

## City Centre

**1 Walther Square** (Piazza Walther/Waltherplatz): completed in 1808 and named after Maximilian of Bavaria who had decreed its construction. It then became 'Johannesplatz' as a homage to the Archduke Johann of Austria and in 1901 changed its name yet again to that of Walther von der Vogelweide (one of the most important German poets who lived between 1170 and 1230) and keeps it until present date, except for a brief period between the two WWs, when it was named after King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy.

**Walther von der Vogelweide's** statue was built using local marble by Heinrich Natter, a sculptor from Vinschgau, in 1889. The statue was temporarily removed from its previous setting during the Fascist government (Rosegger Parc) to be returned to its original spot.

**2 Railway Station Square** (Piazza Stazione/Bahnhofsplatz): the railway line Verona-Bolzano was completed during the first half of the 20th century, while the railway station dates back to 1928 and is the project of Angelo Mazzoni, with different allegorical sculptural contributions by Franz Ehrenhofer (representing electricity, steam and rivers). The 'Frog Fountain' right opposite the station was rebuilt following the original design of 1930, that was distructed during bombings of WWII.

**3 Cathedral** (Duomo/Dom open Mon–Sat 10 am–5 pm; Sun 11 am–5 pm): It is the Cathedral of the Bolzano-Bressanone Diocese. It conceals the remains of an early Christian, Medieval and Romanesque (1180) basilica. A hundred years later works are commenced to build a new imposing building which is completed around 1420 by combining the expertise of workers of Lombardy with the gothic style brought by the Swabian expertise over the decades. The bell tower stands over the square, 65 metres tall, with a spire in openwork in sandstone by the Swabian architect Hans Lutz von Schussenried, who completed it between 1501 and 1519. On the outside you can see:

*On the northern side:* the mesmerizing cross built in Veronese style with a small votive image of a shell, symbol of the pilgrim Santiago de Compostela, the 'Wine door' (The Parish church once had an ancient privilege of wine selling) decorated with exquisite sculptural embellishments, also known as 'the bride's door' (brides used to enter the Cathedral through this door).

*On the western side:* the Romanesque portal with porch lions which uphold two columns, the rose window (replaced after the bombings of WWII); to the left of the beautiful bronze door of Defner (Innsbruck), the fresco 'Virgin with Child' (1475) credited to Friedrich Pacher.

*Inside:* three naves of the same height, the gothic pulpit sculpted by Hans Lutz von Schussenried in sandstone, the baroque altar in polychrome marble (1710–1720) by Ranghieri and Allio from Verona, the cross (1420), the baroque Chapel of the Three Maries added in 1745 together with the frescoes by Karl Henrici (1771); on the altar we can admire the statue of Mary in Veronese style, 1200. In the crypt, below the high altar lies the Archduke Ranieri of Austria, who died in Bolzano in 1853 second in command of the Lombardo Veneto region from 1818 to 1848.

*On the southern square* of the building stands the beautiful **monument dedicated to Peter Mayr**, built following Georg von Hauberisser's project, from Munich. Mayr, head of the Schützen, a traditional unit of infantrymen, and firm believer in the rebellion against the French domain, was shot by the French on the 20th February 1810.

**4 Dominican Church** (Chiesa dei Domenicani/Dominikaner Kirche, open Mon–Sat 8 am–6 pm, Sun 12–6 pm). The Dominican order established itself in Bolzano in 1272 and built a church with a single nave inside a vast convent which branches off into different chapels, some of which have been lying in ruins, and a beautiful cloister. A part of the ancient structure houses the Music Academy which, incidentally, hosts the prestigious international piano competition Ferruccio Busoni. Also present is an art gallery (Galleria Civica/Stadtgalerie) which holds different exhibitions and other important cultural events.

