DRESS CODE

Dress code at Duomo Milan

The **dress code at Duomo Milan** comes from the cathedral's own rules: sleeveless or low-cut clothing, shorts, miniskirts and hats are not permitted inside the Cathedral. It applies to men, women and children, and visitors who break it are accompanied to the exit.

- **Opening hours:** The Cathedral, the Rooftops and the Museum each keep their own timetable. Worshippers can enter for prayer from 8:00 to 19:00.
- **Location:** The cathedral stands in Piazza del Duomo, next to Duomo metro station on lines M1 and M3.
- **Estimated visit time:** It depends on the ticket: the Cathedral alone takes less time than a combined visit with the Rooftops, the archaeological area and the Museum.

How strict is the Duomo Milan dress code?

The **Duomo Milan dress code** is strict and written down. The Veneranda Fabbrica del Duomo's Rules of Conduct and Access Regulations of July 2025 state that "sleeveless and/or low-cut clothing, shorts, miniskirts and hats are not permitted inside the Milan Duomo Cathedral", and anyone who does not comply "will be accompanied to the exit of the Monumental Complex by security personnel". No relaxed days or published exceptions exist.

The same rules ask every visitor to be "dressed appropriately" anywhere in the complex of the Duomo di Milano, Rooftops and Museum included, and make "comfortable" shoes compulsory on the Rooftops. They also apply to people who come in without a ticket to pray or attend Mass. Everyone passes a brief security check at the entrance, and luggage and large rucksacks are not permitted.

Things that the dress code does not allow you to wear

Dress code for women

Women need covered shoulders and a neckline that is not low-cut, so strappy tops, strapless dresses and plunging necklines are out unless a scarf or cardigan goes over them. Miniskirts and shorts are not permitted, while trousers, skirts and dresses longer than a miniskirt are fine. Hats come off inside the Cathedral. Bare midriffs and see-through fabrics are not named in the rules, but they are best avoided in a place of worship. As a user advises on Tripadvisor: "Put in your bag a foulard or a light scarf (or a T-shirt) and wear it over your dress when you enter in religious places."

Item	Permitted	Not Permitted
Shoulders	Tops with sleeves, or a scarf or cardigan over a sleeveless top	Uncovered sleeveless, strapless or spaghetti-strap tops
Neckline	Closed or modest necklines	Low-cut tops and dresses
Legs	Trousers, skirts and dresses longer than a miniskirt	Miniskirts and shorts
Head	Bare head inside the Cathedral	Hats and caps inside the Cathedral
Shoes	Comfortable flat shoes or trainers	Metal soles; heels are not advised

Dress code for men

Men follow the same rules. Shirts and T-shirts need sleeves, so tank tops and sleeveless jerseys only work with something over the shoulders. Shorts are not permitted inside the Cathedral and the rules give no length, so knee-length or Bermuda shorts are not a safe bet, even if some visitors report getting in with them. Long trousers, jeans included, meet the code, and caps come off inside. As a visitor recalls on Tripadvisor: "Unless something has changed from my visit last year, knees and shoulders need to be covered (for both men and women)."

Item	Recommended	Prohibited
Legs	Long trousers, chinos or jeans	Shorts (the rules set no length)
Shirts	T-shirts, polos or shirts with sleeves	Tank tops and sleeveless shirts
Head	Bare head inside the Cathedral	Caps and hats inside the Cathedral
Shoes	Comfortable shoes or trainers	Metal soles

Is there a dress code for children as well?

Yes. The rules publish no age exemption, so children are expected to dress like adults: covered shoulders, no shorts or miniskirts and no hats inside the Cathedral. On the Rooftops, children under 12 must be with an adult aged 18 or over, and strollers must be closed. Answering a parent on Tripadvisor, one user's advice was to "cover their knees, and be certain of getting in."

Age Range	Rule	Suggestion
All ages	Same list as adults inside the Cathedral	Light long trousers or a longer skirt and a T-shirt with sleeves
Under 12 on the Rooftops	Must be accompanied by an adult aged 18 or over	Comfortable shoes for the stairs
Babies in strollers	Strollers must be closed and not in use on the Rooftops	A baby carrier for the Rooftops

Can you wear a hat or a beanie inside the Duomo?

No. Hats are on the list of items not permitted inside the Cathedral, and that includes winter beanies and woolly hats, which come off at the door just like caps and sun hats. Helmets go further: they are refused at the entrance even when carried by hand. Coats, scarves and gloves are fine.

