

Destination: Pistoia – The pulpit of the Church of S. Bartolomeo in Pantano, the pulpit of the Church of S. Giovanni Fuorcivitas, the pulpit of the Church of S. Andrea. *We also advise visits to:* the pulpits in some minor churches.

Four ancient mediaeval pulpits were once preserved in Pistoia, making the city famous from the 15th century onwards, when it also gained the nickname of the “*City of the Pulpits*”.

Three of these four pulpits have survived to this day and can still be seen in the buildings for which they were carried out: the Churches of S. Bartolomeo in Pantano, S. Giovanni Fuorcivitas

and S. Andrea.

An itinerary based on these pulpits moreover allows the visitor to discover more about the history of the pulpit and its evolution between 1250 and 1300.

The fourth pulpit, which stood in the Cathedral, was dismantled and lost in 1563.

The pulpit in the Church of S. Bartolomeo in Pantano



The work of **Guido da Como** dates from around 1250 and is built in a rectangular form and raised up on three columns, two of which rest on lions and one on a human figure.

The four sides are carved with scenes from the *Life of Christ*. The pulpit is enriched with two lecterns.

How to get there:

by car, from the Pistoia motorway exit: keep to the right and continue as far as the roundabout. Take the third exit, going past the Infopoint structure and then turn left at the railway bridge. Turn right at the end of the road into Via IV Novembre; carry straight on here and then take Via Cellini, the second road on the left, to reach the free Cellini car park. A shuttle service leaves from here for the old city centre (tel. 800 277825, active from 6.40am to 8.30pm); get off at the bus stop in Piazza Garibaldi. From here take Via Panciatichi on the left and continue straight on as far as Piazza del Duomo. Walk straight down Ripa del Sale into Via S. Bartolomeo.

by train: all the destinations on the itinerary are a 10/15 minutes walk away from the station

Info and reception: Church of S. Bartolomeo
Piazza S. Bartolomeo, 6 - Pistoia - tel. 0573 24297
I.A.T. Pistoia Piazza del Duomo, 1 - Pistoia
tel. 0573 21622

Opening hours and prices: daily 8am-6pm
entrance free

The pulpit of the Church of S. Giovanni Fuorcivitas



This pulpit dates from the second half of the 13th century and was carried out by **fra' Guglielmo da Pisa**, a collaborator of **Nicola Pisano** whose art partly inspired him for the realisation of the decorative panels.

The pulpit is built on the traditional design that was also used for the pulpit of S. Bartolomeo, with a

rectangular casing decorated with carvings of the *Story of Christ and the Virgin Mary*. The restoration of 1998 brought back to light the areas carried out in polychrome glass paste and the stucco inserts.

How to get there:

on foot, from the Church of San Bartolomeo: follow the street as far as Piazza del Duomo. Turn into Via Roma and then turn right at the end of the street into Via Cavour until you come to the church on the left.

Info and reception: Church of S. Giovanni Fuorcivitas
Via Cavour - Pistoia - tel 0573 24784
I.A.T. Pistoia Piazza del Duomo, 1 - Pistoia
tel. 0573 21622

Opening hours and prices: daily 7.30-12am and 5-7pm
entrance free



Provincia di Pistoia
Ufficio Cultura



The pulpit of the Church of S. Andrea

It was carved between 1298 and 1301 by **Giovanni Pisano** who gave life to one of the greatest masterpieces in his artistic career. The pulpit, on a hexagonal plan, is similar to the pulpits carried out by his father Nicola for the Baptistery of Pisa and the Cathedral of Siena. The pulpit in Pistoia stands out from these however for its more accentuated dynamism and the expressive force of the carved figures.

The iconographic decoration illustrates the doctrine of the Redemption and follows a design that dedicates the lower register (the sculptures on which the columns rest) to the *Allegories*, the middle register (the ribs of the arches and the corner figures) to the *Prophecies* and the upper register (the walls of the casing and the corner figures) to the *Story of the Manifestations of Christ*, from the *Nativity* to the *Crucifixion* and the *Last Judgement*.

How to get there:

on foot, from the Church of S. Giovanni Fuorcivitas: continue on the left along Via Cavour. At the end of the street, turn right into Via Buozzi and carry straight on. From Piazzetta S. Filippo turn right and walk down Via Abbi Paziienza. Turn left at the cross-roads into Via di S. Andrea and continue straight on as far as the church.

Info and reception: Church of S. Andrea

Via S. Andrea - Pistoia - tel. 0573 21912

I.A.T. Pistoia Piazza del Duomo, 1 - Pistoia

tel. 0573 21622

Opening hours and prices: daily 8.30am-5.30pm
entrance free

We also advise visits to:

There are several other pulpits dating from the Middle Ages in the territory of the Province of Pistoia.

Many of these however have not survived in their entirety to the modern day.

One of the best preserved of these is the pulpit in the **Parish Church of S. Maria Assunta at Popiglio**, composed of mediaeval panels carved in bas-relief and remounted on a

Renaissance type of structure in the late 15th century.

As for the incomplete pulpits, there is a fine pulpit slab in the **Parish Church of S. Giovanni Evangelista at Montecucoli** (at Valdibure) and the remains of a pulpit (a lion bearing a column and a capital) in the **Church of S. Maria Assunta at Gavinana**.