



**MAGIC**  
The Gathering  
**GRAND PRIX**  
**TURIN**

*"Torino is not a place you can leave behind" - Friedrich Nietzsche*

## A brief history

Torino was founded as a roman settlement, under the name of Augusta Taurinorum (“Taurinus” means bull-like and that was the name given by the romans to the local ancient tribes, because of their height and strength). After having been mostly anonymous through the middle age, it became the capital of the Savoy dukedom in 1563, under duke Emanuele Filiberto of Savoy.

The dukedom of Savoy became a kingdom in 1713, and starting from 1848 the Royal family and the government began, through wars and smart political alliances, the process of reunification of Italy (known now as Risorgimento - resurgence). This led Torino to become the first capital of Italy in 1861.

During the 20th century the city become a center of excellence for the automotive industry, but after hosting the Winter Olympics in 2006, Torino is seeing its popularity rising again as a worthy touristic destination, thanks to its beautiful baroque city center, its vibrant cultural life and its wine and food traditions.

## Getting to the City

**Torino Airport:** Torino is served by the Sandro Pertini international airport. Although small, the airport offers multiple daily connections to most of the big European hubs, including Frankfurt, Munich, Madrid, Amsterdam and Paris (be careful if you’re flying through London: there are connections to Gatwick and Stanstedt, not Heathrow). The airport is also served by low-cost company Ryanair, which offers connections to Barcelona, Bruxelles-Charleroi, London Stanstedt, Malta, Ibiza, Valencia and Dublin.

The airport is connected to the city center by bus. Buses leave every 30 minutes and a ticket costs 6.50 euros, if bought at the ticket machine inside the airport at the arrivals level, or 7.50 if bought onboard. If you buy the ticket onboard try to have the exact amount, as drivers often do not have change. The bus will drop you in either of the two main train stations (Porta Susa and Porta Nuova).

There’s also a train leaving from the airport, but it’s connected only to a minor station in the city: it’s used by airport workers and it’s not recommended.



**Malpensa Airport:** although officially a Milano airport, Alitalia's secondary hub, Malpensa, is only 2 hours away from Torino. Malpensa is the second largest Italian airport, it's connected to all major European cities and it offers some intercontinental connections too.

There is a shuttle service from Malpensa airport to Torino Porta Susa station: buses leave hourly from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM, plus one extra route at 0:00 AM, ticket cost is 22 euro (one way).

**By Train:** Torino has two main train stations, and there are fast and frequent connections to all other major Italian cities. Torino is also connected to Lyon and Paris, via the TGV service.

**By Bus:** coach services like Megabus and Flixbus do serve the city, and they are probably a cheap option. Check the websites to find if there is a bus connection to a specific city, as well as for schedules and fares.

**By Car:** Torino is served by different highways, connecting it to the rest of Italy. It is also possible to reach the city by car from France, via the Frejus tunnel: a return pass for the tunnel costs around 60 euros.

## Moving in the City

**Public transportation services:** Torino has only one line of Metro, which connects the old industrial area of Lingotto with the center and continues towards the western suburbs (map on the picture). Train are very fast and very frequent, the Metro opens at 5.30 AM (7 AM on Sunday) and closes at half past Midnight (1.30 AM on Saturday and Sunday, 10.30 PM on Monday). One ticket is 1.50 euros.

The remaining public transportation services are operated by bus or Tram. There are schedules, but delays happen often: if you rely on a bus or tram I recommend you to go out earlier, to account for possible delays.

There's a free app that tells you real-time how many minutes you have to wait for each bus at each stop in the city: unfortunately it's in only Italian, but it's very simple to use. The app is called GTT Mobile and it's available for both Android and IOS.



**Traffic tips:** if you're traveling by car, know that traffic between 7 AM and 9 AM and between 5 PM and 7 PM can easily be jammed in many areas of the city.

Also, from 7.30 AM to 10.30 AM is not possible to enter the inner city enter with the car, unless the car is of Ecology Standard Euro4, or higher (which includes electric, hybrid or LPG). Parking can also be a problem in some areas of the city, and there is a parking fee for all the city center and for some of the areas immediately close to it. Generally speaking, we recommend you to avoid moving by car if you have other options.

**Bike:** Torino offers a lot of bike routes, and it's very possible to move all around the city by bike. Bike rentals are not everywhere, but can be found with Internet, and there is also a public bike-sharing system which has a lot of parking spots everywhere in town. A weekly subscription costs 8 euros, which include 3 euros charged on the card. From there, the cost is 1 euro every half-hour after the first (the first half-hour is free from charge), up to a maximum of 3 euros.

