

## AN OPEN AIR MUSEUM

The Ferrara Charterhouse holds a unique place among Ferrara's vast range of monuments. It's a place where memories of the past, masterpieces of sacred art, and traces of the relationship between the city and the community lie enshrined, shrouded in silence, and enveloped in an atmosphere of peaceful meditation. Visiting the Charterhouse means delving into the deepest recesses of Ferrara's history of sculpture, architecture and urbanism.



The Ferrara Charterhouse is an itinerant library of illustrious people and memorable personal stories. It is the resting place for the bodies of people who helped change the course of our society, leaving behind concrete actions and principles of beauty. A vast and diverse series of individuals, including universally renowned names, and others revered only by a more knowledgeable audience.



The Ferrara Charterhouse is a melting pot of sophisticated schools of architecture and sculpture. Extraordinary artists offered their knowledge and talent to memorialise the dead through monumental tombs, sepulchral sculptures, and marble statues capable of establishing intimate bonds between the immanent and the transcendent.



The Ferrara Charterhouse is a major component of a precise urbanistic concept. Designed outside the urban basin as a place of prayer, and transformed into an area of worship within the walls of the Herculean Addition, it plays a pivotal role in the urban planning that paved the way to the concept of modern city.



The Ferrara Charterhouse is a park of over 6 hectares located in the heart of the city. An immense and peaceful green area, in which rare and extraordinarily beautiful trees and plant varieties live and grow. The perfect destination to enjoy moments of relaxation and reflection immersed in nature.

The Ferrara Charterhouse is an evocative, multi-purpose, open-air museum.

## SIX CENTURIES OF HISTORY, FROM MONASTERY TO MUNICIPAL CEMETERY

The Ferrara Charterhouse has accompanied the most salient stages of Ferrara's evolution, a city initially cradle of the Renaissance, then northern offshoot of the Church State during the legatizia age, and later Napoleonic centre and rearguard in the liberation process. Stages that have left their marks on this monument's transformations over time.

**1438** | The Order of Carthusians' reception in the city was proposed during the Council of Basel, which was transferred to Ferrara that year

**1452** | Borso d'Este, the future first Duke of Ferrara, arranged and financed the construction of the monastery and the complex to be used by the Carthusian monks, who would settle there in 1461. Borso's remains are still preserved in the exedra near the entrance to the First Great Cloister

**1498** | Ercole I d'Este arranged for the complex to be incorporated within the Herculean Addition and entrusted the monumentalisation of the Church of San Cristoforo to the great court architect Biagio Rossetti

**1799** | At the behest of Napoleon, the Charterhouse was repurposed as barracks for the cavalry and the monastery was secularised

**1813** | The Carthusian complex, now owned by the Municipality, was transformed into a monumental cemetery based on the design by Ferdinando Canonici, with the contribution of Antonio Foschini, Giuseppe Campana, Leopoldo Cicognara, Giovanni Pividor, Niccolò Matas and Antonio Diedo

**1962** | The Second Great Cloister, the last of a series of expansions made between the nineteenth century and the fascist era, was completed. *"Perhaps it is because of the sweet serenity of its surroundings, and, above all, the nearly perfect and perpetual sense of solitude, but the Charterhouse square has always been a place where lovers go to meet"* (G. Bassani)

## A SINGLE ITINERARY, THREE THEMATIC PATHWAYS

### 01 STORIES OF FERRARA



Ferrara, whose historic centre is now recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, belongs both to those who built it, and those who have preserved it. The blue pathway that we propose here is dedicated to both of these categories of people who have contributed to the city's identity.

You'll learn everything there is to know through people who have protected the city's heritage over time, thanks to their historical awareness and scholarly passion. Historiographers, document curators, and archivists: from bibliographer Giuseppe Agnelli, who is credited with cataloguing the ancient section of the Ariostea Library, to historian Giulio Righini, and rationalist engineer Girolamo Savonuzzi, who, together with his brother Carlo, changed the face of the city itself.

You'll have the opportunity to learn about the special men and women whose exemplary life stories are an intricate part of Ferrara's history. Examples include the political and journalistic efforts of Carlo and Francesco Mayr; the Navarra Brothers' essential contribution to the development of modern agronomy; the courage of Alda Costa, an elementary school teacher who was ardently opposed to fascism; and the intellectual works of Vittorio Cini, who dedicated an important cultural foundation to his son Giorgio.

