



# Bologna - City Business Guide

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## Overview

Bologna is somewhat of a delightful secret, in comparison with Italy's other, loudly trumpeted cities. Its elaborate history contains stories of great Renaissance dynasties and industrial contributions, while its cultural heritage involves such key artists as Corregio and Carracci. Home of one of the world's largest churches, the Basilica San Petronio, the city is also the site of one of the oldest universities, which was attended by such illustrious figures as Dante and Copernicus. The student population continues to bring a colorful dimension to the city, which can especially be felt in the area of Via Zamboni. Also famous for being the birthplace of balsamic vinegar and home base to Ferrari and Maserati, Bologna is currently an important Italian center for industry, business and culture.

## Business Etiquette

- \* Customary attire is professional and stylish.
- \* If possible, use third-party introductions.
- \* The customary greeting is a friendly handshake.
- \* If your associates have academic or professional titles they should use when addressing them.
- \* It is custom practice to exchange business cards with everyone present, following the introductions. Exchange cards first with older associates and women.
- \* Schedule appointments in advance. Times to avoid are early morning and just after lunch. Show up punctually.
- \* Extensive discussion and even back-channel methods are common in business negotiations. Interruptions and haggling are also frequent.
- \* Business meals often last many hours. If you are picking up the tab, arrange it in advance.
- \* Sensitive topics that should be avoided in conversation include World War II and the Mafia.
- \* Greet everyone individually with a handshake. Avoid greeting the group as a whole, for example with a wave.
- \* If invited to meet family, accept the offer.

## Chamber of Commerce

**Bologna Chamber of Commerce**  
 Tel.: +39 51 609-3111 ; [www.expedia.co.uk](http://www.expedia.co.uk)

**British Chamber of Commerce**  
 Tel.: +39 51 254-568 ; [www.britchamitaly.com](http://www.britchamitaly.com)

## Embassies and Consulates

**Brazil Consulate**  
 Tel.: +39 051 6145744

**France Consulate**  
 Tel.: +39 051 23 75 75 ; [www.expatries.diplomatie.gouv.fr](http://www.expatries.diplomatie.gouv.fr)

**Germany Consulate**  
 Tel.: +39 051 3399014 ; [www.konsulate.de](http://www.konsulate.de)

**Mexico Consulate**  
 Tel.: +39 051 6447829

## Business Centers

Most large hotels (some of which may be listed here) also have business centers that offer many of the same services that independent centers provide.

**International Business Centre Bologna**  
 3 Via Ferrarese; Tel.: +39 051 419 8400; [www.ibcbo.it](http://www.ibcbo.it)

## Conference and Exhibition Centers

**Palazzo della Cultura e dei Congressi**  
 Piazza della Costituzione 4; Tel.: +39 51 637-5111 ; [www.bolognacongressi.it](http://www.bolognacongressi.it)

**Palazzo del Podesta**  
 Piazza Maggiore; Tel.: +39 51 637-5111 ; [www.bolognacongressi.it](http://www.bolognacongressi.it)

**Palazzo Albergati**  
 Via Masini 46, 40069; Tel.: +39 51 750-247 ; [www.albergati.com](http://www.albergati.com)

## Translation Offices

**International Services**  
 Via del Rondone, 3, 40122 Bologna; Tel.: +39 51 555-650 ; [www.internationalservices.it](http://www.internationalservices.it)

**Global Multilingual Translations.**  
 Via Cavour 15, Florence : 0800 94 69 50 / 00 39 055 265 81 33 ; [www.gmt-ils.it](http://www.gmt-ils.it)

## Courier/Messenger Services

**UPS**  
 Tel.: +39 800 877-877 ; [www.ups.com](http://www.ups.com)

**DHL**  
 Tel.: +39 199 199 345 ; [www.dhl.it](http://www.dhl.it)

**FedEx**  
 Tel: Regular : 800 123 800, Outside of Italy : + 39 02 2188444 ; [www.fedex.com](http://www.fedex.com)

## Internet Connection Place

All upper-range and most medium-priced hotels are equipped with dataports that allow guests to use laptop computers. Many hotels also offer business centers equipped with computers and Internet access. Outside hotels, cyber cafes are available including:

**Hollywood Cyber Pub**  
 Via Caduti di Casteldebole, 13/C.; Tel. +39 051 562 569 ; [www.bolognalife.it](http://www.bolognalife.it)

**Internet Corner Kiosks**  
 Public access is available in Internet Corner Kiosks operated by Telecom Italia. Kiosks have been installed at airports, major hotels and in other public places.

## Visas & Customs

Citizens of EU countries, US, Canada, Israel, Japan, Switzerland, New Zealand, and Australia do not need a visa for tourist visits up to 90 days. Regardless of your nationality, you are advised to register within eight days of your arrival with the foreigners' police if your stay in one city is longer than a week. If you are staying at a hotel, the staff will be able to take care of this. Duty-free allowances are 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco; 750ml of spirits (over 22% proof), or 2 liters of fortified or sparkling wine; 60g of perfume and 250ml of eau de toilette; 500g of coffee or 200g of coffee extract, and; 100g of tea or 40g of tea extract. Travelers arriving in Italy after visiting other countries are allowed to carry souvenirs purchased in other countries up to a total value of US\$500, and only a verbal declaration is required.

