

History

In the Como area, the first settlements date back to pre-history. Findings suggest that there was a necropolis in the area of Camerlata, Albate and Grandate. In 196 B.C., Romans set their first fortified camp. The city grew under Caesar, who made it a Roman colony, and called it *Novum Comum*. The city was built around a Forum, and was protected by rectangular walls. During the Imperial age business spread on land and on the lake. A fleet and a harbour office were built. Ostrogoths conquered *Comum* at the end of the 5th century, and made it participate in their fight against Byzantium and Franks until Longobards reached this area. The city re-established business contacts with Queen Theodelinda, and enjoyed a long period of prosperity only under the Franks and Charlemagne. Fights started again under Otho I, and continued against Milan. The war lasted 10 years; Como was defeated, and came under Visconti's and later under Sforza's rule, except in the 1447-1450 period when *Repubblica di Sant'Abbondio* was established. The first silk mill was open in Bellano following the arrival of the French troops.

In the 16th - 18th centuries, the Como and Milan areas came under the Spanish rule. These were hard times for the whole population also due to natural calamities such as plague and floods. In 1714, the dominion of Spain was replaced by the Austrian rule. Austria enforced a number of reforms which enhanced productivity in the territory while imposing a remarkable tax burden. Later, in this area Napoleon's troops built a number of public works as well as the road – which is known as *Napoleona* - leading to the city walls. When Napoleon was defeated, Austrians returned, but they were not welcome. The first *Carbonari* secret societies were established and made an anti-Austrian propaganda in order to have an independent government. Many people from Como joined Garibaldi, and participated in revolutionary actions. In 1860, Como became part of the Kingdom of Italy. This meant significant social progress; the gas and the drinking water systems started operating in 1872, a railway station was built on the board of the lake; in 1894, a funicular railway was built, and connected Como to Brunate. The railway line connecting Milan to the Gothard Pass and to Germany was built in subsequent years. This notably favoured business. Como turned into a modern city at the end of World

War II when new buildings and roads were built. Today, Como is an important industrial centre active especially in the textile sector, but it is also a holiday resort with thousands of visitors from all over the world every year.

Museums

Archaeological Museum "P. Giovio"

This museum includes a number of sections organised on the basis of historical periods, starting from pre-history and protohistory to Roman art, a collection including precious stone slabs and tablets. The section of Mediaeval art is particularly rich of sculpture findings. The museum also includes a library specialising in archaeology.

Tipology:

Museum of Art-Archaeology

Address:

Piazza Medaglie d'Oro, 1
phone 031/271343

Opening hours:

from Tuesday to Saturday:
9.30-12.30 a.m. / 2.00-5.00 p.m.
Sunday: 10.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m.
Monday: closed

Historical Museum "Giuseppe Garibaldi"

This museum has two sections. The exhibits in the "Risorgimento e Storia contemporanea" (Risorgimento and Contemporary History) section are items dating back to the late Napoleon period

until World War I; the "Etnografia e Quadreria" (Ethnography and Paintings) section includes items which are specifically related to local culture at different levels from the 16th to the 19th century.

Tipology:

Historical-Ethnographic Museum

Address:

Piazza Medaglie d'Oro, 1
phone 031/271343

Opening hours:

from Tuesday to Saturday:
9.30-12.30 a.m. / 2.00-5.00 p.m.
Sunday: 10.00a.m.-1.00 p.m.
Monday: closed.

Pinacoteca Civica

This Art Gallery, which is located in Palazzo Volpi, exhibits a collection of Romanic and mediaeval sculptures as well as paintings from the 14th to the 20th century. A group of works of the 20th century including an important collection of drawings by the futurist architect Antoni Sant'Elia and the works by the abstract painters of the "Como Group" are of special interest.

