



Milan

POP 1.3 MILLION

Includes →

Sights	45
Activities	58
Courses	58
Tours	58
Festivals & Events	59
Eating	59
Drinking & Nightlife	61
Entertainment	63
Shopping	65
Pavia	68
Monza	70

Best Places to Eat

- Cracco (p62)
- Latteria di San Marco (p59)
- Ristorante Da Giacomo (p61)
- Al Bacco (p60)

Best Places to Stay

- Tara Verde (p196)
- Brera Apartments (p195)
- Antica Locanda dei Mercanti (p196)
- Bulgari Hotel (p196)

Why Go?

Home of Italy's stock exchange, an industrial powerhouse and the internationally accepted arbiter of taste in fashion and design, Milan is a seething metropolis. At times it can seem brash and soulless but beneath the veneer is a serious sense of history and place. The grand Gothic cathedral, the Duomo, lies at the geographical heart of this one-time Imperial Roman capital, and expresses the love of beauty and power that still drives the city today. Art collections old and new, unparalleled shopping, one of Europe's biggest trade-fair complexes, sparkling nightlife, the prestige of opera at La Scala, the mark of Leonardo da Vinci's genius, a religious addiction to *calcio* (football), and endless opportunities to eat the best of Lombard and Italian food make Milan much more than the puritanically work-obsessed city it is often portrayed as. The city's next big date with destiny is Expo 2015, a world exhibition.

Road Distances (KM)

Legnano	39			
Monza	23	50		
Pavia	41	93	67	
Vigevano	35	78	55	38
	Milan	Legnano	Monza	Pavia

Where to Stay

Finding a room in Milan (let alone a cheap one) isn't easy, particularly during trade fairs and fashion weeks, when rates skyrocket. Services you'd take for granted elsewhere, such as breakfast, sometimes command an extra fee. There may not be a public area such as a bar or lounge, and wi-fi and bar fridges are never a given. Also, don't forget to consider location. The city's sprawl means what constitutes 'the centre' can be highly subjective.

3 PERFECT DAYS

Day 1: The Highlights

Head to the Duomo for a stroll around the gargoyle parapets, then immerse yourself in one of Milan's blockbuster museums: modernists at Museo del Novecento, international exhibits at Palazzo Reale and Italian masters at the Pinacoteca di Brera. Lunch at Peck Italian Bar and, in the afternoon, mix culture with pleasure at Castello Sforzesco and Parco Sempione. Finish your day in front of Leonardo da Vinci's *Il Cenacolo*.

Day 2: Fashion & Design

Breakfast at Princi, then take a quick course in Milanese interior design in the Renaissance apartments of Gian Giacomo Poldi-Pezzoli or the modernist villa of the Necchi-Campiglio sisters. Afterwards lunch with models in Il Salumaio di Montenapoleone and spend the afternoon browsing the Quadrilatero d'Oro. In the evening jump on the tram and head for buzzing Navigli for dinner canal-side.

Day 3: Science & Saints

Rise early to visit Milan's outstanding Science Museum, the mosaics in the Basilica di Sant'Ambrogio and Leonardo da Vinci's drawings in the Unesco World Heritage Site of Basilica di Sant' Maria delle Grazie. Then hotfoot it to Monza for lunch and an adrenalin-pumping drive around Monza's race track.

Getting Away From It All

- ➔ **Artistic alone-time** Seek out the amazing Boschi-di Stefano (p53) apartment for an art fix all to yourself.
- ➔ **Aperitivo** Shed your cares with a cocktail in the tranquil garden of the Bulgari Hotel (p61).
- ➔ **Get some green** Picnic and sunbathe in Parco Sempione (p55).
- ➔ **A trip to the country** Take a short train ride to the rolling vineyards of Oltrepò Pavese (p70).

DON'T MISS

Fashion alert: reserve ahead for fascinating behind-the-scenes tours (p53) of La Scala's costume and craft workshops.

Best Tours

- ➔ Tickitaly (p56)
- ➔ Enrico Toti (p56)
- ➔ Bike & the City (p58)
- ➔ Tours of Milan (p59)

Advance Planning

- ➔ **Three months** Book accommodation if travelling during trade fairs.
- ➔ **Two months** Buy tickets for *Il Cenacolo* and Serie A football matches.
- ➔ **One month** Reserve seats at La Scala and Michelin-starred restaurants.
- ➔ **One week** Checkout *aperitivi* hotspots and events at *Corriere della Sera*.

Resources

- ➔ **Cenacolo Vinciano** (www.cenacolovinciano.org) Booking for *The Last Supper*.
- ➔ **Milan Is Tourism** (www.turismo.milano.it) Milan's city website.
- ➔ **Milano da Bere** (www.milanodabere.it) Events, dining and drinking.
- ➔ **Angloinfo Milan** (<http://milan.angloinfo.com>) A global expat network.