



## TOURISTIC TRAIL FERRARA AND ITS WALLS

Nine kilometres of walls surround the heart of the city of Ferrara, girdling its historic centre. Created and developed mainly for defensive purposes in the first half of the 12th century, they now exist as an enormous garden to be enjoyed freely by all; a place for meeting, relaxation, well-being, and sport. The walls show their long history and the numerous and varied transformations they have undergone to become what you see today. Bastions, towers, and gates rhythmically mark the wall's length and testify to the development of military.

ITINERARY WALLS

# FLORA AND FAUNA

The green space surrounding the walls is a veritable park prized for its rich biodiversity in terms of both flora and fauna including numerous rare protected species. The park hosts around 240 species of grass, tree, and shrub. It is also the urban site that boasts the greatest number of rare species. Such richness and abundance is due to the circular layout of the walls and the wide surrounding ramparts creating varying conditions of sunshine and humidity. The most commonly encountered trees are the tall hackberry and locust varieties and than there are plane trees, farnias, hornbeams, various prunus species, white poplars, black poplars, cypress poplars, and white willows. The walls are populated by owls, Italian sparrows, great tits and bluetits, blackbirds, robins, jays, pigeons, swallows, swifts, woodpigeons, grey crows, and jackdaws, magpies, kestrels, owls, and turtle doves. In the northern area, closer to the Po, there are grey herons, egrets, moorhens, night herons, and bitterns. Mammals to be found include house and wild mice, bats, shrews, and hedgehogs. Native amphibians and reptiles are present and protected by the regional law on "minor fauna" (Regional Law 15/2006), including the Italian green toad, the wall lizard, and the grass snake. Many of the insects present are pollinators.





# (1407-1450) and above all his successor Borso

The further drying up of the Po river led Leonello d'Este steps towards building a defence for the urban dwelling. century. Nicolò III d'Este (1383-1441) ordered the first htel hat the first half of the 14th and the first half of the 15th Polesine that once stood in the middle of the river the urban settlement on the island of Sant'Antonio in to the southern edge of herrara led to the establishment of The gradual drying up of the Po distributary which skirts Mura di Borso

the end of the Joth century. of the river Po which was almost completely buried at southern system of bastion detences behind the banks in Polesine, this bastion is the central element of the Located at the Benedictine monastery of Sant'Antonio Baluardo di Sant'Antonio

The current structure was built in 1612 in accordance Centro di Documentazione delle Mura estensi FOLS FOR "horse market". the weekly market and was commonly known as the the 20th century, the top of the bastion was used for

reigning Pope Paolo V Borghese, from which the name

Porta Paola derives. It is the most prestigious

Battista Aleotti, who designed it in honour of the

with the plans drawn by herrarese architect Jovan

Paola gate, which was built in 1612. At the beginning of part of the defensive system built to protect the Porta ancient Castelnuovo bastion. This structure constitutes Baluardo di San Lorenzo stands on the site of the

Built in 1583 and renovated in the papal period, the Baluardo di San Lorenzo

#### Porta di San Pietro was definitively walled up. Giovan Battista Aleotti. In 1630 the opening of the arch was built over the Porta San Pietro, designed by were completely knocked down. In 1583 a new marble century walls and the tower that stood at the Porta the construction of the bastion, the merions of the 15th strengthen the pre-existing 15th century walls. During between J5V8 and J582 in order to modernise and state-of-the-art fortifications built by Alfonso II d'Este The Baluardo di San Pietro is the first of the Baluardo e Porta di San Pietro

protect the entire southern area. (1413-1471) to order new walls to be built in order to

# of Santa Maria dell'Annunziata. In 1859 the structure was armouries, the residence of the castellan, and the church arrow bastions, barracks, depositories, gunpowder, that was built between 1608 and 1618, equipped with five These two bastions are the only testament to the fortress promote the local area.

to its late Mannerist and proto-Baroque architectural

# Baluardi di Santa Maria e di San Paolo

Pontelagoscuro to the Castello Estense trench. of the navigable canal that connected the Po in

Porta Catena e Saliente

centre of the fortress, is still visible.