The church has gothic archways, as well as baroque elements from the 17th and 18th century (such as the **altar piece of Guercino** to the left of the major altar, which was bought by the merchants of Bolzano). The church preserves prestigious examples of paintings from Bolzano from the 14th century which can be found on the oriental side of the cloister and on the western wall of the Church, but the real artistic jewel of the building is the **Chapel of Saint John**, the long and narrow side chapel which holds the cycle of frescoes of those painters who took Giotto as their role model, the so called 'School of Giotto'. Of particular interest are those scenes

from the life of Saint Nicholas on the last part of the oriental wall, and the fresco of the triumph over death in the first part of the same wall, the flight from Egypt on the western wall and the torture of Saint Bartholomew on the northern wall. The entire chapel, decorated with individual frescoes of various themes, is a splendid example of 14th century art as practised in the region. In the nearby cloister you can also admire some frescoes by **Friedrich Pacher** which go back as far as 1496 (open from April to October: Saturday 10–12 am and 3–5 pm).

**5 Capuchin Church** (Chiesa dei Capuccini/Kapuziner Kirche, open Mon–Sun 7 am–6 pm). The church has been dedicated to Saint Anthony of Padua and was built around 1600 on the same spot where once stood the Wendelstein Castel of the Counts of Tirol. A majestic column by Felice Brusasorci (1600) rises above the main altar, showing an example of mannerism in the Chapels of Saint Mary, Saint Sebastian and Saint John in the lateral chapel.

**6 Via Goethe Straße** leads to **Piazza delle Erbe/Obstmarkt**, one of the most suggestive places in town, thanks to its long and curved shape and colourful fruit and vegetable market which is on all days except Sundays and holidays. Neptune's Fountain is waiting for you, a masterpiece signed by Joachim Reis, based on the model of Georg Mayr from Völs (1745). On the opposite corner a plaque reminds visitors of the existence of the 'Zur Sonne' hotel where, among others, even Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Emperor Joseph II and the German writer and philosopher Johann Gottfried Herder stayed.

**7 Franciscan Church** (Chiesa dei Francescani/Franziskaner Kirche) **and Convent** (open Mon–Sat 10 am–5.30 pm, Sun 2.30–5.30 pm): the Franciscan order settles in town in 1221; the present building dates back to the first half of the 14th century, but the original ceiling, flat and with a choir of polygonal shape, has been replaced by a vaulted ceiling from the 15th century. The cloister is a beautiful example of gothic art, which replaces the Romanesque style in which the rest of the building was built; there are different frescoes from various periods, including some from Giotto's School and some from the 17th and 18th century. The church still preserves an astounding wooden altar by Hans Klocker of Brixen (painted wood - 1500) which was dedicated to the Nativity scene. The choir of the church is embellished by the modern glass panels of Widmoser.

**8 Via Dr. J. Streiter Gasse:** this street carries the name of the poet, lawyer and mayor of Bolzano/Bozen during the second half of the 19th century. The street overlaps the old northern moat of the first medieval centre and the buildings on its southern part correspond to the northern façade of the Portici. Especially during summer, the beginning of the street becomes a suggestive corner of Bolzano: Criss-cross from an original open-bar on the fish banks to shops, decorations and restaurants, which create a special and unique atmosphere. Numerous arches look down on the street and contribute to the medieval hue. Number 25 corresponds to the entrance to the ancient Town Hall.

**9 Via Bottai/Bindergasse:** one of the most typical streets of the city centre, adorned with pretty plaques in wrought iron, various typical restaurants and the historical hotel Luna Mondschein. At the end of the street, heading north you'll find the Museum of Nature South Tyrol (see 'Museums'), housed in the former admini-

strative centre of the Emperor and Count of Tyrol Maximilian I (built in 1512). Near the museum you'll also find the historic restaurants 'Weißes Rössl' and 'Batzenhäusl' favoured by various artists.

**10 Via Weggenstein Straße** and **St. George's Church:** (open Mon–Sat, 8 am–6 pm, Sun 10 am–6 pm): the gothic building dates back to the beginning of the 15th century and houses the Teutonic order. The elegant building is well worth a visit for its collection of coats of arms, mortuary shields, tombstones and flags of the members of the order dating back to the 16th and 19th century.