Can you visit in a wedding dress, graduation gown or costume?

No. The rules forbid entering in formal attire, naming wedding dresses, full evening dress or tails, tuxedos, mortarboards and togas, as well as masks and disguises worn in full or in part. Graduation photos in cap and gown and Carnival costumes are therefore not allowed inside. The exception covers weddings celebrated in the Cathedral and other ceremonies in which Sacraments are administered there.

Banners, flags and other signs or symbols that carry propaganda for political, ideological or religious doctrines or for sports clubs are not allowed either, on the Rooftops as well as inside the Cathedral.

What about showing knees as a man?

Shorts are on the list of clothing not permitted inside the Cathedral, for men as for women, and the rules give no length. Knee-length or Bermuda shorts are therefore not a safe bet, even if some visitors report getting in with them: nothing in the rules allows them. Long trousers, chinos or jeans are the safe choice, and they also suit the stairs up to the Rooftops.

Can you wear sandals?

Sandals are not on the list of banned items. The rules forbid footwear with metal soles or materials that could damage the floors, and they advise against heels and shoes that do not allow for correct walking, because some passages are very narrow and steep. On the Rooftops, "comfortable" shoes are compulsory and some sections are slippery or steep, so closed shoes with good grip are the practical choice there.

Is there a dress code to climb to the rooftop?

Yes. Appropriate dress is required across the whole complex, the Duomo Rooftops included, and comfortable shoes are compulsory up there. The lift only reaches the first level, and both the second level and the way down are by stairs. Sunbathing is forbidden, children under 12 need an adult aged 18 or over, strollers must be closed, and the Rooftops can be closed in bad weather. The roof is not a place where looser rules apply.

Can you change your outfit once inside?

Whatever covers the shoulders or legs at the entrance should stay on for the whole visit, as the rules ask visitors to respect the sacred setting for as long as they remain inside. Some visitors say staff hand out disposable wraps: on Tripadvisor, a user noted that "those with bare shoulders were being asked to cover or given the disposable wraps". The cathedral does not announce this as a service, so a scarf or light cardigan in the bag is the safer plan.

Smart outfit choices for both the cathedral and exploring Milan

What to wear in summer without breaking the rules

Milan in summer is hot, but the dress code has no seasonal exceptions. Light, breathable fabrics such as linen and cotton make it easy: a T-shirt or blouse with sleeves, with long, loose trousers, a maxi skirt or a dress longer than a miniskirt. A light scarf in the bag covers bare shoulders in seconds, and caps and sun hats come off inside the Cathedral.

Only water may be drunk inside the complex, and sunbathing on the Rooftops is forbidden. Comfortable shoes are compulsory up there, and closed shoes with good grip are a practical choice for the stairs and the marble walkways.

Winter visits

Winter clothes meet the code easily: coats, jumpers, scarves and long trousers are all fine. The one thing to remember is the head, as beanies and winter hats count as hats and must come off inside the Cathedral. Umbrellas are allowed, but helmets are refused even when carried by hand, which matters for anyone arriving by scooter or motorbike.

Low-heeled boots with a non-slip sole are the practical choice, since heels are not advised and metal soles are forbidden. The Rooftops can close in bad weather, and the same rules apply during Advent and the Christmas period.

Where else in Milan is there a dress code?

The Teatro alla Scala has one too. Its website asks the audience to dress "in keeping with the decorum of the Theatre" and states that "people wearing shorts or sleeveless T-shirts will not be allowed inside the auditorium". In that case, tickets are not reimbursed. Anyone pairing the Duomo with an evening at La Scala can wear the same outfit to both: sleeves, long trousers or a longer skirt, and no shorts.

Sources

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2. Veneranda Fabbrica del Duomo di Milano, Regulation (bags, helmets, security checks, symbols) https://www.duomomilano.it/en/regulations/regulation/
3. Veneranda Fabbrica del Duomo di Milano, Guided tours and visit information (large bags, luggage storage) https://www.duomomilano.it/en/guided-tour-and-incentive/
4. Veneranda Fabbrica del Duomo di Milano, Liturgical life (Mass, worshippers' entrance) https://www.duomomilano.it/en/liturgic-life/
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6. Teatro alla Scala, Information (dress code at La Scala) https://www.teatroallascala.org/en/visit/information/information.html

Rules quoted from the Veneranda Fabbrica del Duomo di Milano, July 2025 edition, checked on 24 November 2026.

Online version: https://milantickets.org/duomo-milan-dress-code/
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