

L'Arcobaleno Servizi *presents You...* **REGGIO EMILIA.**

(information are taken from
Official Tourist Information Site of
the Municipality of Reggio Emilia:
<http://www.municipio.re.it/IAT/iat/e.nsf?OpenDatabase&lng=eng>)

A people-friendly sized city at the top of classifications as one of the most prosperous and liveable cities in Italy: renowned for the quality of its services and for the industry and wits of its citizens

Altitude:
58

Patron Saint's Day: San Prospero (November 24)
Market days: Tuesday and Friday

Inhabitants:
165.503 updated to December 31, 2008

Tourist information:
0039 0522 451152 -
Tourist Information



How to get there: A1 Motorway - SS 69, SS 63, SS 467, SS 468 roads - Railway Station

The town, enclosed by the peripheral districts arranged in the hexagon shape of the old ring road (corresponding to the perimeter of the ancient town walls) lies on the via Emilia, adjoining province of Parma to the west and the province of Modena to the east. The A1 Milan/Rome motorway running parallel to the via Emilia, is held to be the quickest and most direct link to the main centres of the region (e.g. Bologna is about 30 minutes away, Milan one hour and a half). The SS 63 main road links the city to the province of Mantua to the north; the same road leads towards the Apennines in the opposite direction (Passo del Cerreto and La Spezia). The town is linked to Sassuolo via the SS 467 in the direction of the Modena Apennines and with Correggio and Carpi by the main road 468.

With the arrival of the Romans, at the beginning of the II century b.C., Reggio Emilia (Regium Lepidi) became an urban centre as part of the road network built along via Emilia, while the surrounding plain was drained and settled. Scattered remains testify to a period of intense economic activity for the entire imperial period until the barbaric invasions. From the 8th century, the continuity of civil powers and the permanence of the urban structures were guaranteed by the Bishop. In the 11th century the heart of Matilde's domain was the Reggio territory, fortified by an imposing series of castles. In 1077 one of the most famous episodes in the war of Investitures took place within the city walls of Canossa: the Emperor Henry IV, in the guise of a pilgrim, appeals to Pope Gregory VII for the annulment of his excommunication. Meanwhile, the free municipalities are being born on the ashes of feudalism: Reggio is among the first. At the beginning of the 15th century, it comes under the power of the Este Family. Prominent figures mark the Renaissance period of Reggio: from Matteo Maria Boiardo, the Count of Scandiano, the great poet of Orlando Innamorato, who was governor of Reggio towards the end of the 15th century, to Ludovico Ariosto, the great poet of Orlando Furioso, born in Reggio in 1474. The 17th and 18th centuries were tormented by wars, plagues and the plundering of works of art. In intervals of peace, the creativity of Reggio citizens expressed itself in the construction of sumptuous palaces and many religious buildings, prominent among which is the striking Basilica della Ghiara, erected in the first half of the seventeenth century with the contribution of exceptional artists and the amazing development of silk art. On 7 January 1797, Reggio, the first site of the Italian parliament, on the occasion of the birth of the Cispadane Republic, saw the birth of the "Tricolore", the future Italian flag. The spirit of resistance lived on in Reggio during the twenty years of fascism, culminating in the fight for liberation. In recognition of the part played by the city in the re-conquest of freedom, the Reggio Emilia standard was decorated with the gold medal for military valour.

SOME INTERESTING MONUMENTS.

TOWN HALL AND TRICOLOUR HALL

piazza Prampolini, 1, Reggio Emilia

Town Hall since 1434



Telephone

0039/522/456477 - Civic Museum

How to get there:

from the ex Zucchi parking: A.Allegri street, then going through squares Della Vittoria, Martiri del 7 Luglio end Battisti; from railway station: Viale IV novembre, Piazzale Tricolore, Via Emilia S. Pietro, Piazza Battisti, then turn left into Piazza Prampolini.

Opening Periods

For groups only and upon compulsory reservation.