**11 St. John's Church** (San Giovanni in Villa/St. Johann im Dorf): consecrated in 1180, the small church is Bolzano's pride and joy. The simple central architecture is enriched by the beautiful bell tower with mullioned windows with two and three lights from the early years of the 14th century. The interior artwork is splendid: artists from Giotto's 'vagabond' movement introduced a new plastic style and an astounding fresco technique, which reveal extraordinary interpretative and artistic capabilities.

**12 Piazza Municipio/Rathausplatz:** the square surrounded by beautiful buildings of the Town Hall on the southern side (in neo-baroque style, with interesting frescoes inside) and by Amonn House on the eastern side (façade decorated with stucco) leads to the arcades of Via dei Portici/Laubengasse and is often chosen to hold events.








**13** The **historic arcades** in Via Portici are the heart of the medieval commercial centre, a title that it has conserved up to the present day, thanks to the unbroken chain of shops which stretch out before you, some traditional and typical and others more modern and elegant. The façades are a bright presentation of different architectural styles: the bay windows, the stucco decorations, the pastel colours, **Mercantile Building's** balcony, the sequence of archways of different heights and with different decorations. The old Town Hall has some beautiful archways, which are especially nice, which now houses the headquarters of the **Local History Archive**, built with a pointed arch with some nice fresco decorations. The alleys which connect to the parallel streets are also interesting. Of special mention are those of the old Town Hall, now home to the Town Records Office, with pointed arches and pleasant decorative fresco effect. Also of note are the alleys which connect to the parallel streets that maintain the architectural style of the buildings around and abound in various activities (shops, warehouses, cellars, courtyards, workshops are just some of the uses made of the space).











**14 Weighing House** (Casa della Pesa/Waaghaus): attractive building from 1634 incorporating an original part of the old city walls, maintained its official function until 1780. Right in front of it a plaque which commemorates Saint Andrea's Church (demolished in 1785) and in front of it you can admire the picturesque **piazza del Grano/Kornplatz**, embellished by nice shops and restaurants, once the main wheat market and of other land produce. In this respect we are talking about the first main urban centre of Bolzano together with the castle of the Prince-Bishops of Trento, founders of the city: the castle was probably destroyed by Mainard the II during one of his incursions to obtain control over the important commercial town (1277).

**15 Via Argentieri/Silbergasse:** parallel to the Portici, this street used to be the southern moat of the city. The entrance to the Mercantile Museum is visible in the homonymous building, then Troilo House, decorated with frescoes and a corner turret; a narrow side street leads to the Lauben.

**16 Via della Mostra/Mustergasse and Piazza della Mostra/Musterplatz:** In this street you can see the prestigious Palais Campo-franco (access from Piazza Walther to the inside garden) as well as Menz and Pock buildings, which already housed the elite hotel and now as well the 'Zur Kaiserkrone' restaurant. Below the 'Fink' restaurant there was the ancient city jail and the guard's residence.

**17 Sernesi and Europa galleries** are prestigious shopping galleries, which will take you to the Free University of Bolzano-FUB and to Museumstraße, which will then lead you to the Archaeological Museum and the Civic Museum.

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# Historic and cultural route

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**Tourism Board Bolzano/Bozen**  
Piazza Walther Platz 8  
I-39100 Bolzano/Bozen  
Tel. +39 0471 307 000  
Fax +39 0471 980 128  
info@bolzano-bozen.it  
www.bolzano-bozen.it

## Gries



**18 Victory Monument and Square:** (Monumento alla Vittoria/Siegesdenkmal and Piazza Vittoria/Siegesplatz) designed by the Fascist regime as part of the expansion project of the city and as part of its 'Italianisation', in a celebrative style. The monument was inaugurated in 1928, built following Marcello Piacentini's project and displays sculptures by Dazzi, Wildt, Andreotti and Cerodin inside, outside and in the crypt. The square's project was not completely realized in the part which foresaw the expansion towards the banks of the Talvera/Talfer river. The permanent exhibition 'BZ '18-'48, one monument, one city, two dictatorship', opened in 2014 (opening hours: 1st April–30th September Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 11 am–1 pm/2–5 pm, Thu 3–9 pm; 1st October–31st March Tue–Sat 10.30 am–12.30 pm/2.30–4.30 pm, Sun 10.30–12 am/3–5 pm) testifies the local history in the time of Fascism and National Socialism.

