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Piazza Duomo 1 - Tel 0573 371296
museocivico@comune.pistoia.it
musei.comune.pistoia.it

B **MUSEUM OF THE 20TH CENTURY AND THE CONTEMPORARY ART IN PALAZZO FABRONI**
Via Sant'Andrea 18 - Tel 0573 371817
fabroni.artivisive@comune.pistoia.it
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C **FERNANDO MELANI HOUSE-STUDIO**
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musei.comune.pistoia.it

D **MUSEUM OF THE SPEDALE DEL CEPPO**
Piazza Giovanni XXIII - Tel 0573 371023
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E **MARINO MARINI MUSEUM**
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www.fondazionemarinomarini.it
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Corso S. Fedi 28 - Tel 0573 32204

F **ROSPIGLIOSI MUSEUM**
DIOCESAN MUSEUM
Palazzo Rospigliosi
Ripa del Sale 3 - Tel 0573 28740
museodiocesano@diocesipistoia.it
www.diocesipistoia.it/musei

G **MUSEUM OF EMBROIDERY**
Palazzo Rospigliosi
Ripa del Sale 3 - Tel 0573 358016
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H **MUSEUM OF THE ANCIENT PALACE OF THE BISHOPS**
Piazza Duomo - Tel 0573 28782
anticopalazzodeivescovi@pistoiamusei.it
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Y **SAN SALVATORE**
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info@pistoiamusei.it
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J **PALAZZO DE' ROSSI**
Via de' Rossi 26 - Tel 0573 974267
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K **PALAZZO BUONTALENTI**
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L **PISTOIA UNDERGROUND**
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pistoiasotterranea@irsapt.it
www.irsapt.it

I **JORIO VIVARELLI FOUNDATION**
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M **SIGFRIDO BARTOLINI HOUSE-MUSEUM**
Via di Bigiano 5
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sigfrido.bartolini@gmail.com
www.sigfridobartolini.it

N **LUIGI TRONCI FOUNDATION**
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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
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R **FORTEGUERRIANA LIBRARY**
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www.forteguerriana.comune.pistoia.it

