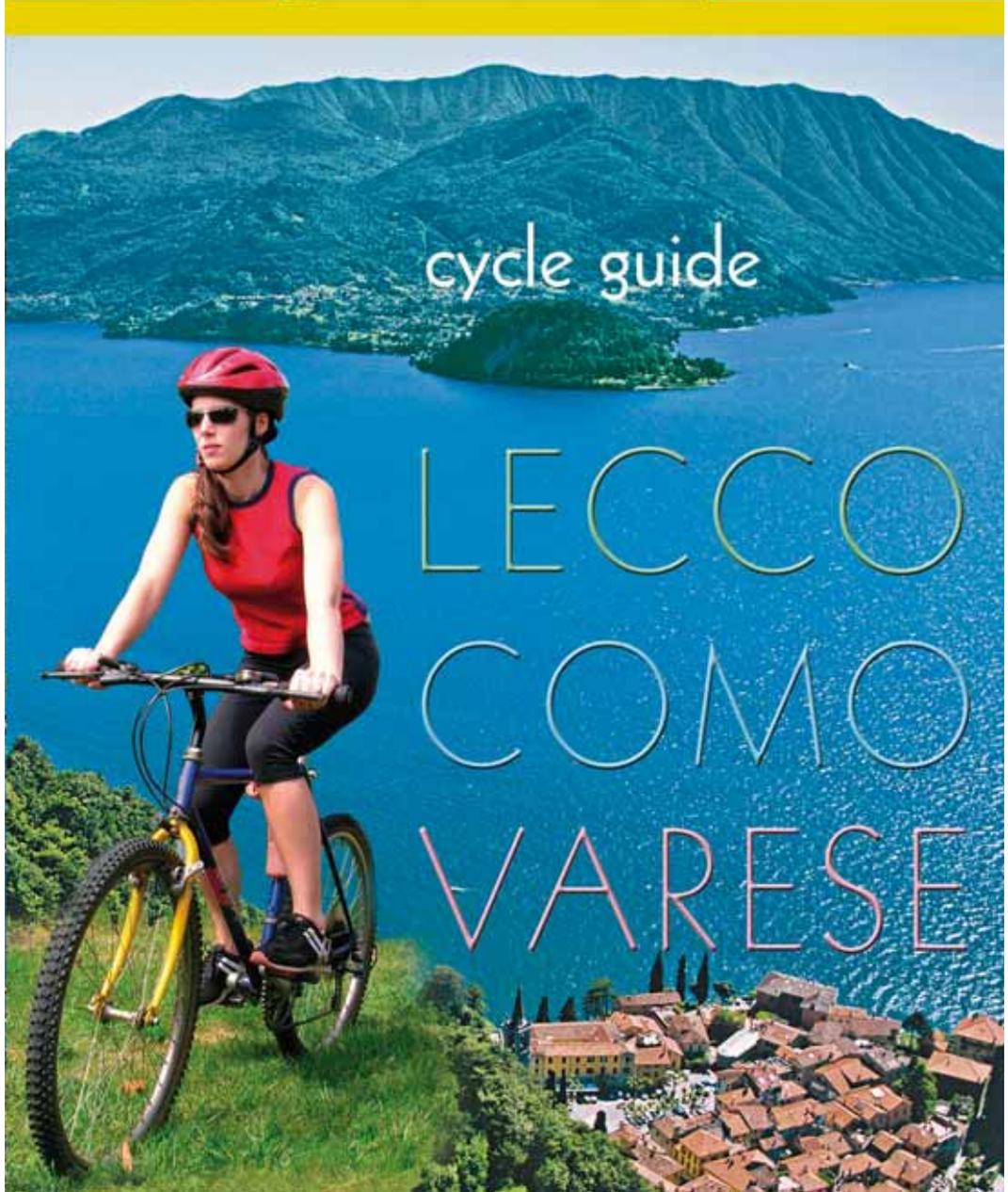




The Cycle lanes of the lakes of

LECCO, COMO and VARESE



cycle guide

LECCO

COMO

VARESE



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INTRODUCTION

The project “Interreg III A”, to create a ridge that is possible to cycle along, linking the provinces of Lecco, Como, Varese and Canton Ticino, was started in 2002. It reflects the desire by the Province of Lecco, Como and Varese to sustain and provide incentives, for the development of cycle tourism, which is already widely practiced and sustained at a national level, by the Governments of many European countries.

Currently even Italy seems to be setting off in this direction. Nearly in every Italian Region and Province today, projects and initiative are taking off, with the creation of cycle routes and cycle lanes along city roads, in green areas, by recuperating tow paths and canals, or by creating new lanes, dedicated to slow mobility. Moreover, in the last few years, we have seen the development of new disciplines linked to the use of the bicycle, that have caused the creation of an additional, highly specialised, cycle tourist contribution, that is strongly integrated with the cycling infrastructures that are present in the territory.

The project “Interreg III A Italy-Switzerland” in order to create a ridge along which it is possible to cycle, crossing the region of the three Provinces and connecting to the cycle lanes created in Canton Ticino, have placed alongside it, a project enabling tourists to value the cultural and environmental resources that can be of greatest use to them. By individualising the itineraries and the thematic courses, that allow tourists to get to know the region and its characteristics, more value is given to the development of sustainable tourism and also to the discovery and to the re qualification of a great cultural and environmental heritage.

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GUIDE TO THE CYCLE LANES OF THE LAKES

The territory of the Provinces of Lecco, Como and Varese has only discovered in the last few years its tourist vocation, due to political strengthening and through the promotion of territorial resources. The idea of “re-interpreting” the territory and to create a possible connection between cycle tourism and cultural tourism comes from here, by the discovery of some itineraries that allow one to “live” the territory on two wheels. The cycle tourist itineraries contained in this guide, which are in fact called “Cycle lanes of the Lakes” have grown by following the new cycle infrastructure, that represents the “ridge” for the development of slow mobility, so that you can visit and enjoy the naturalistic, cultural and scenic beauty of the three Provinces.

But we should not forget that the Lake District offers much more, from sports facilities to itineraries for the food and wine connoisseur, from pathways with facilities, to traditional events.

This publication is proposed as a real and proper “tourist guide” in which there are 9 itineraries for the cycle tourist running along the ridge of the lakes and only one “long distance” itinerary for those

who loves pedalling above all, offering interesting starting points to discover the region in all its shapes and to spend a very active vacation.

The “cycle ridge” of the 14 lakes, runs through the territories of the Province of Lecco, Como and Varese, from Colico to Ponte Tresa, crossing 9 different landscape environments, each one representing the fulcrum around which the thematic courses contained in the 9 itineraries have been developed.

The ridge, which is 270 km. long and about 310 km. if you consider also some alternative routes and circular tracks, assumes multiple value, being both a link between Provinces and between Regions and across the border. It can in fact be considered as a local itinerary that develops through various scenic ambits and where the routes have a limited length to allow the tourist to visit the most remarkable cultural and environmental assets in the area. It is also like a single itinerary that crosses the 14 lakes and links up with the interregional and international ones, connecting with the cycle lanes that were created in Canton Ticino and with the cycle tourist itinerary of the neighbouring

province and districts. An opportunity which should not be undervalued is for the future creation of a cycle network between, Italy and Switzerland.

The ridge has reached so far only the first phase, but a project concerning tourist signs and the re-adjustment of the setting of street signs according to the Street Code is still to be finalised. Over the next following years the cycle lanes will be finished also in the infrastructure, permitting easier accessibility and safer

travel. This does not mean that, even today, with direction indications presented in this guide and with the technical map especially designed for to the cycling lane, it is possible to complete all of the route. Therefore the Administration and the promoters, refuse any responsibility for anything that could happen on the route and advise everyone to take maximum care, above all when crossing roads and on difficult stretches, where there is a lot of traffic.



Taking a break on the shore of Lake Pusiano



THE LAKE DISTRICT

The lake district which extends from the Province of Lecco to the Province of Varese, takes its name from the existence, in the region, of 14 lacustral basins of which the principle lakes are Maggiore, Como and Ceresio, which are next to other smaller lakes, of morainial origin (Varese, Biandronno, Comabbio, Monate in the Province of Varese; Montorfano, Alserio, Pusiano, and Segrino in the province of Como; Pusiano, Annone, Garlate and Olginate in the Province of Lecco).

The scenic-cultural identity of the cycle lane is represented by "the scenery and civility of water", in fact the small glacial lakes which follow on from one another, surrounded by undulating land partly covered with woods, give us a good understanding of the original environment that has been well conserved, despite the conurbation that has taken place of vast stretches, constituting the distinctiveness of the entire route.

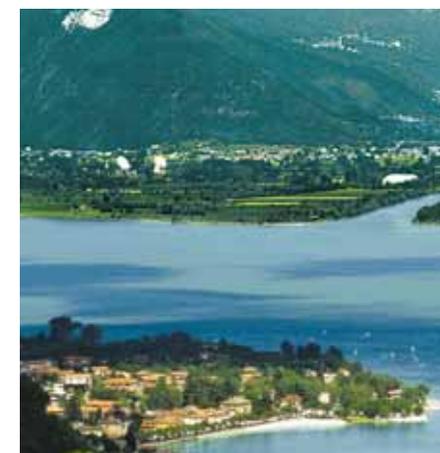
In this area nine different scenic ambits have been identified according to their "quality, character, identity" and we have been able to locate some cultural and environmental assets, namely evidence of civilisation that mark the territory, giving us

the tools for interpreting and understanding the meaning of the evolution, the civilisation and the environmental, cultural and socio-economical characteristics of the area. In these nine itineraries we have individualised themes that give character to each itinerary and give the inspiration for some routes, "themes" representing various attraction. In particular various Romanesque monuments here pointed out, which are part of the "Cloister Route" a cultural, international itinerary, that links and gives value to the local historical-architectural heritage, with along with two other geographical areas in Northern Europe, Leisnig (Germany) and Gussing (Austria). These monuments are present especially in the Eastern territory of Lake Como, in the Lecco area, being in Alserio, Calolziocorte, Civate and Valmadrera. The civil and religious buildings from the Middle Ages, the Baroque and Renaissance ages, are many in number, as well as there are many military forts, for example in Colico and in Cassano Valcuvia, two examples that testify the recent history of the territory. While following the itineraries, remarkable things can emerge like some

Art Nouveau buildings, especially hotels, factories, bourgeois houses and train stations; these liberty-style buildings can be found more often in Varese, especially in Campo dei Fiori, Ponte-Tresa and Lake Maggiore. The presence of modern architecture in particular urban and regional environments, can be particularly found in the Province of Como. Among the most interesting cases, we would like to mention Rationalism, an experience faced in Como in the twenty year period between the two World Wars (and consolidated also in a theoretical environment, as the studies of Antonio Sant'Elia show) and Eclettismo from the late 19th century, with significant 20th century cross reference. Of great interest is the archaeological evidence in all of the area through which the "ridge cycle routes" pass. On the one hand, the great majority of towns have given back tracks, even if they are small and sporadic, from the proto-historic past, if not prehistoric and on the other hand, the different phases from the Bronze Age have left anthropological evidence and re-organisation of the region (for example the lake dwelling people who procreated the surface of the Isolino Virginia in the Lake of Varese.) The area of Varese, in particular, can boast the diffuse existence of the Golasecca civilisation, who unequivocally marked the anthropological course of a huge area, until the consolidation of the historical age.

The industrial and manufacturing buildings of the 19th and 20th centuries represent the proof of the "civility of work", a direct

influence of the Industrial revolution. The presence of these buildings is rather diffuse even today. The presence of aristocratic villas and large gardens have marked the region in an exemplary mode, not only for stylistic and scenic aspects, but also for the organization of the villages (Azzate is a good example). Along the "ridge route" you can come across historical towns with homogeneous settlements, centres that have maintained a good part of their original buildings. Finally there are the bigger urban settlements: the cities of Varese, Como, Lecco, and Erba which put themselves forward as organisational centres on a grand scale, but above all as key points in the cultural route, being high level evidences.



Upper Lake Como – Pian di Spagna



THE ITINERARIES FOR THE CYCLE TOURIST

The itineraries identified along the “cycle ridge” offer the possibility to discover the region in one day or more, by selecting a single route or by opting for a longer distance itinerary. They offer the opportunity to visit scenic and environmental places of beauty in a very detailed way, according to those things that emerge in that local area or ‘systemic’, preferring assets that are similar for their peculiarity, purpose and period.

The three courses pointed out in the **Province of Varese**, touch all the most remarkable ambits in the territory of the Province. With first itinerary, that runs through Valcuvia, it is possible to reach two important lacustral basins: towards the east there is Lake Ceresio, connecting with Ponte Tresa on the cycling lane created in Canton Ticino, towards the west there is Lake Maggiore a few kilometres from Cittiglio. Carrying on towards the South, you arrive at the Lake Varese, where a cycling lane already exists, allowing one to enjoy the shores of the lake, spending time in the countryside, while being only two steps away from the city. From here you can continue towards Valle dell’Olona and Parco della Pineta in Appiano Gentile and Tradate. The whole territory just crossed is characterised by the presence of naturalistic and environmental beauties and by cultural assets of considerable interest: from the archaeological evidences found in the area, to the villas and gardens, to the art nouveau and the numerous historical villages scattered over the entire territory.

The itineraries here proposed, want in some way to “re-interpret” the **Province of Como**, which has always been noteworthy for its beautiful scenery and cultural connections with the lake and its shores. The territory in the southern area of the Province, which is still not well known by tourists, instead boasts the presence of numerous historical-artistic resources that have not been adequately valued and that can be discovered through these itineraries. Starting from Parco della Pineta in Appiano Gentile and Tradate it is possible to reach the city of Como, from where the itinerary parts in a two direction: towards the north until Maslianico where you will reach the border, and towards the east, crossing the area of the morainial lakes of Como. For those more keen on sport, the course to Ghisallo is a run that cannot be missed, while for those who do not want to exert themselves too much, but want to reach the town of Bellagio, it is possible to use public transport taking the bus from Erba, or the by water from Como.