**19 Corso della Libertà/Freiheitsstraße and Piazza Mazzini Platz:** this pretty shopping street with a high archway leads you to Mazzini square, where you'll find the bust of Giuseppe Mazzini right in the centre of the square. The neighbourhood of Gries is just a few minutes ahead, as is the homonymous square. Gries was an autonomous municipality until 1925: an ancient health and tourism resort, dotted with villas, parks, gardens and vineyards. The famous Guntschna walk starts from here. Its old name was that of 'Keller' or 'chellare' (cellar), given to the fact that it was an area famous for its viniculture: up to this day it remains one of the most well known areas for its Lagrein production, a local wine par excellence as well as that of St. Magdalena.



**20 Benedictine Monastery of Muri-Gries** (open Mon–Sun 9 am–7 pm; access permitted only to the inner gate): convent with a difficult history. It was first inhabited by Augustinian monks, then pillaged during the farmer's war (1525), destroyed during the Napoleonic wars and discontinued during the Bavarian government in 1807. In 1845 the Emperor of Austria donated the convent to the Benedictine order of Muri in Switzerland. The main nucleus with the keep dates back to the 13th century, commissioned by the counts Morit-Grafenstein; it holds an interesting nativity crib museum (from 1st–31st December open every Saturday and Sunday, 3–5 pm; from 1st January to 2nd February every Saturday, 3–5 pm; from 3rd February to 30th November open on the first Saturday of the month, in July and August visits on request), a famous wine cellar and a nice cloister. The church is dedicated to Saint Augustine and was built in the baroque style with a single nave (1769–71) and it houses an important cycle of frescoes from the baroque period (nave and dome) and seven altar pieces by the famous Tyrolean artist Martin Knoller.

**21 Old Gries Parish Church** (Vecchia Chiesa Parrocchiale di Gries/Alte Grieser Pfarrkirche; from 30th March to 30th June and from 1st September to 30th October, open Mo–Fr 10–12 am and 2.30–4 pm, in July and August open 10–12 am; from 28th November to 6th January on Saturday 10–12 am); just a few metres distance from the square, the old gothic building houses two beautiful masterpieces. On the one hand we have the wooden altar by Michael Pacher cut between 1471 and 1475, one of the best known examples of the renowned artist who united the technical and expressive northern novelties with the southern ones. The romanesque wooden cross is also worth a visit (1200): of unquestionable artistic value, it probably came from abroad.

**22 Piazza Tribunale/Gerichtspatz:** the justice palace, built in 1939 on architect Paolo Rossi's project, towers over financial buildings; the bas-relief it sports is of Hans Piffraeder. At the centre of the square the Naiads Fountain of 1960.

## Castles

**23 Castel Roncolo/Runkelstein Castle, the illustrated manor**

On the northern outskirts of town, at the beginning of the Sarentino/Sarnatal Valley you'll find Castel Roncolo/Runkelstein Castle. Built in 1237 on a jutting edge of rock, the castle has been worked on and enlarged many times over and it boasts a collection of beautiful frescoes, depicting life scenes from court, hunting parties, knightly tournaments and scenes from everyday life. Literary depictions are not missing, as they also illustrate the adventures of Tristan and Isolde and those of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. It is the biggest collection of profane frescoes and the best preserved one of the Middle Ages. There are al-

ways some interesting cultural events going on at the castle, which from time to time liven up the halls and court of Roncolo. You can easily get there on foot walking the lush green Talvera promenade or using a bike by taking the bike path. You can also hop on number 12 bus (on Sundays number 14), as well as on the free shuttle departing from Walther Square (for further information contact Bolzano's Tourism Office). At the foot of the castle there is a free parking space for cars and bikes. A restaurant offers the chance to taste local dishes in a medieval setting. Info: Tel. +39 0471 329808; Opening times: Summer 16th March–1st November Tue–Sun 10 am–6 pm (last entrance 5.30 pm), Winter 2nd November–15th March Tue–Sun 10 am–5 pm.

