

## City Centre

**1 Walther Square** (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 changes 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 gets 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 which had been intended for it back in 1985.

**2 Railway Station Square** (Bahnhofplatz): the railway line Verona-Bozen 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, following its destruction after the bombings of WWII.

**3 Cathedral** (Dom) (open Mon – Sat: 10 am – 5 pm; Sun Holy Mass): It is the Cathedral of the Bozen-Brixen 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' decorated with exquisite sculptural embellishments, also known as 'the bride's door' (brides used to enter the Cathedral through this door), and at which you could also buy wine, allowed thanks to an ancient privilege the Cathedral had.

*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 Hauberis'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** (Dominikaner Kirche, open Mon – Sat 9 am – 5 pm, Sunday 12 am – 6 pm). The Dominican order established itself in Bolzano/Bozen 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 the Stadtgalerie, an art gallery 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/Bozen). 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 (entrance through Dominikaner Square, open Tue – Sun 10 am – 6 pm from April to October, and 10 – 12 am/2 – 4 pm from November to March) you can also admire some frescoes by **Friedrich Pacher** which go back as far as 1496.

**5 Capuchin Church** (Kapuziner Kirche, open Mon – Sun 8 am – 6.30 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 Tyrol. 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 Goethe Straße** (Goethe Street) leads to **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 literate and philosopher Johann Gottfried Herder stayed.

**7 Franciscan church** (Franziskaner Kirche) and **convent** (open Mon – Sat 10 – 12 am; 2.30 – 6 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 of time, 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 Joseph 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/Bozen: 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, which contribute to the medieval hue. Number 25 corresponds to the entrance to the ancient Town Hall.

**9 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 Natural Science (see 'Museums'), housed in the administrative 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 Weggenstein Straße** and **St. George's Church:** 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** (St. Johann im Dorf): consecrated in 1180, the small church is Bolzano/Bozen'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 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) represents the beginning of the 'Lauben' and is often chosen to hold events.

**13 Laubengasse:** The historic arcades 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** (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 Andrew's Church (demolished in 1785) and in front of it you can admire the picturesque **Kornplatz** (Wheat Square), 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/Bozen 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 Silbergasse:** parallel to the Portici/Lauben, 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 Mustergasse:** In this street tourists can see the prestigious Campofranco building, accessible via Walther Platz to an inside garden and Menz and Pock buildings, which already housed the elite hotel and now as well the 'Zur Kaiserkrone' restaurant. Below the 'Fink' restaurant lies the 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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|--|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|
|  | Tourist Information       |  | Cultural centre Trevi |
|  | Municipal Police          |  | Bus station           |
|  | Carabinieri               |  | Railway station       |
|  | Police                    |  | Music Academy         |
|  | Town Hall                 |  | Auditorium            |
|  | Post Office               |  | University            |
|  | Parking                   |  | Library               |
|  | Banca di Trento e Bolzano |  | Theatre               |
|  | Bank für Trient und Bozen |  | Museum                |
|  | ATM                       |  | Taxi                  |



## Gries



**18 Siegesplatz and Siegesdenkmal** (Victory Monument and Square): designed by the Fascist regime as part of the expansion project of the city and as part of its 'Italianisation', in a celebratory 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 Talfer river.

**19 Freiheitsstraße and 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 gater): 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 donates 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 (open every Saturday from 1st December to 2nd February 15 – 17 pm, from 3rd February to 30th November only the first Saturday of the month, in July and August 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** (Alte Grieser Pfarrkirche, open Mon – Fri 10.30 – 12 am; 2.30 – 4 pm, in July and August open 10.30 – 12 am; closed from 1st November to Palm Sunday): 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 roman wooden cross is also worth a visit (1200): of unquestionable artistic value, it probably came from abroad.



