Green
is Bologna

Discover

the Nature Reserves and Cycle Routes

Bologna is a city where beauty is widespread and embraces the whole territory. Many small hidden gems stand out among the rolling hills and long expanses of land characterising the plains. Fortresses, castles, parish churches, timeless medieval towns are just some of the places that will amaze the most curious traveller.

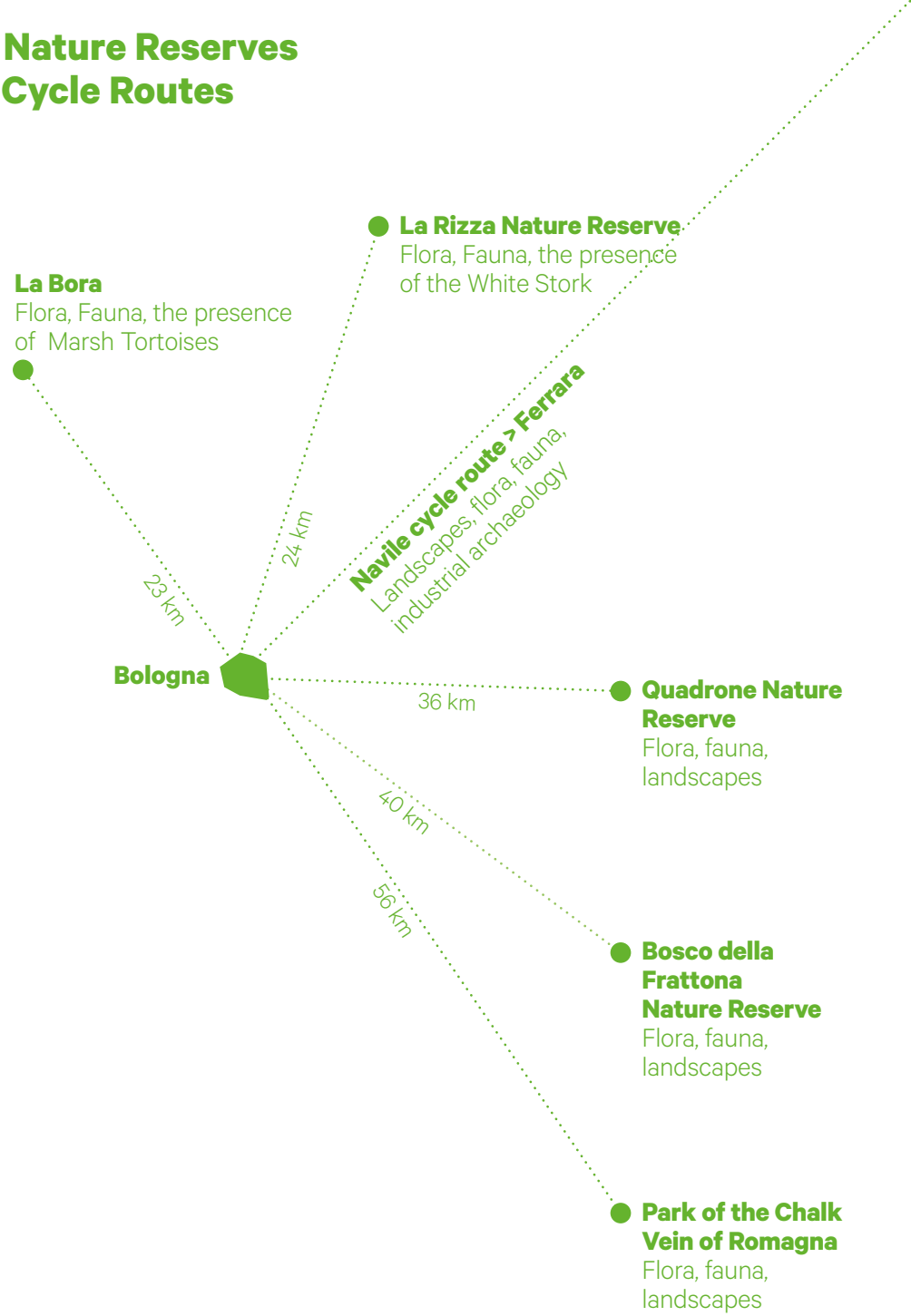
How to find us

Bologna is easy to reach using the main means of transport.

Bologna

- Bologna G. Marconi Airport
- Bologna Centrale Railway Station
- Motorways (A1-A13-A14)

The Nature Reserves and Cycle Routes



La Rizza Nature Reserve

From a swamp to a rice paddy until it became the protected natural area of the Ex Risaia di Bentivoglio (former rice paddy of Bentivoglio), also known as Oasi della Rizza (The Rizza Nature Reserve), at the end of the 1990s. The small patches of woods and poplars were integrated with new and lush hedges and the large wetland, characterising the entire area, was dug. With over 34 hectares of biodiversity, it is a charming nature reserve with lush greenery teeming with animals, typical of large freshwater swamps. Herons, ducks, migratory birds and marsh hawks as well as the white stork (back after centuries) find shelter among the aquatic protrusions and reeds, which make comfortable shelters for their nests. For a visit, part of the area is equipped with pedestrian and cycle routes and scenic lookout points.

