

## A local's guide to Bologna, Italy: top 10 tips

Famous for its medieval buildings and culinary brilliance, this vibrant university city also has a radical edge, offbeat cafes and great countryside at hand



Bologna's Asinelli (the taller one) and Garisenda towers in the city centre, a Unesco world heritage site. Photograph: Julian Elliott Photography/Getty Images

Bologna stakes a claim to being the oldest university city in Europe, perhaps the world, and a roll call of the alumni of its 1088-founded institution throws up names such as Erasmus of Rotterdam, Thomas Becket, several popes, Copernicus and, more recently, Guglielmo Marconi. But this is no fossilised museum town; Bologna's scholarly tradition attracts a constant influx of young people keeping this Emilia-Romagna city vibrant and challenging.

### Unique museum



A recreation of Aerolinee Itavia flight 870 at the Ustica museum. Photograph: John Brunton

The Museum for the Memory of Ustica is a unique experience – an artistic and realistic homage to Aerolinee Itavia flight 870, the commercial plane which crashed over Sicily on a flight between Bologna and Palermo in 1980, killing all 81 people on board. This mysterious crash remains unsolved and conspiracy theories still prey on the minds of many locals. Located in the city's old tram sheds, the museum houses a giant installation by French artist Christian Boltanski that meticulously reconstructs everything that was recovered from the wreck of the airliner. It is a strange and very moving place.

• *Via di Saliceto 3/22, [museomemoriaustica.it](http://museomemoriaustica.it)*