



The rooftops of Bologna

West Kent Medico-Chirurgical Society Trip to Bologna

10 – 14 May 2023



Jon Baines
tours



The Archiginnasio of Bologna

The beautiful city of Bologna is a showcase for the historical and culinary treasures of the region. Home to the oldest university in Europe, Bologna has long been a centre for academic and scientific learning, alongside a strong political history. Its moniker of 'The Red' is as much to do with its political leanings as its colourful buildings. This tour will delve into the rich history and culture of the city, with many opportunities to enjoy the wonderful cuisine and wine of the region.

Why not come out early to Bologna? On the morning of the start of the tour, there will be an informal group trip by train to Ferrara, another ancient Renaissance town nearby; or you could simply enjoy extra time amongst the many cafes and shops Bologna has to offer. **Pre-tour available on request.**



Piazza Maggiore, Bologna



Mausoleo di Galla Placidia, Ravenna

Itinerary 10 – 14 May 2023

Day 1: Bologna (Wed, 10 May)

Pm: On arrival in Bologna check into Hotel Porta San Mamolo, located in the old town. Settle in at your leisure before a welcome dinner in a local osteria. **D**

Day 2: Bologna (Thu, 11 May)

Am: Take a walking tour through the historic streets of Bologna in the expert company of an art historian, who will guide you through the city's long history. Visit the 13th century Santuario Santa Maria della Vita, whose members were active in charitable causes and built a hospital within the church grounds. A museum attached to the church houses an exhibition that examines public health services in Bologna, including medical tools and scientific equipment. **B L**

Pm: After a lunch of delicious local cheeses and charcuterie at a local osteria, visit the beautiful anatomical theatre of Teatro Anatomico of Archiginnasio and Palazzo Poggi. Evening at leisure.

Day 3: Bologna/Ravenna/Bologna (Fri, 12 May)

Am: Depart Bologna for the historic city of Ravenna, which was once the capital of the Western Roman Empire and today has one of the world's most dazzling collections of early Christian mosaic artwork. The city has 8 monuments declared World Heritage sites by UNESCO. Meet with your local guide for a walking tour, visiting the

extraordinary Basilica di San Vitale - one of the most important surviving examples of early Christian Byzantine art and architecture. Continue to Galla Placidia Mausoleum and visit the Battistero Neoniano to admire the beautiful mosaics and visit the Tomb of Dante.

Pm: Lunch in a local trattoria before taking a scenic drive through the countryside to Fattoria Zerbina for wine tasting. Take a guided tour of the vineyards before sampling some of their wines. Return to Bologna in the late afternoon.

Day 4: Bologna (Sat, 13 May)

B D

Am: Morning food tour exploring Bologna's culinary delights. Stroll through the historic streets, visiting local food shops and stopping at food stalls around the medieval Mercato di Mezzo, a market that runs along the characteristic canals in the heart of the old town. Along the way there will be tastings of local products.

Pm: Afternoon at leisure. Louise Dolan will also be leading a walk in the afternoon to Basilica san Domenico, which houses some of Michelangelo's earliest sculpture.

Eve: Farewell dinner at a typical trattoria in Bologna.

Day 5: Bologna (Sun, 14 May)

Am: Depart for the airport after breakfast. **B**



Enjoy the delicious food of Bologna on a food tour



A bedroom at the Hotel Porta San Mamolo



The courtyard at the Hotel Porta San Mamolo

The Hotel Porta San Mamolo

The Hotel Porta San Mamolo is a charming, traditional Italian style hotel tucked away in the heart of the city. This comfortable hotel is very peaceful, even though it is just a few steps from the beautiful Piazza Maggiore and the famous Two Towers. The architecture and private gardens create a typical Bolognese atmosphere. The hotel also has a bar and all rooms come with Wi-Fi access and the usual amenities including mini bar and safe.

The cost of the tour is £895 per person sharing.

The cost of the tour is £1,183 with a room to yourself.

The cost includes:

- 4 nights' accommodation at the Hotel Porta San Mamolo in twin/ double-bedded rooms with private facilities
- Breakfast daily, 2 dinners with wine and soft drinks, 2 lunches with soft drinks
- English-speaking local guides
- Transport throughout the tour
- A programme of cultural sightseeing as per the itinerary including admission fees

The cost excludes:

- International flights and airport transfers
- Meals not mentioned and additional drinks with meals
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- All personal extras such as tips, portorage, laundry, inoculation fees and drinks
- Travel insurance

Flights

We are arranging a group flight booking with British Airways from London Heathrow to Bologna.

The flight times will be

10/05/23 BA542 Heathrow - Bologna 14:40 - 17:45

14/05/23 BA541 Bologna - Heathrow 11:40 - 13:00

The cost of the return flight package is £280 per person. This includes airport transfers. We are only holding a limited number of seats at this price. If you are interested in this flight option, please let us know as soon as possible.

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