It is partly situated at the beginning of via Toschi and partly on the south side of the main square, dedicated to Camillo Prampolini, where is also the Cathedral. A date carved in a block of sandstone on the right-hand side of the arch in via Farini confirms that the building of the town hall site began in 1414. The portion facing the south side of the square was completed in 1417. The Municipal Council began its activity in 1434, after the construction of the vaults over via Farini and via Croce Bianca; as reported in 1461, it appears that the external loggia below was also used for meetings. The Town Hall façade, enhanced by a three-arched portico with coupled pillars, was built in 1774, as per design by Ludovico Bolognini: the Town Hall coat of arms is situated under the roof cornice. Some internal rooms are decorated with eighteenth century frescoes and nineteenth century paintings.

Designed and made by Bologna engineer Ludovico Bolognini in 1774, it was planned as the Town Hall's archives; it was in this hall that, on the 7th of January 1797, representatives of the free municipalities of Reggio, Modena, Bologna and Ferrara met to proclaim the Cispadane Republic, adopting the three colour green-white-red flag, later adopted in 1848 as the national flag (the prototype had horizontal bands). The Tricolour hall represents the town's civic commitment. Today, it is the seat of the Municipal Council. The town standard, decorated with a gold medal, is also kept here. The "Madonna della Ghiara" is depicted on one side, with Saints Prospero, Grisante and Daria; on the other side is the Town Hall coat of arms. The Town Hall is also used for weddings, conferences and other cultural events.

Every year, January 7, Reggio Emilia celebrates the anniversary from the proclamation of the Tricolour flag, through civil, religious and cultural events.

Access for the disabled.

ROMOLO VALLI MUNICIPAL THEATRE

piazza Martiri 7 luglio, Reggio Emilia

E-mail

uffstampa@iteatri.re.it

How to get there:

Situated in the town centre and accessible on foot from the Zucchi-ex barracks car park, following Viale Allegri. From the Railway Station, it can be reached by bus directed towards the town centre.

Telephone

0039/522/458811

The majestic theatre complex, surrounded by the public gardens, characterizes the town centre.

The complex was built between 1852 and 1857 according to a design by Modena architect Cesare Costa (1801-1876). It is situated in the town area once occupied by the ancient fortress and covers an area of 3,890 square metres. The theatre has been repeatedly restored without changes in its original structure. Recently dedicated to Reggio Emilia actor Romolo Valli, it hosts a prestigious opera and concert season, as well as a rich programme of ballet. It contains a library, an archive room and a historical record library, all open to the public.

The main façade, facing south, is raised on three flights of granite steps. In the lower part it is supported by 12 columns forming a portico: this is linked on two sides with two minor porticoes supporting wide terraces. In the upper part, the façade is subdivided by 14 Ionic pillars, from which 13 windows open up: the coat of arms of the municipality of Reggio Emilia is placed above the central window. At the top of the façade, 14 statues represent (from left to right), tragedy, vice, glory, drama, virtue, truth, education, pleasure, the fable, the joke, dance, fancy, comedy and sound. Three statues representing silence, curiosity and remorse have been placed on the left at the same height: on the right are three more statues depicting painting, modesty and moderation. Another eight statues are situated on the terraces: on the left-hand terrace, Medea, Edipo, Achilles, Attilio Regolo; on the right, the Concionatrice (female public speaker), the Self-Punisher, Prometeo, and Dedalo. The allegoric concept and the arrangement of the statues were created by Bernardino Catellani, while the execution was assigned to five sculptors from Reggio, Modena and Parma: Ilario Bedotti, Giovanni Chierici, Antonio Ilarioli, Prudenzio Piccioli and Attilio Rabaglia. Under the colonnade, between the door arches, are mounted marble medallions of Menandro Sofocle, Euripide, and Aristofane in bas-relief, by Paolo Aleotti (1813-1886). The decorative display in the theatre depicts the glories of