Tipology:

Art Gallery

Address:

Via Diaz, 84
phone 031/269869

Opening hours:

from Tuesday to Saturday:
9.30-12.30a.m./2.00-5.00 p.m.
Sunday: 10.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m.
Monday: closed

Cinemas and Theatres

Cinema Astoria
Via XX settembre, 5
phone 031/262170

Cinema Astra
Viale Giulio Cesare, 3
phone 031/261234

Cinema Italia
Via Marchesi, 6
phone 031/530135

Cinema Teatro Gloria
Via varesina, 72
phone 031/523995

Cinema Teatro Politeama
Viale Cavallotti, 1
phone 031/273000

Teatro Nuovo
Via Lissi, 9
phone 031/590744

Teatro Sociale
Via Bellini, 3
phone 031/270170

Cooperativa Teatri Città Murata
Via Indipendenza, 55
phone 031/269175

Libraries

In Como there are the following libraries:

Biblioteca Comunale (Municipal Library) with 380,000 ancient and modern books, including incunabula, sixteenth-century editions, collections of scripts and scores.

Opening hours: from Monday to Saturday: 2.30 p.m. - 7.00 p.m., Tuesday morning: 9.00 a.m. - 12.00 a.m. The newspaper room and study rooms are open also from Monday to Friday in the following hours: 9.00 - 12.00 a.m.

Piazzetta Venosto Lucati, 1
22100 Como
phone 031/270187; fax 031/240183
e-mail: biblioteca@comune.como.it

Biblioteca dei Musei Civici (Library of the Municipal Museums): monographs and journals concerning archaeology, pre-history and proto-history of classic, medieval and post-medieval ages.

Opening hours: Tuesday – Friday morning: 9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday afternoon: 2.00-5.00 p.m.

Biblioteca dei Musei Civici di Como in Museo archeologico Paolo Giovio
piazza Medaglie d'Oro, 1
phone 031/27.13.43; fax 031/26.80.53
e-mail: biblioteca.museicivici@comune.como.it



Emergency numbers

Polizia Stradale (Traffic Police):
031/317721

Questura (Police Head Office):
031/317777

Polizia Municipale (Municipal Police):
031/265555

Shopping

Shops are open from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 a.m. and from 3.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. and are closed on Sunday and Monday morning. On Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday there is a market in the open air.

Transportation

The best way to get around Como is by bus. A number of lines connects the various areas of the city. The ticket costs euro 0.90 and has a validity of 75 minutes. With the boats of "Navigazione Lago di Como" you may reach some beautiful places on the coast of Lake Como. The easiest way to reach Milan is by train. Two lines are operated by State Railways (F.S.) and Ferrovie Nord Milano (F.N.M.), respectively.

Useful numbers

Como Municipality

phone 031/2521
<http://www.comune.como.it>

Railways

Ferrovie dello Stato (F.S.):
phone 031/272444
Ferrovie Nord Milano (F.N.M.):
phone 031/304800

