Green
is Bologna

Explore

the Parks and Protected Areas of Bologna

Bologna, city of art, music, motors and food, but also an ideal place for those who choose to travel with greater awareness, immersing themselves in nature. Criss-crossed from east to west by several parks and protected areas, Bologna offers a cornucopia of biodiversity and a variety of landscapes to explore through countless activities: hiking, biking, visits to caves, lakes, mountain ridges and even ancient villages – some abandoned – sanctuaries and ruins dating back to World War II. Come and explore the Bologna that you didn't expect: a vast, extraordinary natural treasure to explore but at the same time to protect.

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)

Parks and Protected Areas of Bologna

Highlights

The medieval village of Monteveglio with its castle and abbey, gullies and clay deposits, the Rio Ramato ravine.	Monteveglio Abbey Park
The Dardagna waterfalls, Madonna dell'Acero, Cavone lake, the Punta Sofia cross at 1,939 metres. Alpe di Rocca Corneta, the villages of Pianaccio and Monte Acuto dell'Alpi.	Corno Alle Scale Park
La Dolina and Grotta della Spipola, Farneto cave, the "Buche", the Rio resurgence Acquafredda, the parish churches and the oratorios. Monte Calvo and the Miserazzano plateau.	Gessi Bolognesi Park
The lakes, the abandoned village of Chiapporato, the wild orchids, the deer mating season, wolf trails, the Bosco museum and the centuries-old chestnut trees of Poranceto.	Lakes Suviana and Brasimone Park
The incredible autumn sunsets, the Memoriale trail, the Pompeo Aria National Etruscan Museum, Giorgio Morandi Home and Museum, Pieve di Panico.	Monte Sole Historical Park
The trails of Monte Adone and Monte Mario, the Fields of Mugnano, the picturesque village of Livergnano, Rocca di Badolo.	Contrafforte Pliocenico Nature Reserve

Number of parks: **5**
Number of reserves: **1**
Itineraries: **32, 3 of them bike trails**

Monte Sole Park

The Historical Park of Monte Sole, situated between the valleys of the Reno and the Setta, is above all a story. The elevations – here soft and rolling, there jagged and bumpy – have seen an alternation of different civilisations, and still today they preserve important remnants of the past. Monte Sole is a place where history has left deep marks and a silent warning to not forget. The area is mainly known for the events of the fall of 1944, when the Nazi troops slaughtered hundreds of local inhabitants, erasing centuries of the quiet and laborious life of the local communities.

Corno alle Scale Park

Located in the municipality of Lizzano in Belvedere, the park occupies the westernmost sector of the upper Bolognese Apennines. The protected area includes the high valley of Dardagna creek, well known for its striking waterfalls and the wooded headland of Silla creek, overlooked by the spectacular sandstone massif of Corno alle Scale. The Corno area, of significant morphological and botanical interest, is known both for its ski resort, a traditional destination for winter sports enthusiasts, and for its vast network of trails that allows anyone to walk immersed in nature to the grasslands beyond the trees.

Gessi Bolognesi and Abbadessa Gullies Park

Caves and more: the largest karst park in the Emilia-Romagna region.
Located on the first hills of Bologna, it includes a band of chalky outcrops that generated a fascinating karst complex, and the evocative Abbadessa Gullies, a spectacular formation that gives the landscape an appearance of severe beauty. Sinkholes, plateaus, blind valleys and rocky cliffs evocatively shape the area dotted by caves that provide access to an elaborate underground world that can be visited by appointment thanks to the precious collaboration of Bolognese speleological groups.

Lakes Suviana and Brasimone Park

The park extends into the central area of the Bolognese mountain, around the three large artificial lakes of Suviana, Brasimone and Santa Maria built in the early 20th century for the production of electricity. Thick chestnut groves grow around Mogne and Poranceto, where the park has set up a forest museum.
In recent decades a diminished human presence has facilitated an increase in wild fauna, particularly deer. Between September and October the park is the place in the Apennine side of Emilia where one is most likely to hear mating bellows. Various medieval remains are preserved in Bargi, Baigno, Badi and Stagno, and of particular interest is the village of Chiapporato, now abandoned, with beautiful stone houses dominated by the steep slope of Monte Calvi.

Photo
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Daria Victorini

Monteveglio Abbey Park

Just a short walk from the city, a small park worth exploring.... A pleasant and varied landscape where vineyards and orchards alternate with steep wooded slopes and where well-sheltered ravines enclose small natural treasures. The mosaic of cultivated fields, hedges and wooded patches is brusquely interrupted by the ravines, clayey outcrops of ancient origin that mark the landscape and make it even more evocative. Alongside the natural surroundings, extraordinary historical ruins: the remains of the castle of Matilde di Canossa, famous for its medieval events, the Abbey of Santa Maria, the beautiful noble palaces, the oratories and the old rural villages surrounded by fields and vineyards.

Contrafforte Pliocenico Nature Reserve

The Reserve, situated about 20 kilometres from Bologna, is the largest in the entire region. Located among the hills of Bologna, it protects the majestic rocky face that stretches for 15 km across the municipalities of Sasso Marconi, Monzuno and Pianoro, culminating in the spectacular elevations of Monte Adone, Rocca di Badolo, Monte Rosso and, just beyond the protected area, Monte delle Formiche. This sandstone, sedimented on the bottom of a small marine gulf during the Pliocene when today's Po Valley was covered by sea water, today offers rare birds opportunities for nesting, including the peregrine falcon – the reserve's symbol – and the lanner falcon. Trails that climb upwards, breathtaking views, thick woods and hidden corners, colours and scents: this is the charm of the Contrafforte.

When is a good time to visit the parks?
The parks can be visited all year round. Each season offers colours, fragrances and activities that make it possible to enjoy the region following nature's rhythm.

Do I have to pay to enter the parks?
Admission to the parks is free and there are no opening hours. Guided tours can be requested for a fee.

Can I explore the parks with guided tours?
Eastern Emilia Parks Authority offers an extensive array of activities, including guided tours, workshops, educational seminars and visits for schools, and also activities specifically for groups (families, summer camps, etc.).
For more information: protocollo@enteparchi.bo.it

Do I need any special skills to hike the parks' trails?
To visit the various areas of the parks no special sporting skills are necessary. In fact there is a dense network of paths and trails, and their varying degrees of difficulty all clearly marked.
To properly and safely enjoy the area, we recommend you have a map, remain on the trail and wear appropriate clothing.

Quick weather guide:

JAN Cold, you might find some snow on the hilly side and in the mountains.
FEB Cold, you could find snow on the hilly side and in the mountains.
MAR Mild days, cold nights, but be advised you might find snow on the hilly side and in the mountains.
APR Mild days and cold nights. An excellent time to explore the parks.
MAY Mild/warm days and mild nights. An excellent time to explore the parks.
JUN The perfect time to explore the parks.
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. An excellent time to explore the parks.
OCT Excellent 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. Snowfall possible.

NOTE
The parks are distributed over a vast territory that goes from the plains to the Apennine ridge. The weather conditions can vary considerably and suddenly from one place to another.

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Programma di Sviluppo Rurale dell'Emilia-Romagna 2014-2020
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