Greek theatre in the peristyle, of Latin theatre in the entrance hall, Italian theatre in the rest of the rooms, and was assigned to Girolamo Magnani. The external door gives access to the entrance hall, rectangular in shape, which contains busts of Cesare Costa and Achille Peri and medallions depicting Plautus and Terenzio. You then move on to the atrium, which is octagonal in shape, with a ceiling decorated with putti, bacchanti and friezes executed by Giuseppe Ugolini, Girolamo Magnani and Pasquale Zambibi. The waiting rooms, decorated with prestigious sculptures and friezes, have doors copied from the theatre of the Duchess of Parma. A stairway leaves from the right of the atrium, leading to the foyer rooms, the most important of which are the octagonal room, the mirror room and the red room. These rooms are often used for chamber concerts, exhibitions and conferences. The atrium also gives access to the theatre hall, designed in the shape of a horse-shoe and with a capacity of 1100 seats, among stalls, four box tiers and the gallery. The boxes are embellished with gilt decorations; the vault, decorated and painted by the Reggio artist Domenico Pellizzi in 1856, is subdivided into four large squares alternated with four small squares; the large squares show scenes taken from Melodrama, Comedy, Choreography and Tragedy; the small squares show allegories of theatrical arts. At the centre of the vault there still hangs the original chandelier, 3.75 m high and 3.05 m in diameter. Made of copper, stucco, engraved wood and gilt, is completely adorned with crystal glass. The curtain was decorated in 1857 by Alfonso Chierici and depicts the Italic "Genius" who invited the "Fine Arts to be inspired by the glories of the nation's history". No less important is the "drop scene", or "easy" curtain, painted by Giovanni Fontanesi again in 1857, depicting a rural landscape with shepherds dancing around the statue of Apollo. In 1991, a third curtain was made, painted by the artist Omar Galliani. The vast upper stage area is furnished with numerous facilities and is actually larger in volume than the theatre hall; the rear walls can exceptionally be brought down to show the backdrop of the "Piazza d'armi", behind; the stage floor is wooden; the theatre machinery controlling scenery operations and special effects is still operating throughout the whole of the stage area. Restoration of the facade statues has recently been begun, co-ordinated by the architect, Varini, under the supervision of the Environmental and Architecture Heritage Institute of Emilia Romagna, and by the Artistic and Historical Service of Modena and Reggio Emilia. The first four statues (Attilio Regolo, Achilles, Edipo and Medea) have been completed.

SANCTUARY OF THE BASILICA DELLA GHIARA
Corso Garibaldi, 44, Reggio Emilia

Church dedicated to the "Blessed Ghiara Virgin"

How to get there:

From the car park in Via Cecati: by bus, no. 10; on foot, take Via della Vite, from "Piazzale Fiume", and at the end of this road turn left at the crossroads with Corso Garibaldi; the Basilica is about 100 m on the left.

Telephone

0039 0522 439707

Weekday Opening Times

7:30 - 12.00 a.m ; 4:00 - 5.30 p.m.

Sunday and Bank Holiday Opening Times

7:30 - 12.00 a.m ; 4:00 - 7.30 p.m.

Opening Periods

Religious ceremonies take place on weekdays at 7:30, 8:00 and 9:00 A.M. - on sunday at 7:30 , 9:30, 11:00 and 12:00 A.M. - then 6:30 and 8:30 P.M..

Guided visits can be arranged by prior agreement by telephone , a professional tourist guide is necessary for the visit.

The construction of the Basilica is linked to the miracle which occurred on 29 April 1596 when the young Marchino, deaf and dumb from birth, was miraculously given the powers of speech and hearing while praying before an image of the Madonna painted by Bertone. In that spot, to the left of the church, today there is a marble memorial. The church's design is attributed to the Architect, Alessandro Balbi from Ferrara; it was built by Pacchioni Francesco from Reggio, who began construction in 1597. A peculiarity of the Basilica is the extraordinary series of frescoes and altar pieces executed by the best artists of 17th century Emilia: Ludovico Carracci, Gianfrancesco Barbieri (Il Guercino), Lionello Spada, Alessandro Tiarini, Carlo Bononi and Luca Ferrari. The art guilds made valuable contributions: the stoup from the wool and silk craft guilds; the Municipality commissioned a work from Guercino which is held to be his masterpiece: the "Crucifixion of Christ with, at his feet, the Madonna and the Saints, Mary Magdalen, St. John and St. Prospero". Not to be missed: the room holding the holy vestments and fabrics from the 16th to the 19th century; the Ghiara's treasures are composed of relics, monstrances, chalices, highly valuable votive offerings. Finally, the museum in which, among the precious items on show, there is Lelio Orsi's original design which inspired Bertone's fresco, and the crown donated by the Reggio Civic Committee to the Madonna.



BASILICA OF SAINT PROSPERO

piazza San Prospero, Reggio Emilia

Ancient church consecrated in 997 and dedicated to Bishop Prospero, proclaimed Holy Protector of the town. It was completely rebuilt in the 15th century; the façade dates back to the 17th century.