S **FABRONIANA LIBRARY**
Piazza San Filippo 1 - Tel 0573 32074
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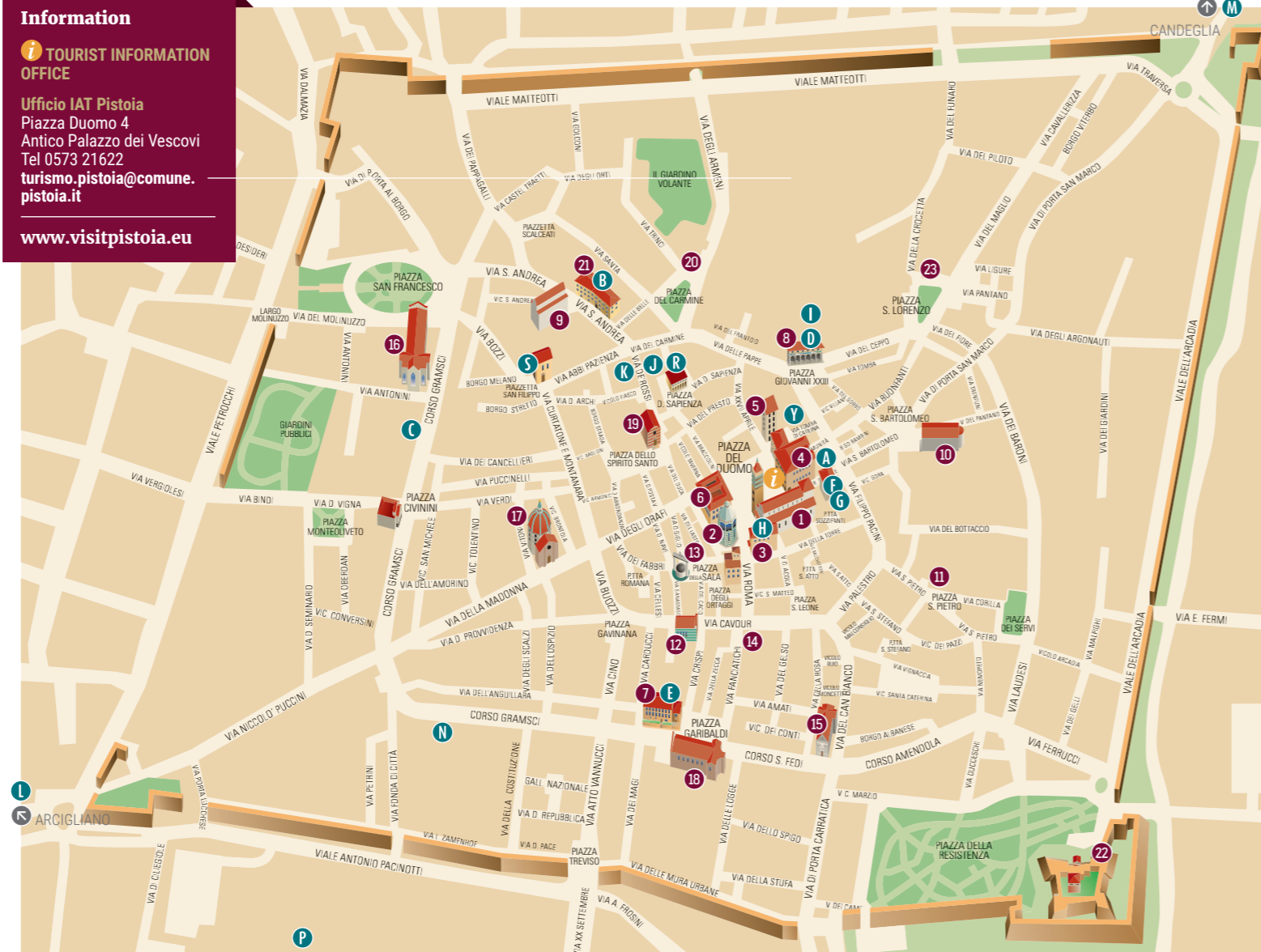
Map OF THE HISTORIC CENTRE

Information

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Traditions & Culture

Throughout the year Pistoia comes alive with events of music, art, cinema, theater and dance that take place in the most evocative places of the city and its surroundings.

MAY
Dialogues on man
A cultural festival dedicated to modern anthropology. Italian and foreign sociologists, anthropologists, philosophers and scientists offer new outlooks and reflections on human societies, through meetings, performances and interactive events that enliven the city's historic centre.

FROM JUNE TO SEPTEMBER
The Pistoia Festival
Enlivens the summer with activities and cultural events for all audiences, including music, art, film, theatre and dance. The events are held at some of the most evocative locales in and around the city of Pistoia.

Pistoia Blues
One of the most prestigious events of its kind, featuring world-renowned blues, soul, rhythm and blues and rock musicians.

Jacobean celebrations:
The **Dressing of St. James** the ceremony paying homage to the patron saint, a parade in historical costume, and the **Giostra dell'Orso**
The Giostra dell'Orso is a jousting competition between the city's four districts. It takes place on 25 July, the day of the city's patron, St. James, in the impressive Piazza del Duomo. On that day, Pistoia seems to again become a medieval city: a "historical pageant" in

14th-century costumes walks along the streets of the center, following the first circle of walls until reaching the doors of the Duomo. There, a meeting with the bishop takes place and the liturgical part of the event begins. The evening offers once again the ancient and exciting competition between the riders.

24 AUGUST
The Feast of St. Bartholomew
The square in front of the church and the surrounding streets are transformed into a joyous spectacle of colour and cheer, where, after receiving the anointing that will protect them from minor illnesses throughout the year, festive children excitedly crowd around the market stalls full of toys and sweets.

FROM DECEMBER TO JANUARY
Celebration of Christmas
Concerts, exhibitions and festive markets enliven the city during the Christmas period all the way up until January 6 with the **Feast of the Epiphany**, when the traditional Befana is lowered from the bell tower in Piazza del Duomo.

