

CITY INFORMATION

Patavium, as Padua was known by the Romans, was inhabited by Veneti, who prospered due to their excellent horses and high quality wool. In 452 the Padua of Antiquity was destroyed by the Huns, under Attila. The only remaining Roman ruins are the amphitheater and some bridge foundations.

After centuries of conflict, Padua began to prosper. In 1222 the university was founded, making it one of the oldest universities in continuous operation. The famous Anatomical Theatre, built by Hieronymous Fabricius Ab Acquapendente is the oldest in the world (1594).

Prior to the formation of the united Kingdom of Italy in 1866, Padua was ruled, at various times, by the Venetians and the Austrians.

PLACES TO SEE



The Scrovegni Chapel, dedicated to St. Mary of the Charity, frescoed between 1303 and 1305 by Giotto, upon the commission of Enrico degli Scrovegni, is one of the most important masterpieces of Western art. The frescoes, which narrate events in the lives of the Virgin Mary and Christ, cover the entire walls. On the wall opposite the altar is the grandiose Universal Judgement, which concludes the story of human salvation.



The Palazzo del Capitano, the residence of the Venetian governors, and the Michaelangelo inspired Cathedral, are nearby.



The Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua was commenced in 1230, and completed about a century later. It's ornate exterior is complemented by the quality of its interior decor. Donatello's magnificent equestrian statue, cast in 1453, of a is in the piazza in front of the basilica. Frescoes by Titian can be seen at the Scuola di S. Antonio.

In the gardens there is the tomb of Wirsung and of other anatomists.



The Prato della Valle, a 90,000 m² elliptical square has a wide garden surrounded by a trench which is lined by 78 statues portraying famous citizens.



Santa Sofia is probably Padova's most ancient church, the crypt being initiated in the late 10th century by Venetian craftsmen



The botanical garden, Orto Botanico di Padova, was founded in 1545 as the garden of curative herbs attached to the University's faculty of medicine. It is the oldest botanical garden in the world and still contains an important collection of rare plants. It is part of the world heritage of the UNESCO.