

Testi – “What to see in Turin”

Mole Antonelliana and Museum of Cinema

One of Turin's most conspicuous tourist attractions is the **Mole Antonelliana**. Originally intended as a synagogue, the Mole is a tall nineteenth-century brick building topped by an aluminium spire; a strange edifice celebrated on Italy's 2 cent coins.

The building is home to the **Museo Nazionale del Cinema**, Italy's National Cinema Museum, which has many interesting displays and clips to watch and is well worth a visit. Little themed 'booths' around the central space are great fun when not over-run with schoolparties: you can watch romantic clips reclining on a bed, or comedy while sitting on toilet seats. A long spiralling walkway leads up the walls of the building: it doesn't go anywhere but you can appreciate the architectural space and the light-shows.

A lift (*ascensore*) takes those with a good head for heights up to a lofty roof terrace. The glass lift ascends through the open central space of the building's cinema museum before reaching the pinnacle. There are stupendous views over Turin from the open-air platform. Be prepared to queue for the lift.

Piazza Castello

Piazza Castello is the hotspot of tourist Turin, home to grand palaces such as **Palazzo Reale**, the royal palace of the Savoy dynasty, and **Palazzo Madama**, previously a castle, prison, barracks, senate house, and now a museum. The piazza is an attractive central spot, and are lots of benches around the square, making it a good place to rest from the sightseeing.

Piazza Solferino

Connected to piazza Castello by via Cernaia, piazza Solferino is a lovely (though busy) area of the city. It is surrounded by 19th Century buildings including Palazzo Ceriana designed by Carlo Ceppi. Fancy bars (for example Il Norman) and the teatro Alfieri surround the piazza.

Piazza Statuto

This great and central piazza is connected to piazza Castello by the long via Garibaldi. Piazza Statuto was a “gift” from the English – the International Finance Society of London commissioned this piazza so as to invest in Italian capital. In the center of the piazza stands a large commemorative monument by Frejus (erected in 1879), the restoration of which was just recently completed. Very nearby you can eat good (and expensive) fish at Porta Rossi, or you can try the famous pizza of Gennaro Esposito.

Via Po

The plan for the street was drawn up in 1673 by architect Amedeo di Castellamonte, and via Po soon became known for being one of the most beautiful streets in Europe. The 1,250 meters of porticos on both sides of the street start from piazza Castello and arrive at piazza Vittorio Veneto, two steps away from the Po and from the Murazzi. Today via Po is one of the main commercial streets of the city center: on the right (going towards the river) there is an endless line of café's, shops and bookstores; on the left you'll find Palazzo degli Stemmi, Palazzo dell'Università and outdoor used books stands. And from here you're just around the corner from the Mole Antonelliana and the Biblioteca Nazionale Universitaria.

Palazzo Reale can be visited on guided tours (book ahead at the information office). The palace is gilded and grand memento of the Savoy family who, having ruled this area for generations, rose to become monarchs of the united Italy. After the Second World War they were exiled from the country, and have only recently been permitted to return. Their former home is well worth a visit.

Duomo and the Turin Shroud

One of the only disappointments for visitors is that you can't see the Turin shroud. Although it is housed in the city's Duomo - when not being subjected to testing - the shroud is currently kept safely locked up. A large photograph is the nearest you can get to examining the shadowy impressions. The charming cathedral itself comes as a refreshing Renaissance surprise after all the 'Liberty-style' grandeur of Turin, while from its steps you can see the ruins of Roman Turin.

Egyptian Museum

One of Turin's best museums is the **Museo Egizio** (Egyptian Museum), reckoned to be the best collection of Egyptian artefacts outside Cairo. Some displays are extremely well-presented, with

texts in English, but other parts of the museum await modernisation. There are fascinating reconstructions of burial chambers, and plenty of mummies to delight the macabre imaginations of children. (<http://www.museoegizio.org>)

Civic Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art

Built in 1959, this gallery (the Civic Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art) was reopened in 1993 following a long restoration. Today it features works from the end of the 19th Century and on. The impressive permanent collection was the first public collection in Italy, and it features 20,000 pieces including works by Fattori, Morandi, Manzù. The GAM also hosts important international exhibits and offers visitors a museum shop/bookstore, video gallery, and restaurant. (<http://www.gamtorino.it/>)

Teatro Regio

Teatro Regio is all about music – the stunning concert hall of piazza Castello brings opera, classical music, and chamber music to the regional capital. It is indeed the Mecca for Turinese classical music lovers.

Superga

A popular destination for Turin's visitors, Superga is the basilica on the hill which dominates views from the town. Built to celebrate successful deliverance from siege, the church became the resting place for the Savoy royals and achieved greater notoriety in the twentieth century as the site of the tragic aeroplane crash which killed the great Torino football team.

Museum of Contemporary Art: Castle of Rivoli

The Museum of Contemporary Art displays a large permanent collection of 20th Century art at the Castello di Rivoli (designed by Filippo Juvarra). The 38 rooms and the fourth floor called “la Manica Lunga” or “long sleeve” (built in the 17th Century to house the picture gallery of Prince Carlo Emanuele I) display works by Emilio Vedova, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Giulio Paolini, Mario Merz, Sol Lewitt, Richard Long, Anselmo, Fabro, Kounellis, Maurizio Cattelan, Rebecca Horn, and Gilbert & George. In addition to the permanent collection, the Museum also hosts temporary exhibits. (<http://www.castellodirivoli.org/>).

Grand Hotel Sitea (Via Carlo Alberto 35, Turin)



The luxury Grand Hotel Sitea is a refined property, where the well being of our guests is our primary goal. All guests receive a personal attendance by a well-trained staff, which offer cordiality and discretion. This well-known hotel offers elegance together with relaxing atmosphere and many amenities. Guests benefit from a restaurant, a snack bar, spacious conference facilities, and ADSL Internet connection. The hotel is positioned in the heart of Turin, very close to the beautiful Piazza San Carlo, and within close proximity to the Palazzo Madama, Palazzo Reale and the Cathedral.

Ristorante Dock Milano

Renewed restaurant with regional national and international specialities; sober and relaxed atmosphere, suitable for business lunches, banquets or romantic dinners. Personalised menus for groups available on request. (<http://www.dockmilano.com/>)

Ristorante La Badessa

Located in the historical building **Palazzo Coardi di Carpeneto**, in the central square [piazza Carlo Emanuele II](#), called *Carlina* by the people of Turin, the restaurant takes inspiration from the character of a noble abbess who because of her ability as a cook became famous in the XIX century.

A special menu is dedicated to *baccalà* and *stoccafisso* (stockfish) that along with very ancient and rare dishes is the real pride of the restaurant,. It is also possible to taste wines, oil, marmalades and liquors, all strictly produced in the convent. In the good season, you will enjoy your lunch in the large open air area viewing the beautiful square, whose main attraction is the monument to Cavour.

The ancient rooms are furnished with antiques, paintings and wood sculpture by famous Maestros of the Renaissance, and collections from ancient Monasteries are scattered everywhere.

(http://www.labadessa.net/locale_eng.asp)

Immagini - "What to see in Turin"



Mole Antonelliana

Museo del cinema



Piazza Castello

Piazza Statuto



Piazza Maria Teresa

Piazza Solferino



Piazza Bodoni

Teatro Regio



Museo Egizio



Castello di Rivoli



Torino Liberty



USEFUL WEBSITES

<http://www.italyheaven.co.uk/turin.html>

<http://www.extratorino.it/ENG/list.php?categoriaID=13> SITO NB

Esercitazione:

find the places mentioned in the text:

- find photos
- locate them on a map
- find out opening times and entry fees