The historic parade winds through the city's streets on July 25, Feast of St. James



One of the events held dearest by the citizens of Pistoia: the Investiture of St. James the Great

Children at the historic parade

The Giostra dell'Orso tournament

On the cover: the Bell Tower and the Cathedral

Pistoia Blues, one of most famous music festivals in Italy



Pistoia e Montagna Pistoiese



Pistoia city of art

Monuments, Museums, Traditions & Culture

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Pistoia

THE CITY & ITS TREASURES

The culture of pilgrimage, especially Jacobean, characterized the history of Pistoia from the 12th to 14th centuries. This splendid period was marked by flourishing trade, crafts and commercial interactions with the rest of Europe, as the city boasted important links to other regions, including the Via Francigena and the Way of Saint James. The cult of the Apostle James, who was venerated in Santiago de Compostela in Spain, was brought to Pistoia by Bishop Atto, with the arrival of one of the saint's relics in the city itself. The chapel and altar were consecrated on 25 July 1145, which still remains as the feast day of the city's Patron Saint. Some of the city's most important monuments are centred around the pilgrimage and the cult of St. James the Great, many of which can be found among the magnificent buildings of Piazza del Duomo.

A view of Piazza del Duomo, with the Cathedral and the Ancient Bishop's Palace



The Baptistry of San Giovanni in Corte



1 The Cathedral of St. Zeno
The first traces of the cathedral date back to the year 923. The building owes its current appearance to subsequent modifications carried out during the 12th, 14th and 15th centuries. The gallery as we see it today was modified at the end of the 1500s. The cathedral is home to some of the city's most important vestiges of the cult of St. James the Great. The most impressive of these is certainly the *silver altar*, one of the most prominent works of Italian and European Gothic goldsmithery, the construction of which began in 1287 and continued throughout the 14th and 15th centuries.

2 The Baptistry of Saint John
This magnificent Gothic building was built over the ruins of an even more ancient church during the mid-14th century.

3 Ancient Palace of the Bishops
Next to the cathedral is a medieval building, that was once

the ancient bishop's see. On the ground floor is the original sacristy of the treasure of St. James, now kept in a section of the **Museum of the Ancient Palace of the Bishops** (H), is located in the same palace. The archaeological collection is found on the lower level, with displays of finds and artifacts from the archaeological excavation carried out there. The building is part of the **Fondazione Pistoia Musei's** new museum system, along with **San Salvatore** (Y), an exhibition venue that uses visual, sound, and tactile language to tell the story of the city's ancient center; **Palazzo de' Rossi** (J), a center dedicated to art of the 20th century in Pistoia; and **Palazzo Buontalenti** (K), home to temporary exhibitions.

4 The Town Hall
A symbol of municipal power, it was established as the city's seat of government, a function it maintains still today. The earliest work is traced back to 1294. The current form dates to work carried out in the mid-14th century. Inside is the **Civic Museum of Antique Art** (A) that, as the city's main museum, exhibits mainly paintings on wood panels and on canvas, sculptures, and objects of applied art, presenting Pistoia's entire artistic history the 13th to the 20th century. The **Giovanni Michelucci Documentation Center** (A) is housed in the museum.

5 The Tower of Catiline
Next to the Town Hall, visitors will find the remains of the medieval tower-houses of the city's most important families, including the so-called Tower of Catiline. Catiline, who had been accused of treason by Cicero, was defeated in Pistoia.

6 The Praetorian Palace
The ancient seat of the Tribunal stands opposite the town hall. The frescoed courtyard features a seat with three rows of steps, as well as a bench where justice was administered.

7 The Former Monastery of Tau
The monastery, which was built during the late 1400s, originally belonged to the Monks of the Order of St. Anthony the Abbot, who were dedicated to works of charity, as well as caring for pilgrims and the ill. The structure is now also home to the **Marino Marini Museum** (E), one of Italy and Europe's most important institutes dedicated to this artist from Pistoia. Visitors can admire splendid paintings and sculptures, as well as a



The Reception of the Pilgrims, depicted on a tile adorning the loggia at the Spedale del Ceppo



The interior of the Marino Marini Museum and, to the side, the Pulpit by Giovanni Pisano in the Church of Saint Andrew

large number of plaster casts, drawings, watercolours, temperas and mixed media works.

