

MILANO, LEONARDO IS EVERYWHERE

Leonardo was architect, engineer and city planner. There is no other city in the world where it is so easy to come across Leonardo. His art, his drawings, his engineering works can all be seen in many parts of Milano: there are memorable traces of the great Renaissance genius everywhere. His legacy can be found at every turn in Milano.

Milano is the city of the Renaissance where Leonardo chose to express his genius at the height of his artistic and intellectual powers. The great artist, architect and engineer lived in Milano for two decades in the late 1400s and again in the early 1500s, leaving his imprint in the city.

Leonardo da Vinci is the most searched artist on Google worldwide, but many people don't know that Milan was the city that welcomed him and where he chose to spend the longest and most prolific period of his life.

In Milan, he unleashed his creative genius and universal talent.

There are several cities where you can see Leonardo's major works. However, they are usually concentrated in a single location: a specific museum or art gallery.

What makes Milan unique is that it is literally steeped in Leonardo's presence: you can see his works or traces of his time there practically everywhere.

To really understand Leonardo da Vinci's mind and his many talents these attractions should be on your bucket list.

- **Monument of Leonardo da Vinci**

At the end of Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, the iron-and-glass arcade full of luxury shops and bookstores that leads to the Scala Theater, you will find the statue complex of Leonardo surrounded by the effigies of his four foremost collaborators, just in front of City Hall (Palazzo Marino).

- **Biblioteca Ambrosiana**

From Piazza della Scala walk down Via Santa Margherita and across Piazza Mercanti, the old medieval center of the city, and on the opposite side of Via Orefici, you'll reach Biblioteca Ambrosiana, where Leonardo's Codex Atlanticus, the largest collection of his drawings and notes, resides as testament of his perennial genius. You're in the bustling center of Milano, but the ancient library with its adjoined Pinacoteca (hosting Renaissance paintings by Titian and Caravaggio) is a corner of tranquility.

- **Castello Sforzesco**

Go inside the Sforza Castle, where Leonardo painted the Sala delle Asse, inside the walls of the ducal manor that had just been completed and whose rooms were still being decorated and furnished.

- **Sala delle Asse**

An extraordinary pergola formed by mulberry trees, painted on the walls and composed of a complex interlacing of leaves, branches, and golden ropes supporting heraldic shields that refer to Ludovico Sforza, known as “il Moro.” The fruit of the mulberry tree is, in fact, the mulberry.

Leonardo and his workshop sketched the mulberry trees in charcoal and began painting the vault and the lunettes, but they interrupted the work in the summer of 1499, when Milan was invaded by the French army. It was not until the 19th century that some scholars rediscovered evidence of Leonardo’s work, and in 1894 the paintings were found beneath layers of plaster.

After World War II, the Sforza Castle, devastated by bombing, was completely restored. The restoration of the Sala delle Asse focused on repainting the walls, lightening the colors; a remarkable discovery was the so-called “Monochrome,” a section of painting that scholars consider to be entirely Leonardo’s work, painted in ochre tones, depicting the powerful roots of mulberry trees embedded in a rocky and rugged landscape.

- **Art Gallery: I Leonardeschi**

In addition to paintings, sculptures, and medals from Leonardo’s school, two multimedia stations have been set up that allow visitors to view Leonardo’s paintings and drawings

Immersive exhibit

To tell the story of the Sala delle Asse—from the time of Leonardo’s work to the recent restorations—a large immersive installation has been created in the Panoramic Rooms of the Rocchetta: it is a scaled-down replica of the Sala delle Asse with projections that recount historical events and trace the lines conceived by Leonardo

Codex Trivulzianus

Leonardo’s “Moleskine”

Among the treasures of Leonardo preserved at the Sforzesco Castle is also one of his precious handwritten notebooks, known as the “Codex Trivulzianus.” Due to the notebook’s extreme fragility, it cannot be permanently displayed in the Trivulziana Library; however, there is a multimedia station there that allows visitors to view and freely leaf through it

Note: The Castello Sforzesco contains many artifacts related to Leonardo da Vinci, but there is much more to see, such as Michelangelo's Pietà Rondanini.

<https://www.yesmilano.it/esplora/itinerari/10-capolavori-mondiali-esposti-milano> and several museums you can visit with a single ticket <https://www.milanocastello.it/i-musei/i-musei-del-castello-sforzesco>

- **Santa Maria delle Grazie**

Leaving Castello Sforzesco and going past the Cadorna Station designed by Gae Aulenti, you arrive at Corso Magenta to reach the climax of the Leonardo experience in Milano: the preternatural Last Supper, one of the most celebrated paintings in human history, portraying Jesus and the twelve apostles in communal meal moments before Judas' fateful betrayal, painted on the wall of the refectory of the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in its own right.

- **Leonardo da Vinci National Museum of Science & Technology**

If you're science-minded like Leonardo was (in his candidacy sent to Ludovico Sforza seigneur of Milano, he presented himself as engineer and weapons inventor ahead of artist), you should go, especially if you have kids, to the stunning Museo della Scienza e della Tecnica (M2/M4 S. Ambrogio). You'll find life-size models of Leonard's great mechanical inventions along with the whole history of scientific ingenuity and technological progress made fun and engrossing in one of the best science museums in Europe.

- **Naviglio Grande**

Milano's main canal and one of the city's nightlife hotspots with an incredible assortment of bars, restaurants and cafés, ateliers, bookstores and record sellers, antique shops and subcultural vibes. It all happens along the Naviglio Grande until the wee hours. Naviglio

Grande merges with Naviglio Pavese into the Darsena, Milano's ancient port and basin and the heart of the Ticinese neighborhood, with its covered market stalls and young cafés overlooking the water, dazzling lights and people sitting by the dock of the quay. Our journey ends here, with an aperitivo mixed to excellence by Milanese bartenders.

- **Brera: Conca dell'Incoronata**

<https://www.yesmilano.it/articoli/sliding-doors>