

Roadbook

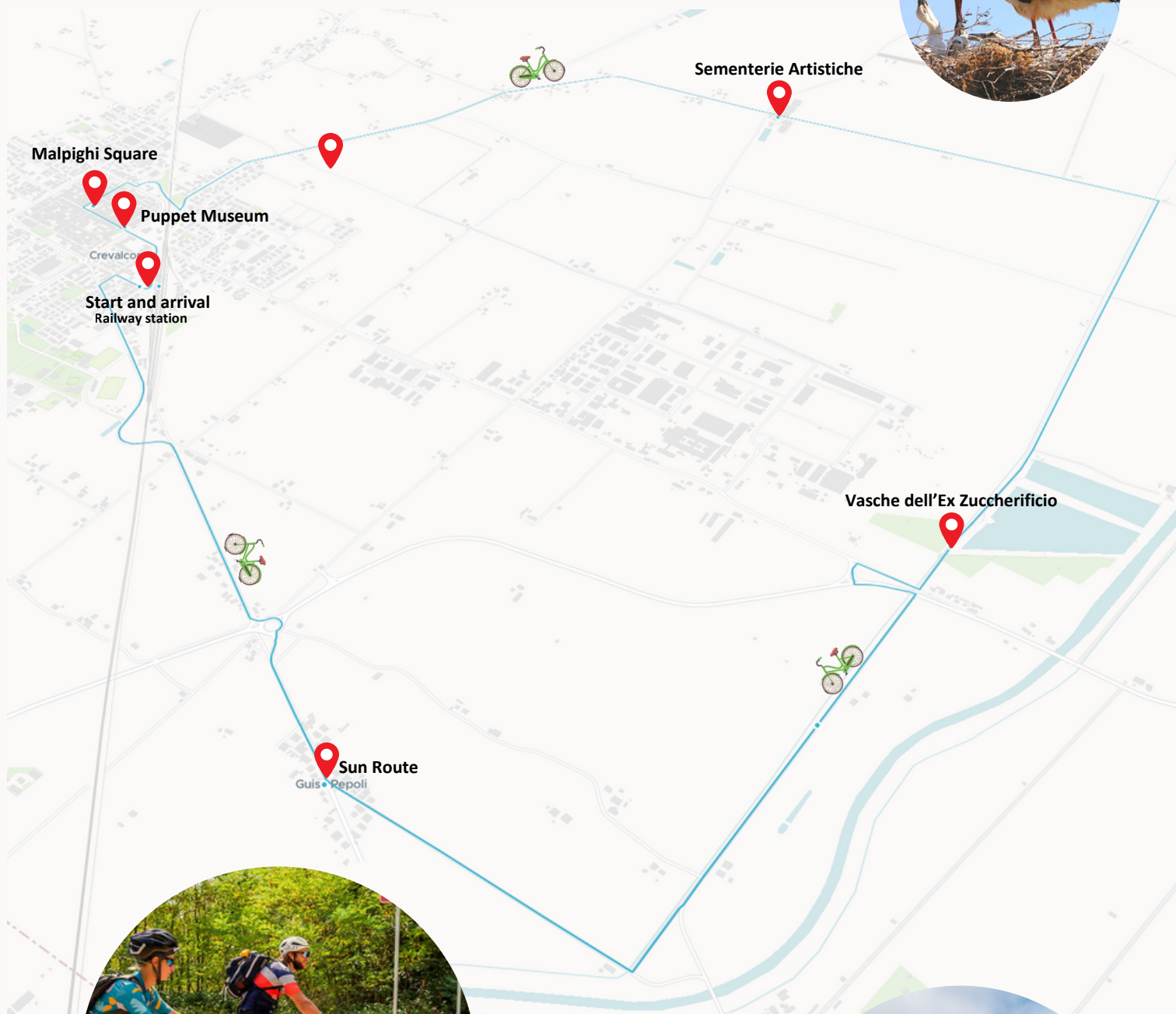


Comune
di Crevalcore
Città Metropolitana di Bologna

Culture, nature, and taste: the best of Crevalcore



Roadmap



The path is 20 km long

**[Click here to access the page and
download the GPX track](#)**



Or scan the QR code



Itinerary

This route will allow you to discover the best of Crevalcore, starting from the historic center, crossing the countryside, and reaching the Protected Oasis of the Vasche dell'Ex Zuccherificio, where nature once again takes center stage in this important wetland area.

