



Piazza Vecchia, Parco S. Agostino, i S. Maria Maggiore

Museums

Civic museum of natural science

Located in Piazza Cittadella, Città Alta, this museum is a favourite among children of all ages but not only. It offers push-button, hands-on and activity display panels. Among the attractions are a dinosaur skeleton, a mammoth and microscopes. There are restrooms and a water fountain. Not to miss are the ethnographic section with objects of Native Americans collected by C. Beltrami, the explorer from Bergamo who searched for the sources of the Mississippi River in the 1820's, and the enticing collection of African masks. Open Tues-Fri, 9.30am-12.30pm, 2pm-6pm; Sat-Sun 9am-7pm. Free entrance. www.museoscienzebergamo.it

Archeological Museum

Next door to the Natural Science Museum, with the same opening hours, and the same facilities. Free entrance.



Bergamo with children



CASA GANDINI

Visiting Bergamo with children can be great fun. Here is a selection of things to do mainly in Città Alta, the old city on the hill, but also in downtown Bergamo.

parks and playgrounds

Parco Sant'Agostino

The entrance is at Porta Sant'Agostino (one of the gates to Città Alta) or at La Fara. It is a spacious and relaxing park.. For toddlers and children up to the age of 8/10 there are swings, slide, merry-go-rounds and a fitness trail. There is a drinking fountain at the entrance of Porta Sant'Agostino. If the toilets of the park are closed, one can use the restrooms at the university by going through the first cloister and finding the WC at the end of the second cloister. Suggestion: for a picnic in the park you can buy take-out pizza, made from organically grown ingredients, at Pizzeria La Fara in Via Porta Dipinta, 150m uphill from the entrance of the park (open 11am-9pm, closed Sat morning).

Parco della Rocca

In Città Alta, walk up via Rocca from the funicular. It is a Memorial Park with many military monuments, some decidedly ugly. Especially moving is the long list of soldiers from Bergamo fallen in World War I at the main gate. But children like to play on the cannons, which today look almost harmless. The park has beautiful green space with large trees, dazzling views of the towers and spires of the old city and also of the surrounding hills. There is no play equipment but you are welcome to walk on the grassy areas and have picnics. There is a drinking fountain. The toilets are located in the History Museum (19th century section) (closed on Monday); the stairway leading up to the museum is near the entrance of the park. With the museum ticket one can walk up to the tower and onto the roof of the 14th century fortress.

Giardino "la Crotta"

At Colle Aperto, Città Alta, this small playground set up especially for young children is very pleasant on hot days because shaded by large trees. There are swings, a small slide and a climbing structure. The stairway leading up to the park makes it a bit difficult with prams or strollers. The drinking fountain is in front of the entrance. There are public toilets nearby.



Park and fortress of San Vigilio

From Colle Aperto take the funicular up to San Vigilio and a short walk uphill to the Castello (altitude 496 m) . There are enticing ruins of the 15th-century fortress and a quiet garden with a beautiful views of the hills. It is perfect for picnics. There are restrooms and a drinking fountain.

Garden of palazzo frizzoni

It is in Piazza Matteotti, downtown. A precious playground right in the centre of the pedestrian area of the city and the big stores; it is situated in the 19th-century garden of City Hall. Appropriate for toddlers and children up to 8/10, equipped with play structures and surfaces according to EN specifications.

Parco Suardi

This spacious downtown park can be entered from either via Battisti or via San Giovanni. It has large trees and grassy areas with plenty of play equipments for all children up to the age of 8/10. There is a wooden climbing wall and. There is a fenced-in area of the playground with equipment that requires tokens (50 cents each, 20 tokens for 9 Euros). There are toilets in the park and a drinking fountain at the entrance gate in via San Giovanni. Unfortunately the park is surrounded by intense traffic, so the area with the healthiest air is where the café rather than the playground is situated.

Some of Bergamo's public parks are centuries-old, having originally belonged to mansions of the aristocracy, such as Parco Marenzi in via Frizzoni and Parco Caprotti with entrances from both via Tasso and via Verdi. Although they lack equipment for children, they are delightful oases with large trees and ponds.