



Green
is Bologna

Discover

Sun Route

Mirandola-Bologna
Bologna-Crinale Tosco-Emiliano





This cycling route connects Bologna to the rest of Europe as part of the Sun Route “EuroVelo7” running North-South from the North Cape in Norway to Malta. The path Mirandola-Bologna runs along the former railway line Verona-Bologna, in perfect communion with the rural landscape of the Emilian flatlands, surrounded by fields, rivers, historic towns, art, fine food and natural reserves, perfect for birdwatching lovers. Over the next few years, a new route will be introduced, up in the Apennine Mountains, making up the second path that connects Bologna to the Tuscan-Emilian Mountain ridge, travelled today only by experienced cyclist or accessible by train all the way up to Florence. Are you ready to hit the road? Come and discover the Tourist Destination Bologna-Modena on your bike!



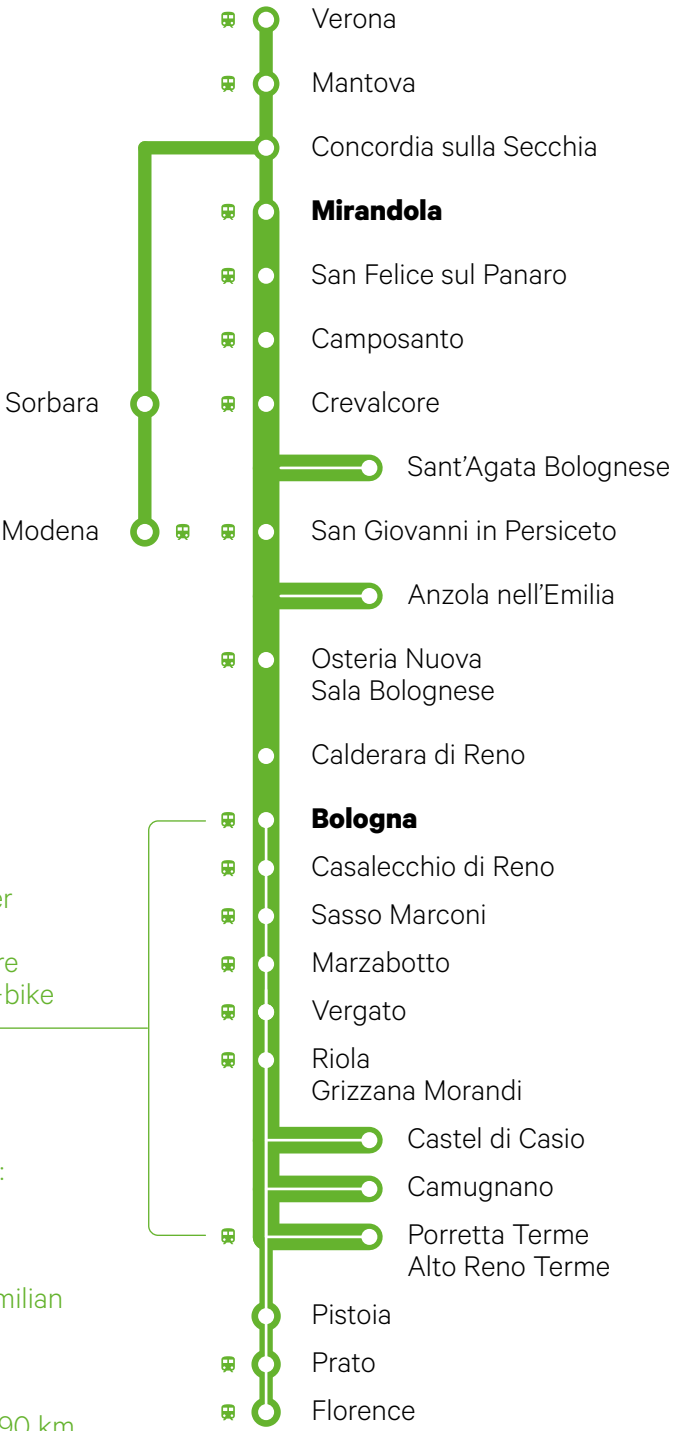
How to find us

Bologna is easy to reach using the main means of transport.

