

Mantova
Play
Ground

in collaboration
with Gazzetta
di Mantova

Histories of Towers

a guide to explore Mantua
with children of all ages

Regione Lombardia



in LOMBARDIA

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 · mantova2016.it
fb [mantovaplayground](https://www.facebook.com/mantovaplayground)

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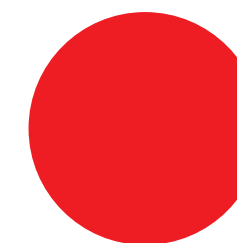
FILMS RECOMMENDED BY THE CINEMA DEL CARBONE
Rapunzel by Nathan Greno and Byron Howard, USA, 2010, 100' Rapunzel is the story of a little girl who is kidnapped and raised by a witch who pretends to be her mother to be able to exploit her powers: the gift of eternal youth to whoever brushes her hair. To keep her close, the witch keeps her locked up in tower until a boy arrives, who is as much a braggart as he is kind, who helps her escape the tower and free herself from the witch.
Horton Hears a Who! by Jimmy Hayward and Steve Martino, USA, 2008, 84' Horton is an elephant with a vivid imagination, and on 15 May, he hears a cry for help coming from a speck of dust. The elephant discovers that the speck harbours the city of Whoville and befriends the mayor of the city who is working on a tower. This tower will soon become something more than just a building: it will be the symbol of a great friendship can overcome any barrier!



BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY THE BIBLIOTECA MEDIATECA G. BARATTA

The Worst Princess by Anna Kemp, NordSud Edizioni, 2013 Sue is a princess unlike all the others. She is not interested in receptions or balls: she dreams of adventure and has no intention of staying locked in a tower, trying on clothes. A prince finally arrives but instead of taking her with him to discover the world, he puts in another tower to try on other clothes. But Sue has other plans and she will find another friend to go on adventures with. Who will it be?!

Tower of Babel by A. S. Gadot, Giuntina, 2014 In the land of Sennaar, everyone speaks the same language, everything seems to have been seen and done, everyone knows everyone else and there are never any surprises! Until one day, a child decides to build an extremely tall tower! On the twentieth floor, they organised a picnic, on the fiftieth, a dance party. But on the hundredth floor, it started to rain, thunder and lightning and the storm forced everyone to stop working. When the rain stopped, they no longer understood each other! They all spoke different languages and organising themselves to build the tower had become impossible - what a mess! The inhabitants of the valley of Sennaar had no choice but to start a new life... one that was much more interesting!



HISTORIES OF TOWERS

Like wise old man, the towers of Mantua, from their impressive heights, watch us with grace and kindness. They do not intrude on the affairs of the city, they stay on the side-lines, watching what is happening at their feet with great curiosity, wondering why everyone is in a hurry. Children are always told to not "have their head in the clouds", to "keep their feet on the ground" and so on. We often forget to raise our heads up to the sky and look at what happening up there, among the towers, clouds, flocks of birds and stars.



TORRE DEL PODESTÀ

Piazza Broletto

This tower was used by the podestà, who was a kind of Mayor who ruled a number of cities in the Middle Ages, to gather the citizens together when something important happened. Inside there was a bell whose ringing made it clear to the city's inhabitants that they had to abandon what they were doing and run to the Palazzo del Podestà to find out what was happening.

What do mayors use nowadays to communicate with their citizens?

TORRE DELL'OROLOGIO

Piazza Erbe

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www.comune.mantova.it

€ Museo del Tempo

www.mantovacollections.it

From the moment in which your alarm goes off to when you go to sleep, there is always a clock that sets the rules. The clock tells you when it's time to wake up, when it's time for a break, when you have lunch and when it's finally time to play. That's how it's always been: there has always been the need to measure the passage of time and this is why, over the centuries, more and more tools have been invented to do so, becoming increasingly precise. On one of the sides of this tower, you can see the clock built by Bartolomeo Manfredi who was a mechanic, mathematician and astrologer for the Gonzaga family. The dial shows the hours of the day, the planetary movements, the zodiac signs, the positions of the stars and the phases of the moon. It's a little bit difficult to read, but luckily the Time Museum is inside the tower, and they can understand how it works.

Imagine what the clock of the future will look like and try to draw it.

TORRE DEL SALE

Casa del Mercante visible from Piazza Erbe and Piazza Mantegna

This tower is known as the salt tower because a long time ago in Piazza Mantegna, salt was sold and the tower served as a deposit for this valuable mineral. In the past, salt was so important that it was called white gold! So much so that in ancient times, soldiers were paid with salt and that is where we get the word salary. Before refrigerators were invented, many foods which would have gone bad in a few days, such as cheese, meat, fish and vegetables, were covered with salt to make sure they stayed edible for as long as possible.

TOR DAL SUCAR

Via Tazzoli 10

Mantua is a really special city: there is even a tower of sugar! Some say that the name comes from the Zuccaro family who used to own property. Others argued that its name comes from the fact that it was used as a salt warehouse, which in the local dialect is called *sucar brüsc*, meaning sour sugar. But we think it has this name because there, actually, is where all the city's pastries, sweets, chocolates, cakes, ice creams and lollipops are stored.

Try to imagine the treasure contained in the tower.

TORRE DI SANT'ALÒ

Between Piazza Arche and Piazza Vigili del Fuoco

Have you ever heard the word farrier? It is a very old job, which was very popular when there were no cars or trains, and people only travelled by horse and carriage. The name Alò possibly derives from Eligius, the patron saint of farriers, and his image probably appeared on the tower itself.

TORRE DELLA GABBIA

Palazzo Acerbi in Piazza Sordello via Cavour 102

La torre della Gabbia, or the tower of the Cage, is the tallest in the city, reaching 55 m in height which is like forty 10-year-old kids standing on each other's shoulders. The cage where they locked up prisoners, hanging from a terrifying height, made for a truly dreadful prison.

TORRE DEI BONACOLSI

Vicolo Bonacolsi

This tower, which is close to Palazzo dei Bonacolsi, the first Lords of Mantua who were later driven out by the Gonzaga family, was used to defend the city from enemy attacks!

TORRE DELLA SPECOLA

📍 Palazzo degli Studi via Ardigò 13
www.mantovacollections.it/index.php/it/la-specola.html

From the top of this tower, which was built in the 18th century, people studied the sky, stars and planets which, depending on the seasons, appear in different positions. For some time, the tower was also the headquarters of the city's meteorological observatory, and from there you can also observe and study climate change.

TORRE DI SAN DOMENICO

Via Pescheria

There was time in which you couldn't read the Bible or the Gospels freely, without the guide of priests and monks. Transgressors were punished by imprisonment in the convent that once stood to the side of the tower. This was, fact, the bell tower of the church and monastery of San Domenico.

TORRE DEI BOATERI

Via Calvi 49

This tower, which belongs to the old and rich Boateri family, is the only one that still stands in the city.

Would you like to live in a tower? What do think it would be like?

TORRE DEI GAMBULINI

Via Ardigò

This tower, which belonged to the Gambulini family, was annexed to the Palace where Giovanni of the Bande Nere died, a kind of superhero who lived in the 1500s who seem to have written on his sword: "I will not draw my sword without reason. I will not hold it without valour". But what does it mean? Try to think of a kind of superhero or superheroine who could be the owner of the special sword.

