



# MANTUA TOURS

## Tours



### **1. Getting to know the town: first impressions (about two hours)**

Sightseeing of the most famous squares and churches in town. You'll be visiting Piazza Sordello that is surrounded by the Ducal Palace and St. Peter's Cathedral, Piazza Erbe with its medieval buildings and its round Church along with the magnificent church designed by Leon Battista Alberti. This tour offers you the chance of getting an idea of the beauty and the historical-artistic richness of the town.

### **2. Strolling in Mantua (3 hours)**

In addition to the classical tour that includes the traditional buildings and places mentioned in tour 1, you'll be led on a stroll on the so-called "Prince's Route". It links the town centre with the southern part of Mantua, a place the Gonzaga family chose in the XVI<sup>th</sup> century for their more private company. On the stroll along the Prince's Route you'll be passing by Andrea Mantegna's house, Giulio Romano's house, St. Sebastian Church that was designed by Leon Battista Alberti and St. Sebastian's Palace which was built upon the request of Francesco II Gonzaga. The route ends in front of the amazing Palazzo Te, a villa frescoed by Raphael's best pupil Giulio Romano.

### **3. The Ducal Palace, the Gonzaga family residence (1.5 hours)**

This tour offers you the chance of visiting the magnificent palace where the Gonzaga family used to live. You'll be admiring immense frescoed halls, wonderful art galleries, surprising gardens and courtyards along with undisputed masterpieces in art history such as the Camera degli Sposi by Andrea Mantegna or the Medieval Tournament frescoed by Pisanello in the XV<sup>th</sup> century.

### **4. The villa in the country side: Palazzo Te (1.5 hours)**

The summer residence commissioned by Federico II is something really impressive. It is considered the manifesto of mannerism by one of the most representative artists of that style, namely Giulio Romano. He was the best pupil of Raphael and exported this new artistic trend from Rome to Mantua. What is really striking about the palace is its multi-faceted style and the pomposity of its decorations which have been impressing guests and visitors for almost five centuries.

### **5. Gonzaga tour (Ducal palace, old town and Palazzo Te) (4.5 hours)**

This tour aims at going back to the time of the Gonzaga family. You'll be visiting the most significant works of art commissioned by the family. You'll be overwhelmed by the magic of one of the most splendid courts in Europe.

### **6. Short Gonzaga tour (Ducal Palace or Palazzo Te and old town) (3 hours)**

An interesting visit to the most beautiful buildings in town and to one of the palaces of your choice.



## **7. The palaces (Ducal Palace and Palazzo Te) (3 hours)**

A tour to the most representative palaces witnessing the splendours of the Gonzaga family.

## **8. Unusual Mantua (2 hours)**

For those of you who have already visited the most popular sites, here is a tour offering new alternatives, even by bike.

## **9. Sabbioneta, the ideal town/the dream of a prince (1.5 hours)**

This town is included in the Unesco world heritage list. It is located about 30 km from Mantua and still preserves its Renaissance features. The town is something unique, as was its founder and lord, Vespasiano Gonzaga. The visit includes the Ducal Palace, the Palace of the Garden, the ancient theatre and the Jewish synagogue.

## **10. St. Maria delle Grazie, the people's Church and the Mincio river (1 hour + boat ride)**

It is a sanctuary dating back to the XVth century and is located on the bank of the river Mincio. The sanctuary has been visited by pilgrims for centuries and is rich in ex-voto and statues showing people's devotion and making it something unique in the world. Behind the church you can visit the protected natural park "Valli del Mincio" on board a small boat thus exploring the surprising varieties of animals, birds and plants that thrive here.

## **11. The monastery in San Benedetto in Polirone (1.5 hours)**

It was commissioned in 1007 by Tedaldo from Canossa and was particularly loved by his granddaughter Mathilda from Tuscany. The monastery was visited by thousands of pilgrims in medieval times. Its monks claimed the surrounding countryside and many famous people were welcomed guests in the monastery throughout the centuries. Later on, some very important artists worked there such as Giulio Romano and Correggio. A visit in the monastery, which has been recently renewed, gives you the chance of getting closer to the way the monks used to live.

## **12. Landscapes, food and wine in the northern part of the province (4 hours)**

Wine and food tastings are the focus of this tour which will make you uncover interesting villages and breathtaking views on the hills lining the upper part of the province.

## **13. Tailor made tours**

We can customize your tour to fully meet with your requirements. We can also help you arrange your accommodation and boarding in town.

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