The itinerary begins at Crevalcore **railway station**. The first stop is the **Leo Preti Puppet Museum**, a small yet extraordinary place that immerses visitors in the world of traditional puppetry, surrounded by handcrafted stage sets that tell the story of a lively and engaging popular culture.

After crossing Piazza Malpighi and the center of Crevalcore, the route continues into the local countryside. The trail leads to the Protected Oasis of the **Vasche dell'Ex Zuccherificio**, now a rewilded wetland area perfect for wildlife observation and, for the past 25 years, home to **a pair of white storks** — a symbol of environmental rebirth and biodiversity.

The return leg heads back toward Crevalcore station, completing a route that combines culture, nature, and flavor — ideal for cyclists who wish to enjoy peace and tranquility.

The itinerary was designed to prioritize cycle paths and low-traffic secondary roads. In the few sections where this was not possible, the route follows busier roads for short stretches. In all cases, we recommend exercising maximum caution and always complying with the Highway Code.



Insight

The history of Crevalcore

The first castrum (fortified settlement) of Crevalcore was established around 1130 on the territory of the **Abbey of Nonantola**, near the ancient Byzantine defensive system. Destroyed during the wars waged by Frederick II to reassert imperial authority, it was later rebuilt by the Bolognese in a location closer to the Panaro River. Due to ongoing pressure from the Este family, rulers of nearby Modena, the defensive system was gradually strengthened. In the 14th century, after a brief rule by the **Pepoli** family, the territory passed to the Visconti, who soon after ceded it to the papal troops.

However, it was under the stable rule of the **Bentivoglio** family that Crevalcore experienced a period of peace, during which the Cavamento canal was completed — an important hydraulic work that made new land available for cultivation. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the solid class of local landowners boosted construction activity: this period saw the construction of **the palaces along the main street**, the public school, the Barberini Hospital, and the Municipal Theater.