Three are the itineraries proposed for the **Province of Lecco**. The first concerns the western area, called after the lakes of Brianza, because of the presence of the morainic lakes of Annone and Pusiano, in which the environmental element takes on a fundamental attraction, next to the presence of numerous historical-artistic locations that belong to the international itinerary of the ‘Cloister Route’. Another example of excellence and interest is the Monastero del Lavello, in Calolziocorte (the third itinerary around the lakes of Garlate and Olginate, south east of the city of Lecco). For those who love the lake riviera, we recommend the second itinerary, from the eastern shores of Lecco to Colico, where you can link the desire for a cycle ride with visits to cultural and environmental assets, as well as enjoying gastronomic tasting. Since there are two dangerous points, that are difficult to get over and unsafe for the cyclist in the section between Civate-Valmadrera and Lecco-Abbadia Lariana, we suggest the use of public transportation such as the railway.



TYPE OF ITINERARIES

For the itineraries we indicate a type of reference to identifies the way to experience what the territory is offering: it will use three symbols

– didactic and green, the course for culture lovers and food and wine connoisseurs, active tourism

– that are put next to each itinerary and that, bearing in mind the basic characteristics of cycle tourism and the time that is necessary to use the cycling lanes in different ways, by using the symbols, can be therefore distinguished.



Symbol Didactic and Green:

this is for those, like schools and associations, who want a didactic approach to nature. The promoters of these itineraries are of course park entities and people who are responsible for protected areas with annexed centres of environmental education.



Symbol The course for Culture lovers and Food and Wine Connoisseurs:

this type of tourism represents one of the segments of major growth in the tourism market worldwide. European travel includes cultural elements that are "integrated" with other offers. Food and wine connoisseurship and naturalism are in the forefront. This course has, as a central element, the appeal of cultural assets and typical local products for the connoisseur, the fruition of which can come from use of the cycling lanes as a linking infrastructure.



Symbol Sporty or Active Tourism:

This represents something original that does not only bear in mind the relation between tourism and sport, but also a real osmosis of sports activities together with tourist activities.

Active tourism is distinguished by the possibility of doing a lot of sport, which is a unique experience, in a healthy and uncontaminated environment, riding a mountain or a racing bike, crossing lanes, roads and paths that lie alongside the route. To the sports activities linked to cycling and that represent the core business, we can add other that are connected to the lake, such as water skiing, canoeing and more water sports. Even horse riding, trekking and kite-surfing represent an important component for this course.



Lake Como



ITINERARY

1



FROM LAGO CERESIO TO LAKE MAGGIORE THROUGH LA VALCUVIA



LENGTH OF THE ROUTE:	29,7 Km
DEPARTURE - ARRIVAL:	Lavena Ponte Tresa
ARRIVAL - DEPARTURE:	Cittiglio

THE CONDITIONS OF THE TRACK: Roads that are in part used solely for cycle use, and sometimes the track requires the bicycle to be pushed and the steep slopes are not negligible. A mountain bike is recommended for the excavated roads and you are recommended to take great care on the tracks that are both for cyclists, pedestrians and vehicles. On some tracks which are still at the planning stage it will be necessary the use of normal roads as an alternative to the tracks.

ROUTE TIME:	2,30 - 3,30 hours
COURSE DIFFICULTY:	Moderately difficult. Routes:
Difficult:	Locality Camartino-Laghetto and Locality ex. Filatoio in the town of Ferrera;
Sporty:	Locality Valcanasca in the town of Rancio Valcuvia.

PLACES FOR STOPS: Lavena Ponte Tresa, Cadegliano Viconago in the locality of Argentera, Valganna in the locality of Maglio di Ghirla, Cassano Valcuvia in the nearby the torrent of Rancina, Cunardo in the locality of Ponte Nativo (near the Orrido), Cuveglio in the locality of Cavona and Azzio.

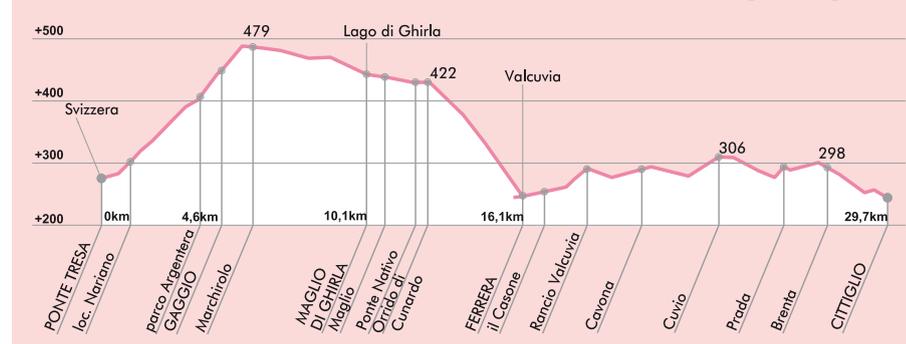
PANORAMIC PLACES AND SCENIC STOPS:

Cadegliano Viconago in the locality of Argentera, Cunardo in the locality of Ponte Nativo (near to the orrido), Cuveglio in the neighbourhood of the Santuario di Cavona.

LINKS WITH OTHER ITINERARIES:

By bicycle: a link with itinerary 2 " By bicycle along the banks of the Lake of Varese".
By train: a link with itinerary 2 "By bicycle along the banks of the lake of Varese"
And with itinerary 3 "Nature and culture while crossing the Valle dell'Olonza" (Varese-Cittiglio FNM line)

ALTIMETRIC PROFILE





INFORMATION REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY

DEPARTURE/ARRIVAL: LAVENA PONTE TRESA

By car: motorway A8, take the turn off for Varese and follow the S.S.233 in the direction of Ponte Tresa (about 21km).

By train: direct line Ponte Tresa-Lugano (FLP), the station of Porto Ceresio (FFS about 10km).

By bus: Ghirla-Ponte Tresa-Lavena, Luino-Ponte Tresa line.

By boat: The navigational service Lago di Lugano (links with and for Lugano).

Starting point: the centre of Ponte Tresa.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE : CITTIGLIO

By car: motorway A8, take the turn off for Varese and follow the s.S.394 in the direction of Cittiglio.

By train: the FNM station of Cittiglio.

By bus: the Cittiglio-Travedona line, Cittiglio-Brescia, Luino-Cittiglio.

Starting point: behind the Ferrovie Nord station of Cittiglio.

The route which crosses the whole of Valcuvia, starts from the centre of Ponte Tresa, running along the lake towards the ex railway, in the direction of Cadegliano Viconago. In this town there is the **Parish of Sant'Antonio Abate** dating back to the high Roman time.

The itinerary follows the ex railway towards the town of Marchirolo following the SS233, until you reach Cugliate Fabiasco. From here, continue in the direction of Valganna, reaching the area of Maglio di Ghirla.

At this point a first deviation is recommended to admire **Lake Ghirla**, a small pool of water, surrounded by the mountains of the Valganna, where it is possible to have a stop in an area where there with facilities. In the surrounding area, for those who are interested, there is also the possibility to visit the nature reserves of the **Torbiera di Pralugano** and of **Martica Chiusarella**.

From **Lake Ghirla** you can then continue towards Valganna, whose lake, only three metres deep and surrounded by canes and full of water lilies, was declared a nature reserve in 1984.

At Ganna it is worth visiting the **Badia di S. Gemolo**, a monastery at the beginning of the valley that links Valganna and Valcuvia, once an important reference point for Christianity in the area north of Varese. The first Roman unit probably was here established at the end of the 11th century, with the seal of the archbishop of Milan, Arnolfo II so to oppose the county of Seprio, and to limit the power of Como (whose region extended to up to Lake Lugano), and to exercise control over Valganna and its alpine passes.

The monastery, in the following century joined the powerful Benedictine abbey of San Benigno of Fruttaria and became one of the most important monastic pre-alpine settlements. It's prosperity lasted until halfway through the 15th century, when the abbey was first entrusted in commendam, to then be given up in 1556 to the Ospedale Maggiore of Milan. Finally halfway through the 19th century, the abbey was sold, with all its goods to private buyers.

Today the building is the result of several restoration works, in consequence of only the church, the bell

tower and the unprecedented pentagonal cloister have maintained the original aspect. The guest quarters, the refectory and the cells have been transformed into buildings for agricultural use. Inside the church, frescoes from the 15th and 16th centuries have been preserved. Of particular note is the figure of 'Cristo Re' that dates back to the years between 1325 and 1350, a 'Madonna della Misericordia' (end of the 15th century), the figure of 'profeti' (first half of the 15th century), a canvas

of 'San Gemolo martire' (1590-1597). In the upper corridor of the cloisters of the abbey, is the small Museo della **Badia di S. Gemolo**, founded in 1962, where there are some remains of the Mesolithic area (the Tène of the Canton Ticino and of the Velate) vestments, altar cloth and holy vessels, sculptures, paintings and ceramics from the Charlemagne period to the 20th century, and a lace and embroidery collection from 19th century. From the locality of Maglio di Ghirla the route





continues in the direction of Cunardo reaching Ponte Nativo where it is possible to see the Orrido, and to visit the Fornaci Ibis in Camartino an important example of the reclaiming and restoration of the ancient 18th century **buildings** characterised by having smokestacks, typical for the production.

Valganna boasts its ancient traditions in ceramics, thanks to the copious amounts of clay in the area. It is thought that the start of their craft dates back to the times of the Emperor Tiberio, who in 34 B.C sent craftsmen into the area. Around 1200 furnaces were common in the area, like that at Ghirla on the initiative of the Mantovanian family De Laurentis from Mantua.

So a productive tradition began that spread in the high Varese area. In 1796 the ceramics of Camillo Adreani grew famous, spreading the tradition of the renowned 'blu di Cunardo' or 'blu di Ghirla'. In 1896 there were four ceramic factories in



View of Lake Varese from Cazzago; on the background Parco Campo dei Fiori

Cunardo and today it is only possible to visit only the '**Fornace Ibis**'. Following the route in the direction of the town of Ferrara di Varese and by passing it, you arrive at Cassana Valcuvia where it is possible to turn into the path that leads to the church of S.Giuseppe, next to which it is possible to see some of the Linea Cadorna, a fortification line which was created in 1916 by the namesake general of the same name. It consists of a thick network of trenches, with munition rooms and a network of underground tunnels, organised around a main route. The piece of fortification of S.Giuseppe in Cassano is also a good position and well kept for machine guns.

The itinerary continues to Rancio Valcuvia from where a deviation can be taken in the direction of Brinzio for the view of the **Laghetto di Brinzio** and to the **Parco Regionale del Campo dei Fiori**. Continuing from Rancio in the direction of Cittiglio, before reaching this town you will pass through Cuveglio at first and then, Cuvio and Azzio from where you continue until you reach Casalzuigno, where it is worth taking a break at **Villa della Porta Bozzolo**, which is an important stop for those who are arriving in Valcuvia. The building, which is on the edge of the town, determining the direction of expansion in the modern age, represents an important example of a noble residence of 16th century origin.

While maintaining the typical character of a farm-villa, the structure and the vast parklands underwent numerous expansion and restoration projects, in particular in the first half of the of the 18th century. This was when Gian Angelo III della Porta provided it with, a richly decorated and one of the most well preserved Italian gardens, to the present day. The whole estate is now owned by FAI. From Casalzuigno the route continues until you

reach Brenta and ends at the back of the Railway Station 'Ferrovie Nord Milano' in the town of Cittiglio, and from here there is a path that leads to an attractive **cascade**.

From the historical-artistic point of view, the area of Valcuvia has several architectural interest, such

as civic towers and bell towers, churches or sacred places, rocks, forts and evidence of industrial archaeology. The rich culture is further witnessed by the findings of archaeological remains.

THEMATIC ROUTES

DISCOVERING THE PROTECTED AREAS IN VALCUVIA AND VALGANNA

The itinerary which follows the cycle track, is dedicated to those who want to visit the protected area on foot and by bike, combining the desire to know more, with relaxation, in an environment, like Valcuvia and Valganna, that is still intact. The aim of the route is to discover the beauty of the local landscape, localising in the neighbourhood of Valganna, the area where there is the **Lago di Ghirla** and the **nature reserve of Lago di**

Ganna, the **torbiera di Pralugano** and the **Martica Chiusarella**. Following the itinerary in the direction of Cittiglio, it is possible to visit the **l'Orrido di Cunardo** and le **Cascate di Cittiglio**.

Not to be missed is a visit to **Parco del Campo dei Fiori** and the **Laghetto di Brinzio**, which can be reached by making a deviation from the cycle route at Rancio Valcuvia.



Lake Ganna



WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING PLACES TO VISIT:

Lago di Ghirla and riserve del Lago di Ganna and Torbiera di Pralugano and della Martica Chiusarella in the neighbourhood of Valganna.

ACCESSIBILITY:
can be easily reached from the municipality of Valganna (2-3km).
INFORMATION:
Town Hall of Valganna
tel. [0332719755](tel:0332719755)

Cascate di Cittiglio

ACCESSIBILITY:
can be reached smoothly by a path that starts in the town (picnic areas, 10 mins. To the first cascade, 30 mins to the second and to the third).
INFORMATION:
Town Hall of Cittiglio
tel. [0332601467-17](tel:0332601467-17)

Orrido di Cunardo
(*in the locality of Ponte Nativo*)

ACCESSIBILITY:
the locality of Ponte Nativo can be reached directly from the cycle route.
INFORMATION:
Town Hall of Cunardo
tel. [0332999211](tel:0332999211)

Parco del Campo dei Fiori, riserva naturale del Laghetto di Brinzio

ACCESSIBILITY:
the small lake of Brinzio can be reached by making a deviation from the cycle route at Rancio Valcuvia.
INFORMATION:
for further information and guided tours contact the following numbers:
Town Hall of Brinzio
tel. [0332435714](tel:0332435714)
Parco Regionale Campo dei Fiori
tel. [0332435386](tel:0332435386)
www.parcocampodeifiori.it
Coop. Esplorando
tel. [0332975333](tel:0332975333); esplorando@libero.it

THEMATIC ROUTES

ART AND FOOD IN VALCUVIA

The route from Lavena Ponte Tresa to Cittiglio is dedicated to those who like good food and local products, but who would also not renounce the enjoyment of a good bike ride. A combination of excellent refreshments with the desire to discover the local places and culture. Valcuvia, apart from being of noteworthy

environmental interest, is also characterised by its different kinds of gastronomy, which can be tried at the numerous farms in the area. There are some of the most important historical-artistic testimonies in the province of Varese. Among the most significant cultural assets we recommended:

ABBAY OF GANNA

According to the tradition, the abbey was built on the place of Saint Gerolamo martyrdom, at the end of XI Century. Due to its strategic position it became a pass over for merchants and pilgrims going to the Alps, so that the community of Ganna gained a remarkable power and a wide jurisdiction above the surrounding territory.