**Taxi:** Cabs in Italy are quite expensive. A ride in the city can easy cost 15 to 25 euros, possibly more if the traffic is jammed. A ride to the airport is usually around 40 euros. If you take a taxi, always ask for a receipt. The taxi service numbers are +39 011 5737 and +39 011 5730. Uber has been outlawed in Italy and doesn't exist.

**Safety tips:** Torino is mostly a safe city, but some common sense safety practices are still recommended. If you're walking alone at night stay in widely illuminated areas, avoid all kind of people asking for money, and don't accept help offers from strangers.

The general Emergency Number in Italy is 112. For specific emergencies you can also dial:

113 - State Police

115 - Fire Department

118 - Medical Emergency and Ambulance

**Tipping:** waiters and waitresses in Italy are paid a living wage. Tipping is not mandatory and it's usually not expected. In case of an excellent service, way above the standard, tipping is accepted as a way to thank the waiter/waitress. In this case, the tip range lies between 5 and 10 euros, regardless of the amount of the bill.

## The Venue

GP Torino will be held in Lingotto Fiere, a convention center that is part of a complex that used to be a car factory. The building is located in the south-end of the city. Link to a Map of the area: [Map](#)



### Getting there:

By Metro: take the Metro direction Lingotto and get out at the stop named Lingotto (the last one). Exit the Metro Station and continue on Via Nizza until you see the venue (about 300 m). From Porta Nuova train station is the same, you will just take the Metro 3 stops later.

By Train: the Venue is located near the Lingotto Train Station. You can take a local train from Porta Susa or Porta Nuova to Lingotto Station (about 10 minutes), then from the station to the venue you must pass above the rail using the Olympic Bridge, then you can go through the mall called 8 Gallery and you'll end up in front of the Venue.

By Car: from the Highway Ring the best exit is Corso Unità d'Italia. From there you can take the underpass which will lead you to the Lingotto Area. It's very hard to find a parking space unless you pay and put your car in the Fair parking lots.

### Hotels close to the Venue:



[Hotel Parco Fiera](#): via Giordano Bruno 210. Just on the other side of Corso Giambone underpass.

[Astor Hotel](#): piazza Tancredi Galimberti 12, near the Lingotto Train Station.

### Cheap accommodations:

*Attic Hostel Torino*: Piazza Paleocapa 2, next to Porta Nuova train and Metro Station.

*Bamboo Eco Hostel*: Corso Palermo 90/D. This hostel is probably the cheapest in town, but it's located far from the Metro and the main bus routes.

## Things to do

**History and Culture in the city center:** Torino is a city rich of cultural attractions, many of which you can find in the city center.

*Egyptian Museum:* thanks to a very successful Italian expedition on the Nile, which happened to discover a burial site for some of the queens of Egypt, the Egyptian Museum in Torino is today the second largest in the world after Cairo's. It doesn't only feature a great number of items, but also some very well preserved statues and mummies - one of which was recently discovered (thanks to some hieroglyphs being finally translated) to belong to queen Nefertari herself.



*Cinema Museum and Mole Antonelliana:* the symbol-building of the city features at the inside a Cinema museum, with items and costumes from the sets of different famous movies. The ticket can be combined with the one for the elevator, to reach the top of the building, where you can admire the city landscape surrounded by the mountains: if the weather is good, this is definitely a must-do.

*Museum of Italian Resurgence:* if you are into history, this museum tells the story of the process of reunification of Italy, which started with secret societies and was then picked up by governors and politicians. The Museum is inside a historical building named Palazzo Carignano, known for having a 19th century facade on one side, and a baroque one on the other side.

*Palazzo Reale & Palazzo Madama:* the two historical buildings lie one next to the other in Torino's heart square, piazza Castello. Palazzo Madama, a UNESCO World Heritage site, was born as a medieval fortress, and later restructured into a Baroque palace. Palazzo reale (Royal Palace) was built later, as the main residence of the royal family within the city borders. Beside the building themselves, both palaces often host temporary exhibitions of art, photography or design.



Automobile Museum: Torino is home of the FIAT (now FCA), one of the oldest automotive industries in the world, founded in 1899. The Automobile Museum hosts a collection of the models that made the history of the company and its sub-brands, including Alfa Romeo and Ferrari.

Sport History: Torino is the hometown of two historical Football Clubs. The first and most famous one is Juventus FC: founded in 1897, it's the most successful club in Italy, with 33 Italian Championship Victories. It's also one of the three Italian clubs to own a Stadium, the Allianz J Stadium, located in the north-west end of the city. The stadium hosts a permanent museum with the history of the club and memorabilia. The second football club in the city is Torino FC, founded in 1906, which was famous for the "Invincible Team", which dominated the Italian Championship between 1940 and 1949, and ended up dying tragically in a plane crash. The rivalry between the two teams is still very strong, and a moment of pride for supporters of both clubs.