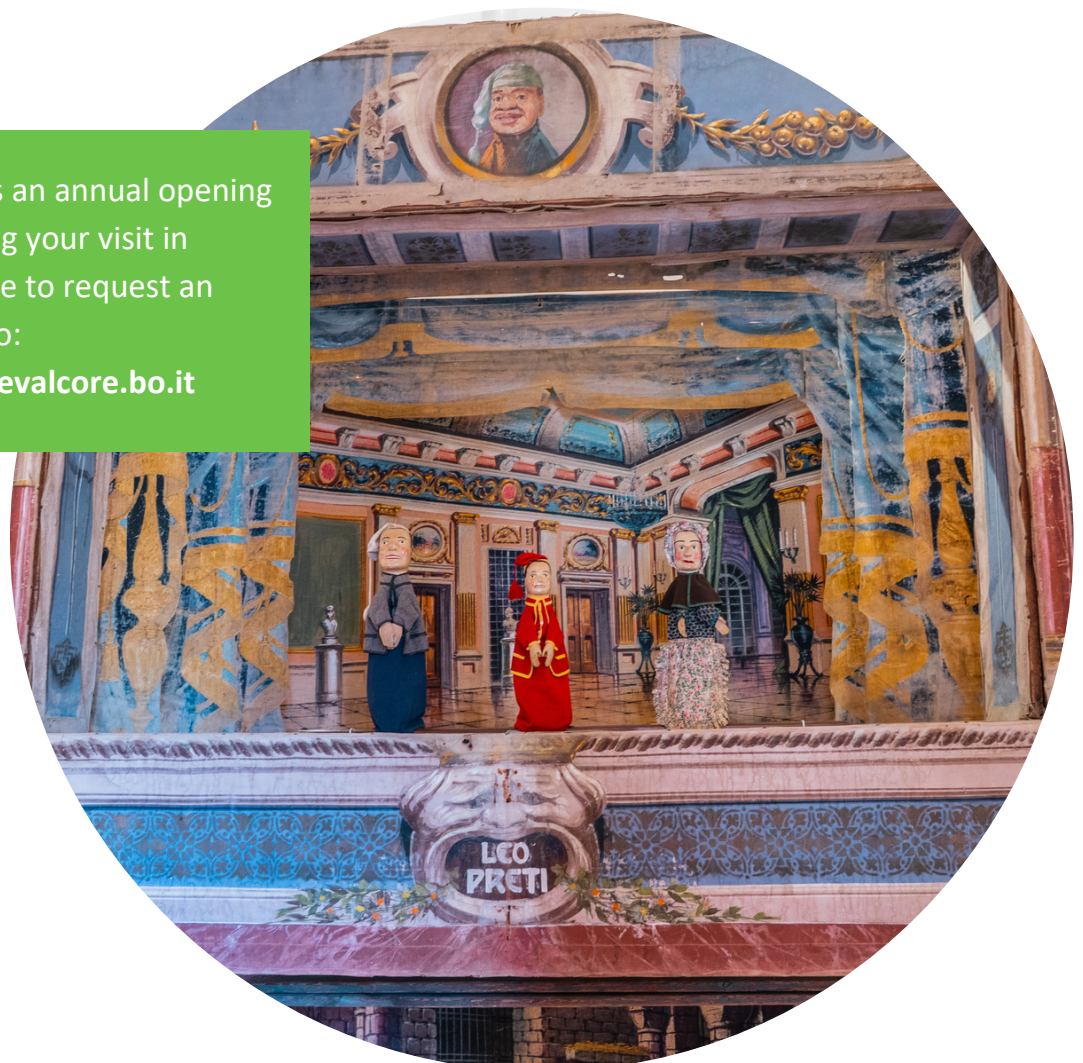


Leo Preti Puppet Museum

Your itinerary begins at Crevalcore railway station. From here, head toward the town center through **Porta Bologna**: it is inside this building, located within the remains of the ancient fortress, that you'll find the **Leo Preti Puppet Museum**, set up in a single exhibition room showcasing the historic puppets from the collection of Leo Preti, a local master puppeteer who continued his family's tradition started in the early 20th century.

The collection includes **65 puppets**, about 100 costumes, a dozen papier-mâché heads, numerous stage props, and **around 100 high-quality stage backdrops** painted by set designer **Otello Giovanoli** and Ferrara-born puppeteer **Ernesto Palamede Testelli**. There are also three complete puppet theaters with painted façades, posters, flyers, and ledgers dating back to 1886. The collection, owned by Leo Preti's son, is maintained and preserved by the Municipality of Crevalcore.

The museum follows an annual opening schedule. By planning your visit in advance, it is possible to request an opening by writing to:
cultura@comune.crevalcore.bo.it



The square, the statue of Malpighi and the Church of San Silvestro

Continue along the main street, leaving the museum behind. On Via Matteotti, you'll see the town's main buildings: on the right stands the **Municipal Theater**, designed by Antonio Giordani, decorated by Gaetano Lodi, and inaugurated in 1881. The theater is currently undergoing restoration following damage from the 2012 earthquake.

Next, you'll reach the town square, dominated by the bronze monument to **Marcello Malpighi**, a sculpture by Enrico Barberi (1897). Crevalcore is, in fact, the birthplace of the famous physiologist.

Behind the monument stands the **Church of San Silvestro**, rebuilt in the early 20th century to replace the 14th-century church. This reconstruction allowed the creation of the square by moving the church façade backward and rotating its axis by 90 degrees.

The neo-Gothic forms of San Silvestro now face the **Town Hall**, built in the second half of the 19th century, while the Civic Tower, set apart from the church, retains its Gothic style and bears an inscription marking its completion in 1424. **Now, let's leave the historic center and head into the countryside.**



Insight

The “Brazadela Tonda”

The Brazadela Tonda has been a De.Co. (municipal designation of origin) product of Crevalcore since an initiative by the local Pro Loco association. The name of this cake, found throughout the Bologna and Ferrara areas, likely derives from the way innkeepers **used to carry it looped over one arm (*brazza*)** while pouring wine with the other.

Even today, this tradition remains strong: the people of Crevalcore often serve the Brazadela during convivial occasions, and within the municipality, this festive dessert is still widely enjoyed — though it is now more commonly baked in a rectangular shape. Reviving the ancient round form also **recalls the shape of a bicycle wheel**, a tribute to the cycle tourists who reach Crevalcore via the Ciclovía del Sole and can enjoy this delicious treat.

