

Highlights and quick bites in TURIN

Turin is a city whose wide, elegant boulevards and grandiose architecture reflect the period when it was ruled by the aristocratic Savoy dynasty; it is a city which was the capital of the newly created Kingdom of Italy and in more recent history has been dominated by the automobile industry. Now, especially after the 2006 Olympic Games, the city has become an important centre for culture and design. It is also home to the famous Turin Shroud. In short, Turin can be defined as 'a city for all seasons' because apart from its role as northwest Italy's major industrial, cultural, intellectual and administrative hub, Turin also has a reputation as Italy's capital of the supernatural, not to mention its cuisine and excellent wines.

- Three days (two nights)
- Explore Turin's highlights
- Accommodation: two nights in a 4-star hotel near Piazza Castello
- Transport: walking tour
- Price: from 900 euro. The price includes two nights' accommodation, double occupancy, in a 4-star hotel, a tour guide, breakfast; two light lunches (drinks not included) and two dinners.

With only a three-day weekend to see the city this is the perfect itinerary for you! Three days to explore some of Turin's top attractions while tasting some quick bites now and then and discovering everything that makes this city so special.

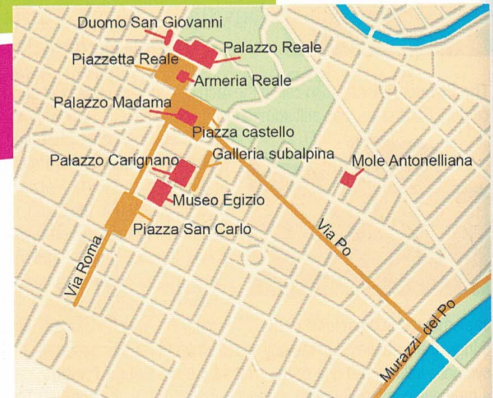
DAY 1 (Friday)

We begin with a stroll to **Piazza Castello**, the heart of Turin. At its centre is **Palazzo Madama**, surrounding it are the **Palazzo Reale** and the **Armeria Reale**. **Palazzo Madama** takes its name from the two Royal Dames who lived here, Maria Cristina and Giovanna Battista. This remarkable palace is more than two

thousand years old: it comprises the Roman Towers of the Praetorian Gate, the Fortress Home of Ludovico of Acaja, the State Rooms with 17th-18th-century decorations and the monumental façade, with the foyer and the grand staircase, built between 1718 and 1721 to a design by Filippo Juvarra. It was the home of the Savoy family, as well as the site of the signing of important treaties. When Turin was the country's capital the palace was the seat of the Italian Senate. Today it houses the **Museo Civico di Arte Antica**. The **Palazzo Madama Café** is located on the first floor. Juvarra's architecture and the frescoes on the walls make it one of the most interesting cafés in town. After a visit to the museum it is a nice place to have a cappuccino, coffee or hot chocolate and taste a delicious local cake made of almonds, flour, cocoa, vanilla and peaches. If you prefer savoury food there are plenty of *tramezzini* and small panini sandwiches. The cheese and bresaola sandwiches taste great.



On the north-eastern side of Piazza Castello, is the **Piazzetta Reale** and the **Palazzo Reale**. This palace was the seat of the Savoy royal family from 1660 until the unification of Italy in 1861. Visitors can access the three floors that house the royal apartments and one wing of the 17th-century palace provides



the setting for one of the most extensive and breathtaking collections of arms and armoury in the world. Dinner is at the Arcadia restaurant, located in the **Galleria dell'Industria Subalpina**, one of the picturesque 19th-century galleries in the heart of the city. There you have a choice – you can eat Japanese or taste innovative Piedmontese cuisine which uses classic ingredients from the area prepared in a lighter and creative way.



DAY 2 (Saturday)

We start the morning at one of the symbols of the city, the **Mole Antonelliana**. The 167-m Mole built between 1863 and 1889 by Alessandro Antonelli (1798-1888), was meant to be a synagogue. The Mole provides panoramic views from its glass lift and now houses the **Museo del Cinema**. If it is a clear day, we can't miss the opportunity to take the panoramic lift to the viewing platform for great views of the city and the Alps. Next, we can have a rest at **Caffè Fiorio**, established in 1780, which serves a rich variety of food including traditional coffees, a delicious lunch buffet and some of Turin's best homemade *gelato* made with a secret recipe. Don't miss the 'Gianduiotto con crema e panna', their classic *gelato*.

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After this short break we go to the **Duomo di San Giovanni**. The cathedral which was built in the 16th century and was dedicated to St. John the Baptist, Turin's patron saint, is the only example of Renaissance architecture in Turin. The crown of the bell tower was designed by Filippo Juvarra. The most famous holy relic in the cathedral is kept here: the **Turin Shroud**, which is said to be the winding sheet which the body of Christ was wrapped in after His crucifixion. The most impressive part of Turin's cathedral is the shadowy black marble-walled **Cappella della Sacra Sindone** (Chapel of the Holy Shroud). The chapel was designed by Guarino Guarini in Baroque style. In 1997 a fire caused great damage to Guarini's dome, but fortunately the urn containing the precious relic was saved.



Dinner is at **Caffè Torino**, one of the city's most elegant meeting places, located in the beautiful **Piazza San Carlo**. Between 18.00 and 21.00 we can snack from a fabulous selection of dishes and platters laid out along the bar for around 7 euro.



Turin offers an impressively varied nightlife. From the elegant bars located in **Piazza Vittorio Veneto** to the alternative pubs and clubs in **Santa Giulia** and **Quadrilatero**, each neighbourhood has its own

style. The best way to end our day after dinner is to go to the neighbourhood of **San Salvario**, the real heart of Turin's nightlife, in the southeast of the city centre near Porta Nuova Station. This district has rapidly become the centre of Turin's *movida* and in the bars and restaurants between Corso Vittorio Emanuele II and Corso Marconi it is at night that San Salvario really comes to life.

DAY 3 (Sunday)

This is the last day, so we start with the **Museo Egizio**, second in the world after the museum in Cairo and dedicated to Egyptian art and culture. Let's visit the magnificent 13th-century BC statue of Ramses II and the fascinating tomb of Kha. If we have time we can visit **Palazzo Carignano** which houses the **Museo Nazionale del Risorgimento Italiano**, with a vast collection of documents, memorabilia, flags and paintings on the history of Italy from the 1700s to the First World War. This imposing Baroque palace, with its wavy brickwork façade, was built by Guarino Guarini in 1679 for the Carignano family. Its main hall was used as a ballroom and then converted in 1848 into the Chamber of the first Piedmontese Parliament.

After all this culture we will need a coffee or hot chocolate at **Caffè Mulassano**, inaugurated in 1907; with its dark colours and hues the café is reminiscent of a gentlemen's club. It is said that their espresso is the best in the city.

The afternoon is free for shopping or tasting some more world-famous specialities which make Turin the Italian capital of traditional chocolate: *gianduiotti*, chocolates, pralines, cakes, biscuits, *pinguino* ice creams. Before leaving try the *bicerin*, a hot drink with layers of chocolate, coffee and cream.

