



## PADUA IN EUROPE

### 1. LARGO EUROPA

Starting point of the project for its symbolism and an archaeological site with roman walls under the street and the remains of the Roman Arena nearby

### 2. PORTE CONTARINE

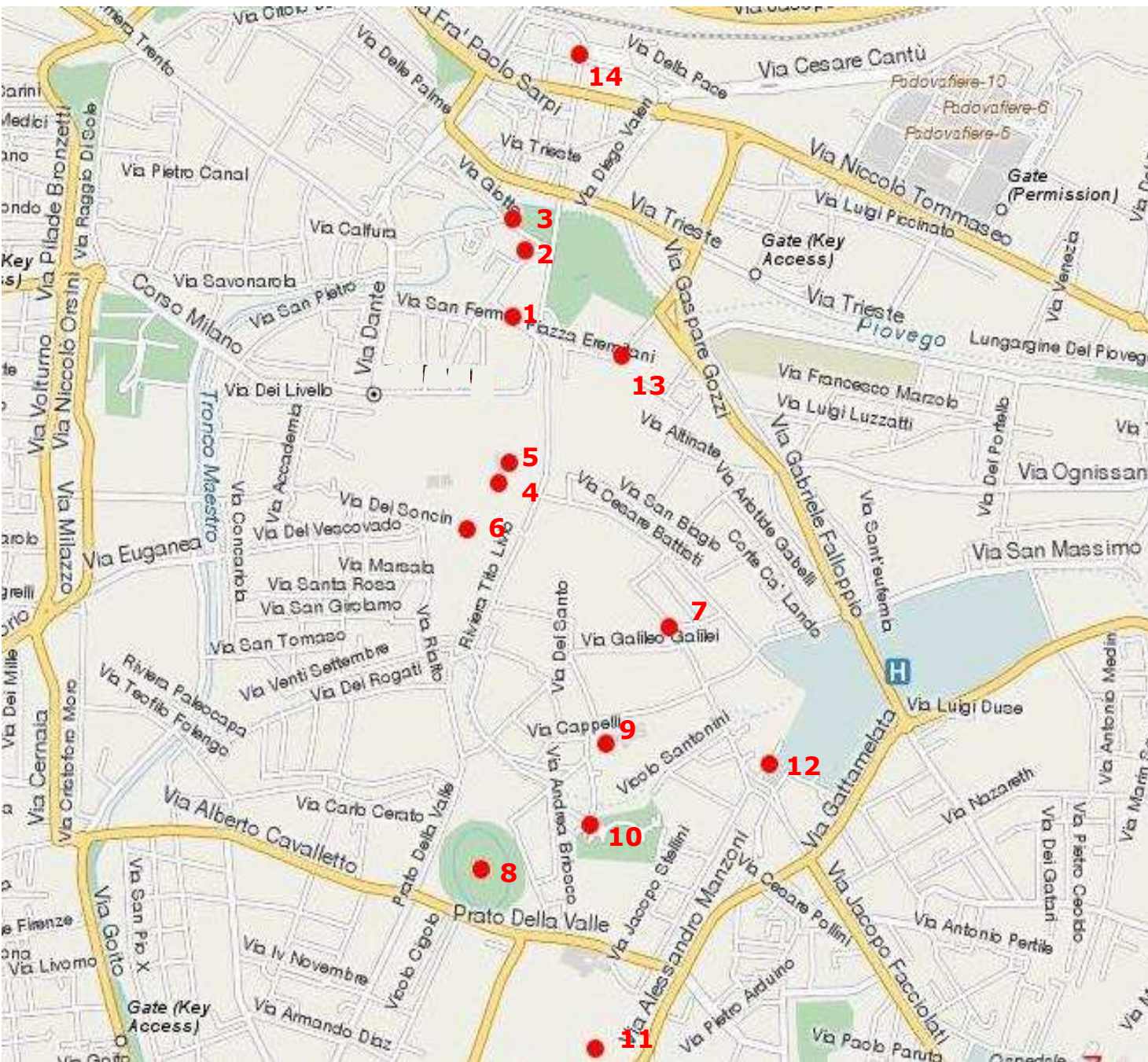
Its navigation lock has always been an important place for international trade linking Padua with the Venice lagoon.

### 3. MEMORIAL "MEMORY AND LIGHT"

The memorial for the 11th September was designed by the Polish architect Daniel Libeskind, the beam was donated by the city of New York to the Veneto Region.

### 4. UNIVERSITY "BO"

The prestigious University of Padua is one of the oldest in Europe. Thanks to the climate of religious tolerance and personal freedom guaranteed by the Commune of Padua and the Republic of Venice, starting from the 15th century Padua University experienced a period of great development and splendour. It gained wide international fame and became the favourite destination for students from all over Europe. The "Sala dei 40" exhibits portraits of distinguished foreign students who have studied at the university, including Michel de L'Hospital, Thomas Linacre, William Harvey, Olof Rudbek the Elder, Thomas Bartholin, Stefan Báthory. Here a Polish student, Jan Zamoyski was Rettore of the University in the 16th century: when he went back to Poland he planned a town, Zamosc, together with Paduan architect Bernardo Morando, where they reproduced some of the characteristics of Padua urban centre (porticoes and squares). The University of Padua is also known for the first permanent anatomy theatre in the world



and the first woman graduate in the world, Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia (1678).