La Bora

The area La Bora (The Bora) is a site of community importance and a special protection area of about 40 hectares, of which 22 are made up of a large water collection, a small hygrophilous wood, hedges and wooded patches and a prairie area, as well as a reforestation area, which has now become a "lowland forest". At the entrance to the protected area, in addition to the Visitor Centre, there is the Amphibians and Reptiles of the plains Centre where conservation and research activities are carried out for certain types of Amphibians and Reptiles. The area is provided with a specially equipped self-guided tour that touches two sides of the basin and then enters the woods. Access to the area is allowed every day during the day only for groups of less than five people. For larger groups it is mandatory to be accompanied.

Navile cycle route

The Navile cycle route is an ancient commercial route, dating back to the 12th century, which connected the cities of Bologna and Ferrara. An oasis of peace and tranquillity, perfect to be explored both on foot or by bike, to immerse yourself into the small gems of the rural tradition, nature reserves, such as The Rizza nature reserve and industrial archaeology monuments. From Bologna, you can reach the town of Castel Maggiore or discover the culture and origins of the territory at the Museo della Civiltà Contadina (Museum of Peasant Civilization) in Bentivoglio.

Park of the Chalk Vein of Romagna

The Parco della Vena del Gesso Romagnola (Park of the Chalk Vein of Romagna), established as a regional park since 2005, looks like a natural wall full of caves and tunnels. The Vena del Gesso Romagnola (Chalk Vein of Romagna) is the largest selenitic chalk chain in Europe and is 15 kilometreslong and two kilometres wide. Selenite is a variety of chalk that is deposited in the form of translucent scales and because of its transparency it was used in the construction of windows in ancient times. The Lapis specularis is also known as "moonstone" due to its lunar reflections when light passes through it. The chalk's solubility has given rise to the formation of caves, sinkholes and gullies following the action of water that over the millennia has carved the rocks, giving this particular connotation to the landscape of this stretch of the Romagna Apennines. There are numerous trails by foot or by mountain bike that cross the area of the park.

Photo
© Archivio Ente Parchi Emilia Orientale
Daria Victorini

Nature Reserve

The Wildlife Protection Nature Reserve "Il Quadrone", established in 1985, is located in the municipal area of Medicina. It covers about 270 hectares, within the Cassa del Quadrone and presents a wetland characterised by a valley, a hygrophilous wood, a wet meadow and a grove area, shelter for many animal and plant species. You can follow an itinerary that, starting from the Visitor Centre, allows you to observe the different environments and their flora and fauna. From the wooden huts visitors can practice Birdwatching and various descriptive tables tell the story of the place and offer information on the various animal and plant species that can be observed.

Bosco della Frattona Nature Reserve

The Bosco della Frattona is located on the hills of Imola, a hop away from the Tozzoni Park, near Rio Correcchio. The nature reserve, established in 1984, owes its name to the term "fratta", a place covered by brambles and other thorny shrubs. It is a protected area where cultivation and agricultural interventions are allowed, provided they are not in conflict with the conservation of the natural environment; it also has an area, whose surface is 19 hectares, which is included in the outcrop sector of the "yellow sands" of Imola. The traced itinerary allows the exploration mainly of the central part of the woods where you can find a great variety of shrubs and a very rich undergrowth. A real must are the spring blooms.

When to visit the nature reserves and protected areas
The nature reserves and protected areas deserve to be visited all year round. Each season offers colours and even training activities to make the most of the territory. To make the most of your visit, we recommend that you contact the relevant nature reserves to get informed of the migration and/or hibernation periods of the fauna present. Otherwise you can contact eXtraBO extrabo@bolognawelcome.it.

Do I have to pay to enter the parks?
In some of the nature reserves a fee is compulsory. During the year some nature reserves organise paid or free guided tours. For more information you can contact eXtraBO.

Are there particular precautions needed to cover the nature reserves or cycle routes?
No special sporting skills are necessary to visit the nature reserves and cycle routes. For a correct and safe use of the territory we recommend you to equip yourself with maps or to follow the indications present in the nature reserve, stay on the track and use appropriate clothing.

Are there any bike rental services or do I need to be fully equipped for the cycle routes?
Bicycle rental and/or repair services are provided throughout the territory. We advise you to check before departure that there is such an offer at your destination. For more information you can contact eXtraBO.

I would like to participate in an organised bike tour. Who should I contact?
There are several operators in the area, who organise customised bike tours. For more information you can contact eXtraBO, which on the basis of your travel needs will direct you to the operator with the best offer.

Quick weather guide

JAN Cold, you might find snow on the hillsides.
FEB Cold, you might find snow on the hillsides.
MAR Mild days, cold nights, but be advised you might find snow on the hillsides.
APR Mild days and cold nights.
MAY Mild/warm days and mild nights.
JUN Mild/warm days and mild nights.
JUL Very hot.
AUG Very hot during the day but, towards the end of the month, cool nights.
SEP Warm/mild days and cool nights.
OCT Best time to explore the parks. Mild days at the beginning of the month, cold nights. Risk of rain.
NOV Cold days and cold nights. High chance of rain/thick fog.
DEC Cold and wet. Possible snowfall.

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Bologna Modena territories

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Camera dell'Economia