visit brescia

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TEN REASONS TO MAKE 2027 BRESCIA'S YEAR

A road race turning 100, a car-free island and 545km of Italy without the crowds

Brescia lies between Milan and Verona, around 45 minutes from Milan Bergamo airport and its direct flights from across the UK and Ireland. One compact province holds a walkable historic city, three UNESCO World Heritage sites, the Franciacorta wine region, three lakes and the Alps.

Start your engines: the Mille Miglia turns 100 where it began

24–29 May 2027 · Mille Miglia centenary

Enzo Ferrari called it "the most beautiful race in the world". In 2027 the Mille Miglia marks 100 years since it first left Brescia, with six days on the road instead of the usual five. More than 400 cars built between 1927 and 1957 set off from Viale Venezia at 6pm on Monday 24 May, bound for Rome and back via Parma, Florence, Cervia and Verona. On Saturday 29 May they sweep through Lake Garda, the Valle Sabbia, Lake Iseo and Franciacorta to the finish in the city. All year round, the Museo Mille Miglia tells the story of the race in a former monastery.

2. Unearthed in 1826: the bronze that built a city's museums

4 November 2026 – 22 August 2027 · Santa Giulia Museum

In 1826, excavations at the Capitolium uncovered the Winged Victory, a first-century AD bronze among the finest surviving works of Roman art, and Brescia's civic museums were born. For the bicentenary, *Tesori* ("Treasures") brings out 100 works rarely or never seen by the public, from Dürer and Rembrandt to Romanino. Then walk Via dei Musei past the forum, temple and theatre of Roman Brixia, the largest Roman archaeological area in northern Italy. With the Santa Giulia monastery, it forms part of the UNESCO site "The Longobards in Italy". The province has two more World Heritage sites: the rock art of the Valle Camonica, Italy's first listing in 1979, and the prehistoric pile dwellings around Lake Garda.

3. 545km of Italy, minus the crowds

Best from spring to autumn · All three trails

Three long-distance *cammini* start in or cross the province, covering 545km over 30 day stages. Most follow mid-mountain paths rather than high peaks, into villages and valleys that see far fewer visitors.

- Antica Via Valeriana (about 190km, 12 stages): prehistoric and Roman routes from Brescia through Franciacorta, above Lake Iseo and up the Valle Camonica, past its UNESCO rock art.
- Cammino di Carlo Magno (about 225km, 12 stages): Charlemagne's legendary march from Bergamo over the Tonale Pass into Trentino.
- Via delle Sorelle (130km, 6 stages): launched in 2023, linking Bergamo and Brescia through parks, vineyards and two UNESCO sites.

On the *cammini* walkers can request a free credential and collect stamps along the way.

4. Rock at 2,600m: concerts on guitars carved from ice

January–April 2027 · Paradice Music

Beside the Presena Glacier, the Paradice Dome is a 200-seat theatre built entirely from snow and ice. Musicians play guitars, violins and cellos carved from ice by local artisans, usually on Thursday and Saturday afternoons. Come spring, the whole theatre melts away.

5. Dawn to midnight: a whole city sings opera

June 2027 · Festa dell'Opera

For one day, the Teatro Grande takes opera out of the opera house. Squares, courtyards, churches, palaces and even metro stations host dozens of free performances, from sunrise until midnight.

6. Three lakes, a car-free island and concerts under the stars

Tener-a-mente festival: June–July 2027

On Lake Iseo, Monte Isola is Europe's largest inhabited lake island, and almost car-free. Lake Idro is for the active, with hiking, mountain biking, windsurfing and paragliding. Brescia's shore of Lake Garda runs from Sirmione to Limone, with castles, Liberty villas, handmade paper at Toscolano Maderno and Limone's historic lemon houses. On summer nights, the lakeside amphitheatre at the Vittoriale degli Italiani, poet Gabriele d'Annunzio's estate, hosts the Tener-a-mente festival.

7. Italy's finest fizz, with the cellar doors open

September 2027 · Franciacorta in Cantina

Franciacorta, a short drive from Brescia, makes Italy's most celebrated traditional-method sparkling wine. For one weekend each September, wineries across the region open their doors for masterclasses, tastings, vineyard walks and picnics among the vines.

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8. Glacier skiing in winter, national parks in summer

Ski season December–April

Pontedilegno-Tonale has 100km of slopes reaching the Presena Glacier at 3,000m. In summer, its trails lead into the Stelvio National Park and the Adamello Park. Closer to the city, the Maniva Ski Area's 40km of slopes suit families and first-time skiers.

9. Hot springs under Lake Garda and ten Golf Courses

At Sirmione, thermal water rises from beneath the lake to feed spas a short walk from the Roman villa known as the Grotte di Catullo. In the Valle Camonica, Boario Terme is another place to unwind.