In the middle of XII Century, at the height of its expansion, the priorato would count the conspicuous number of thirty monks. The feudal power of the abbey was expressed in its architecture, with wide fortified walls and towers, then destructed. The most interesting parts of the building date back to the Romanic age: the church plant, the bell tower and the original pentagonal cloister.

Accessibility from the cycle route:
detour from Maglio di Ghirla
3 km, flat
Information:
www.badiadiganna.it - tel. [0332994532](tel:0332994532)



Abbey of Ganna



LINEA CADORNA

The fortification line of Cadorna is a complex military structure, which was functional above all in the years just before the First World War. It runs from the high ground of the Piemontese bank of Lago Maggiore, to Valceresio. It has a total of 88 emplacements for cannon battery of which 11 are in dugouts and 296 km are open to lorry traffic. This military operation though, has never been used or armed and soon after it was created, it was abandoned (as was all the defence system in Lombardy in 1919), to help reinforce the Venetian line. Four lines were created. Montorfano - Ossola - Zeda. Verbanò - Ceresio, Ceresio - Lario, Colico - Adda - Mera. In the area of Valcuvia, the tracks of the Fortificazione di San Giuseppe in Cassano Valcuvia must be pointed out, the Costruzioni presso Masciago, the one

at Da Masciago a Cunardo and the one at Campo dei Fiori. Of particular interest is the Fortificazione San Giuseppe in Cassano Valcuvia, which is near the small church of the same name.

It consists of a dense network of trenches, with places for the ammunition and an underground network of tunnels, which are organised round a main tunnel. The lines are positioned well for machine guns.

Accessibility from the cycle route:
5 Km

Information:
Town Hall of Cassano Valcuvia
tel. [0332995519](tel:0332995519)
www.provincia.va.it/lineacadornavarese



The Cadorna Line

VILLA DELLA PORTA BOZZOLO OF CASALZUIGNO

The building represents an important example of a noble residence of 16th century origin, where the Renaissance framework was largely redesigned in the following two centuries. The building maintains the kind of character of a farm-villa, since the areas concerned with production (for silk worm breeding and for the production of wine) are separated from the residential part. Among the numerous enlargement and restoration projects, the most important dates back to the last ten years of the 17th century and the beginning of the 18th century, when the villa was given a unique and rational character. The buyer, Gian Angelo III Della Porta, provided it with one of the most well preserved Italian gardens, to the present day and with a wide decorative pattern, with sophisticated frescoes of Magatti, an artist from Varese. The villa maintains, as is the tradition in Lombardy, an open courtyard, with

simple decorated divisions. The main salon on the ground floor is positioned as an axis, with a secret garden and with a front garden which links the framework of the scenic perpendicular garden with that of the villa. The garden is organised in a sequence of courtyards, sloping terraces, colossal stairways, the theatre of Verzura and belvedere, according to the rules for the most exquisite Italian garden with a scenic Baroque flavour.

Accessibility from the cycle route:
about 2 km

Information:

Villa della Porta Bozzolo

Casalzuigno (Varese)

tel [0332624136](tel:0332624136) - fax [0332624748](tel:0332624748)

www.fondoambiente.it/luoghi

e-mail: faibozzolo@fondoambiente.it

Guided tours can be organised for groups of up to a maximum of 25 people, only with prior booking.



Villa della Porta Bozzolo



BIKE SALES AND REPAIR

Ballardin Luciano bicycle repairs

via Luino, 53 - 21037 Lavena Ponte Tresa (VA)
tel. [0332551875](tel:0332551875)

(Bicycles can be hired, but there are few and it would have to be concurred)

Botteon Luigi bicycle sales and repairs

via Appennini, 34 - 21034 Cocquio Trevisago (VA)
tel. [0332771709](tel:0332771709)

Casa del Ciclo e del pneumatico di Corigliano Giuseppe

sales, fitting and repairs
viale Marconi, 25 - 21037 Lavena Ponte Tresa (VA)
tel. [0332550422](tel:0332550422)

OTHER SPORTING ACTIVITIES

For who wants to spend a day immersed in the countryside, while doing sport:

The district
of Cadegliano Viconago

HORSERIDING:

Az. Agricola Salice Andrea
tel. [3493213907](tel:3493213907)

The district
of Cassano Valcuvia

FISHING:

Az. Agricola La Sorgente
di Bardelli Giorgio
tel. [0332995720](tel:0332995720)

The district
of Cuveglio

FISHING:

Az. Agricola Lago d'Oro
di Papandrea Cosimo
tel. [0332650572](tel:0332650572)

The district
of Laveno Mombello

WATER SPORTS:

Canottieri Laveno
tel. [0332667825](tel:0332667825)

Cerro Sportiva (canoeing)
tel. [0332629229](tel:0332629229)

Club Velico Est Verbano
tel. [0332667588](tel:0332667588)

Circolo Velico Medio Verbano
tel. [0332629010](tel:0332629010)

SOME PROPOSALS FOR TOURIST TREKKING

Cadegliano Viconago: Linea Cadorna path 2: Viconago - Monte Mezzano - Pian della Nave - Monte Sette. Takes 3 hours and is 7 km.

Marchirolo: Linea Cadorna path 1: Marchirolo - Monte La Nave, takes 2,30 hours and is 6 km.

Valganna: You join on the cycle route created by the Province of Varese in collaboration with CTS, that crosses Ganna, Ghirla, Cunardo, Ferrera, Masciago Primo, Bedero Valcuvia and then return to Ganna. (Itinerary for cycling tourists in the Province of Varese, CTS and the Province of Varese).

Cuveglio: The itinerary leaves from Cuveglio for Duno - S. Martino - Monte della Colonna - S. Antonio-Arcumeggia - Cuveglio (itinerary for cycling tourists in the Province of Varese, CTS and the Province of Varese).

Cugliate Fabiasco: Departing from the town hall you climb an asphalted road to the refuge of Monte Sette Termini, Pian della Nave, Alpe Cognolo, Alpe del Campogino, Rifugio Monte Sette Termini (itinerary for cycling tourists in the Province of Varese, CTS and the Province of Varese).

Cittiglio: You join on the route that continues towards Vararo - S. Antonio - Casazuigno and returns to Cittiglio.

For those who love nature, mountain biking and trekking, it must be noted that the districts of Valcuvia, are characterised by the presence of excellent pathways and by routes of international value.

The Sentiero del Giubileo (which links the districts of Lavena Ponte Tresa, Cugliate Fabiasco, Cunardo, and Valganna), the Sentiero finale (a link with the district of Marchirolo), the itinerary naturalistico E1 (links the districts of Valganna, Bedero, Valcuvia, Castello Cabiaglio and Brinzio), the Anulare valcuviano (links the districts of Cassano Valcuvia, Rancio Valcuvia, Casalzuigno, Brenta, Cittiglio, Duno, Castello Cabiaglio, Orino, Laveno), the Via Verde Varesina (links the districts of Cassano Valcuvia, Casalzuigno, Cittiglio, Duno, Orino, Laveno) and the pathway of Campo dei Fiori (links the districts of Valganna, Brinzio, Castello Cabiaglio, and Orino).

For further information, a map of route 3V can be obtained from the region, while the internet sites of the mountain sites of Valganna and Valmarchirolo and of Valcuvia, can be consulted for more news about the paths.

TYPICAL REFRESHMENT

For information about the complete list of restaurants along the route, consult the site www.vareseandofourism.it or ask at the Tourist Information Offices (listed in Ricettività) for the guide "A tavola in Provincia di Varese, guida ai ristoranti, pizzerie e trattorie".



ACCOMMODATION

LOCALITY	TYPOLOGY	STRUCTURE	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Lavena Ponte Tresa	hotels	Du Lac ★★★	v.le Ungheria, 19	0332550308
	hotels	Carillon ★	via Grumello, 4	0332550311
	hotels	Dei Pini ★	via Libertà, 9	0332550627
	camping	International ★★★	via Marconi, 16	0332550117
Cadegliano Viconago	hotels	Stampa ★★	via Stampa, 3	0332591152
Marchirolo	hotels	Drive Hotel Pegaso ★★★	via Statale, 27	0332997139
	B&B	Basilicon	via P. Bozzolo, 14	0332723868
Valganna	rented rooms	Villa Cesarina	via Cattaneo, 33	0332719721
Cunardo	hotels	Delle Arti ★★★★★	via Luinese, 18	0332715002
	hotels	La Vignazza ★★★	via Baraggia, 17	0332716192
	holiday farms	Tenuta del Maglio	via del Maglio, 15	0332716439
Cassano Valcuvia	holiday farms	Al Cavallino Bianco	via per Ferrera, 50	0332995508
Cuveglio	hotels	Bussoladue ★★★	via Provinciale, 3	0332651661
Cuvio	hotels	Corona ★★	via Largo Coppia, 6	0332624150
Azzio	B&B	Il Mulino	loc. Mulino Dolza	0332631006
Casalzuigno	B&B	Antico Borgo Sanda	via Sanda, 16	0332651992
	B&B	Il Cortile	via Libertà, 87	0332618029
Brenta	rented rooms	Capriccio di Pizza	via Valcuvia, 10	0332601486
Cittiglio	hotels	La Bussola ★★★	via Marconi, 26/28	0332602291
	hotels	Cristallo ★★	via Provinciale, 75	0332601336

TOURIST INFORMATION

For further information consult our web site <http://www.vareselandoftourism.it/> or ask for the "Guida all'ospitalità in Provincia di Varese" which can be found at the following:

Tourist Information Office of Cuveglio (open from June to September)
via Battaglia di San Martino, 114 - Cuveglio
tel. [0332651343](tel:0332651343)

Tourist Information Office of Varese
via C. Carobbio, 2 - Varese
tel. [0332283604](tel:0332283604) - e-mail: iatvarese@provincia.va.it

Tourist Information Office of Gavirate
Piazza Dante, 1 - Gavirate
tel. [0332744707](tel:0332744707) - e-mail: ufficio@progavirate.com



The protected area of Valganna



ITINERARY

2



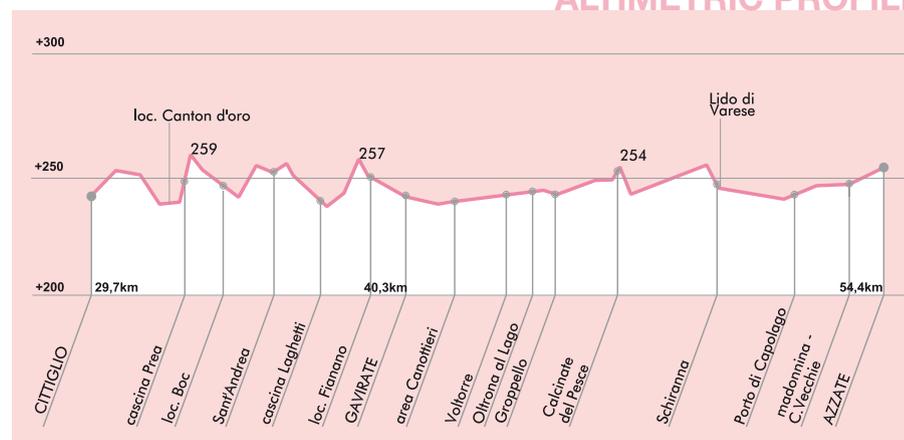
BY BICYCLE ALONG THE BANKS OF THE LAKE OF VARESE



LENGTH OF THE ROUTE:	24,7 Km
DEPARTURE - ARRIVAL:	Cittiglio
ARRIVAL - DEPARTURE:	Azzate
THE CONDITIONS OF THE TRACK:	Most of the route is on the track, except for the exception of the section between Cittiglio and Gavirate. There are some steep slopes that are not minimal and access is easy to the existing tracks. The use of mountain bikes is recommended, because of the non asphalted tracks.
ROUTE TIME:	2,30 hours
COURSE DIFFICULTY:	The easiest are the routes with tracks: Moderate: Locality Monvallina in the district of Caravate. Via Isonzo and the locality of S. Pietro in the district of Gemonio the area of the Lido in the district of Gemonio Difficult: The locality of Canton d'Or in the district of Caravate
PARTICULARLY RECOMMENDED:	For families with children and weaker travellers.
PLACES FOR STOPS:	Still under construction: the district of Caravate, the district of Cocquio Trevisago, near the Bardello river, the district of Gavirate. The district of Gavirate in the locality of Oltrona al Lago.
PANORAMIC PLACES AND SCENIC STOPS:	
LINKS WITH OTHER ITINERARIES:	By bicycle - in train : a link with the other itineraries 1 "From Lago Ceresio to Lago Maggiore crossing the Valcuvia" and 3 "Nature and

Culture crossing the Valle dell'Olona (Varese-Cittiglio)Maggiore attraverso la Valcuvia" e 3 "Arte e Natura nella Valle dell'Olona" (linea Varese-Cittiglio)

ALTIMETRIC PROFILE



INFORMATION REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY

DEPARTURE/ARRIVAL: CITTIGLIO

By car: Motorway A8, take the exit for Varese and follow the S.S 394 in the direction of Cittiglio (for about 19km).

By train: FNM line

By bus: Cittiglio-Travedona, Cittiglio-Brebbia, Luino-Cittiglio line.

Starting point: behind the FNM station in the district of Cittiglio.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE: AZZATE

By car: Motorway A8, take the exit for Varese, continue in the direction of the Lake of Varese/ Palude Brabbia.

By bus: Varese-Daverio-Villadosia, Varese-Sesto Calende lines.

Starting point: after the Santuario in Azzate.



