

REGGIO STUDY TOUR

WHAT TO KNOW, PACK, AND EXPECT



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This guide is designed to support you through every stage of your Reggio study tour. Inside you'll find simple thought work to help you prepare, practical packing guidance, clear steps for getting to Reggio, the small details no one mentions, and an overview of what your days on the tour will actually look like. Use it as a companion before, during, and after your journey.



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PREPARING

THE THOUGHT WORK

Preparing for a Reggio study tour begins long before you land in Italy. Give yourself time to read, listen, and watch so you arrive with a sense of the history, the values, and the rhythms of the approach. This early groundwork helps you understand what you'll encounter once you step into the Malaguzzi Center or visit a school. The plane ride is a perfect moment to dive in.

Reading Materials

Whether you are just beginning or are already deep into Reggio-inspired work, these texts offer a helpful foundation.

Basics

- Charter of Services of the Municipal Infant Toddler Centers and Preschools
- Indications: Preschools and Infant-Toddler Centres of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia

About the City

- One city many children: Reggio Emilia a history of the present
- Reggio Tutta: A guide to the city by the children

Documentation and Curriculum Design

- Making learning visible: Children as individual and group learners
- In dialogue with Reggio Emilia by Carlina Rinaldi

The Atelier and the Hundred Languages

- Art and Creativity in Reggio Emilia by Veia Vecchi
- Children art artists

Listening Materials

- Podcast: Awakened to Reggio by Sandy Lanes

(Perfect for flights commutes or quiet moments before the tour begins.)

Viewing Materials

- Intro to the Reggio Approach (CNN report)
- An Amusement Park for the Birds
- A Day in the Model Early Learning Center

(These short films give you a visual sense of the environments and ideas that shape Reggio Emilia.)



WHAT TO PACK

Packing for a Reggio study tour is about staying mobile, comfortable, and prepared for long days. Choose a carry-on if you can. It's easier to navigate trains, taxis, and cobblestone streets, and it prevents lost luggage when you have tight layovers. Larger bags work too, but they often come with extra fees and are harder to move around.



ON THE PLANE

Bring a personal item that fits under the seat and holds what you actually use:

phone, passport, wallet, headphones, tablet, snacks, water bottle, small cosmetic bag, glasses, sleep mask, and a notebook.



CLOTHING

Dress comfortably for the flight. Stretchy layers, loose waistbands, and warm socks make a long journey easier.

Wear bulkier shoes and outerwear on the plane so you don't have to pack them.

The weather during fall and spring can shift from warm sun to cold drizzle. A simple capsule wardrobe works well:

2–3 bottoms, 2–3 shirts, 2–3 sweaters or button-downs in the same color palette. Pack two sturdy pairs of shoes and one rain-ready option. A scarf, raincoat, or small umbrella will help too.

Most accommodations in Italy do not have dryers, so choose clothing that line-dries easily.



SNACKS

Snacks matter more than you expect. Lunch is provided but served later in the day, and dinner starts around 7–8 pm. Pack protein-rich snacks for afternoons and evenings—sometimes a snack and gelato is enough.



TECHNOLOGY

Bring an EU adapter and a small power bank. Download maps, tickets, and apps before you leave. Many places accept American cards, but arrive with a little bit of Euro cash for taxis and small shops.

JOURNEY TO REGGIO

RIZOMA ED

There are no direct flights to Reggio Emilia. Most visitors fly into Bologna or Milan and take a train the rest of the way.

Arriving in Bologna

Bologna Marconi is the closest airport. From there, take the Marconi Express monorail to Bologna Centrale. Buy a train ticket to Reggio Emilia through the Trenitalia app or a station kiosk. Trains run on several levels, so check the signs carefully. Staff may or may not speak English; translation apps help.

Arriving in Milan

At Milan Linate airport, take the SEGRATE Linate Aeroporto M4 bus to Stazione Forlanini. Explore the food court if you have time. Then buy a train ticket to Reggio Emilia through the app or kiosk.

Air Travel Tips

If you need mobility support, you can request a wheelchair through your airline. For long layovers, check out airport amenities like resting areas or showers. Clear customs first before exploring.

Trains in Italy

Download the Trenitalia app. Validate physical tickets before boarding using the small machines at the station. Conductors may check at any point, so keep tickets close.

Arriving in Reggio Emilia

Once at the Reggio station, you can take a taxi or walk to your hotel, depending on luggage and time of day. Have your destination ready to show a driver and carry Euros for taxis that don't take cards.



WHAT NO ONE TELLS YOU

WHAT NO ONE TELLS YOU

1. The train to Reggio is underground.
2. You need travel adapters for every device.
3. Most people do not speak English—translation apps are essential.
4. Do not exchange money at the airport; use an ATM in town.
5. Everyone uses WhatsApp for communication.
6. Streaming services may not work the same abroad, so download shows beforehand.
7. Jet lag is real. Rest whenever you can while traveling and try to stay awake until evening on your first day.
8. Melatonin can help you reset.
9. Give yourself a few days to adjust on the way home too.



ON THE TOUR

RIZOMA ED

The study tour is inspiring, full, and often overwhelming in the best way. Try not to absorb everything at once. Let the week unfold gently.

Most participants walk 20–30 minutes to the Malaguzzi Center each day. Pack a rain layer, sturdy shoes, a snack, and a notebook for sketching or taking notes.

Much of the tour takes place inside the Malaguzzi Center—a space filled with exhibitions, ateliers, documentation panels, a bookshop, a café, and lecture halls.

Lectures are delivered in Italian with English translation. The pause between languages gives space to reflect. Dress in layers because auditorium temperatures shift throughout the day.

Photos of children or images of children are not allowed. Some presenters allow photos of slides without children, but always ask first. Audio recordings are usually permitted and can be helpful for reviewing later. Sketching your observations deepens your understanding in ways photos can't.

School visits are a rare opportunity to step inside Reggio's infant-toddler centers and preschools. Bring Euros if you want to purchase books created by the schools.

Atelier sessions are held later in the week and fill up quickly. Explore your options early and choose one that interests you. Between sessions, take time to visit the permanent and temporary exhibitions filled with in-process documentation and materials.



A Reggio study tour is more than a trip—it is an experience that shifts how you see learning, children, and community. Preparing well makes space for curiosity once you arrive. Travel lightly, slow down often, and let yourself enjoy the process.

