

## Cathedral Museums

The Cathedral Museums are made up of two separate collections closely linked to the history of the Cathedral.

The Lapidary Museum, on the ground floor, contains sculptural fragments from the Cathedral. There are also lapidary elements from the Roman and Lombard Ages, inscriptions from various eras, examples of sculpture by Wiligelmo and the Campione Masters, and the so-called 'Metope': elegant reliefs depicting monstrous and fantastical beings.

On the first floor, the Cathedral Museum features works of art and precious liturgical equipment datable to between the Romanesque age and the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and also includes the treasures of the Cathedral. Of particular note: the portable altar known as that 'of St Geminianus', a rare example of 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>-century goldsmithery; the Evangeliary from the same period bound in silver and ivory, ancient reliquaries, including a Byzantine staurotheque from the 11<sup>th</sup> century as well as 16<sup>th</sup> century tapestries depicting stories from the Genesis, of Flemish origins. One room is given over to the rich heritage of the Chapter Archives displaying the most ancient documentation on the history of the Cathedral: the room features rare illuminated manuscripts as well as the *Relatio*, a 12<sup>th</sup>-century text documenting the construction process of the Cathedral itself.

Opening hours: from Tuesday to Sunday, 9.30am - 12.30pm and 3.30pm - 6.30pm

Ticket price: €3 adults, €2 concessions, €1.50 school parties

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[www.duomodimodena.it/musei/musei.html](http://www.duomodimodena.it/musei/musei.html)

## Romanesque Art in the Province

Throughout the Modenese territory, the Cathedral served as a much imitated model: echoes of its architectural structure and decorative framework may be found in many buildings around the province, often reinterpreted with a simpler taste. Such buildings may be found in Carpi (the Church of the Holy Virgin Mary in the Castle, known as 'la Sagra' (mid 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> century), in Nonantola (Abbey of St Sylvester, 753 - end of 11<sup>th</sup> century), in San Cesario (Basilica of St Caesarius, 12<sup>th</sup> century) and in the Apennines (the Churches of Rocca Santa Maria, Renno, Trebbio and Rubbiano).

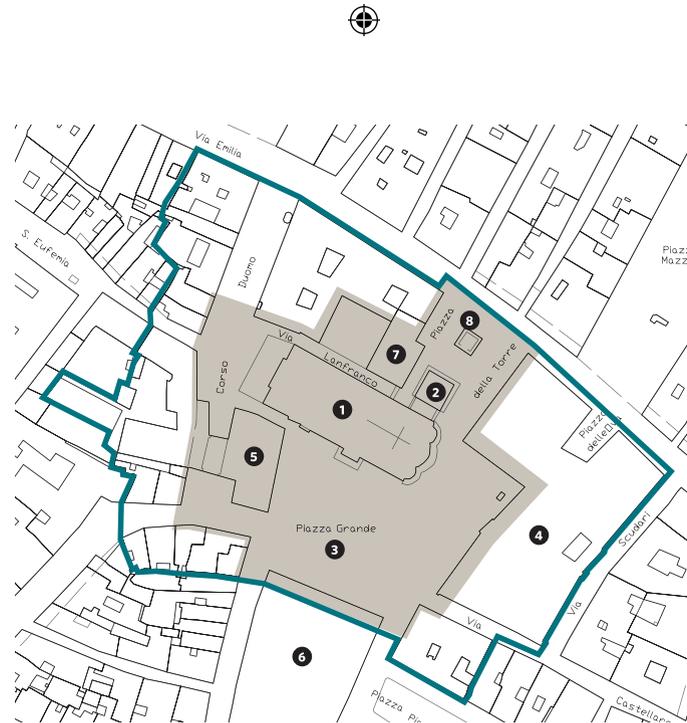
## Transromanica

TRANSROMANICA brings together partners of eight European countries, all working to promote their own monumental heritage from the Romanesque period, an architectural style first established around the year 1000. The state of Saxony-Anhalt in Germany; the cities of Gurk, Friesach and Maria Wörth in Austria; Modena, Pavia and Albugnano in Italy; Santo Domingo de Silos in Spain; the Tâmega and Sousa regions of Portugal, but also Serbia, the town of Alba Iulia in Romania and the French commune of Paray-le-Monial are all among the destinations of this journey.

Travelling along the TRANSROMANICA route means following an itinerary of some 25 grand Romanesque monuments, many of which have already been recognised by UNESCO as World Heritage sites, not to mention more than 300 other - prevalently sacred - sites, lesser known yet of great artistic value, which all await discovery by visitors throughout the various regions. In 2007, "TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage" received the status of Major Cultural Route by the Council of Europe. Each territory offers its own cultural treasures, its own culinary specialities as well as numerous other cultural events, against the backdrop of breathtaking landscapes.