The course is nearly all on the flat and links the central eastern bank of Lake Maggiore to Varese. The route leaves from behind the FNM station of Cittiglio, continuing in the direction of Gemonio. Here it is worth making the first stop at the bell tower and the **Church of San Pietro**, an interesting building which were probably built above some Longobard remains and rebuilt between 925 and 950 as an aisle less church. All that remains of the original church is the flooring in pounded crockery, of which there are traces under the apse. In the 16th century a second nave and another apse were added, and the third nave can be dated between the end of the 14th and 15th centuries. Inside the church you can see frescoes of good quality which date back to the time between the 15th and 17th centuries. Among these, the ones in the apse are attributed to the group of Galdino da Varese and date back to the 1570's. Worthy of note, is also the altar from the Middle Ages, where some original 10th century decoration, came to light. In Gemonio, there are two museums which are linked to two artists; the painter **Innocente Salvini** and of the sculptor **Floriano Bodini**. From Germonio, the itinerary continues crossing the districts of Caravate and Cocquio Trevisago until you reach the district of Gavirate where you can visit the **Cloisters of the Monastery of San Michele a Voltorre**. Since Roman times, the building with the cloister and the church was linked to an economically flourishing monastery and carried out an important function during the 'fruttuariense' reform by Guglielmo da Volpiano. The Romanesque origins of this church can be testified by the ornaments on the hanging arches that embellish the apse; it was then restructured between the 17th and 18th centuries. The cloister dates back to the years between the

12th and 13th centuries, but the southern fourth side instead dates back to the 14th century. The creators of the capitals and one of these can be defined as a 'craftsman' and maybe was the designer of the whole cloister, was Lanfranco of Ligurno, who was particularly active in the region of Varese. From Gavirate it is possible to take the first deviation, continuing in the direction of Biandronno for a boat trip to the **Isolino Virginia**, the most important prehistoric settlement on the lake of Varese. Archeological, prehistoric remains of various kinds, have been found on the island, from the end of the 5th century B.C to the Bronze Age. Part of the findings are in the Museo Ponti all'Isolino and part are in the Musei Civici in Varese. From Biandronno, continue along the lake and when you arrive at **Cazzago Brabbia**, it is interesting to stop at the ancient **glaciers**, typical constructions that were used to collect the ice taken from the lake, in order to conserve fish. From the nearby town of Inarzo start some excursions leave to visit **Palude Brabbia**, which has been a nature reserve since 1983. Returning to Gavirate, the route continues following the cycle lane along the banks of the lake of Varese, until you reach the district of Buguggiate and that of Azzate, whose territory is characterised by a large quantity of villas and noble residencies. These give evidence of the Baroque, neoclassical periods and of the 19th century and early 20th century eclectic periods. In the most ancient part of this village, is the parish church of Santa Maria Assunta, of 14th century origin, with canvases and frescoes from the Mannerism age, while the **Church of S. Maria** in nearby **Brunello** has a noteworthy cycle of late Middle Age paintings. Returning to Azzate, take again the cycle lane again that goes round the **Church of the Madonnina del Lago**,

a church that was constructed in the 16th century. It was enlarged and restored in around 1896, when the dome was added and the arcade in a neoclassical form. Among public buildings, famous is the Torre di S. Quirico is of medieval origin. The route ends in the district of Galliate after the sanctuary, when you arrive at Cascina Pratovecchio. The itinerary, in its simplicity, is recommended for everyone, especially for groups with elderly people or families with children. For

lovers of art and culture, a pause is proposed here, to admire the buildings of historical-artistic character in the town of Varese. There are some notable examples of liberty architecture, that find their higher expression in, The Grand Hotel Campo dei Fiori and the Birreria Poretta in Induno Olona (see the thematic itinerary). Both, however cannot be visited, but there are also other buildings worth visiting and we suggest visits to see the following cultural assets:





Villa Menafoglio Litta Panza: the villa situated in the ancient Castellanza of Biumo Superiore, was built halfway through the 18th century on the instructions of the Marquis Paolo Antonio Menafoglio. The building has a U shape, but it is different from the habitual noble villas in the area because of its façade together with the main courtyard are turned towards the park and not towards the village. The main building has two wings connected together by an open arcade and next to the Italian style garden. On its side, then, there are the farmhouses, constant presence in the suburban villas. Pompeo Litta Visconti Arese, who bought it in 1823, enlarged it by adding a huge drawing room, designed in a Neoclassical style by Luigi Canonica an architect of the Italian reign. Further modifications were made by Ernesto Panza, who gave the job of changing the entrance courtyard and changing part of the gardens to Piero Portaluppi in 1936. He created an Italian parterre with a large English park, full of excellent plants. The villa is famous for its collections of works of art, in particular of the contemporary age, due to the patronage of Giuseppe Panza, who inherited the villa in 1949, donating it to FAI in 1996.

Castello di Masnago: This is a monumental complex which was built in the Middle Ages as a fortified building (the mighty towers are still preserved) It was re-structured and enlarged in the 15th century and then the main body and south part of the building in the 17th and 18th centuries. It was given over to the Municipality of Varese in 1981 by the last owners, the Panza family. Since 1995, it is housing the permanent historical-artistic collection of the Musei Civici di Varese which is set out in the medieval part of the building. Of particular interest are the sections dedicated

to painters working in Lombardy between the 19th and 20th centuries, of whom Hayez, the bohemians Cremona and Ranzoni, the pontillist Pelizza, da Volpedo and Balla are featured. Contemporary art was praised, instead of the works of Veronesi, Sironi, Fontana, Baj, Guttuso, Tadini, Tavernari, Vaccai, Munari and others. Not missing from the museum either, are some works from the Renaissance, Baroque and Neoclassical periods of which there is a tapestry created on cardboard by Romanino and work by Morazzone, Procaccini and Piccio. Noteworthy are the pictorial series on a profane theme, which can be dated at around 1550 and remained undiscovered for many years (discovered in 1938). They are housed on the ground floor of the wing, that was enlarged in the 15th century, in the Sala degli Svaghi and on the upper floor in the Sala dei Vizi e delle Virtù. The frescoes demonstrate strong analogy with the Ciclo dei Giochi in the Palazzo Borromeo in Milan, which is a testament to the enormous culture of the painter from Masnago.

Basilica di San Vittore e Battistero di San Giovanni: The present day aspect of the Basilica has lost its Medieval origins and is the result of three main phases of construction. The presbytery and the apse with a Bramantesque form, date back to the beginning of the 16th century. The nave was created by the Mannerist, Pellegrino Tibaldi who worked with Giuseppe Bernasconi collaborated with, the architect of the Sacro Monte, here designer of the bell tower. The façade is neoclassical, and was designed by Leopold Pollack. The inside is richly decorated with frescoes, canvases, marble and stucco; here preserved are works by Morazzone, Cerano and Simone Peterzano. The **Baptistry**, one of the most important in Lombardy, dates back to the 12th-

13th centuries and has a sober Roman shape. Here conserved there are monolithic baptismal font and noteworthy 14th century frescoes, part of which were the work of Maestro della Tomba Fissirago, who worked also at Lodi using a style that was influenced by the language of Giotto.

Santuario della Madonna in Prato: The church of the Madonnina in Prato represents one of the most authentic examples of devotional, Baroque style architecture in Varese. The monument "**Sacro Monte**" is an example of this style in the city, while the pictorial works of Lombard 17th century painters are on display in the Pinacoteca Civica. The façade with a portico is remarkable and animated with a rich sculptural decoration. Inside it is ornamented with illusionist frescoes, that culminate in the dome with "The Assumption of Mary", the work of Antonio Busca (1666-67). In the chapel on the left there is the Madonna on the throne with baby Jesus, of late gothic

taste (15th century), by an anonymous painter. In the chapel on the right there are frescoes from 1619, which were attributed to Giovan Francesco Lampugnani.

Villa Recalcati (today, home of the Province of Varese and of the Prefecture): Although the original nucleus dates back to the second half of the 17th century, the villa expresses the residential, aristocratic, suburban architecture of the 18th century. It was in fact, built at first as a country villa for the Recalcati family from Milano. After it had changed property many times it was transformed in 1874 into the Grand Hotel Excelsior, which became one of the most famous of the time. The most significant restoration work of this period, was the raising of part of the wings of the building, which was once dominated by the jutting out of the central part of the building, itself and by the creation of a covered veranda onto the back. The park was also redesigned. In 1931, four years after the hotel failed, due to a fall in tourists in the region, following the First World War, the building was bought by the Province of Varese. In 1999, restoration of the park was carried out and it was opened to the public. Together with those belonging to other villas, it has contributed in giving Varese the appellation of a "city garden". The inside of the villa presented an ostentatious series of frescoes (of which not much remains), above all from 18th century, with themes that were generally allegorical and mythological, created by some of the most impressive artists in Varese. Among these were Pietro Antonio Magatti (who also painted frescoes in the Sala Veratti in the ex-convent of Sant'Antonino) and Giovan Battista Ronchelli.

Palazzo Estense e Villa Mirabello: Palazzo Estense with its garden was created by the



The Baptistery of San Giovanni



instructions of Francesco III d'Este, the Austrian governor of Lombardy from 1765 to 1780, who made it its court residence. The works were carried out between 1766 and 1771 designed by Giuseppe Bianchi. The internal decoration that beautifies the main staircase is of particular interest, like the four 18th century niches with female busts, while on the floor above there is the Ballroom, decorated with rich canvases from the 16th and 17th centuries. Among these we would like to point out the "Virgin with baby Jesus" (1626) which is attributed by Mondino. Behind the building are the famous celebrated gardens, pertaining to the ducal family of Este, that are unified with those of **Villa Mirabello**, with the same style of fir plantations. Here we are dealing with an Italian park with great scenic impact

(the one at Villa Mirabello is nearly all 'English Garden') there is a large parterre, avenues of Hornbeams and a great pool. From the highest point of the garden, there is the most wonderful panorama of Varese and of the 'Castellanza' of Bieme Superiore.

Villa Mirabello was built in the 18th century at the summit of a hill of the same name, so called for the wonderful panorama that opens in front. Of the same period is the oratory of 'Vergine Addolorata' created in 1767 by Giuseppe Veratti. The villa was renovated in 1843 in an eclectic style and today the building is the residence of the Musei Civici.

Il Sacro Monte: This is one of the most complete existing examples of a devotional route. It is 2kms. long and you climb to 585 metres, to the

first chapel, then 880 to the Santuario di Santa Maria del Monte, which is the conclusive part of the Via Sacra. The route starts off in a residential area, where there is the 17th century church of the "Immacolata Concezione". Along the winding course there are 14 following chapels, dedicated to the "Misteri del Rosario" (mystery of the rosary). Hundreds of statues were created here, by different architects, and tens of frescoes with a declaredly expressive, common style, to make the chapels places, where the faithful could be near to the protagonists and to sacred historical events. Building works started here in 1605, but the mountain was already used for pilgrimages to the Santuario di Santa Maria del Monte, whose church dates back to the Middle Ages and was cited in 942. The work ended around 1680, but

the decoration part carried on for the whole of the next century. The project designer and the director of the work was Giuseppe Bernasconi, the main architect in the city of Varese in the first 20 years of the 17th century. The Church, the Spanish administration, the noble classes and the population were also involved in the creation of the sanctuary. It was a creation of enormous proportions, if you think that to transport the raw materials from Canton Ticino and from Viggiu, a port was opened at Porto Ceresio, and remained operative also after the discovery of a cave of marble on **Sacro Monte**. Many painters were involved in the decoration of the monument complex, even if nearly all of them came from the local area. Their work shows an enflamed realism, which is a peculiar aspect of the aesthetic



The Fourth Chapel of Sacro Monte



Sacro Monte



Villa Recalcati in Varese

Baroque period, but it is particularly present in the figurative art of Lombardy from the 16th century. Among the craftsmen, we would like to point out "il Morazzone, Cristoforo Prestinari, Giovan Paolo Ghianda, Carlo Francesco Nuvolone, the Milanese Giovanni Ghisolfi from Milano, Bartolomeo Ghiandone, Stefano M. Legnani, Giovan Battista and Giovan Paolo Recchi, Dionigi Bussola, Antonio Busca, Isidoro Bianchi da Campione, and the sons Lampugnani brothers. A recent piece of work is by Renato Guttuso. Among the sculptors instead we can consider, Francesco

Silva di Mendrisio, a craftsman who, for about twenty years, sculptured most of the statues on the **Sacro Monte**, including the eight in the niches of the church of the Immacolata Concezione (his son Agostino carried out the restoration work, on his father's statue in 1701.) Also Martino Retti (he was also from Ticino and was working at the beginning of the 17th century). Cristoforo Prestinari, Giuseppe Rusnati, Carlo Antonio Buono (who designed the statue of San Carlo in the arch of the same name, built in 1651.)

THEMATIC ROUTES

BY BICYCLE AROUND LAKE VARESE

The route is dedicated to who loves the countryside and lakes, but also wants to discover a protected area and enjoy a beautiful environment. An easy route, which is enchanting at the same time, from Cittiglio to Galliate, unwinds between the hills that surround the Lake Varese bringing you down to the banks. From the route you can also reach two important protected areas. The first is the Nature Reserve of Lake Biandronno, a marshy hollow of glacial origin positioned on the extreme north-east edge of the Lake of Varese. Consisting of little pools of water caused by the excavation of the peat, in which the vegetation nearly all consists of cane and sedge, this is the last section of the marshy ecosystem. The presence of rare flora and areas of nesting by birds, which are typical of this damp area, complete the picture.

The second protected area is, on the other

hand, represented by the **Palude Brabbia**, a marshy area of important environmental value. The route represents a unique occasion to spend a relaxing day surrounded by nature.



A capital inside the Cloister of Voltorre

WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING PLACES TO VISIT:

Lago di Biandronno

ACCESSIBILITY:

4 km from the district of Gavirate

INFORMATION:

Municipality of Biandronno

tel. [0332766131](tel:0332766131)

Palude Brabbia

ACCESSIBILITY:

Easily reachable from the main road either from the district of Biandronno, or from that of Galliate.

INFORMATION:

for information and bookings **LIPU**, the telephone number is [0332964028](tel:0332964028), l'indirizzo e-mail: lipubrabbia@tin.it

Parco Regionale del Campo dei Fiori

ACCESSIBILITY:

the area of the Parco del Campo dei Fiori can be reached from the district of Varese.

INFORMATION:

for information relating to activities, localities and itineraries contact the park office

Parco regionale del Campo dei Fiori

tel. [0332435714](tel:0332435714),

www.parcocampodeifiori.it, o la

Cooperativa Esplorando

tel. [0332975333](tel:0332975333)

e-mail: esplorando@libero.it

Chiostro di Voltorre

ACCESSIBILITY:

easily accessible from the cycling lane in the own of Gavirate, then follow the signs.

