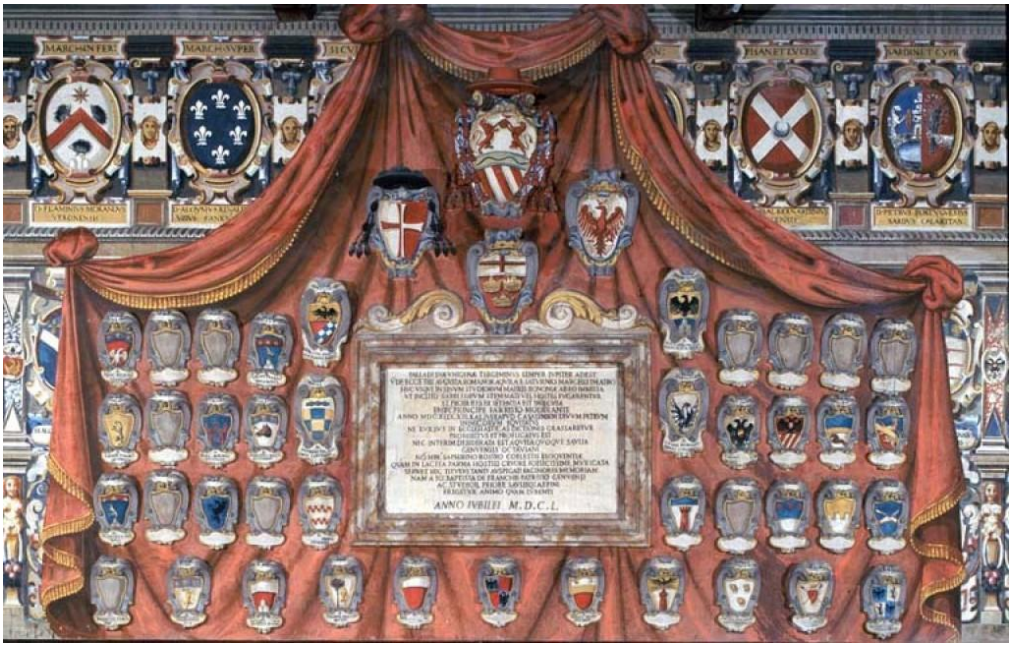
8 April 2027

BOLOGNA
Heraldry, history and flavours

A cultural excursion to the Archiginnasio and the heart of the city



The Archiginnasio: a heraldic heritage spanning centuries of university life.

A day in Bologna, a city renowned for its ancient university, its art and its rich culinary traditions. Participants will discover the Archiginnasio and the outstanding monuments of the historic centre, with a convivial lunch celebrating Bolognese cuisine.

09:30 • Departure from San Marino

Departure by private coach. Estimated arrival in Bologna at approximately 11:30, followed by a walk into the historic centre.

11:45 • Visit to the Archiginnasio

Built between 1562 and 1563 to a design by Antonio Morandi, known as il Terribilia, at the initiative of Cardinal Carlo Borromeo and Vice-Legate Pier Donato Cesi, the Archiginnasio brought the schools of the Alma Mater Studiorum together in one building. It served as the university's home until 1803 and has housed the Archiginnasio Municipal Library since 1838.

Its walls, vaults, galleries and staircases display approximately 6,000 coats of arms, forming the largest surviving collection of mural heraldry. Together with inscriptions and memorials to the university's masters, they reveal the international origins of its students and provide an exceptional record of European heraldic and cultural history. The visit will focus on the monumental areas of the palace, home to the historic Library.

The flavours and beauty of Bologna

13:15 • A traditional Bolognese lunch

Lunch at a historic restaurant full of local character in central Bologna, where a welcoming atmosphere will offer the opportunity to enjoy the city's renowned culinary tradition.

14:45 • Piazza Maggiore and San Petronio

A walk through Piazza Maggiore and a visit to the Basilica of San Petronio, dedicated to the city's patron saint. Begun in 1390, this great church dominates the square with its unmistakable unfinished façade and houses a remarkable artistic heritage, including Giovanni Domenico Cassini's celebrated meridian line.

15:30 • Walk past Palazzo Re Enzo

The route continues past Palazzo Re Enzo, built between 1244 and 1246 to provide more space for the city's government. It takes its name from Enzo, King of Sardinia and son of Emperor Frederick II: captured at the Battle of Fossalta in 1249, he was held here until his death in 1272. The palace is one of the landmarks of medieval Bologna.

15:50 • Metropolitan Cathedral of San Pietro

Continuing along Via dell'Indipendenza, we reach the Cathedral of San Pietro, the seat of the Archbishop of Bologna, which became a metropolitan cathedral in 1582. Its origins date back at least to the tenth century. Transformed over the centuries, its interior now offers a solemn monumental setting and preserves works by important artists of the Bolognese school.



Basilica of San Petronio



Palazzi del Podestà and Re Enzo



Cathedral of San Pietro

17:00 • Departure from Bologna

Return by private coach, with arrival in San Marino expected at approximately 19:00.

Price per person: €100.00 • All inclusive

The price includes return travel by coach, lunch and the visits specified in the programme.

Times are approximate and may vary depending on traffic. Visits are subject to venue availability and religious services.

Sources and photographic credits

Historical information checked against the websites of the Archiginnasio, the Municipality of Bologna, Bologna Welcome and Palazzo Re Enzo. The scheduled journey time is a cautious estimate for a group travelling by coach.

Archiginnasio: history
https://www.archiginnasio.it/visita-l-archiginnasio/storia-del-palazzo

Archiginnasio: coats of arms
https://www.archiginnasio.it/lang/it/visita-l-archiginnasio/gli-stemmi

Basilica of San Petronio
https://www.bolognawelcome.com/it/luoghi/edifici-religiosi/basilica-di-san-petronio

Palazzo Re Enzo
https://www.palazzoreenzo.com/il-palazzo/

Cathedral of San Pietro
https://www.bolognawelcome.com/it/luoghi/edifici-religiosi/cattedrale-metropolitana-di-san-pietro

Photograph: coats of arms: https://assets.culturabologna.it/c57e42b3-0d02-4ed8-ad8c-f69504b381be-stemmi-big.jpg/c79d480879f34f75ac89b447cb045d55a9b4c13f.jpg

Photograph: San Petronio: https://static.bolognawelcome.com/immagini/2d/7b/cf/cf/20220520114601.jpg

Photograph: Palazzo Re Enzo complex: https://www.palazzoreenzo.com/files/immagini/header/aggiornate/la-storia-del-palazzo.jpg

Photograph: San Pietro: https://static.bolognawelcome.com/immagini/ad/42/68/bc/20200529131452.jpg

Photographs are reproduced with their sources acknowledged. Before publishing the programme, check the applicable reuse conditions and any credits required by the rights holders.