## Things to see outside the city borders

Reggia di Venaria and Parco della Mandria: the Palace of Venaria was one of the summer residences of the royal family, and it has been recently restored to its full splendor. Beside the palace itself, which resembles the palace of Versailles, it features very beautiful gardens and often hosts exhibitions. The great park called “La Mandria” lies just beyond the Palace and its gardens: once a hunting ground for the royal family, today it contains a lot of walkable routes for tourists in the middle of nature.

Superga: on top of the hill with the same name, visible from every point of the city, lies the Basilica of Superga. Every inhabitant of the city knows it for two reasons: it’s the place where the sun rises in the morning, and it’s the place where a horrendous plane crash happened in 1949, that killed amongst others the “Grande Torino” football team, at that time the most victorious team Italy ever saw. But the Basilica is also a place of cultural interests, and it’s the burial site for all the member of the Savoy royal family.

Sacra di San Michele: this ancient monastery and destination of pilgrimages lies on top of a mountain at the entrance of the Val di Susa. It’s built upon ancient remnants of Longobards walls, made to defend the valley from Charles the Great. To reach the summit it’s a short mountain walk of 600 mt. height. The sight from the top embraces all of the Valley and the city of Torino at its feet.



Alpine fortresses: Charles the Great was not the only one who tried to invade Italy from the Alps (a non-comprehensive list includes Hannibal and Napoleon as well). It comes to no surprise that the mountains that constitute the entrance gate are filled with histories of battles and with their remnants: fortresses. The two most important fortresses within reach from Torino are the Fort of Fenestrelle, which for its structure and dimensions has the nickname of “Italian Great Wall”, and the Fort of Exilles, where the infamous “prisoner with the Iron Mask” was detained.

Ferrero Factory: the tradition of Chocolate in Torino has at its center the “Gianduiotto”, which is made of chocolate with milk and nuts. But in 1946, because of a shortage of cocoa, a pastry-maker named Pietro Ferrero had the idea of creating a Gianduiotto-cream that could be eaten with bread. Nowadays, that product creates addictions worldwide under the name of Nutella. The first factory in Alba (60 Km from Torino) can still be visited, but it’s open only for groups and requires booking.

## Eat and Drink

The cuisine of the north-west of Italy is unique in style. It features the Italian traditions, adds up a bit of French influence, and doesn’t forget ingredients and recipes from the farmers and the mountain shepherds.

Some of the most traditional dishes include:

Gnocchi: a kind of Pasta made entirely out of potatoes, typical of the mountain regions. Can be eaten “alla bava” (with different varieties of melted cheese), with butter and sage, or with italian ragù.



Polenta: is a dish of boiled cornmeal, that is usually served with either melted cheese or with meat. In the mountains, during the hunting season, it’s possible to try polenta with meat of chamois, deer or wild boar.

Agnolotti: fresh pasta with a filling of meat (but there is also a vegetarian version with ricotta cheese and spinaches), their characteristic square shape distinguishes them from Tortellini. They can be served with butter and sage, ragù, roasted meat sauce, or in a soup.

Brasato al barolo: this meat recipe is made by roasting a piece of beef for several hours into Barolo wine, spices and vegetables. It takes a unique taste due to the peculiar characteristics of the wine.

Bagna Cauda: more than just a dish, a historical tradition of the farmers of the north. The dish is based on a hot sauce made out of garlic, oil and anchovies, with a little bit of milk and butter, which comes served generally with a portable burner and fresh vegetables and tubers. The vegetables are dipped into the sauce and eaten right away.



Sweets: the tradition of sweets is an old one in Torino. At its core there is the Gianduiotto, the typical chocolate sweet, nowadays found mostly in form of candies. Restaurant dishes include the Bonet (a pudding made of chocolate and almond-cookies) and the Tarte-tin (french-style apple pie generally served with ice-cream). In cafes you may also try “Marocchino” (literally “moroccan”), a typical coffee with cocoa (sometimes with Nutella instead), or Bicerin (a drink made of coffee, chocolate, chocolate liqueur and whipped cream).

Wines: Torino is one of the wine capitals of the world (contending the title to the city of Bordeaux in France). All restaurants have a deep wine card, and wine bars are common. Famous wines are Dolcetto, Barbera, Grignolino, Roero, Barbaresco and Freisa. If you are

ready to invest some more money, Barolo and Nebbiolo are also amongst the options. If you like white wine, you may opt for Erbaluce or the sweet Moscato.