For further information on the monuments, travel tips, tour offers and events planned, visit the website [www.transromanica.com](http://www.transromanica.com)

**TRANSROMANICA**  
The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage



### The Modena UNESCO Site

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| <p><b>Zone 1</b><br/>Heritage Site: Cathedral, Civic 'Ghirlandina' Tower and Piazza Grande</p> <p><b>Zone 2</b><br/>Buffer zone</p> | <p>1 Cathedral</p> <p>2 Civic 'Ghirlandina' Tower</p> <p>3 Piazza Grande</p> <p>4 Town Hall Palazzo</p> <p>5 Palazzo of the Archbishop</p> <p>6 Bank - Ex Palazzo of Justice</p> <p>7 Rectories - Cathedral Museums</p> <p>8 Piazza Torre</p> |
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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

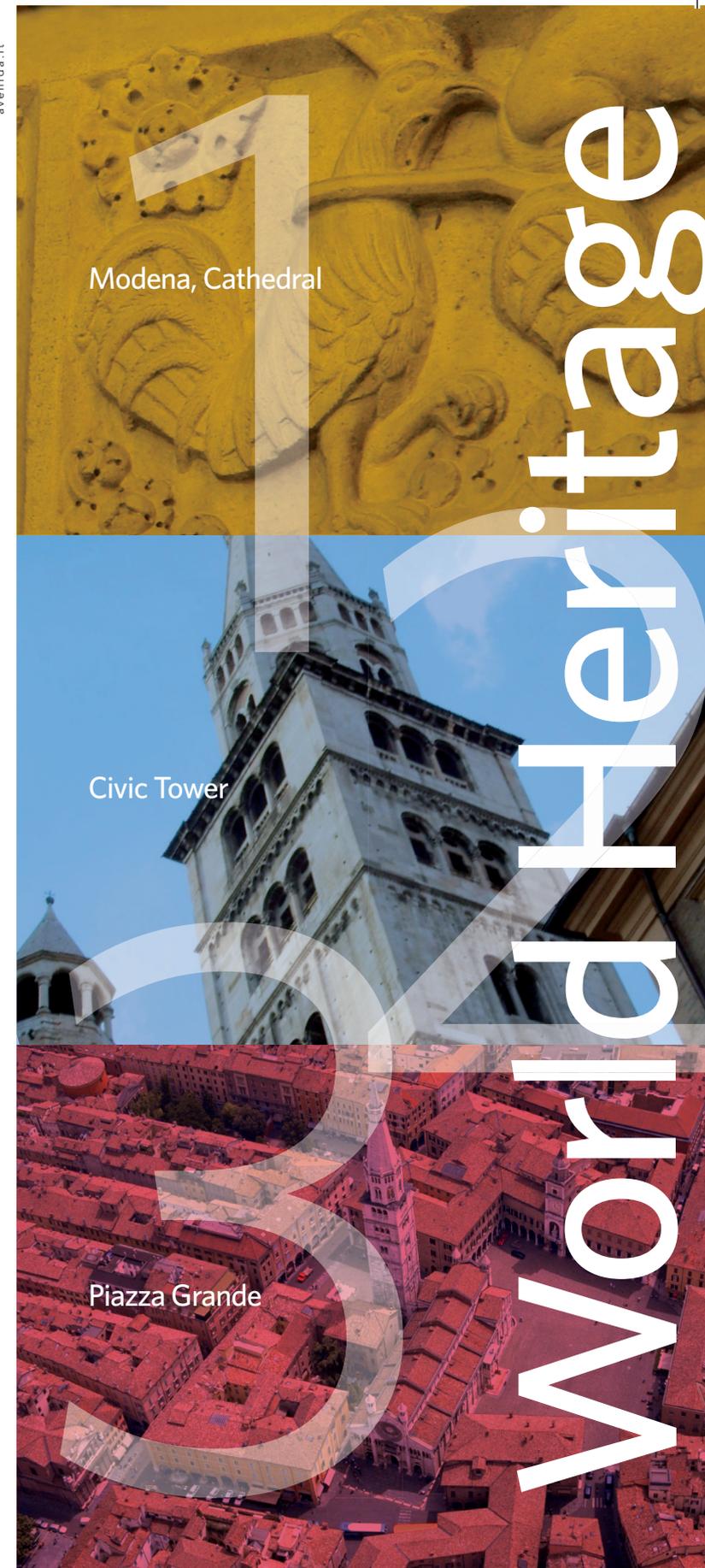


**Modena:**  
Cattedrale, Torre Civica, Piazza Grande

“ The joint creation of Lanfranco and Wiligelmo is a masterpiece of human creative genius in which a new dialectical relationship between architecture and sculpture was created in Romanesque art. The Modena complex bears exceptional witness to the cultural traditions of the 12<sup>th</sup> century and is one of the best examples of an architectural complex where religious and civic values are combined in a medieval Christian town. ”

Declaration of value, 1997

avenida .it



Modena, Cathedral

Civic Tower

Piazza Grande

# Cathedral (Duomo)



Founded on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1099, Modena Cathedral is a wonderful example of Romanesque art, which aroused great admiration at the time of its construction and which continues to this day to delight onlookers by virtue of its extraordinary beauty and originality.