8 Spedale del Ceppo
Already in existence by 1277, the hospital presents a Brunelleschi-inspired arcade. Completed between 1512 and 1517, it is decorated with medallions by Benedetto Buglioni and Giovanni della Robbia (1515-1529) and by the frieze with the Works of Mercy, consisting of seven polychrome-glazed terracotta panels. The first six scenes were executed by Santi Buglioni (1526-1529). The last, with its imperfect glaze, was carried out in 1583-1587 by Filippo Paladini. One panel represents pilgrims being welcomed. From the 17th century, the Ospedale del Ceppo was also home to a medical-surgical school, evidence of which is found in the 18th-century anatomical theater located in the garden. The Ceppo's monumental part, no longer in use, is nowadays the home of the Museum of the **Spedale del Ceppo** (U). The museum has a

Detail of the silver altar of St. James the Great in the Cathedral



detailed section dedicated to the frieze and keeps an area devoted to the history of Pistoia healthcare. From here, one can also gain access to **Pistoia Sotterranea** (I), an underground tour that offers visitors a unique look at the city's history.

Pistoia also participated in the development of the Romanesque style with its original features, including the use of columns, arches, reliefs carved into the architraves and, above all, the decoration of the façades with two colours, which can be best admired at the churches of **Saint Andrew**, **Saint Bartholomew in Pantano**, **Saint Pier Maggiore** and **San Giovanni Fuorcivitas**.

9 The Church of Saint Andrew
While its foundation dates back to the 8th century, the church owes its current appearance to the work carried out between the 12th and 13th centuries. Inside, the church features a magnificent *pulpit* and two painted *wooden crucifixes*, which are attributed to the work of Giovanni Pisano (1298-1301). The façade is likely the work of Gruamonte and Adeodato, as is the architrave dating back to 1166, which boasts a depiction of the *Cavalcade of the Magi*, the first pilgrims in Christian history.

From *Porta Sant'Andrea*, in fact, after having visited the monuments to *Saint James the Great* in the Pistoia area, pilgrims would head north towards the *Appennine crossings*, travelling along the main thoroughfare of the *Middle Ages*, or rather *Via Francese della Sambuca*. Even to the South, Pistoia was connected



The Church of San Giovanni Fuorcivitas

to the most important European roadway of the Middle Ages, the *via "Francigena"*, which crossed over the *Arno* in *Fucecchio* on the way to Rome, and was part of the "Way of Saint James" pilgrimage routes.

10 The Church of San Bartolomeo in Pantano
Boasting Lombard origins, this structure maintains the same aspect it assumed with the work carried out in 1159. The Romanesque façade features an architrave carved with the images of *Christ and the twelve apostles*. Inside, the church houses a splendid *pulpit* by Guido da Como, which dates back to the mid 13th century. The cult of St. Bartholomew, the patron saint of children, remains very much alive in Pistoia to this day.

11 The Church of San Pier Maggiore
Originally from the 8th century, the church's splendid façade dates to 1263. The adjacent monastery now houses the artistic high school.

12 The Church of San Giovanni Fuorcivitas
The church, which was originally built outside the town walls (hence the name *Fuorcivitas*, meaning "outside the city"), assumed its present aspect between the 12th

and 14th centuries. The structure's white and green façade represents one of the greatest achievements of Pistoia's Romanesque architectural heritage. Inside, the church boasts a magnificent *pulpit* by Fra Guglielmo da Pisa (1270), as well as a glazed earthenware ceiling, which is reminiscent of a private medieval palace. The mullioned windows are a typical feature of French civil Gothic architecture.

