

## **RULES FOR VISITING THE DUOMO OF MODENA**

*Welcome to all those who wish to visit our amazing Cathedral!*

*It is open to worshippers for prayer and contemplation, as well as to those who do not profess our faith but would like to admire a famous monument, a Romanesque masterpiece built as “domus clari Geminiani” (house of the illustrious Geminianus) and a place of religious worship for the community.*

*To safeguard these characteristics, certain conditions must be observed inside the cathedral (making it different from a museum or an art gallery), such as silence, composure and respect.*

*The rules for visiting the Cathedral must be seen from this viewpoint, and not as a violation of an erroneous concept of freedom in conflict with the intrinsic holiness of the place you wish to visit.*

*We hope that the rules below can help visitors make the most of a place that is first and foremost very dear to the people of Modena, listed as a UNESCO “World Heritage Site”, which is all the more reason to treat it with care and respect.*

### **RULES FOR ALL VISITORS**

#### **1. OPENING TIMES**

The Duomo is open Monday 7.00-12.30, 15.30-19.00; from Tuesday to Saturday 7.00-19.00; Sunday 7.30-19.00

#### **2. ORDINARY RELIGIOUS CELEBRATION TIMES**

Feast day - morning: Mass 8.30, 9.45, 11.00, 12.15\*

afternoon: Rosary 16.30, Vespers, Mass 18.00

Week day - morning: Mass 8.00, 9.00, 10.00, 12.00\*

afternoon: Rosary 17.00, Vespers, Mass 18.00

\* *Mass is suspended in July and August.*

#### **3. TOURIST-CULTURAL VISITING TIMES**

Sundays and feast days: 13.30-16.30; in July and August 12.30-16.30

Weekdays (excluding Monday): 10.30-12.00, 12.30-17.00; in July and August 10.30-17.00

Monday (non feast day): 10.30-12.00, 15.30-17.00; in July and August 10.30-12.30, 15.30-17.00

#### **4. Visits are not permitted:**

- Sunday and feast day mornings;
- during ordinary and special religious celebrations.

5. The crypt is a place reserved for prayer and may only be visited in absolute silence. No talking is allowed inside the crypt, not even using ear pieces.

6. Inside the Duomo, remember to observe some essential rules of conduct to maintain propriety and respect for the place of worship:

- help to maintain an atmosphere of contemplation by being as silent as possible and to only speak when necessary and quietly;
- turn off mobile phones or use silent mode;
- taking photos of people (“selfies”) is forbidden; photographs may be taken (without flash) for personal use as long as it does not disturb those trying to pray;
- do not consume any food or beverages;
- avoid clothing that bares the legs above the knee, the shoulders and the back;
- pets may not enter, except for guide dogs.

7. Access for the disabled is through Porta della Pescheria (in Via Lanfranco) as it is free from architectural barriers.

8. It is forbidden to leave rubbish of any kind or to climb/sit on the sculptures outside the Duomo, so as to avoid damage.

9. Compliance with these Rules is monitored by the Duomo staff. They are identified by name tags and are at the disposal of visitors, who they may reprimand at any time if they fail to comply with the rules set forth here and possibly invite them to leave the cathedral.

#### **SPECIFIC RULES FOR GROUPS**

10. To show due respect for what is a place of worship, no more than approximately 150 visitors may be inside the cathedral at any one time. This number is a guideline only and may be subject to changes according to new requirements or to instructions from the authorities. The quantity of groups that may stay at any one time inside the cathedral shall be calculated on the basis of this number limit. A group is understood to be 10 or more people.

The groups, with or without a guide, that wish to visit the Duomo, are invited to request authorisation: this means the flow of tourists can be regulated, the quantity checked and thus the overall conditions for the visit improved, avoiding also any situations like a visit being prevented due to special religious celebrations or overcrowding of the Duomo. Access for groups is staggered to every 30 minutes, on the basis of the opening times defined in point 3 of these Rules. Each group can be authorised for just one half hour time slot. Authorisation must be carried out by the group leader/contact person preferably at least 10 days in advance by filing out the special form which can be downloaded from the following websites: [www.duomodimodena.it](http://www.duomodimodena.it); [www.museidelduomodimodena.it](http://www.museidelduomodimodena.it); [www.unesco.modena.it](http://www.unesco.modena.it); [www.visitmodena.it](http://www.visitmodena.it) (for all information, telephone the IAT tourist office at 059-2032660). You will then be sent a confirmation e-mail, which the group leader must print and show to the Duomo staff at the time of the visit. Please note that even if authorisation is obtained, the visit to the Duomo may be subject to changes due to unforeseen circumstances, even last minute. Inaccessibility in this case does not give the group any right to claim compensation.

11. To optimise the outflow of visitors, the entrance for groups is through the right-hand front door; the exit is through the 'Porta della Pescheria' (side door at the end of the left aisle).

12. Inside the Duomo, all groups may receive an oral explanation from the guide only next to the entrance, standing or sitting in the last pews at the back. Groups without radio-headsets may not receive any further explanations inside the Duomo, so as not to disturb others and maintain an atmosphere of contemplation.

Groups are invited to maintain the utmost silence and due respect for the setting at all times during the visit. The guided visit is allowed for groups of over 15 people only with radio-headsets.

Whoever does not have radio-microphones with headsets may hire them by contacting the Modena IAT tourist office before the visit, at the email address [info@visitmodena.it](mailto:info@visitmodena.it) or tel. 059-2032660, which will offer all information about rates and payment methods. It is recommended you book well in advance as the availability of radio-microphones is limited.

In no case is it possible to use portable amplification equipment and/or microphones for guided tours inside the Duomo.

In any case, no talking is permitted in the crypt, even by way of radio-headsets.

13. School groups from primary school and junior secondary school are invited to obtain authorisation according to the methods indicated in point 10, but they are not obliged to use radio-headsets. Point 10 of these rules applies to students from senior secondary school, in that they may receive an explanation from the guide/teacher only next to the entrance and may not receive other explanations inside the Duomo (see point 12).

14. Groups interested in taking part in the Eucharist celebrations are most welcome at the scheduled times upon agreement with the cathedral rector, by contacting the Sacristy at tel. 059-216078.