The recipe is simple and time-honored, passed down through generations as a festive cake prepared for special occasions such as Confirmations, using the few ingredients once available in the countryside: 00 flour, eggs, butter, granulated sugar, powdered sugar, baking powder, vanilla and lemon flavorings, grated lemon zest, milk, and sugar crystals for decoration.



You can find it at the bakeries that have signed the De.Co. charter:

- Dolciromy, via Matteotti 66
- La Madia, via S. Agata 84
- Forno Stria, amore, fantasia, via Matteotti 322
- Ristorante Bottega Aleotti, via Paltrinieri, 62.

The countryside and the Protected Oasis of the Vasche dell'Ex Zuccherificio

Following Via Signata, you'll reach Via Scagliarossa. Along the way, you'll notice Agriturismo **Valle Torretta**, where you can stop (by reservation) to taste local products. Nearby is **Sementerie Artistiche**, an agri-cultural space for artistic creation, training, and residencies managed by a theater company. Turning onto Via Bandita, you'll arrive at the entrance to the Vasche dell'Ex Zuccherificio. Reborn from the remains of a decommissioned sugar factory in the 1980s, these basins have been restored and transformed into a protected area — **a small natural gem of the plains.**

Covering 22 hectares, the Ecological Rebalancing Area "Vasche ex Zuccherificio" of Crevalcore (established under Regional Laws No. 11/88 and No. 6/2005) is part of the Emilia-Romagna regional protected areas system.

The presence of habitats and species of high conservation value led to its inclusion in the European Natura 2000 Network as part of the **Special Protection Area "Biotopes and Environmental Restorations of Crevalcore"** (IT4050025). From here, heading south, you'll reach the locality of Guisa, and then return to the station along the Sun Route.



For a stop at Valle Torretta or to explore the theater program:

- Valle Torretta: valletorretta.it
- Sementerie Artistiche: www.sementerieartistiche.it

Insight

Vasche dell'Ex Zuccherificio

Each season in this protected area offers new surprises. The shallow waters, mudflats, islets, extensive reedbeds, and silted marshes attract numerous bird species that vary with the seasons. In winter, you can observe **teal, mallards, shovelers, and coots**. Diving ducks such as the ferruginous duck and the pochard frequent the deeper waters. Spring and autumn bring large **flocks of migratory shorebirds** — ruffs, black-tailed godwits, sandpipers, snipes, and black-winged stilts.

The area hosts one of the most important heronries in the western Bologna plain, with hundreds of grey herons, little egrets, cattle egrets, and night herons. In recent years, spoonbills have also begun nesting here. Within the reedbeds, purple herons and marsh harriers breed, along with little bitterns, reed warblers, and great reed warblers. During the warm seasons, along the banks, you may spot **the rare European pond turtle**.

But the species that most symbolizes this place is undoubtedly **the white stork**, which has been nesting here spontaneously for over 25 years. A webcam aimed at their nest allows you to follow all stages of reproduction online without disturbing them (www.naturadipianura.it).



The natural management of this area is carried out by the **Municipality of Crevalcore** through **Sustenia srl**, under the Integrated Management Agreement for the Protected Areas of the Plains (G.I.A.P.P.). The area can be visited during daylight hours by following the regulations at the entrance, staying on the path and within observation hides. Groups must be accompanied by authorized staff.

Information: info@sustenia.it - 051 6871051

Insight

The Sun Route

The Bologna section of EuroVelo 7, the cycle route stretching from North Cape to Malta, **passes through Crevalcore**. The first Italian section was inaugurated on April 13, 2021, **at the former Bolognina station**, a symbolic site where a tragic train accident occurred in January 2005.

Built along the old Bologna–Verona railway line, the Ciclovia del Sole also offers the advantage of **bike–train intermodality**: at Crevalcore station, you can board or alight with your bicycle to reach another point along the route. Outside the historic center, the cycle path allows you to explore the countryside and reach **Villa Ronchi**, the historic residence of the Caprara family. Heading north, you can reach the Panaro River embankment and then Camposanto, the first town in the Modena area; cycling south takes you easily to San Giovanni in Persiceto.

For more information, visit www.cicloviadelsole.it.



Thank you for cycling with us!

For more information and other itineraries:

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il passaggio verde di Bologna

