



# In Ferrara

- 1** Ferrara's City Walls 30,950 km
- 2** Where the river used to run 9,010 km
- 3** The historic centre and the ghetto 4,260 km
- 4** The Renaissance City 4,720 km

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Palazzo dei Diamanti

#### 4 THE RENAISSANCE CITY

**Depart/arrive:** Ferrara, Piazza Savonarola

**Length:** 4,720 km

**Difficulty:** level route along city streets, cycle paths and restricted traffic zones

**Recommended period:** all year

In 1492 Duke Ercole I, driven by considerations of economics, politics, defence and prestige, decided to expand the capital of his realm, taking within the walls the vast zone north of the **castle**. The project, to be realised with a surprising modernity, was entrusted to Biagio Rossetti, one of the most original architects and planners of the Italian Renaissance, and it became known as the **"Addizione Erculeale"**.

From the castle there is the view down the grandiose Corso Ercole I d'Este, main axis of the Addizione; half-way along it stands the **Palazzo dei Diamanti**, so called

because of the over 8000 stones shaped like pyramids or diamonds covering its two facades.

The complex of **Palazzo Massari**, with its magnificent garden adjoining, houses important collections of art, among which are the museums named after Giovanni Boldini and Filippo de Pisis; nearby is broad **Piazza Ariostea**, with a statue of the poet Ludovico Ariosto. The route then visits the **church of San Cristoforo in the former Carthusian Monastery** with its unmistakable massive bulk embraced by porticos, and its interior with precious furnishings and paintings which represent its historic and spiritual memory. At the end of the journey there is the simple **house of Ludovico Ariosto**.

Certosa, Loggiato di San Cristoforo

