

# Best things to see in Milan in one day

## Piazza del Duomo

Milan's most popular square is home to the Duomo, the city's cathedral and is the heart of the city. The rectangular square covers 17,000m<sup>2</sup> and is surrounded by several important buildings. This area has been the focal point of the city since the Roman era then in 1859, when the cathedral was nearing completion, the city held a competition for the best design for a square in front of the cathedral. If you love fashion and design, don't miss La Rinascente, Milan's famous department store. A wonderful Food Hall is located on its seventh floor.



## Duomo di Milano

The Duomo di Milano is the city's most impressive structure, partly because it took six centuries, thousands of workers, and tons of pink-tinged white marble from Lake Maggiore to complete the cathedral. And on top of all that, the Duomo di Milano is absolutely gorgeous. Colorful tiles, stained-glass windows, and ornate stone pillars line the inside, meanwhile hundreds of statues, gargoyles, and figures adorn the cathedral, inside and out.

Today, the Duomo is Italy's largest Gothic complex and one of the world's largest churches in the world.



## **Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II**

Opened in 1877, the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II is one of the world's oldest (and most beautiful) shopping malls. Prada, Versace, Gucci, and Louis Vuitton are just a few of the luxurious shops you can expect to find there. With its glass dome and fine details on the side of the walls the Galleria is an incredible place to walk around. The antique Milanese tradition included the custom of rubbing your foot on the pavement over the coat of arms that represents the city of Turin, on the left-hand side of the octagon. It was said to ward off evil.



## **Royal Palace of Milan**

The Palazzo Reale (once called the Royal Ducal) is located on Piazza del Duomo in central Milan. It's adorned with rich tapestries, decorated ceilings, chandeliers and murals and it is home to the Contemporary Art Museum and the Duomo Cathedral Museum. The palace covers 7,000 m<sup>2</sup> and is one of the city's most important cultural centers and exhibition spaces.



## **Piazza della Scala**

If you enter Galleria Vittorio Emanuele from Piazza del Duomo and cross it you will arrive in Piazza della Scala, the second most famous and important square in Milan.

Every side of this square has is historically important. If you've just come from the Duomo you will have Galleria Vittorio Emanuele at your back, on your left is Teatro alla Scala, Milan's most famous opera house, next to La Scala and in front of you is the Palazzo della Banca Commerciale Italiana, one of Italy's oldest banks, and on your right on the remaining side of the square is Palazzo Marino, Milan's city hall.

In Palazzo Marino they actually do temporary art exhibitions that you can access for free.



## **Castello Sforzesco**

Castello Sforzesco is an historic fortress which houses several of Milan's best museums including the Pinacoteca del Castello Sforzesco.

During the Renaissance, the Sforza ruled over all of Milan from the castle, and today, its tower and surrounding walls still stand tall over the city.



## Parco Sempione

This Milan park covers 116 acres behind the Castello Sforzesco and is home to a number of monuments and works of art. The landscaped park is criss-crossed with paths and has plenty of open green spaces and tall trees. There is a pond with a quaint bridge crossing it. Several existing pieces of architecture were incorporated into the park's design including the Arco della Pace (Peace Arch) and Arena Civica which were both constructed as part of Napoleon's planned Foro Bonaparte. Another structure in the park is the Acquario Civico constructed for the Milan World Expo in 1906. The Torre Branca is a 108 meter high tower constructed in 1933 in the western area of the park grounds. Visitors can take an elevator to the observation platform to get views across the park and nearby Sforzesco Castle.



## Santa Maria delle Grazie

This church in the Piazza Santa Maria delle Grazie is home to Leonardo da Vinci's fresco *The Last Supper* which is within the Cenacolo Viniciano building.

The painting is not in the greatest condition but is still one of the most iconic images in art.