City Transportation

Società Pubblica Trasporti:
phone 031/247111
<http://www.sptcomo.it>

Car Renting Companies

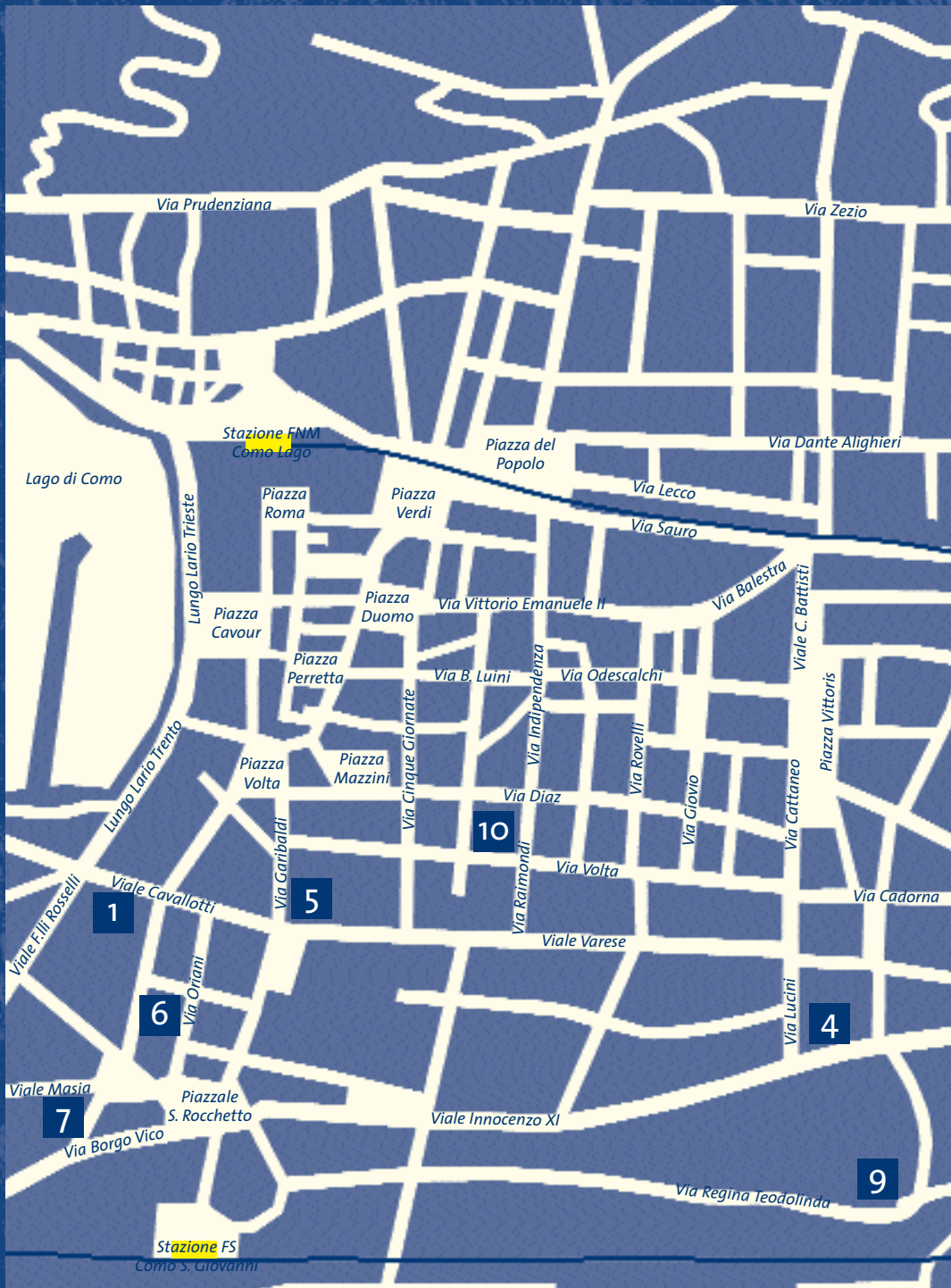
Autolago: phone 031/30.51.85
Avis: phone 031/26.61.74
Europcar: phone 031/24.16.43
Hertz: phone 031/26.27.70
Win Rent: phone 031/24.00.68

Hotels

Every year, Como is visited by a large number of tourists. For this reason, in the city there are many hotels and boarding houses. As the list would be too long, click on the following web address to find any information you may need. Address:
http://www.provincia.como.it/turismo/index_ricerca.html

Real Estate Agencies

You may click on the following Web Address where you may find the links to the major real estate agencies in Lombardy:
<http://www.homy.it/elagenzie2.asp>





Como

- 1** **Facoltà di Giurisprudenza**
Viale Cavallotti, 5
Presidenza, Didattica,
Segreteria Studenti
- 2** **Rettorato Vicario**
Facoltà di Scienze MM.FF.NN.
Via Valleggio, 11
Presidenza, Didattica
- 3** **Facoltà di Scienze MM.FF.NN.**
Via Castelnuovo, 7
Segreteria Studenti,
Aule e Laboratori didattici
- 4** **Facoltà di Scienze MM.FF.NN.**
Via Lucini, 3
Docenti, Didattica
- 5** **Facoltà di Giurisprudenza**
Via Garibaldi, 61
Docenti, Didattica
- 6** **Facoltà di Giurisprudenza**
Via Oriani
Docenti, Didattica, Biblioteca
- 7** **Facoltà di Giurisprudenza**
Viale Masia
Didattica
- 8** **Facoltà di Giurisprudenza**
Via Grandi
Didattica
- 9** **Facoltà di Giurisprudenza**
Chiostro di Sant'Abbondio
Futura sede
- 10** **Facoltà di Scienze MM.FF.NN.**
Via Raimondi
c/o Biblioteca Comunale
Didattica

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