Bologna

-  Bologna G. Marconi Airport
-  Bologna Centrale Railway Station
-  Motorways (A1-A13-A14)

Sun Route



Stretches still under construction.
The destinations are reachable by train+bike

Total length
Mirandola-Bologna:
68 km

Total length
Bologna-Tuscan-Emilian
Apennines: 73 km

Total length
Verona-Florence: 390 km



Mirandola and the lowlands of Modena

Your journey starts in the territory of Modena, from the hometown of Pico della Mirandola, famous Renaissance genius, eminent member of the noble family who ruled over the town for almost 400 years. After visiting the Cathedral and the Pico Castle, make your way towards San Felice Sul Panaro, medieval fiefdom of Matilda of Tuscany, and stop off to visit the Este Castle, then reach Camposanto, where you will cross the river Panaro from a high embankment dominating the lowlands, finally getting into the Bolognese territory.



Crevalcore

You reached Crevalcore, characterised by its central square with the 1897 bronze sculpture paying homage to its best-known citizen, the scientist Marcello Malpighi, first developer of the microscopic observation in the field of anatomy. Do not miss the beautiful old town with its nineteenth-century well preserved structure, and explore the surrounding territory, dotted by ancient country houses once belonging to the Bolognese aristocracy.



Sant'Agata Bolognese

You've almost reached an icon of motor history: Sant'Agata Bolognese, known worldwide for being the hometown of the illustrious Italian car manufacturer Lamborghini. Visit the dedicated museum, and stroll along the alleys of the old town admiring the Bibiena Theatre, a true gem of the Bolognese flatlands.



San Giovanni in Persiceto

This multi-coloured town is well-known both for its centennial carnival and for the original concentric structure of its medieval centre, called "Round Town". Make sure you stop off at the Piazzetta Betlemme, later renamed "Piazzetta degli Inganni" ("The Tricky Square") for its trompe l'oeil paintings, created by the scenographer Gino Pellegrini, who chose to spend the last years of his life here after several years of prolific activity in Hollywood. A few steps from the town, you can find the "Bora" natural reserve and its recovery centre for pond turtles.



Sala Bolognese

While riding your bike among pulping mills, elms and white willows, you may opt for making a detour towards Anzola dell'Emilia to visit the Carpigiani Gelato Museum, the only one dedicated to this exquisite delicacy made in Italy, or towards Sala Bolognese, where you can admire the 1096 Romanesque church of Santa Maria Annunziata and San Biagio, the natural reserve of Dosolo and the Water Ecomuseum. You can now proceed towards Calderara di Reno, last town in the flatlands before entering Bologna.



Bologna

Main centre of the Metropolitan City and the Emilia Romagna Region, Bologna is a gem encrusted in the very heart of the Po Plain—whose fields and landscapes you've just run through— and gently embraced by the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines. A town known for its art, its university (1088), declared by UNESCO as City of Music. Its porticoes and arcades are the longest in the world (40 km), an eternal crossroads between North and South, East and West, whence cities like Florence, Milan, Venice and Rome are very easily reachable.



Casalecchio di Reno

Riding along the Reno Canal, you will reach the Casalecchio Sluice, recently inscribed in UNESCO's heritage messengers programme as a symbol of peace culture in favour of young people. After its inauguration between the 10th and the 11th centuries, and since its reconstruction in masonry in the mid 14th century, the sluice has been operating uninterruptedly as Europe's oldest waterwork, reinforced by the architect Vignola in 1457 and still functioning today. From now on, let the River Reno guide you through your journey.