access structure of the same name located at the mouth

north of this, in 1938, two archways were built: these were

Up to the point where Corso Porta Po meets Viale Cavour,

known as the Porta Catena, due to the proximity of the

the only structure of note is a trapezoidal salient. To the

bastions, the statue depicting Paul V, once placed at the

standing, even if the church was later destroyed by bombs

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in the World War II. On the embankment of the two

lits the hours of the Marian church left still

### Associazione Strada dei Vini e dei Sapori, set up to the headquarters of the food and wine organisation multimedia applications. Since 2021, Porta Paola has been story is told through themed panels, films, models, and the walls and how they have changed through history. The Paola was created to raise awareness and appreciation of language. The Este Walls Documentation Centre at Porta

monumental archways of Ferrara, particularly with regard

With an external diameter of 21 metres, it is the largest

circular defensive tower of those designed by Biagio

Rossetti along the fortified perimeter of the historic

Built between 1493 and 1505 by Biagio Rossetti,

Erculean Addition. Built from 1493 onwards, it stands at its

Alessandro Biondo, and Bartolomeo Tristano, the walls of

Ferrara mark the transition from vertical defences to

horizontal bastion defences and represent one of the

most famous examples in Italian military architecture of

this transition to a later defensive system. A water moat,

which though shallow, was very wide (between 35 and 80

metres), made any attempt to approach the crenellated

Located at the end of the ancient via degli Angeli, this

Porta was the only gateway in the fortified walls that

provided access from the north and which were built

over the centuries with the changing of its functions.

Situated between the city and the River Po, the park

overlays the ancient territory of Barco. It was the Este

entertainment but also served to extend the Erculean

Built between 1493 and 1497, this fortified tower kept

Addition walls' defensive system as far as the Po.

family's hunting reserve, annexed to the Delizia di Belfiore

within the city walls. It was a place given over to leisure and

. between 1493 to 1505 around the area of urban expansion

better known as the Erculean Addition. Restored between

1984 and 1991, it was the subject of many transformations

Torrione di Barco

north-western vertex

Mura Rossettiane

Porta degli Angeli

curtain wall exceedingly difficult.

Parco urbano Giorgio Bassani

Torrione di San Giovanni Battista

#### Carpi, C. Filippi, and Garofalo. The fame of the residence was linked to the unique environmental backdrop in which it was set, with waterways brought to life by complex hydraulic devices, which flowed around the vine and flower-covered mountain at the foot of which stood a fish pond of more than 200 metres in length (now Viale Alfonso I d'Este). The mound of earth also hid two underground decorated caves, unfortunately fell into ruin with the exile of the Este dynasty from Ferrara.

#### Porta Romana

The current ruins are all that remains of the architectural complex that until the end of the 16th century overlooked the main southern entrance of the city. In order to protect the Porta di San Giorgio gate (known as Porta Romana from 1798 onwards), between 1557 and 1563, the dukes Ercole II and Alfonso II d'Este ordered the construction of a new bastion. The Porta was transformed into the monumental Prospettiva arch. The changes and the disasters at the end of the 19th century led to the functional decentralisation of the building, resulting in architectural damage.

#### Baluardo dell'Amore - Parco Archeologico

Built onto the curtain wall constructed by Borso d'Este in the mid-fifteenth century, the Baluardo dell'Amore with its typical ace of spades shape was actually added more than a century later: it was Alfonso II d'Este who commissioned a major series of works to strengthen the southern fortifications near the Po between 1578 and 1585 according to the plans drawn by engineers and military specialists. The Archaeological Park allows visitors to rediscover the remains of the ancient curtain wall and the Porta d'Amore. The ravelin of 1557 can be found after passing through the gate. A walkway has been installed above this curtain wall, at the centre of which there's the upper level of the Porta dell'Amore.



watch over the Porta of the same name at the eastern end of the long decumanus road of the Erculean Addition urban area. In 1518, Duke Alfonso I d'Este decided to cover the tower with a conical roof, while the original battlements were filled in during the first half of the 19th century. After the French occupation of 1796, the gate was named Porta Mare and the entire complex was subject to the first in a series of functional modifications. Since 1999, the Torrione di San Giovanni has been the home of the Ferrara Jazz Club.

# Baluardo e doccile di San Tommaso

With a typical arrow shape and with no rounded orecchioni ramparts on its sides, the bastion was built when the Alfonso I d'Este decided to reinforce the defences of the south-eastern area of the city. A short distance away is the 18th century doccile of San Tommaso, a sort of canal that was built in 1524 in order to convey the waste from the city's sewers.

# Baluardo della Montagna

Between 1518 and 1522 the new wall was built between the Porta di San Giorgio and the Baluardo di San Tommaso. In 1518 Sebastiano Bonmartini designed the large arrow-shaped Baluardo della Montagna. An enormous mountain (called the Montagna di San Giorgio) was created on top of the bastion with the earth from the excavations which served as a cavalier upon which the powerful artillery of Duke Alfonso d'Este was installed.

# **Bagni Ducali**

The Delizia della Montagna, now known as the Bagni Ducali (Ducal Baths), was the recreational residence built by the Duke Ercole II in 1541 according to the plans drawn by Terzo Terzi. The external facades of this small, simple palace featured frescoes by B. Dossi, G. da