Delving even further into the past, there's the humanist poet Celio Calcagnini, an authority at the court of the Este family. Not to mention the men who made this journey possible: Duke Borso d'Este, who wanted to be solemnly entombed within the Charterhouse itself, and Ferdinando Canonici, the mind behind the monastery's transformation into the monumental cemetery of today.

### 02 THE SEVEN ARTS



Ferrara is the birthplace of numerous great figures in the fields of literature and the visual arts, who, after their lives of fame and international success, returned to their hometown to be laid to rest.

These include poets, architects, painters, and film directors whose works we've all enjoyed, and who you'll now be able to thank "in person" for their ways in which they touched our lives. Take a personal journey into the poetry of the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries, discovering the great masters of the schools of romanticism, divisionism, symbolism and futurism: Gaetano Previati, with his religious works and his avant-garde style much acclaimed by futurists; Filippo De Pisis, with his exquisite landscapes; and, above all, Giovanni Boldini, the portraitist most beloved by the high society of Paris during the *Belle Époque*. Match the names with their plaques at the most fascinating and recognisable spot in Ferrara's historic centre, the magnificent rotunda in the Theatre's lateral façade by Antonio Foschini.

Finally, let yourself be swept away by the historical images: the realistic images in Florestano Vancini's masterful historical-political feature films, and the fantastical images by Michelangelo Antonioni (recipient of an Academy Award for Lifetime Achievement in 1995), who made cinematic history with the final scenes of *Blow up*, *Zabriskie Point* and, above all, *The Passenger*.

### 03 THE SACRED BEAUTY



The Charterhouse is, first and foremost, a place of intimate and devout recollection that emanates the eternal beauty of the past. The splendid alternations of grass and stone are brought together in the funerary art, which is found in some of its most brilliant expressions within the complex.

You'll have the opportunity to admire magnificent busts and statues, little gems of funerary iconography, and extraordinary works of sepulchral architecture brought to life by the skilful hands of master sculptors. Antonio Canova, one of the greatest names in neoclassicism, lent his talent to sculpt the bust of Leonardo Cicognara, his biographer. But other authoritative religious sculptors have left their marks among the Charterhouse's Cloisters as well, including Ambrogio Zuffi, Alfonso Lombardi, Luigi Legnani, and Camillo Torreggiani.

Lovers of spirituality won't want to miss the terracotta Via Crucis in the First Grand Cloister by eclectic sculptor Ulderico Fabbri, while architecture enthusiasts will want to dedicate special attention to the two sepulchral monuments dedicated to Giovanni Boldini.

A stop at the Church of San Cristoforo, which has recently undergone considerable interior structural and restoration work, is an absolute must. The building, which was designed by Biagio Rossetti, one of the greatest names in Renaissance architecture, was subjected to these renovation efforts in order to ensure its structural soundness, and, above all, to restore the ancient beauty of its masterpieces of religious art painted by masters like Carracci, Scarsellino, Bononi and Bastianino.

## AVERAGE DURATION

- Pathway 01**  
45 minutes
- Pathway 02**  
45 minutes
- Pathway 03**  
60 minutes
- Complete pathway**  
100 minutes



An interactive guide, offered free of charge and even available offline, for visiting the Ferrara Charterhouse in complete autonomy. Download the App and search for **Ferrara Charterhouse Monumental Cemetery**



## ADDRESS

No. 1 Via Borso - 44121 Ferrara - Italy

## BUSINESS HOURS

Everyday  
October/March from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm  
April/September from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

## HOW TO GET THERE

### By car

Take the A13 Motorway (those arriving from Venice, Padua and Mantua exit at Ferrara Nord, those arriving from Bologna exit at Ferrara Sud). Diamanti car park (entrance on Via Arianuova): the car park is open 24 hours, and is located just 400 metres from the main entrance  
[www.ferraratua.it/parcheggi](http://www.ferraratua.it/parcheggi)

### By train

Trenitalia (Venice-Florence-Rome line or Milan-Bologna/Bologna-Ferrara line)  
[www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com)  
Passenger transport Emilia-Romagna (Mantua-Ferrara-Codigoro line)  
[www.tper.it](http://www.tper.it)  
Italo (Venice-Salerno line)  
[www.italotreno.it](http://www.italotreno.it)