INFORMATION:

tel. [0332731402](tel:0332731402)

www.vareselandoftourism.it



THEMATIC ROUTES

CULTURE AND TRADITION BETWEEN LAKE MAGGIORE AND VARESE

The route has been thought up for those who like lakeside scenery, pedalling in the countryside, but also likes to taste typical dishes, eat local products and admire the historical/artistic beauty around the lake and the city of Varese. The gastronomic itinerary unwinds in 13 farm houses localised in the districts through which the route passes, or close to them and it is here that you can have a break and try the most typical dishes of the Varese area.

For children there is also the chance to take part in didactic-recreational activities at the farm house. For art lovers, the area offers buildings, which are a living testimony of the great quality that belongs to the system of Villas and gardens, of the architectural testimony and of the Art Nouveau.

Among the most significant places to visit, we recommend:

ISOLINO VIRGINIA OF BIANDRONNO

The little island in the middle of the lake (9200 square metres) has a triangular oblong form and is separated from the main land by the Ticinello, a canal of variable width, from 80-180 m and with a depth of 2,40 m.

It is famous for a double aspect: the beauty of its countryside and its high value as an archaeological site. The oldest map shows that the island was as well known as Isola di San Biagio for the presence of a little church. It was bought in 1822 by the duke of Pompeo Litta who gave it the name of Isola Camilla. The present day name, was given by the wife (Virginia Ponti Pigna) of the following and last owner, Andrea Ponti, who bought it in 1878. Prehistoric archaeological remains have been discovered here, of various types

and from different periods, from the end of the 5th millennium B.C until the Bronze Age. The little island was a place for a settlement of lake dwelling people in the prehistoric times, at various times between 3000 and 900 B.C. In the periods of drought, even today it is possible to see some of the wooden rods of the lake dwelling people. In the years 1955-59 an internal part of the island (12 square meters) was made evident. It was a continuous tomograph running from the Neolithic Age to the late Bronze Age. The Museo Ponti on the island shows illustrations of the discovery with a didactical journey, while most of the prehistoric findings are named and conserved in Varese at the **Musei Civici di Villa Mirabello**.

Accessibility from the cycle route:

3 km. Then the island is reached by boat from the village of Biandronno.

Information:

Nei giorni festivi dalla spiaggia comunale è in partenza un servizio barche per l'**Isolino Virginia**.

In holiday times there is a boat service that leaves from the beach, going to the island-The Museo Ponti is open from Easter to the 1st November, at the weekends from 14.00 to 18.00.

For information tel. [0332281590](tel:0332281590)



Isolino Virginia

VILLA MENAFOGLIO LITTA PANZA OF VARESE

Villa Litta Panza was built half way through the 18th century by Paolo Antonio Menafoglio, with large parklands, which together with the other villas, contributes in giving Varese its nickname of "the city garden". Today the villa is the result of the overlapping of different work and transformations. It has a Baroque scheme with an open courtyard (or really a U shape), that however does not face public areas, but the garden. The building develops from the main entrance in Piazza Litta, along a route characterised by ever greater spaces, but varied in their articulation and in their scenic effect (entrance, portico, courtyard and garden). The main building in Rococo style faces the 33000 square meter park; the arcade separates the building from the Italian style parterre, which is decorated with two fountains and with an evocative wood. The

park was designed at the beginning of 1800 according to the English rules for gardens, combining geometrical style gardens with some more romantic ones. In the same century a new building in Neoclassical style



Villa Menafoglio Litta Panza



was added (designed by Canova). The work carried out in 1936 is full of interest, when Ernesto Panza gave Piero Portaluppi the task of restructuring the entrance courtyard and part of the gardens. Portaluppi, with Giovanni Muzio and Giuseppe De Finetti was part of the Milanese architectural renewal, taking on a Classical slant between the two World Wars. In the villa, the presence of great works of art are conspicuous, especially the contemporary age, due to the patronage of Giuseppe Panza, who welcomed artists of international fame and importance into his villa, so that his collections are recognised on a world wide scale.

Accessibility from the cycle route:
5,5 Km

Information:
Villa Panza

Piazza Litta, 1 - Varese.
tel. [0332283960](tel:0332283960) fax [0332498315](tel:0332498315)
e-mail: faibiumo@fondoambiente.it

Organised groups can be arranged with prior booking (a maximum of 25 people)
<http://www.fondoambiente.it>

Accessibility from the cycle route:
more than 5 km from the cycle lane.

Information:

for information about the **Birreria Poretti**, via G. Porro 35, Induno Olona,
tel. [0332208111](tel:0332208111) - fax [0332202319](tel:0332202319)
The Grand Hotel at Campo dei Fiori is actually closed, so it is not open to the public.

For information it is possible to contact the office of the **Parco Campo dei Fiori**
tel. [0332435714](tel:0332435714), www.parcocampodeifiori.it



The Poretti brewery

THE HOTEL AT MONTE CAMPO DEI FIORI AND THE PORETTI BREWERY OF INDUNO OLONA

The buildings belong to the period of Art Nouveau (well known in Italy with the definition of Liberty) placed in the panoramic architecture of the early 20th century, whether it be in single buildings, or in groups for every kind of use, from hotels, to factories, from noble residences to railway stations. It was a style characterised by abundant decoration, often with curvilinear trends and subjects such as vegetables, created by using different materials, from cement to wrought iron to leaded glass.

In our area, the pivot of this stylistic and cultural system is without doubt, Varese, with significant ramification towards Campo dei Fiori, Ponte-Tresa, Lago Maggiore, of which the hotels at Campo dei Fiori and the Birreria Poretti are two significant examples.



The hotel at Campo dei Fiori

BIKE SALES AND REPAIR

Ambrosini Pier Luigi cicli e Motocicli

Piazza Madonnina in prato, 1 - Varese
tel. [0332240109](tel:0332240109)

Emmedue Bike Point Snc di Campiotti Marco e Manganiello Michele

sales Distribuzione Biciclette,
via Leopoldo Gasparotto, 66 - Varese
tel. [0332239500](tel:0332239500)

A Ruota Libera di Valerio Torello

via Cesare Battisti, 17 - Varese
tel. [0332280094](tel:0332280094)

Pavarin (s.n.c.) riparazione Costruzione Cicli

via Amerigo Vespucci, 19 - Varese
tel. [0332329160](tel:0332329160)

Effegi Bici Sport Sasdi Floreani Cesare e Gavioli Orazio & C.

piazza XX Settembre, 3 - Gavirate - Varese
tel. [033230284](tel:033230284)



OTHER SPORTING ACTIVITIES

For who wants to spend a day in the countryside, doing sport:

The district of Luvinate	HORSERIDING:	Az. Agricola Zancan Gianni tel. 0332824239
The district of Varese	HORSERIDING:	Az. Agricola Goccia d'Oro Ranch di Rita Moretto Locality Bizzozero, via del Vignò 134 tel. 0332265389
	GLIDING:	AVAL Aeroclub Volo Velistico Alta Lombardia via Lungolago di Calcinate, 45 tel. 0332310073
	CANOEING:	Canottieri Varese, Lungolago Canottieri tel. 0332321098
	WINDSURFING:	Lega Italiana Navale Varese Lungolago Canottieri, 21 tel. 0332329900
	GOLF:	Panorama Golf, via Belmonte tel./fax 0332330356 www.panoramagolf.it , info@panoramagolf.it
The district of Cocquio Trevisago	HORSERIDING:	Az Agricola Berloco Giovanni tel. 0332701001
The district of Gavirate	WATER SPORTS:	Associazione Canottieri Gavirate tel. 0332744540 Waterskiing Club of Varese tel. 0332743439
The district of Gazzada Schianno	FREE FLIGHT:	Anemos (c/o Club Azzurro) tel. 0332464080

SOME PROPOSALS FOR TOURIST TREKKING

Gavirate:

Itinererary 1 (CTS) Gavirate - Luvinate - Rasa - Brinzio - Castello Cabiaglio - Orino - Gavirate,
Itinerario 13 (CTS): Gavirate - Biandronno - Cassinetta Rizzone - Comabbio - Cadrezzate - Brebbia - Besozzo - Gavirate.

Itinererary 19 (CTS): The cycle lane along the lake of Varese, Buguggiate - Capolago - Gavirate - Bardello - Biandronno - Cazzago Brabbia - Bodio Lomnago - Galliate - Azzate

Bardello:

Itinererary 19 (CTS): The cycle lane along the lake of Varese, Buguggiate -Capolago-Gavirate-Bardello- Biandronno - Cazzago Brabbia - Bodio Lomnago - Galliate - Azzate.

Varese:

Itinererary 8 (CTS): Varese - Masnago - Sant' Ambrogio - Varese, **Itinererary 18** (CTS): Orino - Castello Cabiaglio - Brinzio - Sacro Monte Osservatorio - Forte d'Orino - Orino, **Itinererary 19** (CTS): The cycle lane of the Lake of Varese, Buguggiate - Capolago - Gavirate - Bardello - Biandronno - Cazzago Brabbia - Bodio Lomnago - Galliate - Azzate, Itinererary of the lakes of Lombardy.

Buguggiate, Azzate, Galliate:

Itinererary 19 (CTS): The cycle lane of the lake of Varese, Buguggiate -Capolago-Gavirate-Bardello-Biandronno - Cazzago Brabbia - Bodio Lomnago - Galliate - Azzate. Itinerary of the lakes of Lombardy.

Luvinate:

Itinererary 1 (CTS): Gavirate - Luvinate - Rasa -

Brinzio - Castello Cabiaglio - Orino - Gavirate

Besozzo:

Itinererary 13 (CTS) : Gavirate - Biandronno - Cassinetta Rizzone - Comabbio - Cadrezzate - Brebbia - Besozzo - Gavirate

Biandronno:

Itinererary 10 (CTS): Cazzago - Biandronno - Varano B. - Corgeno - San Pancrazio - Cazzago.

Itinererary 13 (CTS) : Gavirate - Biandronno - Cassinetta Rizzone - Comabbio - Cadrezzate - Brebbia - Besozzo - Gavirate.

Itinerario 19 (CTS): The cycle lane of the lake of Varese, Buguggiate - Capolago - Gavirate - Bardello - Biandronno - Cazzago Brabbia - Bodio Lomnago - Galliate - Azzate.

Bodio Lomnago:

Itinererary 19 (CTS): The cycle lane of the lake of Varese, Buguggiate -Capolago-Gavirate-Bardello-Biandronno - Cazzago Brabbia - Bodio Lomnago - Galliate - Azzate. Itinerario Itinerary, the lakes of Lombardy.

For those who love nature, mountain bike riding and trekking, we would like to remind you that the area around the lakeside are characterised by numerous paths and trails. In particular there are : the path of the Campo dei Fiori (which links the districts of Gavirate, Varese and Barasso) path 3V (which links the districts of Cocquio T, Gavirate, Varese, Casciago, Induno and Luvinate.) There is the Valcuvian ring (linking the districts of Cocquio T, Gavirate and Sangiano) The naturalistic route E1 (linking the districts of Cocquio T, Gavirate and Bardello) and other naturalistic routes (linking the districts of Caravate and Biandronno)

TYPICAL REFRESHMENT

For information about the complete list of restaurants along the route, consult the site www.vareselandoftourism.it or ask at the Tourist Information Offices (listed in Ricettività) for the guide "A tavola in Provincia di Varese, guida ai ristoranti, pizzerie e trattorie".



ACCOMMODATION

LOCALITY	TPOLOGY	STRUCTURE	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Cittiglio	hotels	La Bussola ★★★	via Marconi,	0332602291
	hotels	Critallo ★★	via Provinciale, 75	0332601336
Gemonio	hotels	Le Ortensie ★★	via Pasubio, 24	0332601234
Gavirate	RTA	Residence Le Arcate ★★	via Marconi, 17	0332747800
Varese	hotels	Al Borducan ★★★★★	via Beata C. Moriggi, 43	0332222916
	hotels	City Hotel ★★★★★	via Medaglie d'oro, 35	0332281304
	hotels	Colonne ★★★★★	via Fincarà, 37	0332224633
	hotels	Crystal ★★★★★	via Speroni, 10	0332231145
	hotels	Palace Grand Hotel ★★★★★	via Manara, 11	0332327100
	hotels	Acquario ★★★	via Giusti, 7	0332811600
	hotels	Bologna ★★★	via Broggi, 7	0332234362
	hotels	Europa ★★★	piazza Beccaria, 1	0332280170
	hotels	Il Gallo e la Stella ★★★	via del Santuario, 5	0332228581
	hotels	Mariuccia ★★★	via G.Macchi, 141	0332329330
	hotels	Plaza ★★★	via Sanvito Silvestro, 107	0332223537
	hotels	Sacromonte ★★★	via Bianchi, 5	0332228194
	hotels	Ungheria ★★★	viale Borri, 98	0332264325
	hotels	Varese Lago Motor Hotel ★★★★★	via G. Macchi, 61	0332310022
	hotels	Vecchia Riva ★★★	via G. Macchi, 146	0332329335
	hotels	Yes Hotel ★★★	via Fusinato, 35	0332813384
	hotels	Mira ★★	via Walder, 45	0332286465
	hotels	Stelvio ★★	via Tonale, 10	0332334800
	hotels	da Nino ★	viale Aguggiari, 69	0332283932
	hotels	Stadio ★	via Bolchini, 24	0332224069
	B&B	da Camomillo	via Virgilio, 107	0332229179
	B&B	Gudo	via Mottarone, 68	0332329987
	B&B	in Valle	via Pacinotti, 23	0332491166
B&B	le Ortensie	via Caracciolo, 85/A	0332226475	
B&B	il Giglio e la Rosa	viale Borri, 192	0332261752	
holiday farms	Goccia d'oro	via del Vignò, 134	0332265389	
holiday farms	Nicolini Rosanna	via Pacinotti, 99	0332491118	
Azzate	hotels	Locanda dei Mai Intees ★★★★★	via Nobile C. Riva, 2	0332457223

TOURIST INFORMATION

For further information consult our web site <http://www.vareselandoftourism.it/> or ask for the "Guida all'ospitalità in Provincia di Varese" which can be found at the following:

