TRACING THE ROOTS OF GAETANO DONIZETTI

To say Gaetano Donizetti means saying Bergamo. The internationally renowned nineteenth-century composer is much loved and is an ambassador of the city around the world. From the centre of Lower Bergamo to the heart of the Upper Town, there are testimonies of the life and works of the Maestro everywhere.

- Duration: one day
- Type of itinerary: walking
- Suggested for: children, adults, elderly
- Elevation gain: 151 m
- Distance: 4.5 km

GETTING AROUND

Bergamo's funicular railways are a fast and easy way to get from one of the city's major attractions to another. From the Lower Town you can reach the Upper Town, and then, further up to San Vigilio Hill. www.atb.bergamo.it

Bus number 1 and 1A take you to the Upper Town. From Bergamo airport you can reach the city with the Airport Bus. Take advantage of the tourist transport ticket for unlimited travel during your stay. www.atb.bergamo.it

Upper Bergamo and the centre of Lower Bergamo are limited traffic areas. On Sundays and public holidays car traffic is prohibited between 10am-12pm and 2pm-7pm. With daylight savings time, access is also banned Friday and Saturday from 9pm-1am. www.comune.bergamo.it

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Book a taxi via tel. +39 035 4519090 and visit the website for information on rates and taxi ranks. www.radiotaxibergamo.it

INFO POINT

Bergamo – Orio al Serio Airport
The office is in the Arrivals Area
Tel. +39 035 320402 - airport@visitbergamo.net

Bergamo Lower Town - Piazzale Marconi at the exit of the Train Station
Tel. +39 035 210204 - turismo1@comune.bg.it

Bergamo Upper Town at the Teatro sociale
Via Colleoni from 2018
Tel. +39 035 242226 - turismo@comune.bg.it

Before, during and after your stay, always stay connected to Bergamo! Visit our website www.visitbergamo.net and discover our best tourist tips.

info@visitbergamo.net
www.visitbergamo.net

SOS: EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER 112

MAKE YOUR STAY IN BERGAMO A LITTLE SWEETER, TASTE THE DONIZETTI CAKE! AND IF YOU LOVE CHOCOLATE, YOUR TASTE BUDS WILL BE DELIGHTED BY THE 'DONIZETTI MELODIES.'

Bergamo WiFi is the best WiFi service in Europe: login just once and you can surf always for free at our numerous public hotspots around the city, they cover all the must-see sights of Bergamo.
FROM THE HUMBLE CHILDHOOD HOME TO THE MAGNIFICENCE OF THE CITY’S THEATRES

Bergamo’s heart beats for Gaetano Donizetti: the majestic Theatre, named after him since 1897, and the monument dedicated to him clearly show the city’s love. With bus number 1 to Colle Aperto or on foot via the stairs next to the funicular, and then following via Tre Armri, you reach Borgo Canale. Here, you’ll find Donizetti’s childhood home. Ask for headphones at the entrance and listen to the Maestro’s voice telling of his family’s daily life. Continuing to via Colleoni, enter the splendid Teatro Sociale, where Donizetti made his debut and that is now the tourist information office as well as for the office for the programing of the Donizetti Opera festival.

JOURNEY INTO THE LIFE OF DONIZETTI

In the Donizettiano Museum in via Arena, there is a collection of memorabilia from Donizetti’s life, including letters, family memories, handwritten pages and his wife’s family’s piano, on which he composed his famous arias. The Museum is located at Domus Magna, a crossroads of artists and writers, already home to the music school where Donizetti studied; not far away is Casa Angelini, where he took lessons from Bavarian composer Simon Mayr. At the Accademia Carrara search among the many masterpieces for the painting by Ponziano Loverini, although at the end of his life, the Maestro keeps time with the piano music with one hand.

ON THE MUSIC NOTES

Continue on via Colleoni and on the left you will see a large, white, neoclassical building, it is Palazzo Nuovo (New Palace), which houses the Mai Library. Among its treasures is the handwritten score of Donizetti’s Lucia di Lammermoor. Cross the beautiful Piazza Vecchia and continue towards Piazza Duomo. You will find yourself in front of the Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica, the jewel of Bergamo. Inside, visit Gaetano Donizetti’s tomb, adorned with 7 bas-relief cherubs, symbolising the 7 musical notes. Not far away is Palazzo Scotti, where the Maestro ended his days.

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