How to get there:

On foot: from Piazza Prampolini, walk under the "Broletto"; from via Emilia San Pietro: walk via Calderini.

Telephone

0039/0522/434667

Weekday Opening Times

Mass: 6.00 p.m.

Group Charges

no

Sunday and Bank Holiday Opening Times

Mass: 9.00 a.m. and 12.00 a.m.

The Basilica and tower of San Prospero form an extraordinary scenic background when entering the town's most characteristic square where the traditional market takes place (Tuesday and Friday in the morning). When filled with stalls the space enclosed between the Cathedral apse, and the façades and arcades of sober palaces are brought alive. The interior of the Basilica is arranged in three naves in a Latin cross with a large dome. In the absidal bowl-shaped vault you can see the series of frescoes by Camillo Procaccini (artist from Bologna) depicting the "Last Judgement". With its refined craftsmanship, the valuable wooden choir stall (by the De Venetiis brothers in 1546), inlaid with country scenes, still lifes, city scenes, constitutes a masterpiece in the art of inlaying and marquetry which developed in Reggio Emilia from the middle of the 1400s. Six large columniferous lions from the beginning of the 1500s decorate the parvis, forming a valuable single group; they are attributed to Gaspare Bigi. Their original purpose is not absolutely clear.



CHURCH DEDICATED TO SAINTS GIROLAMO AND VITALE

via San Girolamo, Reggio Emilia

The church dedicated to Saints Girolamo and Vitale, a fine example of late Baroque design, is certainly worth visiting.

How to get there:

From the railway station: Viale IV novembre, Piazza Tricolore - direction east Viale Montegrappa - Via San Girolamo.

From A1 motorway direction town centre/east: Piazza Tricolore - Viale Montegrappa - Via San Girolamo.

Weekday Opening Times

Saturday 2.30-5.30 p.m.



The central part of the church is very old. In 1400 it passed to the San Girolamo Order which restored the church in 1646 entrusting Gaspare Vigarani, famous architect and scenographer who also worked at the court of Louis XIV of France, with the work.

Additional Notes:

The interior is particularly original and is composed of three oratories linked to each other by marble corridors and stairs, one of which is known as "Scala Santa" (Holy Stairs), following the original model in Rome. A rectangular-shaped church is placed at the front portico; the other, called "La Rotonda" (The Round-shaped) is designed in two tiers of colonnades placed one on top of the other, decorated with statues of saints in stucco. Finally, there is the "Sotterranea" (the Crypt) where has been rebuilt a copy of the Jerusalem sepulchre.

CLOCK TOWER - (PALAZZO MONTE DI PIETÀ)

Piazza Trampolini, Reggio Emilia

Telephone

0039/522/2911 - Bipop Carire

Geographic Area

Town centre

Opening Periods

All year long

The Clock Tower of Reggio Emilia was built in 1216; its height amounts to 47 metres and in the bell cell there are three ancient pear-shaped bells. An ancient habit of Reggio Emilia was to produce BELLS emitting only some notes. The FIRST BELL, which is called the CAMPANOUN LA FORCAROLA in dialect - (1347) has a diameter of 120 x 180 H cm. and beats out the hours with the E note. The SECOND BELL called BARILOUN in dialect (1432) has a diameter of 86 x 92 H cm. and beats out the half hours with the A note. The THIRD BELL called CECA in dialect (1482) has a diameter of 70 x 82 H cm and beats out the time with the C note. The biggest bell is called FORCAROLA because it was used to announce the death condemnation. The other two bells have been cast by Jacobus de Regio and bear the coat of arms of the Estense family. In the smallest bell there is a beautiful effigy of Sitting San Prospero.



BORDELLO TOWER

Via Toschi , Reggio Emilia

How to get there:

Town Centre: by minibus from the Zucchi car park

Telephone

0039/522/456111 - Town Council

Town tower unveiled in 1489. The Bordello tower was built in 1489 and was destined to house the town archives. It was called this way because there was a brothel in the nearby building. It was lowered due to the earthquake damages of the 1832.