Tourist Information Office of Varese

via C. Carobbio 2, Varese

tel. 0332283604 - e-mail: iatvarese@provincia.va.it

Tourist Information Office of Gavirate

piazza Dante 1, Gavirate

tel. 0332744707 - e-mail: ufficio@progavirate.com



Palazzo Estense and part of its gardens



ITINERARY

3

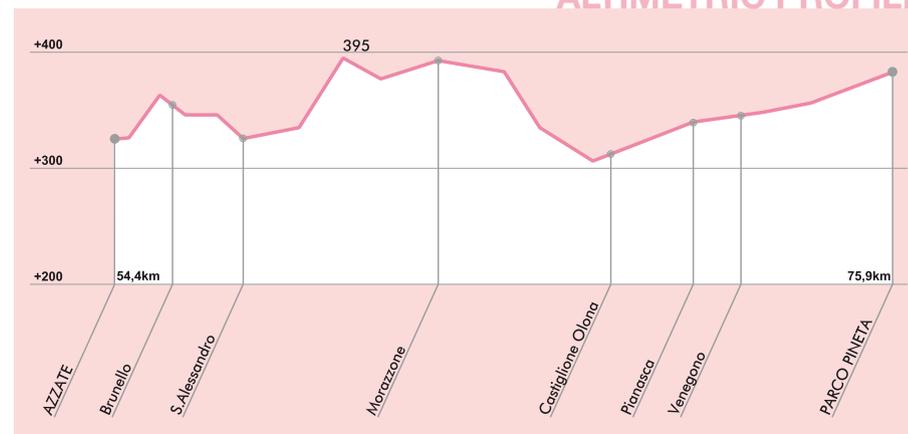


NATURE AND CULTURE AS YOU CROSS THE VALLE DELL'OLONA



LENGTH OF THE ROUTE:	21,5 Km
DEPARTURE - ARRIVAL:	Azzate
ARRIVAL - DEPARTURE:	Parco Pineta (Castelnuovo Bozzente)
THE CONDITIONS OF THE TRACK:	the track, which in part is on paths and part on the road, is mixed as there are cyclists, walkers and cars to be taken into account for. There are some parts where particular attention is needed. The use of a mountain bike is recommended.
ROUTE TIME:	2,30 hours
COURSE DIFFICULTY:	some easy ones, but there are difficult tracks:
Moderate:	near the main road on the border with Castronno and Morazzone. The area of Altopiano della Pagliata in the town of Morazzone The historical centre of Castiglione Olona.
Difficult:	The historical centre of Azzate. The area of Vignoli-Serre and Cascina Favorita in the town of Azzate
LINKS WITH OTHER ITINERARIES:	By bicycle : a link with Itinerary 2 "By bicycle along the banks of the lake of Varese." And with Itinerary 4 " From the pine tree park, to the city of Como".

ALTIMETRIC PROFILE



INFORMATION REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY

DEPARTURE/ARRIVAL: AZZATE

By car: Take motorway A8, and the exit for Varese. Otherwise there is the SS341 to Gallarate/Magenta.

By train: FNM and FFS line.

By bus: Links with the main cities (in particular Milan and Como).

Coordination for the start of the route: take the main road SP36 and it is near the Cascina Maccana in the district of Azzate.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE: PARCO PINETA (Castelnuovo Bozzente)

By car: Take motorway A8 and the exit for Varese. Continue along the SS342 in the direction of Como.

By train: FNM station of Venegono Superiore (about 5km).

By bus: The main bus routes of Tradate-Castiglione Olona, Tradate-Olgiate Comasco, Saronno-Rescaldina-Gorla Minore-Tradate, Como-Varese.

Coordination for the start of the route: the office of the Parco Pineta in Castelnuovo Bozzente



The route leaves from the main road SP36 near the Cascina Maccana in the town of Azzate, going towards the district of Brunello, then to continue in the direction of Castronno and from there towards Morazzone. The itinerary crosses the valley of the river Olona, which countryside is distinguished by a high wide plain, characterised by swamps and the presence of some villages of noteworthy historical-artistic importance. Among these, the most interesting, and the one with the most interesting is the **Village of Castiglione Olona**, which you can reach by leaving the town of Morazzone behind you. A centre of high historical-architectural value, the original village of Castiglione rises on the summit of a fluvial terrace of the river Olona, between two

hills, the Collina della Collegiata (to the north) and the Colle del Monteruzzo (to the south). The fulcrum of the town planning is the today piazza Garibaldi, from where unwinds the axis of via Cardinal Branda, which climbs up to the Collegiate Church and the Baptistery. The history of Castiglione was however linked to Castelseprio, both because of military and feudal relations. Destroyed by the Torriani in 1271, the stronghold was dismantled in 1287 by Ottone Visconti (following the destruction of the fort of Castelseprio), and the historic centre was almost completely restructured between 1421 and 1441 under the orders of Branda Castiglioni (1350-1443). He was the papal envoy, bishop of Piacenza and then Cardinal. The bishop gave the work to

important artists of the time, some of whom coming from Florence. In this way, Castiglione Olona became one of the ideal Renaissance cities, despite the fact that its compact building substantially recalls medieval design. From Castiglione Olona, before continuing in the direction of Castelnovo Bozzente, it is possible to make a detour to get to the district of Gornate Olona, where there is the ancient medieval monument of the **Monastero di Torba**, owned , by FAI, which is in the

middle of the countryside. The tower, which was the first of the buildings, was originally built for defence reasons. It dates back to the Gothes period (5th-6th century) and preserves interesting frescoes from the 18th century, which came about when it was transformed into a chapel. Shreds of frescoes, and some tombs, came to light also in the **Church of Santa Maria** (11th century), in simple poor architecture, which is very different from the refined Romanesque apse. Not far from



"The banquet of Herod" Baptistery



The village of Castiglione Olona





Torba and Castiglione Olona is the important archaeological site of Castelseprio, an ancient Roman, military, stronghold, destroyed by the order of the archbishop of Milan Ottone Visconti, who was victorious over the Torrioni family, to whom Castelseprio was marshalled in 1287. The remains of habitations and ecclesiastical buildings are conserved there and among these, the Basilica di San Giovanni and the Church of San Paolo on a central layout, are the best preserved in so much since their destruction was only partial. Outside, in the woods, can be found the little desecrated

Church of Santa Maria Foris Portas – that can be dated somewhere between the 6th and 9th century. It contains one of the most important series of frescoes of early Medieval Europe. Returning to Castiglione Olona the route can be picked up again crossing the town of Venegono Superiore and Inferiore, from where you enter the areas that have the Parco della Pineta in Appiano Gentile and Tradate. Continuing in the direction of Como you reach the town of Castelnuovo Bozzente, where the park office is sited and where the itinerary ends.



The Church of Santa Maria Foris Portas

THEMATIC ROUTES

ENVIRONMENT AND ART IN THE VALLE DELL'OLONA

The route goes from Azzate to Castelnuovo Bozzente, crossing Valle dell'Olona in a transversal line. It is an area that is extremely varied from the naturalistic-environmental point of view and it is rich in historical-artistic evidence.

For those who love nature and sport, in particular the Parco Pineta offers as much as it is possible find, in the didactic field and there

are courses for trekking and mountain biking. For art lovers and those who like to eat well, the area is characterised by the presence of a historic village of rare quality, Castiglione Olona and farm houses can be found for tasting the local products.

In particular we recommend that you visit:



Ruins and views at Parco Pineta



BORGIO DI CASTIGLIONE OLONA

the original village is at the summit of the fluvial terrace of the river Olona, between two hills, the hill of the Collegiata (to the north) and the hill of Monteruzzo (to the south). It is believed that its origins go back to Roman times (after the discovery of some remains) but its strategic role is affirmed in the early Medieval Age, with its control of the river Olona and the passage of people that crossed the bridge. The destiny of the village of Castiglione was however linked to Castelseprio, both because of military and feudal encumbrances. Destroyed by the Torriani in 1271, the stronghold was dismantled in 1287 by Ottone Visconti (following the destruction of the fort of Castelseprio) and the historical town centre was reconstructed nearly completely

between 1421 and 1441, under the orders of Branda Castiglioni (1350-1443). He was the papal viceroy and an important diplomat and then became Bishop and lately Cardinal of Piacenza. He gave the reconstruction work to important artists of the time such as Masolino da Panicale, a key figure in the transition from International Gothic to Renaissance, who also left two of his most celebrated series of frescoes in the Collegiate and in the Baptistery. Other important artists were Lorenzo Vecchietta and Paolo Schiavo who brought to Castiglione Olona the innovation of Tuscan art. In this way, the town can be considered one of the 'Ideal cities' of the Renaissance period, even though the compact building substantially recalls



Castiglione Olona – the Collegiata Church

medieval design. Even though Lombardy is rich in evidence of historical walled cities, then Castiglione Olona is unique, because it has maintained its original village character and the quality of its monuments. Absolutely original and without the same level of comparison in the area, is the presence of the Chiesa di Villa, which has a very clear Brunelleschian stamp.

Accessibility from the cycle route:
the track crosses the town of Castiglione Olona.

Information:
Tourist Information Office of Castiglione Olona,
via Branda, 13 tel. [0331858048](tel:0331858048)
or c/o **Museo Branda**
tel. [0331858301](tel:0331858301) - www.castiglioneolona.it

PARCO PINETA

it was created in 1983 and it develops over an area of 4.860 hectares. It includes the districts of Appiano Gentile, Bergazzo with Figliaro, Binago, Carbonate, Castelnuovo Bozzente, Limido Comasco, Locate Varesino, Lurago Marinone; Mozzate, Oltrona S.Mamette, Tradate, Vedano Olona, Venegono Inferiore, Vengono Superiore and Veniano.

Accessibility:
The track crosses the park territory reaching the park office at Castelnuovo Bozzente

Information:
for information regarding guided tours and educative environmental programmes, contact the park office
sede del Parco in
via Manzoni, 11 - Castelnuovo Bozzente (CO)
tel. [031988430](tel:031988430) - fax. [031988284](tel:031988284)
e-mail: parcopineta@libero.it



The vegetation of the Park



BIKE SALES AND REPAIR

Ambrosini Pier Luigi cicli E Motocicli
piazza Madonnina in prato, 1 - Varese
tel. [0332240109](tel:0332240109)

A ruota libera di Valerio Torello
via Cesare Battisti, 17 - Varese
tel. [0332280094](tel:0332280094)

Emmedue Bike Point Snc di Campiotti Marco e Manganiello Michele
vendita Distribuzione Biciclette.
via Leopoldo Gasparotto, 66 - Varese
tel. [0332239500](tel:0332239500)

Pavarin (s.n.c.)
riparazione Costruzione Cicli
via Amerigo Vespucci, 19 - Varese
tel. [0332329160](tel:0332329160)

Masnaghetti Claudio cicli Corsa
via Monte Grappa, 45/A - Tradate
tel. [03311841670](tel:03311841670)

Uslenghi
via Bernacchi, 154 - Tradate
tel. [0331841240](tel:0331841240)

Tuttociclo di Colombo Filippo
articoli Sportivi Assistenza
via Olona, 31 - Induno Olona
tel. [0332202151](tel:0332202151)

Olona Accessori
via Monsignor Galli, 5/7 - Castiglione Olona
tel. [0331859186](tel:0331859186)

OTHER SPORTING ACTIVITIES

For who wants to spend a day in the countryside while doing sport:

The district Castiglione Olona **HORSERIDING:** **Az. Agr. Razza Ticino di Moglia Andrea**
tel. [0331793059](tel:0331793059)

The district Venegono Inferiore **FLYING:** **Aero Club di Varese**
tel. [0331864128](tel:0331864128)

SOME PROPOSALS FOR TOURIST TREKKING

Olona e Gornate Olona: Itinerary 15 (CTS): Torba - Castiglione Olona - Stribiana - Castelseprio - Gornate Olona - Torba (Itinerary for the cycle tourist in the Province of Varese, CTS and the Province of Varese).

Venegono Superiore e Inferiore: Itinerary 9 (CTS): Tradate-Venegono-Binago-Bivio for Appiano-Appiano-Tradate (Itinerari for the cycle

tourist in the province of Varese, CTS and the Province of Varese).

For those who love nature, mountain biking and trekking, we must point out that Parco Pineta offers excellent paths and the possibility for excursions of every level and degree of difficulty. So, we would like to refer you to the map which is relative to the park and that can be acquired at the office from the Town Hall of Castelnuovo Bozzente.

TYPICAL REFRESHMENT

For information about the complete list of restaurants along the route, consult the site www.vareselandoftourism.it or ask at the Tourist Information Offices (listed in Ricettività) for the guide "A tavola in Provincia di Varese, guida ai ristoranti, pizzerie e trattorie".

ACCOMMODATION

LOCALITY	TYPOLOGY	STRUCTURE	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Azzate	hotels	Locanda dei Mai Intees ★★★★★	via Nobile C. Riva, 2	0332457223
Brunello	hotels	Verbano 2000 Meublè ★★★	via Gallaratese, 2	0332870056
Castronno	B&B	All' Ombra dei Tigli	viale Rimembranze, 3	0332892447
	B&B	Della Gazza	via Roma, 14	0332892527
	B&B	Villa Monte Rosa	via Rossini, 4	0332893426
Castiglione Olona	B&B	San Nicola	via Papa Celestino, 26	0331858988
Vedano Olona	hotels	Al Peschereccio ★★	via San Pancrazio, 15	0332400173
Venegono Superiore	hotels	Monte Rosso ★	via Paolo Busti, 23	0331857081

TOURIST INFORMATION

For further information consult our web site <http://www.vareselandoftourism.it/> or ask for the "Guida all'ospitalità in Provincia di Varese" which can be found at the following:

Tourist Information Office of Varese

via C. Carrobbio, 2 - Varese - tel. [0332283604](tel:0332283604), e-mail: info@varesottoturismo.com

Tourist Information Office of Castiglione Olona

via Branda, 13 - tel. [0331858048](tel:0331858048) - or c/o Museo Branda - tel. [0331858301](tel:0331858301) - www.castiglioneolona.it



ITINERARY

4



FROM PARCO PINETA TO THE CITY OF COMO



LENGTH OF THE ROUTE:

25,1 Km until Como and 11.7km. to the Swiss border (Maslianico). In total 36.8 km.

