

Main monuments and frescoes in Padova

All the places described below are at walking distance from the city centre, the hotel and the Conference Venue. If you are interested in visiting several monuments, it could be useful for you to buy the PadovaCard (www.padovacard.it; 15 € for 48h card; 20 € for 72h card), that give a free entrance in several monuments.



Cappella degli Scrovegni – Scrovegni Chapel

The Scrovegni Chapel, a masterpiece in the history of painting in Italy and Europe in the 14th century, is considered to be the most complete series of frescoes executed by Giotto in his mature age (between 1303 and 1305).

Opening hours: everyday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tickets: 12 € (ordinary ticket); 7 € and 4 € (reduced tickets)

Each visit: 20 + 15 minutes

Warning: On-line booking is really mandatory.

More info: www.cappelladeglisrovegni.it/eng/index_e.htm

Location: Piazza Eremitani, Padova

Walking distance: 5 minutes from the Conference Venue

Battistero del Duomo - Baptistery of the Cathedral



The baptistery of the Cathedral is a magnificent example of Romanesque Lombard art. It was probably built towards the end of the 12th Century, but the date of its building is still uncertain. Between 1375 and 1378 the interior was completely frescoed by Giusto de Menabuoi, who left here one of the most beautiful cycles of frescoes of the 14th century. The dominating theme of the cycle is “the history of salvation”.

On the walls Giusto painted scenes from the Old and New Testament; the cupola shows the Paradise, in which Christ the Almighty is shown surrounded by Angels, Saints and the Virgin. A fresco representing the 1300’s “Universe” is also present.

Opening hours: everyday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Tickets: € 2,50 € 1,50 € 1 € 0,50

Location: Piazza Duomo, Padova

Walking distance: 5 minutes from the Conference Venue



Palazzo della Ragione

Commercial and civil centre of Padua, the Palace of Justice, also called “Il Salone” (The big Hall), was built between 1218 and 1219. The walls of the vast main hall of the Palazzo della Ragione are entirely covered with a superb astrological cycle (333 frescoes, 2.000 square meters), representing the theories of Pietro d’Abano, a famous scientist of the 13th - 14th century, depicted by Stefano da Ferrara and Nicolò Miretto.

Opening hours: from Tuesday to Sunday 9 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Tickets: 9,00 €; 7,00 € (for groups, min. 10 persons)

Location: Piazza delle Erbe, Padova

Walking distance: 2 minutes from the Conference Venue



Basilica di S. Antonio

The huge Basilica erected in the 13th Century to keep the body of St. Anthony, holds fourteenth and fifteenth centuries frescoes. The chapel of St. Giacomo and St. Felice (James and Felix) was frescoed by Altichiero; Giusto de' Menabuoi, one of the greatest Italian masters of the second half of the 14th Century, decorated the Chapel of the Blessed Luca Belludi (1382) and the Coronation of the Virgin which is on the hall that leads to the cloister. In the Chapel of the Blessed Luca Belludi, Giusto, who is also the author of the beautiful fresco decoration of the Baptistery of the Cathedral, represented the lives of St. Philip and St. James. Of particular interest the picture on the left wall where Giusto represented the fortified walls of Padua as they were in the 14th Century. Five millions of pilgrims visit each year the Basilica.

Opening hours: 6.30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

More info: www.basilicadelsanto.org/ing/home.asp

Location: Piazza del Santo, Padova

Walking distance: 10 minutes from the Conference Venue



Orto botanico - Botanic Garden

Founded in 1545 by Padua University for the study of the ‘simples’, i.e. medical plants, it is the oldest university botanical garden in the world, which has never moved from its original settlement. It keeps about 6000 plants: exotic, medicinal, poisonous and insectivorous. The oldest tree here is a Palm planted in 1585 and known as Goethe’s palm, having supposedly played a role in the German writer’s work on the Metamorphosis of the plants. Since 1997 the garden is part of the Unesco World Cultural Heritage.

The Botanic Garden is always really interesting, although unfortunately we are in the middle of Winter...

Opening hours: From Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tickets: 4€; 3€; free (University students)-

More info: www.ortobotanico.unipd.it/eng/index.htm

Location: via Orto Botanico 15, Padova

Walking distance: 15 minutes from the Conference Venue

Old town (Piazza della Frutta, Piazza delle Erbe, Piazza dei Signori, Piazza Duomo, Ghetto)

If you prefer to simply walk and discover the Old town, we suggest you to visit the lively squares of the centre: Piazza delle Erbe, Piazza della Frutta and Piazza dei Signori where you can find every morning food and clothes stands and a quaint atmosphere.

Besides, in Piazza dei Signori there is an astrological-astronomical clock, one of the oldest in Europe. It shows the time as well as the days and the months, and on the clock face the motion of the sun, the phases of the moon, the motion of the planets, and the zodiac.

Completed in 1344 by Jacopo Dondi, astronomer of the time, the clock was placed on one of the most prestigious buildings of the city that belonged to the Carrarresi family, the lords of Padua.

Its appearance was enriched by stars and decorations, it also has a particular characteristic. Between Virgo and Scorpio, Libra is missing! According to the popular tradition it would be a revenge of the builder against the lack of justice in the people who commissioned it that wanted to pay a lower price than what agreed upon.

Close to the Clock Tower, there is the Ghetto and Piazza Duomo, where you can visit the Baptistery of the Cathedral.

Location: just around the Conference Venue



Prato della Valle

Prato della Valle is a large and richly decorated square in the heart of Padua and it is one of the biggest square in Europe (90.000square meters). There, you can see 80 statues of people important for the history of the town. Among them also Galilei looking at the sky.

The Prato della Valle was transformed into a place for markets in 1775: now, each Saturday morning, more than 300 stands of food, flowers and clothes are all around the square.

Walking distance: 15 minutes from the Conference Venue

Temporary exhibitions in Padova – January 2010

Caravaggio Lotto Ribera.

The masterpieces of the famous Italian foundation, collected from the art critic Roberto Longhi. Among the others, masterpieces of Caravaggio, Lorenzo Lotto, Ribera and Mattia Preti.

Opening hours and info: www.caravaggiolottoribera.it

Telemaco Signorini and 19th century European painting

An international exhibition dedicated to Telemaco Signorini, Italian exponent of the Macchiaoli art group.

Opening hours and info: www.zabarella.it

If You want to spend more days in Italy here You can find info on other Italian towns easily reachable from Padova by train :

Vicenza	www.vicenzae.org/index_en.php	Distance from Padova by train: 20 minutes
Venezia	www.venezia.net/venice	Distance from Padova by train: 30 - 40 minutes
Verona	www.tourism.verona.it	Distance from Padova by train: 40 - 60 minutes
Bologna	iat.comune.bologna.it	Distance from Padova by train: 1 hours and a half
Milano	www.visitamilano.it/turismo_en	Distance from Padova by train: 2 hours
Firenze	www.firenzeturismo.it/en.html	Distance from Padova by train: 2 hours and a half