PUBLIC GARDENS - PARCO DEL POPOLO

between Viale Isonzo and Via L. Nobili, Reggio Emilia

A large park area (with centuries-old plants) situated in the historic city centre

How to get there:

By bus, from the railway station, no.s: 1, 4, 6, 9; on foot, from Via Emilia S. Pietro, turn right for via Crispi, cross Piazza Martiri del 7 Luglio and take Via Spallanzani; alternatively, following the ring-road along viale Isonzo and turning left at via Nobili.



The garden complex was developed towards 1850 on the area occupied by the ancient "Cittadella", a defensive fortress built in 1339 by the Gonzaga family, at that time the Lords of Reggio. An archaeological find from the Roman era, the "Monumento ai Concordi", has been placed in the gardens, a funeral sepulchre found in Boretto, with a bust of Caio Concordio I and his family. Among valuable trees, rare plants, and wide green spaces, there are also statues and busts dedicated to famous Reggio citizens, such as the poet Ludovico Ariosto and Matteo Maria Boiardo. There is also a monumental fountain dedicated to the abbot benefactor Ferrari Bonini and sculptures depicting the "Four Seasons" originating from the Ducal Villa in Rivalta. Moreover, the park complex is surrounded by important cultural and exhibiting venues.

THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE JEWISH GHETTO

Via Caggiati - Via della Volta - Via dell'Aquila - Via Monzermone
Reggio Emilia

The settlement of the Jewish ghetto dates back to the second half of the XVII century.

How to get there:

Reggio Emilia town centre. From ex Caserma Zucchi car park: via Ariosto, corso Cairoli and via Mazzini, turn right into via Emilia S. Stefano, the first side street on the right is via Caggiati, the second is via della Volta, the third is via dell'Aquila, the fourth is via Monzermone. From the railway station: viale IV Novembre, via Emilia S. Pietro and part of via Emilia Santo Stefano (or by minibus A).

Tourist Area

Analytical text

At the beginning of the XV century the first Jewish families were given permission by the Senate to settle in our town to exercise the interest-money loan; this activity was prohibited to Christians then. The ghetto was officially established in 1555, as per Pope Paul IV's bull "Com nimis absurdum". Duchess Martinozzi, Duke Alfonso IV's widow and State's regent in the name of her minor son Francesco II, decided that Reggio Emilia Jews, "dispersos per urbem" till then, be obliged to reside in the currently called streets: San Rocco, Caggiati, della Volta, dell'Aquila, Monzermone. The Synagogue was built in 1672. After some interventions that, within two centuries, had tried to redefine the building's sacred image and its decorative aspects, in 1849 architect Domenico Marchelli was entrusted with the task of rebuilding the temple. On January 15, 1858 the Synagogue was unveiled. After World War II, as Reggio Emilia's Jewish Community joined Modena's, the temple lost its religious importance; besides, the recent restorations still showed the consequences of the World War II bombings. Despite its previous state of neglect, it was easy to recognize the original decorative structure by the wide hall, in semielliptical room through Ionic columns that are repeated in the shape of pilaster strips. In the traces of the dome vaults are painting decorations. The restorations, promoted by Reggio Emilia Municipality, has been complete; preservation and reinforcement have been made not only according to an aesthetic point of view, but also in respect of the place's original rules.



SPAZIO GERRA

piazza XXV Aprile, 2, Reggio Emilia

E-mail

spaziogerra@municipio.re.it

The building, titled to local artist Marco Gerra, has been planned by Architect Christian Gasparini who, in cooperation with Architects Alessandro Ardeni and Cristiana Campani, has conceived it as a physical joint between piazza XXV Aprile and Ariosto Theatre, and the surrounding area near ex Cavallerzza Theatre. Spazio Gerra extends along a 500 square-meter surface.



How to get there:

town centre

Telephone:

0039/0522/456786-455716

Weekday Opening Times:

Spazio Gerra is open only at the same time with art exhibitions.

SOME INTERESTING MUSEUMS

TRICOLOUR FLAG MUSEUM

piazza Prampolini, 1, Reggio Emilia

On display are documents, objects and relics concerning the history of the national flag, its origin and further developments until the Napoleonic period. Together with the museum materials are also multimedia instruments that make it easier to have detailed information on the Tricolour Flag proclaimed in Reggio Emilia on January 7, 1797.