DEPARTURE - ARRIVAL:

Parco Pineta (Castelnuovo Bozzente)

ARRIVAL - DEPARTURE:

Como/Maslianico

THE CONDITIONS OF THE TRACK:

The track is currently practicable if you have a good map and the right instructions, remembering always that there are several works along the road and critical areas (in particular from Como to Maslianico). Also some of the tracks are steep and should not be taken lightly). For who wants to do the entire route, we recommend the use of a mountain bike, while only for some of the tracks, a city or road bike can be used.

ROUTE TIME:

3,30 hours

COURSE DIFFICULTY:

the course is of moderate difficulty, with some tracks that are hard and others which can be called a sporting challenge.

- In the locality of Cascina Baraggiola in Villa Guardia.
- In the locality of Casarica in the district of Gironico
- In the locality of Mornago in S.Fermo della Battaglia.
- From Via Rimoldi to Via S. Brigida in the Parco della Spina Verde in Como.

PLACES FOR STOPS:

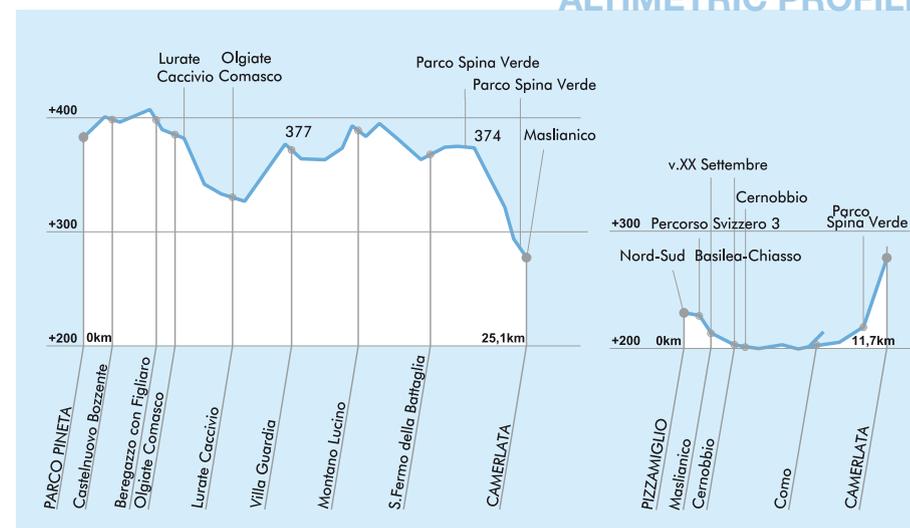
In the district of Lurate Caccivio near the urban kitchen gardens. In the district of

LINKS WITH OTHER ITINERARIES:

Cavallasca near the holiday farms Ma.Lù.

- by bicycle : link with itinerary 3 "Nature and Culture as you cross Valle dell'Olon" and itinerary 5 "The Morain lakes of Como".
- By boat : cross by using the navigational lake service, then link up with itinerary 8 "The lake Riviera from Lecco to Colico" (Como-Colico line) or by linking up with itinerary 6. " The Ghisallo" (Como-Bellagio line).

ALTIMETRIC PROFILE





INFORMATION REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY

DEPARTURE/ARRIVAL: PARCO PINETA (Castelnuovo Bozzente)

By car: take motorway A9, take the exit for Varese and go along the SS342 in the direction of Como.

By train: FNM station from Venegono Superiore (about 5km).

By bus: The main lines for Tradate-Castiglione Olona, Tradate-Olgiate Comasco, Saronno-Rescaldina-Gorla Minore-Tradate, Como-Varese.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE: COMO/MASLIANICO

By car: Take the motorway A9. We recommend that you leave the motorway at Como Nord. From Switzerland take the motorway E5 (Via S. Gottardo-Lugano-Chiasso).

By train: Take the direct line Milano-Como (FFS and Ferrovie Nord Milano), Milano-Chiasso-Basilea (FFS) and Lugano-Chiasso (Ferrovie Federali Svizzere).

By bus: Take the main line from and to the city of Lecco and Varese.

By boat: Take the navigational service on the Lake of Como.

The route starts inside the Parco Pineta, near Castelnuovo Bozzente and follows the main road that runs parallel with the track from Varese, until you reach the city of Como. In the city of Como it is possible to follow the lakeside until you reach the Swiss border in the district of Maslianico. The Parco Pineta is of great importance for its naturalistic character. In the southern part there is a stretch of dense urbanisation (Appiano Gentile, Tradate and areas that are near the province of Milan), while in the northern part, the hilly countryside rolls towards the Swiss border.

Leaving the park site, the track continues in the direction of the district of Beregazzo con Figliaro. Cycling through the town, carry on in the direction of Como until you reach and pass the towns of Olgiate Comasco and Lurate Caccivio. When you reach Villa Guardia we recommend a stop in the **Villa of Macciasca** where there is the **Villa Sebregondi**, a noble villa of Renaissance origin but renewed in the 17th, 18th centuries and set in a beautiful park. Here, it can be found a group of employee's buildings and a historical chapel, where the remains of Santa Gaudenzia lay.

Leaving the centre behind you, you arrive at **Mosino**, the beginning of the residential part for the people who live in Como (only 7km from the city centre) and here you can admire **Villa Mugiasca**, an elegant example of a noble residence of 18th century conception. It has the central body of the building on the road, open onto a courtyard, onto which the wings, that have porticoes open too, and on the backyard a large garden which is morphologically sloping. The villa was commissioned by Bishop Gian Battista Mugiasca in 1792, who gave the work to Simone Cantoni. At this point the route turns aside from the main Varese road and you will arrive first in the town of Gironico, then continue in the direction of Montana Lucino and Cavallasca, until you finally reach San Fermo della Battaglia.

At this point the itinerary crosses part of the Parco della Spina Verde and descends to the city of Como. Under the profile of historic settlement – in Como there are various Romanesque monuments of great quality, which testify the central role carried out by the city during the communal civilisation. Recent architectural testimonies are

not missing either. For example, those with a neo-classical style or the rationalist architecture from the period between the two World Wars. This last aspect, under the profile of method, presents a more significant identity. The itinerary ends near the hospital of Camerlata, near the multi-storey car park. Before continuing in the direction of Cernobbio, from where you can reach the border of Maslianico-Pizzamiglio, we recommend a stop in the city to admire some prestigious testimonies

of Comascan Architecture. From **Sant'Abbondio**, built in the 11th century, therefore in the Roman Age, consecrated by Papa Urbano II in 1095 and annexed to a Benedictine monastery until 1458, to **San Fedele**, which emerged around the 10th century on the foundation of an Early Christian Basilica on a central layout, which until 960 was dedicated to Sant' Eufemia.

Not without interest are the frescoes with the traces of figures and the sculptured decoration on





part of the external part of the building. Also the Renaissance and Baroque decoration, of which the four 18th century mosaics, the canvases of Isidoro Bianchi and Carlo Innocenzo Carloni (whose work symbolises the Mysteries of the Passion) in the right transept and the frescoes attributed to Caresana in the left transept, are of great interest. The **Duomo** should also be visited. Built between the end of 1300 and halfway through 1700, the cathedral is in late Gothic-Renaissance style, with a Baroque apse and is positioned on the north-east edge of the ancient cardo-decumanico layout of the Roman city. The church houses precious figurative work, of which there are the three canvases of Bernardino Luini (1480/85-1532) and by Gaudenzio Ferrari (1475/80-1546). Also the Stendardo della confraternità

di **Sant'Abbondio**, is valuable, and painted on two sides by Morazzone (1608-10). Next to the main façade of the Cathedral is the **Broletto**, the ancient municipal palace, built under the power of Bonardoda Codazzo in 1215 (which was re-structured as the church progressed). Other buildings that should be seen are the **Casa del Fascio**, inaugurated in 1936, designed by Terragni, which is a powerful example of rationalist architecture and the **Tempio Voltiano**, designed by the architect Federico Frigerio (1873-1959). It was built with the intention of conserving and displaying scientific instruments and Volta's manuscripts, except that the copies and the instruments were destroyed in a fire in 1899, during the Great Voltian Exhibition, which was put on to celebrate the centenary of the battery.



Panoramic view of Lake Como

THEMATIC ROUTES

SPORT FOR EVERYONE IN THE PARKS OF THE COMASCO

The course is dedicated to who wants to spend a day in the countryside, benefiting from the didactic-recreational and environmental opportunities of the Parco della Pineta di Appiano Gentile e Tradate.

The area is characterised by the thick, marshy, vegetation of Lombardy, equipped with what is necessary for a short break or for any documentation that needs to be carried out. The possibility of getting to know the beauty of this natural environment, while also doing sport

and excursions make the course particularly attractive, even just a healthy bike ride in the countryside can encourage tourists to take part in this course, which allow easy connection to two protected areas, on existing paths. The itinerary also offers the possibility of doing other sports that bring you in direct contact with nature and in particular Horseriding, thanks to the numerous sequence of riding schools along the course. We recommend you visit the following parks :



Cernobbio and the Valle del Breggia



PARCO PINETA OF CASTELNUOVO BOZZENTE

Created in 1983, it covers an area of 4.860 hectares and includes the districts of Appiano Gentile, Beregazzo con Figliaro, Binago, Carbonate, Castelnovo Bozzente, Limido Comasco, Locate Varesino, Lurago Marinone, Mozzate, Oltrona S. Mamette, Tradate, Vedano Olona, Venegono Olona, Venegano Inferiore, Venegano Superiore e Veniano.

For information relating to the organisation of guided visits and educational environmental programmes, then contact the **Park Office** via Manzoni, 11
22070 Castelnovo Bozzente (CO)
tel. [031988430](tel:031988430) - fax [031988284](tel:031988284)
[e-mail:parcopineta@libero.it](mailto:parcopineta@libero.it)
Maps corresponding with the appropriate paths, will be distributed from the park office.



Cycling inside Parco Pineta

PARCO DELLA SPINA VERDE OF CAVALLASCA

Created in 1993, the park covers an area of 1.179 hectares.

For further information and to book guided tours or educational, environmental programmes, (booking always 40 days prior to the visit) then contact the **Park Office** via Imbonati, 1 - 22020 Cavallasca (CO)
tel. [031211131](tel:031211131) - fax [031535864](tel:031535864)
[e-mail:segreteria@parcoregionalepinaverde.191.it](mailto:segreteria@parcoregionalepinaverde.191.it)

Leaflets concerning the park are available from the park office, in particular a packet

of brochures concerning the 12 paths in the Spina Verde, the guide of the park and the general map. Writings and articles can also be consulted, concerning the archaeology in the park, which have been created in collaboration with the Società Archeologica Comense and with the archaeological group Comasco "Ulisse Buzzi".

Inside the park, there are 5 mountain huts and a holiday farm where you can taste the typical products of the cuisine of the region of Como

Baita Pianvalle

via Monte Croce, 1 - tel. [031505137](tel:031505137)

Baita Monte Croce

via Monte Croce, 2 - tel. [031520516](tel:031520516)

Baita Elisa

via Santa Brigida e Respaù - tel. [031590089](tel:031590089)

Baita Baradello

via Castel Baradello - tel. [031592805](tel:031592805)

Baita Monte Goi

via Zocca, 33 - tel. [031506711-3381715943](tel:031506711-3381715943)

Agriturismo "L'Agrifoglio"

via Monte Sasso - Cavallasca - tel. [031536532](tel:031536532)



Picture of Parco Spina Verde

THEMATIC ROUTES

THE THOUSAND VAULTS OF THE ARCHITECTURE FROM THE REGION OF COMO

The course is dedicated to who loves culture and art and for those who want to discover some of the most outstanding examples of the varied Comasca architecture. While crossing the city of Como in fact, you can go over all the stages of the history of Italian architecture: from Roman buildings, to the important testimony of the middle Ages, Renaissance and 17th, 18th centuries (in particular the

large aristocratic villas along the hills) until the revealing examples of Rationalist Architecture, linked above all to the name of Giuseppe Terragni.

Among the assets that we recommend you visiting, we would like to mark the following, for their historical-artistic importance and their link with the territory. They represent "an element of identity for the place".



CHIESA DI SANT'ABBONDIO OF COMO

Annexed to a Benedictine monastery until 1458, it was built in the 11th century in the Romanesque Age and was consecrated by Papa Urbano II in 1095. A previous church dedicated to San Pietro e Paolo was possibly built in the 6th century, with a single aisle (from which a document of 818 says that it was dedicated to Saint Abbondio, the fourth bishop of Como). Its perimeter is marked on the present day pavement by strips of black marble. It remained the city's cathedral until 1013, when the title was transferred to the basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. For its original type, the church maybe represents the most revealing example of the Romanesque style in Lombardy.

More than any other, it shows the conditions of the cultural and commercial centre of Como in

Romanesque times, a city that was wary of what happened on the other side of the Alps, but also what happened in the area of Milano. The present day building has the traditional layout for a Basilica, with five naves (that correspond with five apses).

Two high bell towers are next to it, on the outside on the side of the apses testifying the depth of the choir area.

The church has a strong vertical development (the area of the apses, with their height, positively seem to anticipate gothic taste.)

The side naves are surrounded by stone columns, most of which are from Roman time. Some are monolithic, made of granite (with the exception of one which is made of cipolin).



The Church of Sant'Abbondio

Like San Fedele, the church is made with pieces of grey stone from Moltrasio. The church is a masterpiece for the master craftsmen of Como, giving expression to the building that is of the purest in Romanesque in Lombardy and it is in Como that can be seen a phase that is the first declaration. Despite the simplicity of the façade, there are still sculptural elements, of which the geometric and floral relief work and zoomorphic work that decorates the single lancet windows of the central apse (weaving that recalls the miniature Armenians that has made experts hypothesise about the use of oriental workers), or Romanesque sculptures in bas-relief on the main door. The series of frescoes on the apses are interesting and come from the 14th century.

They were discovered during restoration work. Their artist is unknown, however, even if it is thought to be Maestro di Sant'Abbondio, as it is highly probable that it is the same artist who did the frescoes in S.Margherita, which are on show in the Town Picture Gallery. Figurative episodes in the life of Jesus are represented, while in the conch part of the apses, Christ with Mary and John are shown. In the choir stalls between the pilasters, there are the kings of the line of David.

