

Get Ready for Mantova

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CITY · THE GONZAGA LEGACY

WHAT TO WEAR

- ◆ **Cobblestone-proof walking shoes**
The entire centro storico is on foot all day. No heels, no sandals. Ankle boots or sturdy flats are ideal.
- ◆ **Light jacket or mid-layer**
9°C by the lakes in the morning, 16°C by afternoon. One layer over a shirt carries you comfortably all day.
- ◆ **Smart-casual — the palazzo is refined**
You'll be inside the Palazzo Ducale and Camera degli Sposi. Nothing formal, but dress with respect for the space.

PACK YOUR BAG

- ◆ **Palazzo Ducale tickets**
QR code on your phone + screenshot saved offline in case of no signal inside the palace.
- ◆ **Cash — €40–60 per person**
Due Cavallini does not take cards. Smaller trattorias and market stalls: cash preferred.
- ◆ **Small daypack or crossbody bag**
Hands-free for the palazzo. The Camera degli Sposi requires you to look up — not manage a bag.
- ◆ **Camera or fully charged phone**
The Camera degli Sposi ceiling and the Lungolago sunset at 17:30 are both frame-worthy shots.
- ◆ **Water bottle**
Fountains throughout the old city. You'll walk more than you expect — stay hydrated.

INSIDER TIPS

- 01

Camera degli Sposi — look up
Mantegna's painted ceiling is one of the greatest trompe-l'oeil works ever made. Stand under the oculus and spend five full minutes there. Most visitors rush — don't.
- 02

Tortelli di zucca at Due Cavallini
Pumpkin-filled pasta with mostarda and amaretti — Mantova's signature dish, found nowhere else in Italy. Via Salnitro 5. Cash only. Book ahead or arrive at opening.
- 03

Lungolago dei Gonzaga at 17:30
Walk south from Piazza Sordello toward the water as the sun drops. The palazzo towers reflected in Lago Inferiore turn copper-gold. The shot you'll frame for the wall.
- 04

Rotonda di San Lorenzo — 9 AM
This 11th-century round church on Piazza delle Erbe opens at 9 AM. Step inside before the crowds. The stones are a thousand years old — feel it before the day gets busy.