How to get there:

town centre

Telephone

0039/0522/456477 - Civic Museum; 0039/0522/456805 for booking of guided visits

Weekday Opening Times

winter opening hours: Tuesday-Friday 9.00 a.m. - 12.00; Saturday 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. and 4.00 - 7.00 p.m.
summer opening hours (July-August 2010): Tuesday-Saturday 9.00 a.m. - 12.00 and 9.00 p.m. - midnight.

Opening Periods

all year

Sunday and Bank Holiday Opening Times

winter opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. and 4.00 - 7.00 p.m.
summer opening hours (July-August 2010): 9.00 p.m. - midnight.

Entrance Charge

free entrance

The museum is divided into two different sections: one concerning the history of the national flag and its origin until the end of the Napoleonic period, the other one concerning the history of the political events in our town, in the period between the proclamation of the Reggio Emilia Republic and the Restoration.

It is also possible to visit a section with documents and relics dating back to the period 1796-1814 and another section with documents and relics dating back to the Risorgimento period.

Quality Museum - acknowledgement given by Regione Emilia Romagna – Institute of Culture "IBC"

MARAMOTTI CONTEMPORARY ART COLLECTION

via Fratelli Cervi, 66 - in the former Max Mara factory, Reggio Emilia

Telephone

0039/522/382484; fax 0039/522/934479; for reservations it is possible to call from Tuesday to Sunday 9.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 - 6.00 p.m.

E-mail

info@collezionemaramotti.org

How to get there:

A1 motorway exit Reggio Emilia, direction Via Emilia Ovest to Parma

Weekday Opening Times

Thursday-Friday 2.30 - 6.30 p.m.; Saturday 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 3.00 - 6.00 p.m.



Weekly Closure

Monday



Sunday and Bank Holiday Opening Times

9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 3.00 – 6.00 p.m.

Opening Periods

all year. The Museum is closed on January 1 and 6, April 25, May 1, from August 1 to August 25, December 25 and 26.

Entrance Charge

free entrance upon phone, fax or mail reservation directly on the website

www.collezioneMaramotti.org Every visit is opened to 25 visitors who, when reserving, may choose the whole route (duration about 1 hour and thirty minutes) or part of this (duration about 1 hour and fifteen minutes).

On display are about 200 works belonging to the main national and international trends from 1945 until now: paintings, sculptures and installations.

It will be possible to visit the museum through two floors and 43 halls. On the ground floor, beside the library, is a wide exhibiting hall for temporary exhibitions of new-wave artists.

Among the artists whose works are on display are the following:

Peter Halley (New York, Usa, 1953) for the "new geometry" art, Piero Manzoni (1933 -1963) for the "proto-concept" art, Gerhard Richter (Walterdorf, Germany, 1932) for the "figurative" art, Jannis Kounellis (Pyraeus, Greece, 1936) for the "poor art", Ellen Gallagher (Providence, Usa, 1965) for the "experimentation art", Anselm Kiefer (Donaueschingen, Germany, 1945) for the "neo-expressionism" art.

Among the works on display are also the following:

works from the late expressionism and abstractism of the forties and the early fifties, Italian proto-concept artists as Fontana, Burri and Fautrier, Schifano and Franco Angeli's Roman Pop-Art, "poor art" with Penone, Zorio, Anselmo and Concept Art, American painting with Basquiat, Schnabel, with the new-geometric artists Taaffe and Bleckner, until Alex Katz's suspended atmospheres.

The Collection will host and present the winning works of the biennial prize Max Mara Prize for Women in association with the Whitechapel Gallery.

PARMEGGIANI ART GALLERY

corso Cairoli, 1, Reggio Emilia

The Gallery brings together the art collection which belonged to Luigi Parmeggiani. It includes: European arms and cutlery, goldsmithery, enamels and jewels, European costumes from the XVII to the XIX century, sculptures in stone and polychrome wood, Italian, Spanish and Flemish paintings, and other artistic objects.

How to get there:

From Zucchi car park: By foot from the exit on via Allegrì to the right. Town Centre

Telephone

0039/0522/451054-456477

Weekday Opening Times

winter opening hours: Tuesday-Friday 9.00 a.m. - 12.00;

Saturday 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. and 4.00 - 7.00 p.m.

summer opening hours (July-August 2010): Tuesday-Saturday 9.00 a.m. - 12.00 and 9.00 p.m. - midnight.