### By bus

Line 3 travels from the Central Train Station (departure from the square) to the "Portamare Ariostea" stop (just 300 m from the main entrance)  
[www.tper.it/fe-3](http://www.tper.it/fe-3)

### By plane

A shuttle service is available from Bologna's "G. Marconi" airport to Ferrara's Historic Centre  
[www.ferrarabusandfly.it](http://www.ferrarabusandfly.it)

[www.certosadiferrara.it](http://www.certosadiferrara.it)

## 01 STORIES OF FERRARA

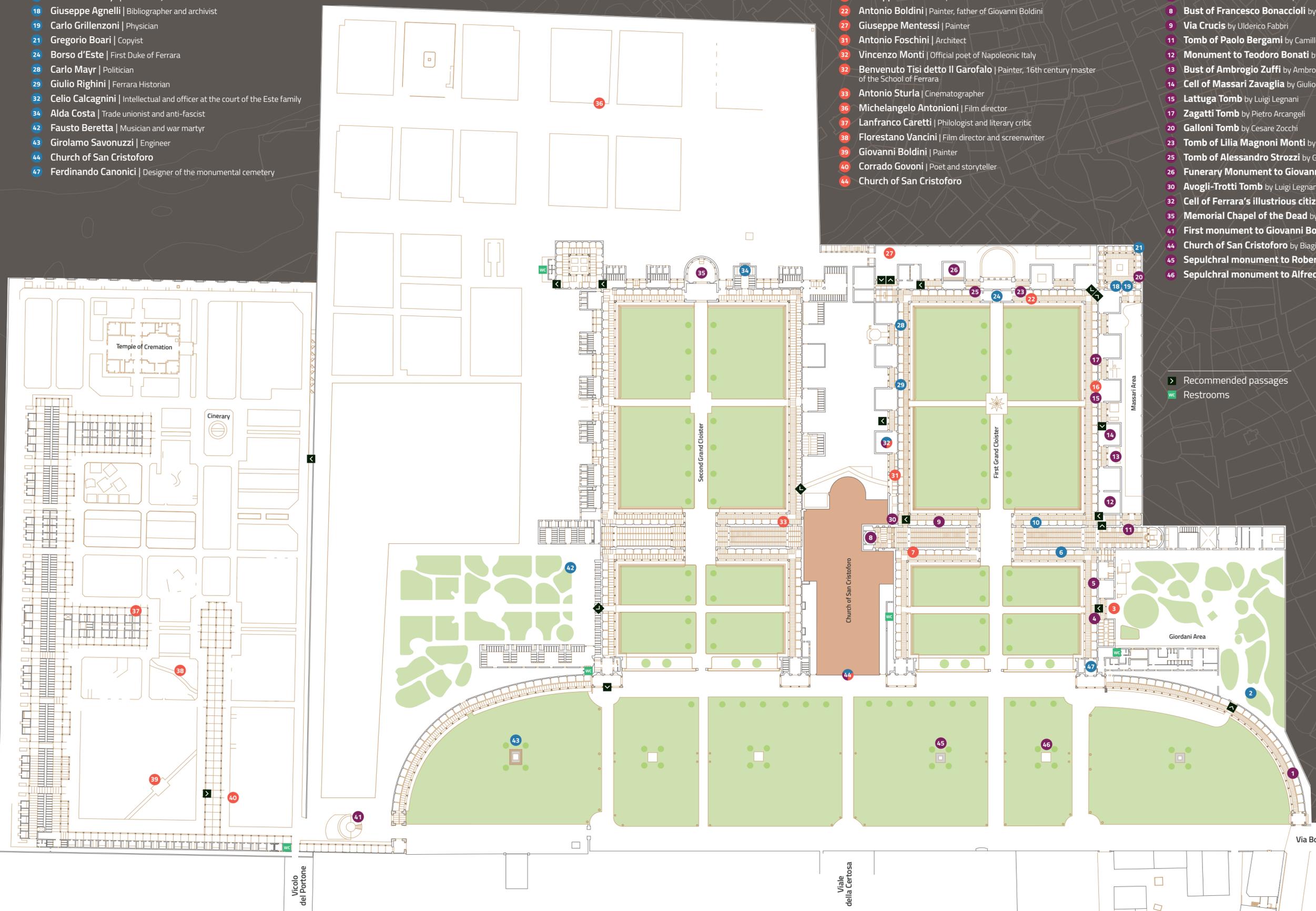
- 2 **Giorgio Cini** | The person to whom the "Casa Cini" cultural institute is dedicated
- 6 **Severino e Gustavo Navarra** | Landowners and agronomists
- 10 **Francesco Mayr** | Writer and journalist
- 18 **Giuseppe Agnelli** | Bibliographer and archivist
- 19 **Carlo Grillenzoni** | Physician
- 21 **Gregorio Boari** | Copyist
- 24 **Borso d'Este** | First Duke of Ferrara
- 28 **Carlo Mayr** | Politician
- 29 **Giulio Righini** | Ferrara Historian
- 32 **Celio Calcagnini** | Intellectual and officer at the court of the Este family
- 34 **Alda Costa** | Trade unionist and anti-fascist
- 42 **Fausto Beretta** | Musician and war martyr
- 43 **Girolamo Savonuzzi** | Engineer
- 44 **Church of San Cristoforo**
- 47 **Ferdinando Canonici** | Designer of the monumental cemetery