**22 Gerichtplatz:** 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 Runkelstein Castle, the illustrated manor**  
At the beginning of the Sarntal Valley you'll find Runkelstein Castle, on the northern outskirts of town. You can easily get there on foot walking the lush green Talfer promenade or using a bike by taking the bike path. You can also hop on number 12 bus, as well as the BoBus and the free shuttle departing from Walther Square (for further information contact Bolzano's Tourism Office). At the foot of the castle you'll find a free parking space for cars and bikes. 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 always some interesting cultural events going on at the castle, which from time to time liven up the halls and court of Roncolo. A restaurant offers the chance to taste local dishes in a medieval setting. Info: Tel. +39 0471 329808; Opening times: Tue – Sun 10 am – 6 pm (last entrance 5.30 pm)



**24 Maresch 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 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 Talfer walk. Info: Congress Office Maresch Castle, Tel. +39 0471 976615; Parking space nearby.



**25 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 (Sigmund's crown). At the present date it has become the Mountain Museum of Reinhold Messner (Info: Tel. +39 0471 631264). Open from the first Sunday of March until the third Sunday of November from 10 am until 6 pm (last entrance 5 pm), closed on Thursdays.



**26 Haselburg Castle**  
Haselburg Castle is accessible to the general public as a restaurant and as a party and reception venue. To get there you have to pass through the neighbourhood of Haslach: a steep path will take you to the rocky lookout on which the castle is perched (with parking space). Nice view on the Etsch valley and on Bolzano/Bozen itself looking north (Salten plateau, Sarntal Valley, Ritten). It contains frescoes from 1500 (Tel +39 0471 402130). Closed on Mondays.



## 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.



**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.



**29 Natural Science Museum**  
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**  
The building was designed by the architecture firm of KSV Krüger Schubert Vandreike of Berlin, and was thought of as a centre for contemporary culture and sets out to gain an important spot in the Italian museum panorama. The museum exhibits recent works of art of young artists not necessarily following the international mainstream. At the same time it has become one of the points of reference for local art and is trying to become representative of different styles in the fields of architecture, film performance or theatre. Info: Tel. +39 0471 223411. Opening times: Tue – Sun 10 am – 6 pm (last entrance 5 pm), Thursday 10 am – 10 pm (last entrance 9.30 pm).



**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 am



**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 Bozen's School Museum you can appreciate the various aspects of school life as lived by the 3 ethnic groups inhabiting the territory (Italian, German, Ladin). The exhibition is complete with didactic materials, photographs, school reports, documents, furniture, and notice communications. Opening time: Mon–Fri 9 am – 12 am, 3 pm – 6 pm, Sat 9 am – 12 am. Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.

## Rentsch and St. Magdalena

Area 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 us 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, dedicated to **Saint Laurence 34** (dating back as far as 1180, different changes, round apse and the belfry from 1712) and **St. Magdalena 35** church, 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. Visits on request.



## Walks

The **Guntschna walk 36** starts from the old church and then winds up the back of Guntschna hill: it was dedicated to the Archduke Henry of the Absburgs and descends towards the Fagen neighbourhood towards the Talfer walk. The **Talfer walk 37** 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 **St. Oswald Walk 38**, which will take you to Eberle Hotel and to St. Magdalena hill. Following the Eisack river, and crossing over it, you'll arrive at the Kohlern cable car and at Virgl Hill, from where you can take another path back to Haselburg Castle: a circular walking circuit around Bolzano/Bozen which has no equals. The **two churches 39** on the Virgl 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.

**40 Kohlern**  
Taking the cable car to Kohlern 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.

**41 Ritten**  
The new Ritten cable car which connects Bolzano/Bozen to Oberbozen 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 from Oberbozen to Klobenstein 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.

**42 Jenesien**  
From the Tschöggelberg plateau, home to Jenesien, you can admire the breathtaking view on the Rosengarten group. The forests of the Salten upland offer an unforgettable moment at sundown as the peaks of the Dolomites tinge into a fiery red.

## Bobus

Bobus, around Bolzano/Bozen: from Easter until October you can get to the main sightseeing points around Bolzano by leaving from Walther Platz with a daily ticket for 1 euro. Info: Tel. +39 0471 307000.



# Historic and cultural route