13 Piazza della Sala
This was the city's ancient centre under Lombard rule. The square later went on to assume and consolidate its commercial function, which it retains to this day. The powerful Society of St. James promoted and controlled all the workings of the market. In 1453, the Society adorned the square with the *Pozzo del*

Piazza della Sala



The majestic dome of the Basilica of the Madonna dell'Umiltà

14 Palazzo Panciatici, or Palazzo del Bali
Having been constructed by the banker Vinciguerra Panciatici during the 14th century as a fortified house, this structure is Pistoia's only remaining example of a private medieval palace. The mullioned windows are a typical feature of French civil Gothic architecture.

15 The Church of Saint Paul
The current structure, which dates back to the mid-14th century, represents the expansion of an older church, and still retains a number of its original Romanesque and Gothic features. The lunette of the portal features a statue of St. Paul, while the upper cusp houses a statue of St. James the Great.

16 The Church of San Francesco
During the mid-13th century, the Friars Minor settled in the Church of Santa Maria al Prato. The current complex is the result of expansion work, which began in 1289 and lasted up until the early years of the 18th century. Inside, the great nave boasts an imposing Tuscan style wooden ceiling, which is reminiscent of the great Florentine churches. Among the numerous 14th century frescoes adorning the interior, visitors can admire an impressive series depicting the "Stories of St. Francis".

17 The Basilica of the Madonna dell'Umiltà ("Our Lady of Humility")
Work upon this large centrally-designed church began in 1495 and was completed in 1568, and included the intervention of Giorgio Vasari, who designed its imposing dome, which went on to become one of the city's most prominent architectural and religious symbols. It was built in honour of the image

of the *Madonna and Child* from the ancient church of Santa Maria Forisportam, which is said to have exuded a clear liquid in 1490. The Rospigliosi family helped adorn the basilica by contributing numerous valuable works of art.

18 Church and Convent of San Domenico
Among the places preferred d by Pope Clement IX, who had *four funerary monuments*, including one for his parents, placed along the transept walls between 1668 and 1670. The monuments were built in Rome, in the workshop of Gian Lorenzo Bernini. Thanks to the patronage of the Rospigliosi family, an impressive wooden choir with a magnificent organ was installed in the counterfaçade of the church, which was later restored by the Jesuit *Willem Hermans* in 1663.

19 Church of Sant'Ignazio di Loyola (Spirito Santo)
While the construction of the Jesuit College began in 1641, and work on the Church of Sant'Ignazio di Loyola began in 1647, the latter was subsequently consecrated to the Holy Spirit in 1774 and represented a "new" building for Pistoia with respect to other works that were being carried out on buildings of medieval origins. The large hall contains Roman Baroque decorative elements. *Lodovico Gemignani*, one of the artists who worked for Giulio Rospigliosi, was commissioned by the Cardinal to paint three paintings for his family's chapel, while in 1664 he also commissioned the construction of the *majestic Hermans organ*. But the church's most prominent artwork is by far the high altar, for which Giulio Rospigliosi turned to

20 The Church of the Madonna del Carmine
The construction of the church and the adjoining monastery dates back to 1291. The structure's current appearance is owed to work carried out from 1740 to 1750, based on a project by the late Baroque architect Father Raffaello Ulivi.

21 Palazzo Fabroni
The 18th-century building takes its name from the Fabroni, a noble family from Pistoia that lived here until 1842. Possession passed to the town of Pistoia in 1861. Since the early 1990s, it has been the home of permanent and temporary exhibitions, the **Museum of the 20th century and the Contemporary** (B), relating to modern and contemporary visual arts.

22 The Fortress of Santa Barbara
The Fortress of Santa Barbara was built over top of a pre-existing fourteenth century structure at the behest of Cosimo I de' Medici during the first half of the sixteenth century.

23 San Lorenzo Monumental Complex
In the Pistoia-Gothic conventual style, the monument has an elegant Renaissance cloister.



Gian Lorenzo Bernini, who had it built by Mattia de' Rossi in 1670.

The Fortress of Santa Barbara

In Ripa del Sale, a building which is said to have played host to Pope Clement IX now houses the **Rospigliosi Museum**, the **Diocesan Museum** (F) and the **Museum of Embroidery** (G).

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