



Art Treasures *of* Northern Italy

Friday 16 -

Tuesday 20 October 2026

A five day tour based in Parma

Situated between the Apennine Mountains and the Po River, the majority of the cities within the region of Emilia-Romagna follow the trail of the Via Emilia, the ancient road that begins in Piacenza and ends at the Adriatic coastline. Our tour aims to bring to life the treasures that are to be found in the north of a country that has played such a central role in the development of Europe and beyond throughout history.

Parma has an envied reputation for its gastronomic excellence and the city's art history is a testament to its rich cultural heritage and enduring influence on the world of art. From the medieval masterpieces of Antelami to the Renaissance genius of Correggio and Parmigianino, Parma's artistic legacy is evident within its picturesque streetscape. Our tour will also include visits to Bologna, Modena and Mantua.



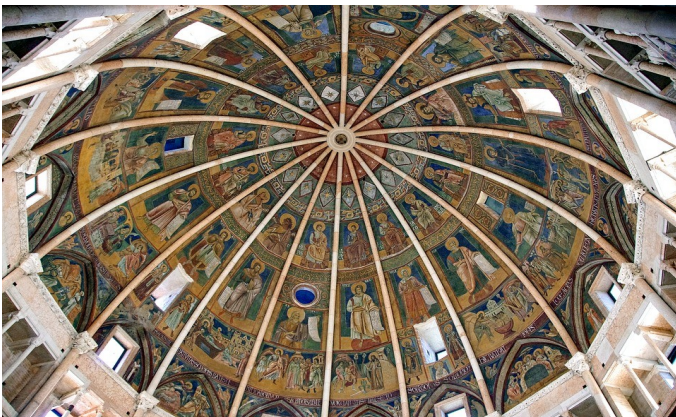
FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2026

We will depart from our local pick-up point in Woodbridge and transfer to London Stansted Airport.

We will depart from Stansted on a Ryanair flight to **Bologna Airport**, due to depart 11.00 and arrive in Bologna at 14.05 (*please note that flights are not included within the tour price and the schedule is subject to change by the airline*). We will be met on arrival by our local coach and guide, where we will continue our journey to Parma and check into the 5-star locally rated **Grand Hotel de la Ville** for 4 nights' bed and buffet breakfast accommodation. **Dinner** will be served in the hotel restaurant this evening.

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2026

Today will be spent on foot in **Parma**, in the company of our local guide. We will begin with a **walking tour** of the city, which will include visits of both the **Duomo** and **Baptistry**.



Baptistry, Parma

The Romanesque cathedral was consecrated in 1106 and its *cupola*, decorated by the late Renaissance artist Antonio da Correggio, is the illusionistic fresco of the *Assumption of the Virgin*. The Baptistery marks a transition between the Romanesque and Gothic styles, and is considered to be among the most important Medieval monuments in Europe. We will then continue to the **Church of San Giovanni Evangelista** to see its frescoes by Correggio and Parmigianino, before finishing our walking tour in **Piazza Garibaldi**, the very heart of the city. There will be free time for lunch.

This afternoon we will continue our tour, passing by the city's opera house, the Teatro Regio, before we visit the **Basilica della Steccata**, a key example of the

Renaissance with the last fresco by Parmigianino.

Our tour will end at the **Palazzo della Pilotta**, a museum complex which houses a good art collection and a rare Renaissance theatre. At the end of the afternoon we will return to our hotel for an evening at leisure.

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 2026

We will depart the hotel by coach and travel to the city of **Bologna** for a full day of visits. We will meet a local guide and begin with a **walking tour** of Bologna's historic centre, to include the main square, **Piazza Maggiore**, one of the finest squares in Italy, and the monumental **Fountain of Neptune**. The bronze figure of Neptune is attributed to Giambologna and is believed to date back to the 16th century. We will also view the famous Due Torri Pendenti – two gigantic leaning towers, which were built by Bologna's most important families during the 12th century (Asinelli and Garisenda), at which time there were almost 200 towers in the city.

We will continue to the **Basilica of San Petronio**, purportedly the world's fifth largest church and undoubtedly the city's most important religious site. It has been described as 'one of the most remarkable brick buildings in existence'. The basilica is dedicated to the patron saint of the city of Bologna and was built in the late Gothic period, but left incomplete. If finished, it would have been the largest Catholic church in the world, even bigger than St Peter's in Rome. The façade is famous for its superb carvings by Jacopo della Quercia, who ranks with Donatello as one of the greatest of the Renaissance sculptors. These carvings exerted a great influence on Michelangelo. The interior is richly decorated with paintings and noted for its superb Renaissance stained glass.

We will continue with a visit to the historic **Archiginnasio**, the heart of the old University of Bologna, and the fascinating wood-panelled **Anatomy Theatre**, which dates back to 1637 and forms part of the University's Medical School. There will be free time for lunch.

This afternoon we will continue to the **Pinacoteca Nazionale**. The collection of the Pinacoteca began in 1762 when Monsignor Francesco Zambeccari donated some 16th century paintings to the Accademia Clementina.

Originally, these paintings were part of a collection belonging to the prestigious Accademia dei Desiderosi, created by the Carracci family in 1582. The collection includes works of art dating back to the 13th century, and also includes works spanning the Renaissance period. At the end of the afternoon we will return to our hotel in Parma for an evening at leisure.