Sasso Marconi

Sasso Marconi is named after the cliff that overlooks the Reno and Setta (Sasso) Valleys, and after the scientist Guglielmo Marconi, worldwide known for his pioneering work on long-distance radio transmission. Follow his traces by visiting his villa, his mausoleum and the Marconi Museum. Moreover, this area is particularly renowned for typical products like wine, chestnuts and truffle, able to delight your taste buds!



Marzabotto

Now make your way through the Reno Valley up to Marzabotto, a national historic icon, awarded the gold medal for military valour. The town centre hosts a memorial monument dedicated to those civilians and partisans who lost their lives in the barbaric massacre committed by nazis in 1944. Do not miss a visit to the national etruscan museum Pompeo Aria and the related archaeological area of the ancient city of Kainua, an extraordinary example of the etruscan civilization located just a few steps from Marzabotto.



Vergato

As eternal testimony of the key role played by Vergato in the Apennines history, the town square stands out with the Palazzo dei Capitani della Montagna, decorated by colourful coats of arms and by the marvelous glass windows by Luigi Ontani, internationally renowned contemporary artist from Vergato. The building's ground floor hosts the MuseOntani, dedicated to the artist, who also designed the allegoric fountain that guards the train station square. Vergato is also the seat of the Gothic Line documentation centre.



Grizzana Morandi

After entering the territory of Grizzana Morandi, your first encounter will be the church of Santa Maria Assunta in Riola, a religious masterpiece designed by the Finnish starchitect Alvar Aalto. While beholding the landscape from your bike, you will surely notice the fascinating shapes of the Rocchetta Mattei, built for Count Cesare Mattei. Make a detour to visit the town of Grizzana on the trail of the life and works of the famous Bolognese painter Giorgio Morandi.



Lakes of Suviana and Alto Reno Terme

You're almost there! You have now reached the Lake of Suviana, created for electricity production and today equipped with all facilities for fishing, sailing, windsurfing or simply relaxing. You're in the heart of a Natural Reserve, take your time and make a break lulled by thick chestnut woods and the timeless towns of Camugnano and Castel di Casio. Not far from here, the town of Porretta is ready to welcome you with its thermal baths: you can now proceed towards Tuscany or make your way back to Bologna by train.

What is the Sun Route?

The Ciclovía del Sole (Sun Route) Verona-Bologna -Florence is one of the first and most representative examples of bike tour in Italy, i.e. cycle routes running across different territories and developed along their main attractions and resources. The route illustrated here is part of the Eurovelo7, a long-distance cycling route running north-south through the whole of Europe from the North Cape in Norway to the island of Malta after crossing the Italian peninsula from North to South.

Are there still any sections under construction?

Some stretches of the cycle route Verona-Bologna -Florence described here are expected to be completed in the next few years. More significantly, the second stage of this path, connecting Bologna to the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines, remains unfinished. However, the destinations of this area are still reachable through trails for experienced cyclist or by public transportation allowing for bike transport. For more information to this regard, just contact eXtraBO, our outdoor infopoint, we'll be happy to help you with the organization of your itinerary.

What's the best season to explore the Sun Route?

The Sun Route can be enjoyed all year long. However, the best time to get in the way is during the spring, when flowers bloom and the weather is milder, or during the early autumn, thanks to the likewise pleasant weather and the beautiful yellow-orange foliage, a sight for sore eyes.

Conversely, the summer season, particularly during July and August, may come with high temperatures and muggy weather, whereas winter always entails the risk of fog, rainfall and snowfall events.

To whom should I speak for more detailed information, to get assistance in arranging my accommodation or to know more about bicycle repair shops along the way?

For any need, please refer to eXtraBO, the outdoor information point of Bologna, or visit the dedicated website www.cicloviadelsole.it

cicloviadelsole.it

Mirandole

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Crevalcore

TobettoBeibe

Sant'Agata Bolognese

Card Musei Bologna

Sala Bolognese

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Sasso Marconi

LigaDue

Vergato

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Grizzana Morandi

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