**24 Castel Mareccio/Maretsch Castle, ancient walls in the vineyard**

Close to the historic city centre, surrounded by a vineyard of precious Lagrein grapes, with a charming view on the Catinaccio/Rosengarten group, the castle from the 13th century was renovated in the '80s and its rooms are used as congress halls and exhibition halls. It is most certainly one of the most interesting places to hold seminars, banquets, concerts, cultural evenings and exhibitions. Its rooms are embellished by frescoes, its halls have a modern and functional congress equipment. Highly suggestive view of the castle from the nearby Talvera walk. Info: Mareccio Castle, Tel. + 39 0471 976615. Parking space nearby.



**25 Castel Firmiano/Sigmundskron Castle**

Located at the southern-western outskirts of Bolzano/Bozen, this castle is considered one of the emblems of South Tyrol. The original name 'Formigar' stems from the Latin word 'formicaria'. From the 10th century a.d. the castle belonged to the Prince-Bishop of Trento, while during the second half of the 15th century Duke Sigismund, Count of Tirol, bought it and transformed it into the biggest and most prestigious of his castles naming it Sigmundskron (Sigimonds' crown). At the present date it has become the Mountain Museum of Reinhold Messner (Info: Tel. +39 0471 631264). Open from the 3rd Sunday of March until the 2nd Sunday of November 10 am–6 pm (last entrance 5 pm), closed on Thursdays.



**26 Castel Flavon/Haselburg Castle**

The castle is accessible to the general public as a restaurant and as a party and reception venue. It conserves frescoes from 1500 and offers a nice view on the Adige Valley, the town itself and the surrounding hills. You can reach it passing through the neighbourhood of Aslago/Haslach: a steep path will take you to the rocky lookout on which the castle is perched (with parking space). (Tel. +39 0471 402130). Closed on Sunday evening and on Monday.



## Museums

**27 Civic Museum**

First opened in 1905, it holds one of the biggest historic-artistic collections in South Tyrol: works of arts from the Middle Ages until the 20th century, Romanesque Madonna's and crosses, winged gothic altars and the famous art section of popular art with the gothic 'Stuben', the original folk costumes and masks. Info: Tel. +39 0471 997960 (Civic Museum office). Opening times: Tue–Fri 10 am–4 pm, Sat and Sun 10 am–6 pm, closed on 24th, 25th, 31st December and on 1st January.



**28 South Tyrol's Museum of Archaeology**

South Tyrol's Museum of Archaeology documents the entire history of the Province from the Palaeolithic until the Carolingian area. The museum is best known for its Ice Man (Ötzi), exposed with his original garments and equipment. Info: Tel. +39 0471 320100. Opening times: Tue–Sun 10 am–6 pm, last entrance 5 pm; open every day during July, August and December, closed on 1st January, 1st May and 25th December.



**29 Museum of Nature South Tyrol**

The Natural Science Museum lies in the ancient administrative headquarters of the Emperor of Austria, Maximilian the First. The variety of South Tyrolean landscape is exhibited on a surface of 100 square metres, with special regard to the birth of the Dolomites. The main attraction is the marine aquarium, as well as the temporary exhibitions. Info: Tel. +39 0471 412964. Opening times: Tue–Sun 10 am–6 pm (last entrance 5 pm)



**30 Museion**

Museion houses the largest collection of modern and contemporary art in South Tyrol. Works from the collection are displayed on a rotation basis alongside solo shows of highest calibre contemporary artists and projects by young and upcoming, often local, artists. Collateral and social events are held weekly. Info: Tel. 0471 223411. Opening times: Tue–Sun 10 am–6 pm, Thursday open until 10 pm, free admission 6 pm–10 pm (last admission is 30 mins before closing). Special openings: Easter Monday and Pentecost Monday.



