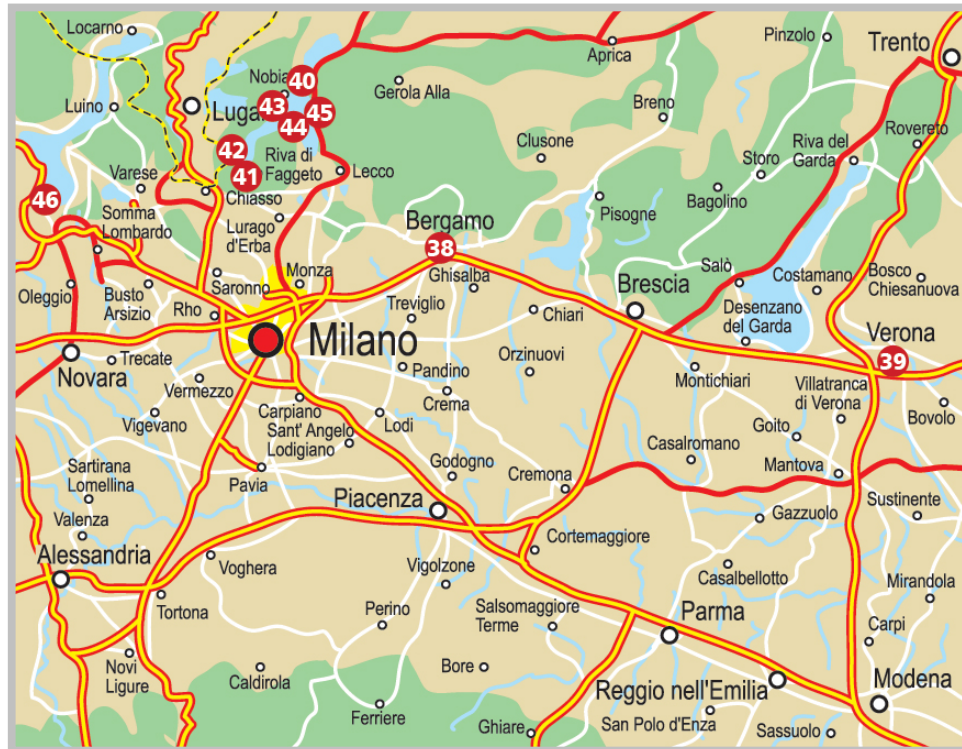
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## With Children in Milan

Milan Aquarium/Acquario Civico (Viale Gadio 2):  
[www.acquariocivico.mi.it](http://www.acquariocivico.mi.it)

Museum of Science and Technology/Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia (Via San Vittore 21):  
[www.museoscienza.org](http://www.museoscienza.org)

Museum of Natural History/Museo di Storia Naturale (Corso Venezia 55):  
[www.assodidatticamuseale.it](http://www.assodidatticamuseale.it)

San Siro (Via Piccolomini 5):  
[www.sansiro.net](http://www.sansiro.net), [www.sansirotour.com](http://www.sansirotour.com)

## Shopping in Milan

Via Montenapoleone, Via della Spiga, Via Sant'Andrea, Via Manzoni, Via Borgospesso, Via Santo Spirito, Corso Vittorio Emanuele, Corso Buenos Aires, Via Torino, Corso di Porta Ticinese.

Coin (Piazza 5 Giornate 1A, Piazzale Loreto 16, Corso Vercelli 30-32, Piazza Cantore 12):  
[www.coin.it](http://www.coin.it)

D Magazine Outlet (Via Montenapoleone 26):  
[www.dmagazine.it](http://www.dmagazine.it)

Fiordaliso (Via Curiel, Rozzano):  
[www.fiordaliso.net](http://www.fiordaliso.net)

Galleria Vittorio Emanuele (Piazza del Duomo)

Marni Outlet (Via Tajani Filippo 1):  
[www.marni-international.com](http://www.marni-international.com)

Rinascente (Piazza Duomo, Viale Certosa):  
[www.rinascente.it](http://www.rinascente.it)

## Public Transportation in Milan

Milan City Transport:  
[www.atm-mi.it](http://www.atm-mi.it)

Milan's airports (Linate og Malpensa):  
[www.sea-aeroportiMilan.it](http://www.sea-aeroportiMilan.it)

Bergamo Airport:  
[www.orioaeroporto.it](http://www.orioaeroporto.it)

State Railways of Italy:  
[www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com)

Ferrovie North:  
[www.lenord.it](http://www.lenord.it)

A man wearing a tan hat, a yellow and blue Hawaiian shirt, and khaki shorts stands on a brick-paved platform next to a silver train. He is looking towards the right. The background shows a clear blue sky and the side of the train with several windows.

## About the Author

Stig Albeck (1969) is the author behind the travel books at OnLibri.com. Stig writes the way you travel the destinations!

The books often take their departure in the world's most exhilarating cities and evolve to the attractions and sights in their vicinity. Stig is a devoted traveller and a passionate explorer which brings him around the world several times each year to search for new exciting destinations.

Going to big cities or more adventurous destinations, Stig writes his travel guides to help and inspire readers to get the full benefit of their destination of choice.

Travelling is about enjoying the moment, but also about taking home memories and gaining new knowledge. No matter how far or near by the destination might be there sure are great experiences waiting to be unveiled.

Stig holds a masters degree in marketing and tourism from Copenhagen Business School in Denmark. He has been working in the tourism industry and with global marketing of tourist destinations.

If you have questions or perhaps made a discovery that you would like to share, then send Stig an email to [travelstig@gmail.com](mailto:travelstig@gmail.com) (if you attach photos you agree to letting us use these for future travel guides).

Stig offers lectures on his travel experiences, or any specific tour that you might be about to head out for. To learn more about things like touring Australia, visiting the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, or enjoying a fresh smoked omul at the Lake Baikal in February, visit [www.stigalbeck.com](http://www.stigalbeck.com).

*Bonne Voyage!*