Sunday and Bank Holiday Opening Times

winter opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. and 4.00 - 7.00 p.m.

summer opening hours (July-August 2010): 9.00 p.m. - midnight.

Weekly Closure

Monday

Free Charge

free entrance



Analytical text

The building which houses the gallery was built for this purpose to a design by the engineer, Ascanio Ferrari. In 1932 Luigi Parmeggiani put together an art collection, including arms and goldsmithery originating from a Paris workshop of the second

half of the 1800's, specialized in Medieval style objects, paintings and sculptures. Of particular note, the following are exhibited: a Flemish triptych attributed to Van Eyck, "Il Cristo benedicente" (the blessing Christ) by El Greco. The other rooms are arranged according to the types of objects displayed.

Quality Museum - acknowledgement given by Regione Emilia Romagna – Institute of Culture "IBC"

CIVIC MUSEUM

via Spallanzani, 1, Reggio Emilia

The premises of the Civic Museum have been situated in San Francesco Palace since 1830. On display are archaeological collections (Roman Mosaics, Chierici Museum, Roman section in the marble Gallery, Roman Museum, Prehistory Museum), Ethnography, Art History (Fontanesi Gallery, Mazzacurati Museum, medieval section in the marble Gallery, medieval Mosaics), Natural History (Spallanzani Collection, zoological, anatomy, botanic, geo-mineralogy and palaeontologic collections), Town History (Industrial Art Museum, showcases of Reggio Emilia-born scientists). An inedited series of paintings depicting ten XIX-century local landscapes was recently acquired by the Civic Museum collections and has been on permanent display in Fontanesi Gallery since March 30, 2008. The works were made, among others, by regional painters Giovanni Fontanesi, Camillo Crespolini and Paolo Ferretti. The Mazzacurati Museum is now closed for restoration.



How to get there:
town centre

Telephone
0039/0522/456477-456532; fax 0039/0522/456476

Weekday Opening Times
Winter opening hours: Tuesday-Friday 9.00 a.m. - 12.00; Saturday 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. and 4.00 - 7.00 p.m.
Summer opening hours (July-August 2010): Tuesday-Saturday 9.00 a.m. - 12.00 and 9.00 p.m. - midnight.

Sunday and Bank Holiday Opening Times
Winter opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. and 4.00 - 7.00 p.m.
Summer opening hours (July-August 2010): 9.00 p.m. - midnight.

Entrance Charge
free entrance

Weekly Closure
Monday

The building stands in the area where there was once the imperial palace, granted for use to the Bishop of Reggio (1255) who in turn granted the building to the S. Francesco Minor Conventual Friars. Enlarged in 1270, it was later restored. The design for a more radical restructuring was drawn up by architect Giovanni Maria Ferraroni (1755). In 1799, with the death of Lazzaro Spallanzani, the great scientist from Scandiano (in the province of Reggio Emilia) the city acquired the naturalist collection which the scientist had assembled and which constitutes the oldest group of collections in the museum. At the entrance of the museum, important fragments of mosaic flooring originating from various churches in Reggio are mounted on the walls, along with other mosaics from the Roman era discovered during excavations carried out at the beginning of this century. In the palaeontology section, there is the original collection created by Don Gaetano Chierici dedicated to our territory and which is arranged chronologically from the Palaeolithic to the early Middle Ages. Other important collections include: zoology, anatomy, numismatics, sculptured marbles and stones. On the upper floor there is the "Fontanesi" gallery exhibiting paintings, ceramics, silverware, fabrics and weapons. In Mazzacurati Museum there are paintings, sculptures, drawings.

Inside the Museum, next to the entrance, there is an area dedicated to the sale of the Civic Museums' publications. The catalogue of publications is available free of charge, containing more than 200 titles. Within the Museums, there is a library (specialized in archaeology and history of art) and a newspaper library containing Italian and European magazines (access is also permitted to scholars, university students and researchers). The Museums organize educational initiatives for all types of schools, linked to the subjects covered in the different museum sections; conference cycles and guided tours are organized periodically on Sundays.

Quality Museum - acknowledgement given by Regione Emilia Romagna – Institute of Culture "IBC".