## Phone Information

The country code for Italy is 39. The area code for Bologna is 51

## Emergency Phone Numbers

Dial 112 for Carabinieri's service  
 Dial 113 for the police service  
 Dial 115 for the fire department  
 Dial 116 for the A.C.I. (Italian Automobile Club) - for road side assistance  
 Dial 118 for Medical Emergency  
 Consol : 51 23 75 75

## Tips and Rules for Use of Phone in Country

Long-distance calls within Italy are dialed in the same way as local calls: the city code plus the number. Area codes contain one to three digits. Direct international calls can be made by dialing 00 to get out of Italy, then the respective country and area codes, and the number. For general information in English, dial 176. To place international telephone calls via operator-assisted service (or for information), dial 170 or long-distance access numbers. Public telephones are available throughout Italy. A local call from a public telephone requires the use of coins or calling cards. Toll-free numbers start with 800, while premium numbers begin with 116 or 900.

## Tips and Rules for Use and Rental of Mobile Phones

Italy's primary cellular standards are GSM, RTMS450, and ETACS. If you choose to bring your cellular phone into Italy, be sure to check with your home cellular service provider to establish compatibility of your phone with systems abroad. Rent a locally compatible cellular phone before you arrive to obtain reasonable rates and reliable service. **Cellular phone numbers begin with 3. The three digit dialing code identifies the carrier.**

## Money

As of January 1, 2002, euro became the official currency. Euro notes are available in denominations of EUR5, EUR10, EUR20, EUR50, EUR100, EUR200, and EUR500, while coins are in 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 cents, and EUR1 and EUR2. The euro is divided into 100 cents.

## Tipping

- \* **Restaurants** 15% service is usually included, but it's customary to tip another 5 to 10% for good service.
- \* **Bars** Service is generally included, but it's customary to leave ITA200 for a coffee standing at a bar. If you sit at a table, prices are higher, and you should add a 15 percent tip
- \* **Airport skycap/porter** ITA1500 per bag
- \* **Taxis** 10% of the fare
- \* **Hotel bell desk** EUR1.50 per bag
- \* **Hotel housekeeping** EUR1 per night
- \* **Hotel room service** 15 percent
- \* **Parking attendant/valet** EUR0.50
- \* **Haircare/personal services** 5 to 10% percent

## Time Difference

Italy is in the Central European Time Zone, one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.





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## VAT & Taxes

VAT percentage range between 4% (food for every day consumption such as milk, pasta) and 20% (sport equipment, shoes, cars, garments and jewelry).

## Voltage

The electrical current in Italy is AC; the cycle is 50Hz 220 V. Plugs have round prongs.

## Local Transportation

Bologna has an efficient public bus system. Tickets can be purchased individually or in a packet of seven or one-day or monthly use. Taxis can be best found at taxi stands or by telephoning. Taxis are not cheap. If telephoned, taxis will also charge for the trip to the pick-up point. There is no real need to rent a car while in Bologna.

## Health Info

No vaccinations are required for Italy, but exercise normal precautions, and take special care in the summer to avoid sun and heatstroke. Tap water is potable. Food is safe.

## Climate

High temperatures in the summer are about 30 degrees Celsius, while seasonal lows are around 15 degrees Celsius. Rain is rare during the summer months. In winter, temperatures go as high as 8 degrees Celsius and sink as low as 2 degrees Celsius. Fall and winter receive the highest amounts of precipitation.

## Public Holidays

- \* **New Year's Day** January 1
- \* **Epiphany** January 6
- \* **Easter** Sunday in mid-March or early April
- \* **Easter Monday** Monday after Easter
- \* **Liberation Day** April 25
- \* **Labor Day** May 1
- \* **Anniversary of the Republic** Sunday nearest June 2
- \* **Assumption** August 15
- \* **Saint Petronio** October 4
- \* **All Saints' Day** November 1
- \* **Immaculate Conception** December 8
- \* **Christmas** December 25 St.
- \* **Stephen's Day** December 26

## Where to Eat

Set in the walls of an old 14th-century palazzo, **Pappagallo** is one of the city's most famous restaurants; its menu offers a variety of Mediterranean dishes as well as the Bolognese classics and a fine selection of local wines. Located within the Hotel Baglioni, **I Caracci** offers fine Italian dining in a sumptuous setting. **Nuovo Notai** is a must for all lovers of mushrooms and truffles, and of the creative Umbrian-Tuscan dishes. Traditional Bolognese cuisine is the offering at the exceptional Ristorante **Diana**. Bolognese dishes are also on the menu at the classy, upscale **Torre de Galluzzi**. For some of Bologna's finest seafood try **Le Maschere**. **Rodrigo** has been serving international and local dishes for 50 years in a refined environment of wall-to-wall wine bottles and chandeliers.

## Local Gift Ideas

An antique and book market takes place in Piazza Santo Stefano on every second weekend of the month. Like other Italian cities, Bologna has a fine offering of designer fashion. Via d'Anzello and Via Farini have the best selection of boutiques. The Museo Ducati has many Ducati-related items that make for unusual gifts.

## Leisure Time

The top of the Torre degli Asinelli, at the end of Via Rizzoli, offers a breathtaking view of the city and its distinctive red-roofed structures. The Piazza Maggiore is home to many beautiful attractions including the Basilica di San Petronio with its gorgeous façade, the Fountain of Neptune and several palaces.

Some amazing works of art like Nicolo dell'Arca's Pieta can be seen in the Santa Maria della Vita. The collection of the Pinacoteca Nazionale (National Gallery) features important art from such central Bolognese figures as the Carracci brothers and Guido Reni. A wood-paneled anatomical theater is a remnant from the days when Bologna's Archiginnasio, one of Europe's largest public libraries, was a university building. The opera performances at the Teatre Comunale are reputed to be the country's finest after Milan's La Scala. A wide range of buzzing live music venues, bars and discos to suit any style can be found in Bologna. Osteria Cantina Bentivoglio is known for great jazz nights.

Bologna's Giardini Margherita and the nearby basilica of San Luca, located on a hill, both offer some quiet green space to the visitor.