### Restaurants and bars:



Il Porto di Savona: this is my first pick in town for quality/price ratio. Here you can try very good traditional cuisine for an amount of money between 20 and 30 euros (unless you opt for a fancy wine or a dish containing truffle). The place isn't very big so making a reservation is recommended, especially during the weekend.

Osteria le tre Galline: around the same price-range, this tavern is located inside the “roman quadrilateral” of the city. It's one of the places where you can try bagna cauda.

Caffè Fiorio: don't be misguided by the newly open franchise spots with the same name and logo. The original Caffè Fiorio is the one in via Po', and it's the oldest and best gelato caffè in the city. Although you can buy a cone for 3-4 euros and continue your walk in the center, I recommend to enter, take a seat and order one of the bigger cups of gelato for 7-8 euros: they're totally worth the extra money.

Pizzeria la Capannina: as in all Italian cities, Torino is full of pizzerias, and most of them are good. Having to recommend one in particular, La Capannina features some very traditional pizzas alongside some interesting ones with ingredients typical from the province of Torino, like Salsiccia di Bra (raw sausage) or Peperoni di Carmagnola (peppers from local farms).

Cru la Vineria: if you're up for wine-tasting, amongst all the wine bars in the city, I recommend this one, lying in the middle of the Roman Quadrilateral. It offers a huge selection of wines, and the waiters are normally available for suggestions if you're unsure about what to try. You can also eat boards of cold cuts and cheese, all of good quality.

### **Street Food:**

You can find a lot of different Street Food in Torino: unless it's very late in the evening, you will always find something within 10 minutes of walk. Doner Kebab are very common and usually not more expensive than 5-7 euros.

More Italian options include: pizzerias "al trancio" (slices of pizza to take away), piadinerie (piadina is the Italian equivalent of a wrap, but the making process is different and the filling is usually typically Italian), and Panini (sandwiches).

### **Nightlife:**

Torino is a city full of students and, as you may expect, the nightlife is vibrant. If you're up for clubbing, I recommend to check out the Cacao club, which is open-air in the middle of a park (and therefore open only in the summer). If you fancy a more relaxing night hanging out and drinking, the three main areas for nightlife are San Salvario, a multicultural district full of low-cost bars, Piazza Vittorio Veneto (in the heart of the center, next to the river Po) and the Roman Quadrilateral.

Moving farther from the city center, two places I recommend are:

Piper Pub: inspired by the Delirium Cafe in Brussels, this pub offers more than 650 varieties of bottled beers, hundreds of different Whiskies and Rhums, a wide selection of cocktails, and typical pub dishes.

Birrificio Torino: this local brewery offers a selection of high-quality beers, including some produced only in specific seasons. A small restaurant menu is also available, featuring mainly meat dishes, either grilled or roasted in beer.

## Local Game Stores

The Magic game thrives in Torino. There are several stores within the city borders, and many others just outside.

A non-comprehensive list includes:

Jolly Joker Game Cafe: a game-cafe also offering board games, comic books and a bar.

Oblivion Games: one of the biggest store in town, offers a variety of tournament and a good selection of singles for sale.

Goblin Torino: this store is located in the city center, at 5 minutes walk from Piazza Castello.

Magic Lair: the historical home of Legacy players in the city!

### Finally, four small oddities about the city:

1. Torino has a very strong rivalry with his richer neighbour, Milan. People from Torino usually say that the only things worth seeing in Milan is the train to Torino.
2. The region of Torino is the richest of sundials in the world. This is because the pole of a sundial must form an angle with the vertical equal to the parallel: Torino lies exactly on the 45° parallel, which makes building a sundial extremely simple.
3. Torino was a magical city way before our beloved cards were born. In fact, the city is surrounded by myths about magic, particularly black magic. One specific location in town, Piazza Statuto, is said to be built upon the gate to hell, no less.
4. If you go on your Facebook settings and set your language to Latin, all your feeds will appear as posted from Augusta Taurinorum.

*In case of extra info or help needed, you can reach out to*

Luca Romano - [nicodaemon1@gmail.com](mailto:nicodaemon1@gmail.com) - +39 348 4784889 - author of this guide

*or any of the other local judges*

Giorgio Maldarizzi - [gio\\_malda@hotmail.com](mailto:gio_malda@hotmail.com) - +39 328 8669929

Walter Zarà - [wzara79@gmail.com](mailto:wzara79@gmail.com)

George Gavrilita - [george.gavrilita@gmail.com](mailto:george.gavrilita@gmail.com)

Matteo Tonazzo - [matteo.tonazzo@hotmail.it](mailto:matteo.tonazzo@hotmail.it)