**31 Mercantile Museum**

Housed in the Mercantile Building, formerly the seat of the prestigious Mercantile Court founded in 1653, the museum details the economic history of the town. The chronological tour winds between conference halls, the chancellery, the hall of honour with its original furniture, documents, paintings and original artistic pieces. Info: Tel. +39 0471 945702. Opening times: Mon–Sat 10 am–12.30 pm.



**32 Museum of the Cathedral's Treasure**

Exhibition of sacred furniture from the baroque époque in the Tyrolean area. Next to the precious liturgical vestments and gonfalons painted by famous artists, the museum also stands out for its precious jewels from the 18th century. Info: Tel. +39 0471 978676. Opening time: Tue–Sat 10 am–12 am.

**33 School Museum**

At Bolzano's School Museum you can appreciate the various aspects of school life as lived by the three ethnic groups inhabiting the territory (Italian, German, Ladin). The exhibition is complete with didactic materials, photographs, school reports, documents, furniture, and notice communications. Info: Tel. +39 0471 997581/588. the museum can be visited on request every day. Guided tours from March to June and from October to December, every Saturday at 3 pm and 4 pm, every Sunday at 11 am and 4 pm.

## Rencio and Santa Maddalena

Well known for its wine production, this nice neighbourhood is embellished on all hills by orderly vineyard trellises. This area mainly produces Schiava wine in St. Magdalena, the name of the hill where the vineyards dominate, giving a delicious ruby red wine. The mountain farms dot the side of the hill and the neat Rentsch neighbourhood. The small church of the curate, de-dicated to **Saint Lawrence** **34** (dating back as far as 1180, different changes, round apse and the belfry from 1712) and **S. Maddalena** **35** church (open from April to October, every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 4 to 6 pm.), which lies in a great position, with a view on the town, on the top of the hill: enter and admire a precious cycle of frescoes from the 14th century in excellent state on all the interior walls.



The church of **Saint Martin** **36** is also a cultural treasure of Bolzano. It dates back to 1180 and houses precious frescoes by artists of the Bolzano's School. In 2015 it can be visited every Thursday from April to October from 4 to 6 pm (parking possibility near the church only during opening hours).

## Walks

The **Passeggiata del Guncina/Guntschna Promenade** **37** starts from the old church and then winds up the back of Guncina hill: it was dedicated to the Archduke Henry of the Absburgs and descends towards the Fagen neighbourhood towards the Talvera walk. The **Talvera/Talfer walk** **38** can be cycled on as well, with its bike path, various playgrounds for children and for parties and takes you to the old town or to Runkelstein Castle. From the castle or from San Antonio's bridge at the other end of the walk you may take the **Passeggiata S. Osvaldo/Oswaldpromenade** **39**, which will take you to Eberle Hotel and to S. Maddalena hill. Following the Isarco river, and crossing over it, you'll arrive at the Colle cable car and at Virgolo Hill, from where you can take another path back to Flavon Castle: a circular walking circuit around Bolzano which has no equals.

The **two churches** **40** on the Virgolo Hill may be visited Wednesday from 3.30 to 4.30 pm.

## Cable cars

Three cable cars to reach some of the most beautiful uplands around Bolzano in just a few minutes journey.

**41 Colle/Kohlern**

Taking the cable car to Colle is like embarking on a journey through time. It is the oldest cable car in the world which was built for transporting people, an idea which came to the genius mind of the restaurateur Josef Staffler from Bolzano, who saw the great tourism potential of it. Since the 29th June 1908 just over a 100 years have passed; two original 'cars', built at the beginning of the century, are displayed at the mountain station and are definitely worth a visit.

**42 Renon/Ritten**

The new cable car which connects Bolzano to Soprabolzano is a shining example of public transport on an international level, with departures every 4 minutes. Once there, it's possible to explore the area by the Renon Train, enjoying the view of vast meadows and countryside with a glimpse on farms and a beautiful panorama on the Dolomites. This ride really is a memorable experience.

**43 San Genesio/Jenesien**

From the Tschögglbjerg plateau, home to San Genesio, you can admire the breathtaking view on the Rosengarten group. The forests of the Salto upland offer an unforgettable moment at sundown as the peaks of the Dolomites tinge into a fiery red.