## 5. CAFFÈ PEDROCCHI

The Caffè Pedrocchi became one of the city's landmarks in the 1800s when it assumed its present aspect as commissioned by Antonio Pedrocchi. It was open to everyone, day and night, and was a meeting place for intellectuals and students during the "Risorgimento". It was here, on the 8th February 1848, that the insurrection against the Austrians started. This uprising came about as part of a revolutionary wave called the "Springtime of the Peoples". The rebellion is now commemorated with a plaque inside the Caffè Pedrocchi in the White Room where you can still see the hole produced by a bullet fired on that day and another commemorating plaque is on the wall of Palazzo Bo, seat of Padua University, at the corner of Via Cesare Battisti. Since 1890, the café has belonged to the city of Padua and on the first floor there is the Museum of the Risorgimento and contemporary history.

## 6. JEWISH GHETTO

Padua's Jewish ghetto was active from 1603 and abolished in 1797 when Napoleon declared Jews free and equal. The Jewish community grew because the University, unlike any other in Italy or even Europe, has always accepted students of all religions. During the lordship of the Da Carrara, the development of trade in the city attracted many lenders and sellers: this made Padua the meeting point for people from different backgrounds and cultures. In 1600 almost all the Jews in Italy were confined to ghettos, only the Republic of Venice allowed Jews to walk around the city without any distinguishing mark. In Padua ghetto, the synagogue of the Italian rite is the only one which is still in use (but the ancient German synagogue is still standing).

## 7. PALAZZO GIUSTI

In San Francesco street you can find Palazzo Giusti, a palace which was the residence of the noble Lazara family in the sixteenth century. In 1574 they were hosts to Henry III of Valois, who was king of France and also briefly King of Poland. In 1944, the building was seized by the "Banda Carità", a special corps of the fascist secret police who used it as a prison. Nowadays, the palace bears a plaque showing the words of "La Canzone della

nave", a song written by an activist who was part of the resistance against fascism, Egidio Meneghetti and other prisoners. As well as denouncing the torture of the political prisoners, the song spoke of their hope of creating a Europe inspired by the values of justice, freedom, the dignity of the human person, and the assertion of democracy.

## 8. PRATO DELLA VALLE

Prato della Valle is one of the largest squares in Europe with an area of 88,620 m<sup>2</sup>. It was built in 1775 according to the ideas of the Enlightenment. The 78 statues that surround the park represent the most illustrious people of the city: professors and students who have honoured the city and the University, and also historical and mythological characters related to local history. Amongst the statues there are those of two kings of Poland: Stefan Bathory (born in Transylvania) and John Sobieski, both were students at the University of Padua. Many characters who are represented were ambassadors or officials in European courts, because of their legal knowledge and diplomatic experience gained at the University of Padua.

## 9. DONATELLO'S GATTAMELATA AND BASILICA DEL SANTO

Donatello was invited to Padua in 1443 to work on this equestrian monument dedicated to the military leader Erasmo da Narni called Gattamelata and then to work on the altar of Saint Anthony Chapel. During his stay in Padua he introduced the Florentine Renaissance style to Northern Italy, which then spread across Europe. The Basilica of Saint Anthony is the visible proof of the devotion towards this Portuguese saint. It's an important place for pilgrimage; a tradition which goes back to Medieval times when it became part of the network of routes for pilgrims which connected all of Europe.

## 10. BOTANICAL GARDEN

The University of Padua's Botanical Garden, founded in 1545, is the oldest existing university botanical garden in the world. The garden was continually enriched by exotic plant species, particularly from countries where the Republic of Venice had possessions or trade links. In the medicinal plants section, there is a very special plant: "Goethe's palm" which was planted in 1585 and is now thought to be the garden's oldest tree. This palm is famous for having inspired the German writer during his trip to Italy in 1786 when he formulated his idea of evolution. In 1997, this botanical garden was registered in the UNESCO World Heritage List, as it inspired other botanical gardens throughout the world.

## 11. WALLS

Padua's Renaissance city walls are over 11km long, with nineteen ramparts and five gates, and are the largest monument in the city. The Renaissance walls, built in the early sixteenth century on the route of the previous Carrara walls, were commissioned by the Republic of Venice under the leadership of Bartolomeo d'Alviano. The remains of the Carrara walls, the gates and the castle, represent a heritage of history, culture and art of great value. The so-called "Venetian Walls" surrounded the city and determined its form until the early twentieth century, when it began to expand beyond them. Padua's city gates were erected between 1517 and 1530, each one with a drawbridge. Walls, ramparts, gates, drawbridges, ditch are common defence elements to be found in Padua in the city wall of Renaissance style.

## 12. TREVES GARDEN

This park is an example of an English romantic garden, a style of garden which can be found in many cities in Europe. It was the first park to be designed in Padua, (between 1829 and 1835) and according to the landscape architect Giuseppe Jappelli, the park was inspired by his trip to England. The original structure of the park has never been altered. Now, after several renovations it's possible to visit the garden and see some rare and ancient plants. The park which covers an area of 9,600 m<sup>2</sup>, is crossed by narrow curvy roads and the Alicorno and Santa Chiara canals.

## 13. STATUE OF HERCULES

The statue of "Hercules at Rest", a work of Bartolomeo Ammannati, is one of the highest stone statues in Europe.

## 14. HOTEL GRAND'ITALIA

A fine example of liberty style, which at the time was the favourite style of the ruling class joining the Popular Party as opposed to the eclectics style which was preferred by the conservatives.



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