



The common good

a guide to exploring Mantua with children of all ages



WHAT IS MANTOVA PLAYGROUND

Mantova Playground is a project promoted and supported by the Comune di Mantova and is born with the aim of transforming the city into a playground that children will use to approach the complexity of the world. Workshops, maps, events to help discover the city from unusual and unexpected viewpoints or to rediscover what you already know by suggesting a new perspective.
website mantovaplayground.it **fb** [mantovaplayground](https://www.facebook.com/mantovaplayground)

Mantova Playground is sponsored by



The following have helped in the writing of this guide: Radiobase (www.radiobase.eu), the Biblioteca Mediateca G. Baratta and the Cinema del Carbone

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The typeface of the texts is Biancoenero®, by biancoenero edizioni, high-readability font, designed by graphic designers Riccardo Lorusso and Umberto Mischi · biancoeneroedizioni.com

FILMS RECOMMENDED BY THE CINEMA DEL CARBONE
Momo, the Conquest of Time by Enzo D'Alò, Italy, 2001, 75' Momo is a little girl with a very special quality: she makes people good just by looking at them. Thanks to this gift, she manages to foil the plan of the Men in Grey, who seem to be harmless but are actually quite wicked.
On The Way To School by Pascal Plisson, France, China, South Africa, Brazil, Colombia, 2013, 75' A documentary that tells the tales of Jackson, Zahira, Carlito and Samuel, four children who each day, in four different parts of the world, must overcome struggles and danger just to get to school.



BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY THE BIBLIOTECA MEDIATECA G. BARATTA

Two Monsters by David McKee, Lapis, 2014

There's one mountain and two monsters: one lives on this side and the other lives on that side, they never see each other and only speak to each other through a hole. One evening, they start arguing and it escalates into a rock throwing fight, each one heavier than the last.

Frederick by Leo Lionni, Babalibri, 2012

Frederick is a mouse who seems to just sit by on the sidelines while all of his friends struggle to gather food for the winter. In fact, Frederick has been collecting the beauty of nature that he will give to his friends during the long winter months.



THE COMMON GOOD

What makes a city a community and not just a collection of buildings are the people who live there and share traditions, rules, habits, celebrations, dialects and memories... A community takes care of the people who are part of it, and the people who are part of it take care of the community. This is why we build schools to educate children, hospitals to provide care, libraries and museums to discover new things and have fun, training people to take care of the weak and welcoming new communities because the more there are of us, the more fun we have.

This guide is a kind of roadmap to rethinking the city as a place for all of us, big and small. We have the chance to do something for ourselves and for others. If you come across other places like these, and there are many, let us know by writing to: info@mantovaplayground.it



THE MORE, THE MERRIER

Piazza Sordello · Piazza Castello · Piazza Erbe

Have you ever heard the expression "take to the streets"? In a country where just one person makes the decisions for everyone else, one of the first things they do is to stop people from taking to the streets. That is because groups of people talking to each other and expressing their disagreement can be a real threat to power. Luckily, here you can legally organise events, concerts, protests, sit-ins, flash mobs, strikes, and markets.

There are many squares here in Mantua, look around and decide which one you would use to host your event!

WHAT'S RIGHT IS RIGHT

Palazzo di Giustizia - già Guerrieri e Colloredo, via Carlo Poma 11

+39 0376 3391 · www.tribunale.mantova.it/storia.aspx

€ Palazzo della Ragione, piazza Erbe

+39 0376 1505892 · www.comune.mantova.it

Try and imagine a city where anyone can do whatever they want, without rules! It might seem like a lot of fun at the beginning, but it would soon become a great big mess: people would be fighting in all corners of the city! To solve this problem, there are rules and everyone must respect them. If they don't, there are judges who establish what is right and what is wrong, every once in a while punishing those who misbehave!

ALWAYS RAISE YOUR HAND

🕒 Sala consigliare, Comune di Mantova, via Roma 39

+39 0376 3381

It's easy to think of your ideal city by yourself.

It's much more difficult to do it together: there are those who would prefer a lively city and others who would want a more peaceful place; some would want more libraries, others more entertainment centres; some would want more parks, other would want more schools... Each person has different needs and desires; this is why, every five years, we elect a new mayor who, along with a team of people, governs the city. The nice thing is that if you disagree, you can always raise hand and express your disagreement! The not so nice thing is that it hasn't always been this way, and it's not like this everywhere even today.

TIME FOR SCHOOL

🕒 Palazzo degli studi, via Roberto Ardigò 13

+39 0376 320366

If you want to learn how to read newspapers and write complaints to the mayor, you will need to go to school. This is a very old school, with wide corridors and very high ceilings. There is also a staircase covered in frescos. What does your school look like? And what would your ideal school look like?!

FIRE, FIRE!

€ Galleria storica nazionale dei Vigili del Fuoco, Comando Prov. VVF di Mantova, largo Vigili del Fuoco 1
+39 0376 22771 · www.museovigilidelfuoco.it

The history of the fire brigade dates back to ancient Roman times because the need to defend and protect yourself against the threat of dangerous elements, such as fire, was one of the first needs expressed by citizens when they started to organise themselves in society. In addition to the fire brigade, there are also other people organised into groups to ensure the safety of all citizens. Do you know who they are?

BOOKS FOR ALL

Biblioteca Comunale Teresiana, via Roberto Ardigò 13

+39 0376 338450 · www.bibliotecateresiana.it

Biblioteca Mediateca G.Baratta, corso Garibaldi 88

+39 0376 352711 · www.biblioteche.mn.it

Another special place where you can learn while having fun is the library. Here you can find books about fantasy worlds, pirates or unsolved mysteries, and you can even get DVDs of your favourite films! If you can't find the book you're looking for, the librarian will order it for you from another library. The important thing is to take good care of the book or DVD that you borrow, and make sure you bring it back by the return date: other children will be waiting for them!

KNOWLEDGE MAKES US FREE

🕒 Gazzetta di Mantova, piazza Cesare Mozzarelli 7 +39 0376 3031

🕒 Voce di Mantova, piazza Sordello 12
+39 0376 222266

The more you know about the things going on around you, the more capable you are of making independent and autonomous decisions. Mantua is a city on the cutting edge: there are two local newspapers, the Voce di Mantova and the Gazzetta di Mantova, which is also the oldest newspaper in Italy, having been founded in 1664, more than 350 years ago!

ACTIVITY Telling a story isn't easy: it takes powers of observation and listening, as well the patience to not be fooled by appearance. Look at what it going on around you and MAKE A RECORDING about it using your own voice as if you were a real radio journalist! When you're done, you can send your recording to redazione@radiobase.eu...

The most interesting news items will be read out during the broadcasts!

By Radiobase (which is 40 years old!)
www.radiobase.eu