Golfers have ten courses to choose from, including Arzaga, Bogliaco and Garda Golf in Lake Garda, Franciacorta Golf Club among the vines and a summer course at Ponte di Legno.

10. Masks, forges and lemon houses: six of Italy's most beautiful villages

Bagolino Carnival: February 2027

Six villages in the province belong to I Borghi più belli d'Italia (The Most Beautiful Villages in Italy):

- **Bagolino:** one of the oldest carnivals in the Alps, with masked dancers and musicians on the Monday and Tuesday before Lent. Try Bagòss, a mountain cheese flavoured with saffron.
- **Bienno:** a medieval village where blacksmiths still work the forges.
- **Gardone Riviera:** Garda's "garden city", home to the Vittoriale and the André Heller Botanical Garden.
- **Limone sul Garda:** historic lemon houses on the western shore.
- **Monte Isola:** mountain, lake and island in one.
- **Tremosine sul Garda:** the Terrazza del Brivido viewpoint, more than 350m above the water.

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WALKING TOURISM

Brescia emerges as Italy's new walking destination with three long-distance trails through UNESCO sites, vineyard hills and alpine valleys

As the popularity of walking holidays continues to grow across the UK and Europe, northern Italy's least-known province offers 545km of waymarked trails (and not a crowd in sight)

Walking tourism is one of the fastest-growing tourism trends of recent years, with British travellers increasingly seeking out long-distance trails that combine landscape, culture and a slower pace. But as

well-loved routes grow ever more crowded, many are looking further afield for alternatives that offer the same rewards without the queues.

Enter Brescia in Lombardy, northern Italy. Stretching 150km from the Alps to the Po plain, and home to three lakes (Garda, Iseo and Idro), the Franciacorta wine region and a UNESCO-listed city centre, Brescia has quietly established one of the most compelling walking trail networks in Italy, yet remains largely undiscovered by UK travellers.
Among the trails in the area, three officially recognised long-distance trails (totalling 545 kilometres and 30 stages) offer a structured alternative for walkers who want the cultural richness of Italy without the overtourism of its more famous routes.

Antica Via Valeriana: 190km / 12 stages

Following paths first trodden in prehistoric times and later followed by the Romans, the Antica Via Valeriana runs from the city of Brescia through the Franciacorta vineyards, along the slopes above Lake Iseo and into the Camonica Valley. It passes through the UNESCO-listed rock art sites of Valle Camonica, which is home to more than 200,000 prehistoric engravings and the first Italian site to receive UNESCO recognition in 1979. Here you will also find Romanesque sanctuaries, medieval villages and panoramic ridgelines high above the lake.

Cammino di Carlo Magno: 225km / 12 stages

A trail steeped in legend, the Cammino di Carlo Magno traces the route said to have been travelled by Charlemagne as he conquered and converted local Lombard lords, building churches in his wake. Running through the Lake Iseo and Camonica Valley landscapes, the route has recently been extended with three stages from Bergamo and four into Trentino (Val di Sole and Val Rendena). This allows walkers to retrace the emperor's legendary expedition across a hugely varied landscape, from lakeshores to alpine passes.

Via delle Sorelle: 130km / 6 stages

This is the newest of the three and was inaugurated in 2023 when Bergamo and Brescia were jointly named Italian Capital of Culture, the Via delle Sorelle ('*Way of the Sisters*') links the two cities. Designed to stay as off-road as possible, the route passes through natural parks, DOCG and DOC wine-growing areas, ancient communication routes and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It is walkable in either direction and can be adapted to suit different fitness levels and timeframes.

Walkers can easily combine a trail with a few days in the city, a Franciacorta winery visit or a stay on the lakes. In 2027 they can also time a trip around the centenary of the Mille Miglia, which starts and finishes in Brescia from 22 to 29 May.

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Getting there: direct flights to Milan Bergamo from London Stansted, Birmingham, Bristol, East Midlands, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Dublin, plus seasonal routes from Belfast, Cork and Knock. Verona airport as well as Milan's Linate and Malpensa airports have further UK routes. High-speed trains reach Brescia from Milan in around 35 minutes.

More: visitbrescia.it/en

About Visit Brescia

Visit Brescia is the official tourism promotion body for the city and province of Brescia in Lombardy, northern Italy. The province stretches from the Po plain to the Alps. It includes the western shore of Lake Garda, Lake Iseo and Lake Idro, the Franciacorta wine region and the Valle Camonica, and holds several UNESCO recognitions, including three World Heritage sites.

Social media: Instagram, Facebook, YouTube: @visitbrescia

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