## 02 THE SEVEN ARTS

- 3 **Gaetano Previati** | Painter
- 7 **Filippo Tibertelli De Pisis** | Painter and art critic
- 16 **Giuseppe Mazzolani** | Restorer
- 22 **Antonio Boldini** | Painter, father of Giovanni Boldini
- 27 **Giuseppe Mentessi** | Painter
- 31 **Antonio Foschini** | Architect
- 32 **Vincenzo Monti** | Official poet of Napoleonic Italy
- 32 **Benvenuto Tisi detto Il Garofalo** | Painter, 16th century master of the School of Ferrara
- 33 **Antonio Sturla** | Cinematographer
- 36 **Michelangelo Antonioni** | Film director
- 37 **Lanfranco Caretti** | Philologist and literary critic
- 38 **Florestano Vancini** | Film director and screenwriter
- 39 **Giovanni Boldini** | Painter
- 40 **Corrado Govoni** | Poet and storyteller
- 44 **Church of San Cristoforo**

## 03 THE SACRED BEAUTY

- 1 **Tomb of Marquis Guido Villa Lancellotti** by Giacomo de Maria e Bartolomeo Ferrari
- 4 **Tomb of Filippo Dotti** by Camillo Torreggiani
- 5 **Vincenzo Bonetti's Arch** by Camillo Torreggiani
- 8 **Bust of Francesco Bonacciolli** by Camillo Torreggiani
- 9 **Via Crucis** by Ulderico Fabbri
- 11 **Tomb of Paolo Bergami** by Camillo Torreggiani
- 12 **Monument to Teodoro Bonati** by Antonio d'Este
- 13 **Bust of Ambrogio Zuffi** by Ambrogio Zuffi
- 14 **Cell of Massari Zavaglia** by Giulio Monteverde
- 15 **Lattuga Tomb** by Luigi Legnani
- 17 **Zagatti Tomb** by Pietro Arcangeli
- 20 **Galloni Tomb** by Cesare Zocchi
- 23 **Tomb of Lilia Magnoni Monti** by Vincenzo Consani
- 25 **Tomb of Alessandro Strozzi** by Giuseppe Maria Mazza
- 26 **Funerary Monument to Giovanni Battista Costabili Containi** by Pietro Tenerari
- 30 **Avogli-Trotti Tomb** by Luigi Legnani
- 32 **Cell of Ferrara's illustrious citizens** by Antonio Canova, Alfonso Lombardi et. Al.
- 35 **Memorial Chapel of the Dead** by Carlo Savonuzzi
- 41 **First monument to Giovanni Boldini** by Carlo Savonuzzi
- 44 **Church of San Cristoforo** by Biagio Rossetti
- 45 **Sepulchral monument to Roberto Fabbri** by Giovanni Pietro Ferrari
- 46 **Sepulchral monument to Alfred Lowell Putnam** by Camillo Torreggiani



➤ Recommended passages

wc Restrooms

Vicolo  
del Portone

Viale  
della Certosa

Via Borso