



Vision, sustainable tourism and cultural renewal in Bergamo and Brescia in the year of the Italian Capital of Culture 2023

February 2023 - **Sustainability is at the heart of the Bergamo Brescia Italian Capital of Culture 2023 project** and, even before that, it formed an important part of the strategic vision pursued by the two cities in recent years. 'The Nature City' is, in fact, one of the four project areas¹ at the basis of the entire proposal and it redesigns the relations between settlement patterns, forms of consumption, transport systems, urban production activities and environmental resources from an environmental perspective. In particular, this chapter brings together projects that symbolise the future possible for the Bergamo-Brescia metropolitan area; projects for the expansion and activation of urban and peri-urban green areas; participative and educational initiatives; and, last but not least, slow mobility routes that conscientiously connect the two cities with a focus on the quality of the local areas.

Two flagship projects directly connecting the two cities will see the light of day by the summer of 2023: the **Ciclovía**, a 76-km-long cycle path currently under construction, which passes through 34 historical centres and villages and 872 heritage sites; and the **Cammino**, a pedestrian route suitable for everyone, approximately 120 km long and divided into 6 stages.

The city will also be the protagonist of the **Landscape Festival** which, for twenty days in September 2023 will change the face of Bergamo's historic centre, filling it with greenery. In 2023, for the first time, the initiative will also go beyond the city itself, reaching the surrounding area and Brescia. There, a simultaneous green installation is planned, embracing several symbolic places, events and multidisciplinary productions.

There will also be art and cultural events that focus on nature and sustainability. Two major exhibitions will shine a spotlight on the mountains, the depository of the greatest biodiversity set to determine the ecological future and the stability of the environment we live in, as well as the most evident naturalistic feature of the cities of Bergamo and Brescia. One is "**Luci della Montagna**" (Mountain Lights), with the photographic works of Ansel Adams, Martin Chambi, Vittorio Sella and Axel Hütte, from 24 March at the Santa Giulia Museum in Brescia. The other is "**Vette di Luce. Naoki Ishikawa sulle Alpi Orobie**" (**Peaks of Light. Naoki Ishikawa on the Bergamo Alps**), with contemporary paintings and photographs in dialogue, from 23 June at the Accademia Carrara in Bergamo.

The Main Partners of Bergamo Brescia Italian Capital of Culture 2023 are Intesa Sanpaolo and A2A, while Brembo is System Partner, Sacbo is partner of the City of Hidden Treasures area, and Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane is partner of the Nature City area. The Italian Ministry of Culture and the Lombardy Region are institutional partners together with Fondazione Cariplo, Fondazione della Comunità Bresciana and Fondazione della Comunità Bergamasca.

For more information visit the websites <https://bergamobrescia2023.it>, www.visitbergamo.net and www.visitbrescia.it.

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¹ The other areas are "The city of hidden treasures", "The city that invents" and "Culture as a cure".