Due Torri Pendenti, Bologna

MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 2026

Today we will travel out of Parma to the city of **Modena**, where we will meet a local guide. This Renaissance city, once a powerful duchy, boasts a captivating blend of ancient and modern influences. The **Duomo** is one of the finest Romanesque cathedrals in the region, with a marvellous 12th century sculpture by Wiligelmo.

There will be free time for lunch in central Modena, and you may wish to visit the historic Mercato Albinelli, a wonderful market showcasing the city's gastronomic heritage.

This afternoon we will visit a local **Balsamic Vinegar of Modena** producer for a tasting and tour, learning about the traditional production process. We will return to Parma for some time at leisure. This evening, a **final dinner** will be served in a local restaurant.

TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2026

We will check out of the hotel after breakfast and travel by coach to **Mantua**. Mantua is a provincial town surrounded on three sides by lakes and was home to one of the greatest Renaissance courts in Europe.

From 1328-1708 the Gonzaga family ruled the city, creating a centre of stability, learning and culture.

Upon arrival we will meet a local guide and visit the **Palazzo Ducale**, once the largest palace in Europe covering 34,000 square metres with a population of more than a thousand courtiers. The official residence of the Gonzaga lords of Mantua until the 17th century, it was filled with priceless treasures, now largely dispersed.

There are many wonderful rooms still to admire, particularly the *Camera degli Sposi*, with its glorious frescoes of Lodovico II Gonzaga and his family by Andrea Mantegna, and an unfinished series of frescoes by Pisanello depicting the exploits of the Knights of the Round Table.

A **final lunch** will be served in a local restaurant before we continue the afternoon at the **Palazzo Tè**, a grand suburban villa and pleasure palace commissioned by Federico II Gonzaga, on the site of the family's stables at Isola del Tè. The architect was Giulio Romano, Federico's favourite artist and a former pupil of Raphael. In the frescoed decoration of the Palazzo, Giulio's fertile imagination triumphed: the Sala dei Cavalli, the Sala di Amore e Psiche, and supremely, the Sala dei Giganti are astonishing feats of imagination and artistry.

This evening we will continue to Verona Airport and depart on a scheduled Ryanair flight to **London Stansted Airport**, due to depart 22.10 and arrive into Stansted at 23.20 (*please note that flights are **not** included within the tour price and the schedule is subject to change by the airline*). Our local coach will be on hand for the return transfer to our original pick-up point in Woodbridge.

Please note that this tour involves a reasonable amount of walking and standing, and it is therefore unsuitable for those with mobility problems. Please note that as this tour has been planned many months in advance, the final itinerary may vary slightly from the above.

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GROUP TRAVEL



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The Arts Society Woodbridge

Art Treasures of Northern Italy

TOUR PRICE

£1,250 per person sharing a twin/double room (*excluding flights*)
£250 single supplement

PRICE INCLUDES

Return coach transfers Woodbridge/Stansted airport
4 nights' bed and buffet breakfast accommodation in Parma
2 dinners
Lunch in Mantua
The services of local guides as per the itinerary
All coach transport in Italy as per the itinerary
All booking and entrance fees as per the itinerary
VOX audio headsets days 2-4
Gratuities

HOTEL DETAILS

Grand Hotel de la Ville (5-star locally rated)

Largo Calamandrei 11
43100 Parma

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Our ATOL Number is 3622. All the flights and flight-inclusive tours in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate

MINIMUM NUMBERS

The price of the tour is based on a minimum of 25 paying participants.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking that each tour participant carries full travel insurance and it is your responsibility to ensure that you have adequate insurance for this tour. We have arranged a scheme with specialists Brokersure Limited who are fully authorised and regulated by the FCA (firm reference number 501719) full details of which can be found on the FCA website www.fca.org.uk. Please call Brokersure on 0330 880 3625 for a quote.

SUGGESTED INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

We intend to use the following flights with Ryanair:

16 Oct 2026 - Stansted/Bologna - 11.00 (14.05) FR 1194

20 Oct 2026 - Verona/Stansted - 22.10 (23.20) FR 2339

All flights may be subject to schedule change by the airline.

The tour price shown **excludes** airfares as these can vary on a daily basis. Heritage Group Travel can book flights on your behalf (*strongly recommended*) and will pass on the airfare cost plus an administration fee of **£10 per person**. This includes a 20kg check-in bag. We anticipate flights to be in the region of £250-£300 per person. Should fares excessively exceed this amount we will contact you. In the unlikely event that the tour does not materialise your deposit will be refunded in full. Please indicate on the booking form if you prefer to make your own travel arrangements. We ask that you please **do not** book your flights until you have received confirmation that your booking has been accepted and the tour is going ahead.

PASSPORT & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

British Nationals should be in possession of a valid 10 year passport. In early 2026, the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) will be launched for entry to Schengen area countries (most of the EU) if using a UK passport. **No action is required by travellers at this point.** We will update all participants closer to the date of travel.

BOOKING & FINAL TRAVEL DETAILS

To reserve your place on the tour, please send your **completed booking form** and deposit of **£400 per person** as soon as possible and no later than **Monday 09 March 2026**. Please note that as places on the tour are limited, bookings will be accepted on a 'first come, first served' basis. You will receive a confirmation of your booking combined with an invoice for the final balance. The final travel details (itinerary, hotel details, flight ticket and luggage label) will be available approximately 10-14 days prior to travel. The final balance is due by

Friday 24 July 2026.