

GUIDED TOURS IN MONZA, BRIANZA, MILAN

Guidarte is a cultural association born in 2006 to promote the artistic and historical patrimony in Monza, Brianza and Milan.

Employing the competence and passion of its licensed tourist guides, Guidarte suggests different itineraries to discover all the treasures of our territory.

Upon request each tour can be adapted for your personal needs.

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MONZA



The Duomo of Monza and its Treasury

2 hours

The Basilica dedicated to St. John the Baptist represents the spiritual centre of Monza. The history of the building, whose ancient foundation is linked to the Longobard Queen Theodolinda, the beauty of the artistic works decorating its inside (among them are the 15th century wall paintings by the Zavattari workshop – now under restoration – in the Theodolinda Chapel), the important treasures donated along the centuries, such as the Iron Crown, make the visit to the

Duomo a forced choice for those who want to know Monza.

The itinerary continues into the Museum and Treasury of the Duomo, where an invaluable heritage is preserved: precious relics, goldsmithery, sculptures and paintings, endowed to the Basilica since the Longobard foundation in the 6th century throughout the different periods of art and history.

The Duomo and the historical centre of Monza

3 hours

An itinerary intended for those who want to know the history of Monza through the visit to the most significant monuments and artistic works of this ancient town. The tour starts from the Basilica dedicated to St. John the Baptist (founded in the Longobard period and rebuilt in Gothic style in the 1300s), which hosts the Iron Crown, followed by a visit to the Museum and Treasury of the Duomo with its priceless artistic and historical collection.

The guide will then take you on a pleasant stroll in the historical centre of Monza to the discovery of the main roman and medieval buildings survived through the centuries: the roman Arena bridge, Via Lambro with the medieval tower, the Arengario (the ancient Town Hall), the St. Peter Martyr monastery, the church of S. Maria in Strada.

The Royal Palace and its gardens

2 hours

The Royal Palace of Monza was built at the end of the 1770s as the summer residence of the Archduke Ferdinand, son of the Empress Mary Therese of Austria. The plan was designed by the architect Giuseppe Piermarini and the result is one of the best examples of neoclassical style.

On the north-east side of the residence the architect projected also the first “English style” garden ever realized in Italy, with classical “ruins” and evocative views. The visit offers a historical and artistic analysis of the Palace and its surrounding gardens.

Upon request the itinerary will be completed reaching the nearby Cappella Espiatoria, a memorial monument built by the architect Sacconi in the place where the King of Italy Umberto I was killed by an anarchist on July 29, 1900.

The Royal Palace, the gardens and the Royal Park - 3 hours

In 1805, following a decree by the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, a huge area was destined to become a Park, designed by the architect Luigi Canonica to increase the prestige of the Royal Palace. Partly used as a hunting reserve, partly intended for agricultural purposes, it incorporated many nearby pre-existing buildings. Starting from the view of the Royal Palace and its gardens, the itinerary will continue in the Royal Park, visiting some

historical mansions, such as Villa Mirabello and Villa Mirabellino, and rural buildings, such as the farms Cascina S. Fedele and Cascina Frutteto or the Cantone Mill.



The Park of Monza

2 hours

This fascinating itinerary in the nature of the Royal Park of Monza, created by a Napoleon's decree in 1805, allows the discovery of some interesting historical buildings and sports installations (such as the Autodromo, the Formula One race track created in 1922). The tour will start inside the Park following the Viale Cavriga and reaching two noble mansions – Villa Mirabello and Villa Mirabellino – built by the Durini family in the 17th and 18th centuries, along with rural buildings and farms, redesigned in the 19th century by Luigi Canonica, the architect also planning the landscape.

BRIANZA

The Basilica and Baptistery of Agliate and their frescoes - 2 hours

The Basilica dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul in Agliate, with its contiguous Baptistery, represents one of the most interesting Romanesque monuments in the Brianza region. The building is an important and evocative example of religious architecture of the 11th and 12th centuries, its beauty also emphasized by the position in the countryside at a certain distance from the small town of Agliate. During the visit the guide will analyse the history, the architecture and the ancient cycle of fresco paintings which are preserved into the church and the baptistery.

The Arese Borromeo Palace in Cesano Maderno - 3 hours

Arese Borromeo Palace is a monumental architecture built in elegant Baroque style in the 17th century. The wonderful halls and rooms were all frescoed by the most important Lombard painters (such as Montalto, Nuvolone, Ercole Procaccini il Giovane, Ghisolfi), describing the life of Bartolomeo III Arese and the glory of his family, politically influential during the Spanish domination in Milan. The most singular features are the Nymphaeus, the so called “Grotto of marvels” with water tricks, and the Loggia, an arched open gallery overlooking the park, enriched with Italian style gardens.

MILAN

The Duomo of Milan

2 hours

The Cathedral, Milan's most celebrated symbol, is dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Its construction began in 1386, patronized by the Duke of Milan Gian Galeazzo Visconti, on the area previously occupied by a group of sacred palaeo-Christian buildings. The great enterprise lasted several centuries and the result is a very original and composite building, characterized by the pinkish-white Candoglia marble structure and preserving important treasures. Upon request the guide can take you to the underground archaeological site, or to the upper terraces, a panoramic point of view of Milan's skyline, between statues and gothic spires.

The Duomo, the Gallery and the Scala Opera House

3 hours

A tour of the town centre, starting with an accurate visit inside the Cathedral, whose construction begun by Gian Galeazzo Visconti in 14th century lasted over six hundred years, and continuing in the famous Gallery, an elegant iron and glass structure designed by Giuseppe Mengoni at the end of the 19th century and dedicated to the King of Italy Vittorio Emanuele II. The itinerary will end in Piazza della Scala, a square flanked by the Town Hall, hosted in the ancient Palazzo Marino, and the world famous Opera House named “Teatro La Scala”, built in neo-classical style by the architect Giuseppe Piermarini.

The Duomo, Piazza Mercanti and the Sforza Castle

3 hours

The itinerary starts with the visit inside the Cathedral, Milan's symbol, and continues westward through Piazza Mercanti, a square rich in history where the medieval Palazzo della Ragione stands surrounded by other ancient buildings, bearing witness to the civic life of the 13th century Commune.

The tour will end at the Sforza Castle, monumental symbol of the power of the Visconti and Sforza families that ruled over Milan in the 14th and 15th centuries. The guide will show you the imposing defensive structure with the Filarete Tower and the Parade Ground, completed by the part transformed into a residence for the court, decorated by great Renaissance artists. A visit to the Museum of Sculpture is included.

The Monumental Cemetery

2 hours

The Monumental Cemetery, planned by the architect Carlo Maciachini between 1863 and 1866, became along the years an open air museum celebrating the most important families of Milan, featuring works by famous sculptors and architects of the 19th and 20th centuries. Starting from the central Famedio (Temple of Honour), built as a place of historical memory and civic pride for the illustrious citizens, the itinerary will take you to the discovery of the main monuments, an extraordinary parade of Lombard funerary art.