Planning of the Cathedral was entrusted to Lanfranco, *worthy artist and marvellous constructor*, who ushered in a new and daring approach to architecture which had a profound influence on the Romanesque art that succeeded him. The brick structure coated with recycled cemetery stonework from the underlying Roman town of *Mutina*, was embellished by Wiligelmo's sculpture with an extraordinary sense of harmony. He and other skilled sculptors of the early 12<sup>th</sup> century were responsible for the splendid decoration abounding with plant motifs, animals, both human and fantastical beings on every capital along the loggia and the semi-columns, and every corbel of the supporting arches; the slabs depicting the *Genesis* on the façade; the main door on the façade; the 'Fish-Market Gate' on the northern side, and that of the Princes on the southern side.

Works by the Masters of Campione, who were active in Modena from the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century until the start of the 14<sup>th</sup>, include the great Royal Door facing onto *Piazza Grande*, the rose window and the false transept. The Cathedral is also home to a great choir screen depicting scenes of the Passion from the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century and other important works, especially from the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries: the 'Altar of the Statuettes' by Michael of Florence (1440 - 1441), the inlaid choir stalls by Lendinara (1461 - 1465), the Bellincini Chapel (c. 1475), the Altarpiece of St Sebastian by Dosso Dossi (1518 - 1521), the 'Madonna of the Pap' by Guido Mazzoni (c. 1480 - 1485) and the 'Crib' by Antonio Begarelli (1527).

Open: every day

Opening hours: 7am - 12.30pm and 3.30pm - 7pm

Visits are not allowed during celebrations or on Sunday mornings.

[www.duomodimodena.it](http://www.duomodimodena.it)

# Civic Tower (Ghirlandina)



The name of the tower, generally known as the *Ghirlandina*, might derive from the two balconies similar to garlands surrounding the cusp. Likely to have been founded at the same time as the Cathedral, between the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> and the start of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the *Ghirlandina* was completed by the Campionesi with the construction of the cusp, finished by Enrico from Campione in 1319.

Like the Cathedral, the structure of the tower is covered in slabs of stone, of which the lower section is recycled cemetery material. Built partly on the cobbles of the ancient Roman *via Emilia*, it leans visibly towards the Cathedral with a slight twist along the south-west pillar; today these movements are subjected to constant monitoring.

The tower has always served a double role, both civil and religious. At various times, the Chamber of the Bucket and the current entrance hall have housed the Town Council Archive and that of the Chapter, along with the silverware and the sacred relics of the Cathedral. The room also housed the bucket stolen in 1325 from the Bolognese during the Battle of Zappolino, of which the original is now on display in the Town Hall.

In the Chamber of the 'Torresani', sited some 45 metres from ground level and partially transformed into a balcony at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, lived the tower keepers, who watched over the city, giving the signal for the opening and closing of the city gates and ringing the bells. The Chamber also features two interesting sculpted capitals: the Capital of David and the Capital of the Judges.

Open: Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 1<sup>st</sup> April until 31<sup>st</sup> October  
Special openings: 31<sup>st</sup> January (Feast of St Geminianus, Patron Saint of Modena) and for other special events

Opening hours: 9.30am - 12.30pm and 3pm - 7pm (last entry 12pm midday, and 6.15pm)

Closed: from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> March, August and Easter Sunday

Tickets: €2

Combined ticket (Ghirlandina Tower and Historical Chambers of the Town Hall): €3

[www.unesco.modena.it](http://www.unesco.modena.it)

# Piazza Grande



The *Piazza del Duomo* (Cathedral Square), founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, became known as *Piazza Grande* from the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It has always been the heart of Modena, splendidly framed by the Cathedral, by the *Ghirlandina* Tower, and by the lofty colonnade of the Town Council Palazzo, historical symbols of the political and religious institutions of the city.

The strong civil vocation of the square is testified to this day by the presence of the *Pietra Ringadora* (Speakers' Stone), a huge block of stone used in the age of the communes as an orators' stage from which they would 'harangue' the crowds, and as a stone of shame for insolvent debtors.

The square was also the place where justice was administered, and for centuries it was home to the market and other forms of trade. On the apse wall of the Cathedral, the ancient measurements that merchants were obliged to conform to for sales purposes are still visible to this day: the *per-tica* ('pole'), the *coppo* ('tile'), the *mattoni* ('brick') and the *braccio* ('arm'). In order to guarantee correctness in trading, as far back as the Middle Ages there was an 'Office of Fair Trading', the symbol of which was the statue of a female figure in draping robes, known by the Modenese as the *Bonissima*, and today positioned on the corner of the Town Council Palazzo.

The municipal headquarters are the result of the aggregation of numerous buildings built between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A number of historical chambers may be visited, including the *Sala del Fuoco* ('Chamber of the Hearth') which houses a major pictorial cycle inspired by Roman history and painted by Nicolò dell'Abate in 1547, and the *Sala di Rappresentanza* ('Chamber of Representation') featuring various paintings by Adeodato Malatesta (1806 - 1891).

## Tourist Information

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Opening hours: Mondays, 2.30pm-6pm; from Tuesdays to Saturdays, 9am-1.30pm and 2.30pm-6pm; Sundays and public holidays, 9.30am-1.30pm and 2.30pm-6pm.

