**THE BOLOGNA EXPERIENCE**

Bologna is the capital of this prosperous region of Italy: Emilia Romagna. Not yet contaminated by mass tourism, the city is the ideal choice for cultural interludes as well as leisure activities and relaxation. Bologna has a number of nicknames: la dotta (the learned) for its ancient university, la rossa (the red) for the warm colour of its roofs and houses, and la grassa (the fat) for the wonderful food.

**25 MAY 2013, 14:30**

***To join the tour, please send an email to sarahgrace.see2@unibo.it***

WE START FROM PIAZZA MINGHETTI TASTING A GOOD LOCAL GELATO

<http://www.bolognatourguide.com/foto/teatro-anatomico.jpg>**The Archiginnasio and the Anatomy Theatre**

Located in an elegant 16th-century building, the Archiginnasio was built as the first "single" seat of the University of Bologna, Europe's oldest University. On the first floor we find the awesome Anatomy Theatre where corpses were sawn up during medicine and anatomy lessons.

<http://www.bolognatourguide.com/foto/piazza-maggiore.jpg>**Piazza Maggiore**

This square has been the heart of Bologna for 2500 years. And it really is a heart, because the people of Bologna don't merely go "to town" like other Italians would; they call it "going to the piazza". This airy, open space is lined with the city's most important buildings: the Palazzo d'Accursio, the seat of the city council, Palazzo Re Enzo, Palazzo del Podestà, the majestic Basilica of San Petronio, the elegant Fountain of Neptune, Palazzo dei Notai and the imposing Palazzo de' Banchi.

<http://www.bolognatourguide.com/foto/palazzo-degli-anziani.jpg>**Palazzo Accursio outside**

Made up of buildings which cover 300 years of the city's lively history, from 1200 to 1500, this is the prestigious seat of the city's governing body and its majestic halls are decorated with works of enchanting beauty.

<http://www.bolognatourguide.com/foto/sala-borsa.jpg><http://www.bolognatourguide.com/foto/fontana-nettuno.jpg>**Fountain of Neptune**

The symbol of sixteenth-century elegance, the clear waters of this fountain were never intended to quench the thirst of the Bolognesi but gushed forth instead in celebration of the power of the Pope.   
**Palazzo Re Enzo**

The city's sinister medieval prisons. Two seventeenth-century gallows betray the cruelty of a time when there was no such thing as a pardon.

<http://www.bolognatourguide.com/foto/petronio-navata-centrale.jpg>**Basilica of San Petronio**

The building of this majestic Collegiate Church of indescribable charm was begun in 1390. Its uncompleted façade shows the sweetness of the Madonnina by Jacopo della Quercia, while masterpieces of Italian art in paintings, sculptures, and glass from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance may be found inside the basilica itself. There is also a Time Machine, a sundial whose accuracy and charm still amazes people today.

<http://www.bolognatourguide.com/foto/via-pescherie.jpg>**The medieval market and the loggia dei mercanti**

Through the busy narrow alleyways of the market we reach the Palazzo which was the seat of the Merchants' Forum. Built in the fourteenth century, its gothic style still attracts.  
<http://www.bolognatourguide.com/foto/facciata-s-stefano.jpg>**Complex of Santo Stefano**

Known as the Holy Jerusalem of Bologna for its symbolic connections with the sites of the Passion of Christ, there is still a Benedictine monastery here today whose origins go back to the dawn of Christianity. There is also a Byzantine church almost 1500 years old, a Romanesque church and an atmospheric crypt as well as two cloisters of matchless beauty. A historic and artistic experience not to be missed.

<http://www.bolognatourguide.com/foto/2-torri-pendenti.jpg>**The two towers**

Two, two hundred, the "forest of stone". This is Bologna and her legendary towers. Our itinerary comes to an end at the foot of these symbols of Bologna which have benevolently watched over the city since the Middle Ages.

**The waterways**

Actually, yes ..there used to be a major river port in Bologna!!

Perhaps not everyone knows that there was a time when Bologna had much in common with Venice, with canals, boats and freshwater sailors crowding the city

**(APPROXIMATELY) 17:00**

WE FINISH IN VIA DELLE MOLINE TASTING ANOTHER GOOD LOCAL GELATO