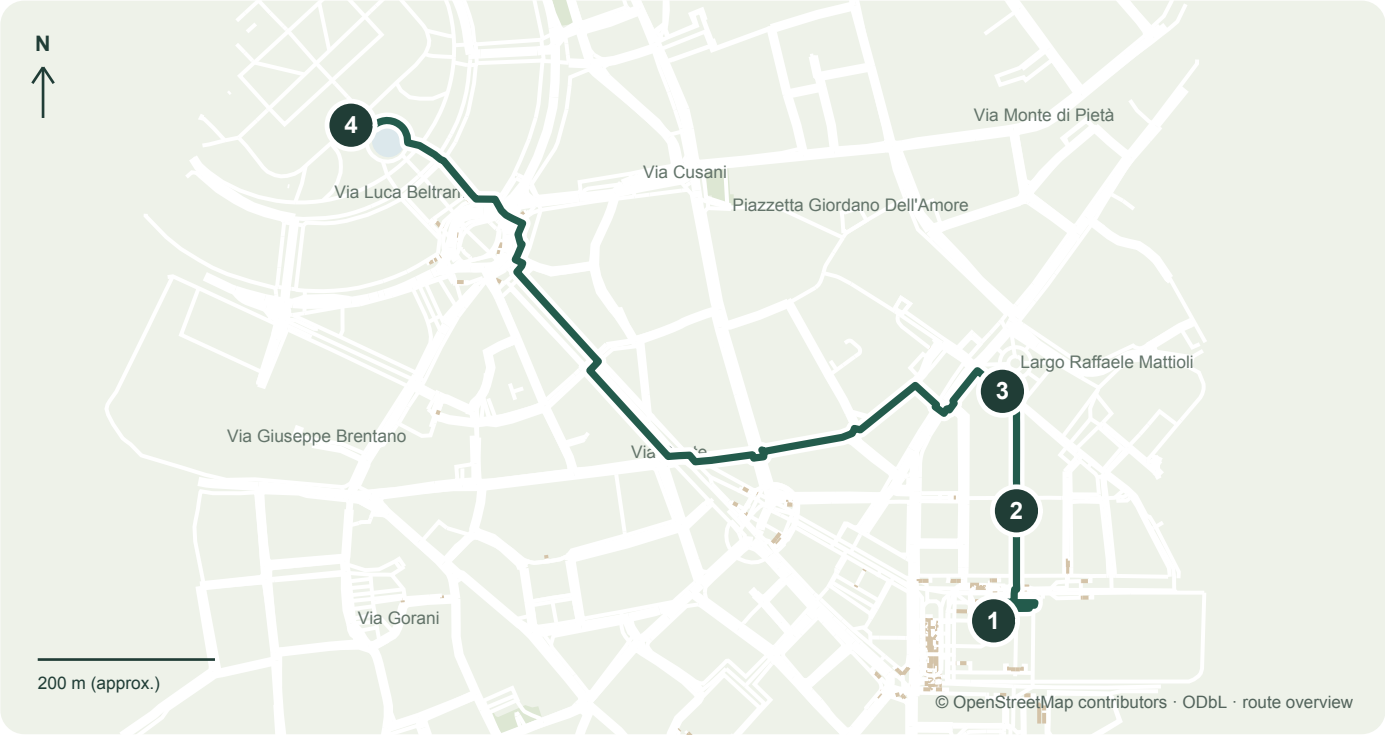
A FIRST WALK · FREE PRINTABLE GUIDE

Duomo, Galleria and the castle approach

See four faces of central Milan: cathedral square, covered shopping passage, theatre square and the castle exterior. The walk gives you a useful first orientation without requiring museum or rooftop tickets.

1.42 km / 4 stops / 45-70 min with pauses / one way



1. Piazza del Duomo

2. Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II

3. Piazza della Scala

4. Piazza Castello

Start & finish

Begin in Piazza del Duomo, outside the cathedral ticket areas. Finish at Piazza Castello in front of the castle. Duomo and Cairoli metro stations serve the two ends; check current transport access.

Make it shorter

Finish at Piazza della Scala after the Galleria. This keeps the walk close to the Duomo and omits the longer castle leg.

Desk-reviewed 30 October 2026. Not field-tested. Follow current local signs.

Look closer at each stop

01 Piazza del Duomo

Take in the cathedral façade from the square. Its dense vertical detail contrasts with the broad open space and the long arcades around it.

Next: 201 m to stop 2. Route includes Piazza del Duomo, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele Secondo.

02 Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II

Walk into the covered passage and pause beside the main flow of people. Look at the glass roof and the change from outdoor square to indoor street.

Next: 143 m to stop 3. Route includes Galleria Vittorio Emanuele Secondo, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II.

03 Piazza della Scala

The theatre and Palazzo Marino face this central meeting place. Compare their restrained street fronts with the elaborate cathedral you saw first.

Next: 1072 m to stop 4. Route includes Via Cusani, Piazza Castello.

04 Piazza Castello

Finish before the castle’s main tower. You can appreciate its scale from the public approach; courtyards and museums are an optional extension with their own access arrangements.

Underfoot & access

Mostly paved city-centre streets and squares, with tram tracks, crossings and crowds. Polished paving in the Galleria can be slippery when wet. Museum access and rooftop routes are not included.

Before you go

Interior visits can take much longer than the walking route. The Galleria is a passage with shops and restaurants; keep to public circulation space and respect any temporary closure.

Sources & route review

YesMilano: Duomo to the castle itinerary

Map: OpenStreetMap / Valhalla pedestrian routing. Distances follow the mapped line; suggested visit times include pauses and are editorial estimates, not a timed on-site walk.