Accessibility from the cycle route:

direct accessibility
(via Regina Teodolinda, 35)

Information:

tel. [031269563](tel:031269563)

EX CASA DEL FASCIO OF COMO

It was inaugurated in 1936, four years after Terragni was given the assignment and two years after work began. The area donated by the Town Council of Como after various bargaining attempts, reached a figure of 1101 sq.metres. The building is in a central part of the city, near other important places. On one side there is the captivating high ground of Brunate, on another side the square from which, the cathedral faces the city and then there are the tree lined avenues and further on, the lake. In developing the design, Terragni looked for an absolute formal severity. The building has the simple form of a parallelepiped, on a square layout and yet every kind of heaviness disappears in the careful measurement of light and shadow. The solution of opening up every

façade is organised on a geometric basis, where he carried out the important role of the pure calculation of the proportions. The volume which seems closed is however, given an airy feeling from openings and from the distributive solution of 'openness'.

In the Casa del Fascio the material integration is created, between the architecture and the wall decoration (a technique which is thanks to fascism and its exalted function): Mario Radice (1898-1987) and Giuseppe Terragni collaborated in the arrangement of the room for the Board of Directors. The work of Radice, now lost, was good in its ability to move from background to rationalist architecture, in as much as he was ready to stamp a formal simplification to the surfaces, soaked



in pure colour. There were panels in coloured cement, mounted on iron canvases, alternated with propaganda posters and empty spaces. The buildings number among the most important



The former Casa del Fascio

examples of Italian Rationalist Architecture in Europe. Locally, they are an emblem, a centre of rationalist buildings, that give the city of Como great distinction. We would also like to point out : Aeroclub Ghislanzoni, Asilo Sant'Elisa, Sede della Canottieri Lario, Casa ad appartamenti Giuliani-Frigerio, Casa Pedraglio, Case d'affitto in Cernobbio, Fontana monumentale in Camerata, Monumenti ai Caduti, Novocomum, Palestra e piscina dell'Opera Nazionale Balilla.

Accessibility from the cycle route:

direct access from the cycle lane (Piazza del Popolo 4)

Information:

it is only possible to visit the Atrium and the museum

For information

tel. [031304466](tel:031304466) - fax [031304222](tel:031304222)

BIKE SALES AND REPAIR

Masnagheti Claudio Cicli Corsa

via Monte Grappa, 45/A - Tradate
tel. [0331841670](tel:0331841670)

Ferca cicli

via Dottesio, 8 (CO)
tel. [031300160](tel:031300160) e fax [031331994](tel:031331994)

Fase 2 sport

via Canturina, 196 (CO)
tel. [031526181](tel:031526181) - [3933713123](tel:3933713123) e fax [031526181](tel:031526181)

F.lli Riccardi Di Riccardi Maurizio E C. Sas

Commercio Bicycle repairs
via Armando Diaz, 90 - Como - tel. [031260105](tel:031260105)

Martinelli Franco & C. (S.N.C.)

Bicycle and motorbike sales
viale Lecco, 95 - Como
tel. [031264417](tel:031264417)

Solesun Srl

via Achille Grandi, 17 - Como - tel. [031263025](tel:031263025)

Lario Bike S.N.C.

Sales and bicycle repair
viale Giacomo Matteotti, 22 - Cernobbio (CO)
tel. [0313347030](tel:0313347030)

Rullo bike

via Grandi (CO) - tel. [031263025](tel:031263025)

(during the summer period excursions are organised in mountain bike)

Cernobbio boats

piazza Risorgimento - Cernobbio (CO)

(only in the summer months)

tel. [3292196837](tel:3292196837)

Cicli Snoopy

via Garibaldi, 102 - Fino Mornasco (CO) - tel. e fax [031920458](tel:031920458)

(During the summer period, bicycle excursions with an instructor and guide are organised. For further information contact the shop directly or the offers on the web site www.ciclisnoopy.com)

OTHER SPORTING ACTIVITIES

For who wants to spend a day in the countryside, while doing some sport, the district offers:

The district of
Appiano Gentile

HORSERIDING:

Maneggio "El Cortijo"
tel. [031891075](tel:031891075)

GOLF:

La Pinetina Golf Club
tel. [031933202](tel:031933202) - fax [031890342](tel:031890342)
www.golfpinetina.it - email: info@golfpinetina.it

SWIMMING POOLS:

Sporting la Pinetina (open air swimming pools)
tel. e fax [031931358](tel:031931358)

The district of Binago

HORSERIDING:

Azienda agrituristica Roseto
tel. [031940244](tel:031940244) - [3392082101](tel:3392082101)

The district of Como

GLIDING:

Aero Club Flying school, tourist flights in seaplanes every day, prior to booking.
viale Masia, 44
tel. [031574495](tel:031574495) - fax [031570333](tel:031570333)

**WATER SPORTS:**

www.aeroclubcomo.com
e-mail: info@aeroclubcomo.com

Annje Bonnje
Circolo velico
Lungo Lario Trieste, 44 - tel. [3393566623](tel:3393566623)
e-mail: info@annjebonnje.it
sailing boat hire at the base at Gera Lario.

Diving Center
c/o Darsena, viale Geno
tel. [3924118826](tel:3924118826) (Enzo)
www.divingcentercomo.com

Circolo Vela Como
viale Puecher, 8
tel. [031574725](tel:031574725) e fax [031576500](tel:031576500)
www.circolovelacomo.it - info@circolovelacomo.it

RENT:

Sailing Days
piazza Vittoria, 28
tel. [3356376217](tel:3356376217) e [3475509200](tel:3475509200)
(sailing boat hire, Cruises with a crew).

SHORE:

Lido di Villa Olmo
tel. [031570968](tel:031570968) - www.lidovillaolmo.it

Lido di Villa Geno
tel. [031306127](tel:031306127)

Como Nuoto
tel. [3384305623](tel:3384305623) - [3337459696](tel:3337459696) oppure
[3385956775](tel:3385956775) - [031303490](tel:031303490)

*The district of
Cernobbio*

WATER SKIING:

Riccardo
equipment for hire and water scooters
tel. [3292196837](tel:3292196837)

Sci Nautico
Locality Pizzo - tel. [330518764](tel:330518764)

SHORE: Lido - tel. [031513835](tel:031513835)

*The district of
Lurate Caccivio*

HORSERIDING: Centro Equitazione Lariano "Cel"
tel. [031490066](tel:031490066) e tel./fax [031491352](tel:031491352)
Centro Ippico "Lura"
tel. [3358243086](tel:3358243086)

*The district of
Grandate*

HORSERIDING: Maneggio "Alla Staffa"
tel. [031450235](tel:031450235)

*The district of
Montano Lucino*

HORSERIDING: Centro Ippico "Horses Dreams"
tel. [3336419864](tel:3336419864)
e-mail: horses_dreams_dany@bluewin.ch

Centro Ippico "RANCH SELORN"
tel. [3356292195](tel:3356292195)

*The district of
San Fermo della Battaglia*

HORSERIDING: Centro Ippico "Le Ghiande"
tel. [3335073261](tel:3335073261) - circolippicoleghiande@virgilio.it

*The district of
Villa Guardia*

HORSERIDING: Centro ippico "Ranch i Platani"
tel. [031563254](tel:031563254)

SOME PROPOSALS FOR TOURIST TREKKING

Como and Brunate: the route for the mountain bike Como - Brunate - Bocchette di Lemna - Rif. Palanzone - Rif. Stoppani - Alpe Spessola - Monte San Primo - Rovenza. From Cernobbio there is a walk to Monte Bisbino that takes 3 hours (the path for S.Stefano), there is a path for the refuge of Bugone passing the Buco della Volpe and Garzegallo 2,30 hours. From Como, there are walks along the lake, a 60 min. walk to Castel Baradello, a path that goes to Villa

Lanzani at Brunate 1,15 hours, passing the hotel Falchetto which takes 1,30 hours and one to S. Fermo della Battaglia which takes 60 mins.

For who likes nature, mountain biking and trekking, we would like you to know that Parco Pineta and Parco della Spina Verde, offer excellent paths and the possibility for excursions at every level and all levels of difficulty. Therefore, maps which are relevant to the parks you wish to explore, are available from the office in the Town Hall of Castelnuovo Bozzente, or at the tourist office of the Province of Como, where they can show you the routes in the Spina Verde.



TYPICAL REFRESHMENT

For information about the complete list of restaurants along the route, consult the site:

www.provincia.como.it/turismo

ACCOMMODATION

LOCALITY	TPOLOGY	STRUCTURE	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Como	hotels	Barchetta ★★★★★	piazza Cavour, 1	0313221
	hotels	Como ★★★★★	via Mentana, 28	031266173
	hotels	Grand Hotel di Como ★★★★★	via per Cernobbio	0315161
	hotels	Le due Corti ★★★★★	piazza Vittoria, 15	031328111
	hotels	Metropole & Suisse ★★★★★	piazza Cavour, 19	031269444
	hotels	Palace Hotel ★★★★★	lungo Lario Trieste, 16	031303303-23391
	hotels	Terminus ★★★★★	lungo Lario Trieste, 14	031329111
	hotels	Villa Flori ★★★★★	via per Cernobbio, 12	03133820
	hotels	Continental ★★★	viale Innocenzo XI, 15	031260485
	hotels	Del Duca ★★★	piazza Mazzini, 12	031264859
	hotels	Engadina ★★★	via Fratelli Rosselli, 22	031570008
	hotels	Falchetto ★★★	salita Peltre, 37	0313365033
	hotels	Firenze ★★★	piazza Volta, 16	031300333
	hotels	Il Loggiato dei Serviti ★★★	via Barelli, 4	0312753382
	hotels	Larius ★★★	via Anzani, 12/C	0314038102
	hotels	Locan. dell'Oca Bianca ★★★	via Canturina, 251	031525605
	hotels	Marco's ★★★	via Coloniola, 43	031303628
	hotels	Mini Hotel Baradello ★★★	piazza Camerlata, 9	031523180
	hotels	Park Hotel ★★★	viale Rosselli, 20	031572615
	hotels	Plinius ★★★	via Garibaldi, 33	031273067
	hotels	Tre Re ★★★	piazza Boldoni, 20	031265374
	hotels	Fontana ★★	via D. Fontana, 19	031271110
	hotels	Funicolare ★★	via Coloniola, 8/10	031304277
	hotels	Milano ★★	via Canturina, 19	031521282
	hotels	Posta ★★	via Garibaldi, 2	031266012
	hotels	Quarcino ★★	salita Quarcino, 4	031303934
	hotels	Valtellina ★★	via Bellinzona, 265	031540750
	hotels	Baita Bondella ★	via Bel Paese, 9 fraz. Brunate	031220307
	hotels	Dinner ★	via Borgovico, 45	031570108
	hotels	Dogana ★	piazza XXIV Maggio, 6	031541185
	hotels	Nuovo Mondo ★	via San Giacomo, 52	031541240
	hotels	Piazzolo ★	via Indipendenza, 65	031272186
	hotels	Sant'Abbondio ★	via Sant'Abbondio, 7	3386481143
hotels	Sociale ★	via Maestri Comacini, 8	031264042	

	rented rooms	In riva al Lago s.n.c.	via Crespi, 4	031302333
	rented rooms	Palazzo del Borgo	via Borgovico, 123	031575222
Appiano Gentile	hotels	Dreamhotel ★★★★★	piazza Vignetta	031891467
	hotels	La Pinetina ★★	viale dello Sport, 6	031893111
	holiday farms	Monte Carmelo	via De Gasperi, 21	031930509
Cavallasca	RTA	Castello ★★	via 1° Maggio, 16	031539674
	B&B	Robbiani Antonella	via Imbonati, 40	031539844
Cernobbio	hotels	G.H. Villa D'Este ★★★★★ L	via Regina, 40	0313481
	hotels	Asnigo ★★★★★	via Nosedo, 2	031510062
	hotels	Regina Olga ★★★★★	via Regina, 18	031510171
	hotels	Centrale ★★★	via Regina, 39	031511411
	hotels	Miralago ★★	piazza Risorgimento, 1	031510125
	hotels	Giardino ★★	via Regina, 73	031511154
	hotels	Ponte Vecchio ★★	via Trento, 2	031511129
	hotels	San Giuseppe ★★	via 5 Giornate, 31	031511288
	hotels	Giardino dependance ★	via Regina, 73	031511154
	hotels	Della Torre ★	via Vittorio Emanuele, 3	031511308
	hotels	Vignetta ★	via Monte Crappa, 32	0313347055
Grandate	hotels	Arcade ★★	via Statale dei Giovi, 40	031450100
	house flat/holiday	Prodoc srl	via Monte Rosa, 13 loc. Barella	031272829
Lurate Caccivio	hotels	Stella ★	via Roma, 13	031490462
	holiday farms	La Montagnola	via Caio Plinio, 53/A	031490234
Maslianico	B&B	Il Giardino Botanico	via Mazzini, 21	031511129
Montano Lucino	hotels	Cruise ★★★★★	via Carducci	800538329
Olgiate Com.	hotels	Duebi ★★	via Galileo Galilei, 1	031945186
Villa Guardia	B&B	Caslett	via Dante, 8	031480462

TOURIST INFORMATION

For further information, consult the web site www.provincia.como.it/turismo or www.lakecomo.org or ask for the annual hotel guide *Guida all'ospitalità del lago di Como*, which can be found:

Tourist Information Office of Como

piazza Cavour, 17 - tel. 031269712 e fax 031240111 - e-mail: lakecomo@fin.it

Tourist Information Office of Bellagio

piazza Mazzini (imbarcadero), tel or fax 031950204, e-mail: prombell@tin.it

Tourist Information Office of Cernobbio (open during the tourist season)

C/o Municipio - tel. 031343235

Tourist Information Office of Canzo (open during the tourist season)

piazza Chiesa, 4 - tel. e fax 031682457 - e-mail: procanzo@tiscali.it



ITINERARY

5



THE MORAINAL LAKES OF COMO



LENGTH OF THE ROUTE:	29 Km
DEPARTURE - ARRIVAL:	Como
ARRIVAL - DEPARTURE:	The Lake of Pusiano (district of Merone)
THE CONDITIONS OF THE TRACK:	The track is currently practicable and for who wants to do the whole route, we recommend the use of a mountain bike, while if you only go on certain tracks, it is possible to use a city or road bike. Remember the low level of security, and there can be difficult moments along the whole route, especially when the track offroad. In some places where the track is still not yet finished, other roads or tracks can be taken.

2,5 - 3 h

ROUTE TIME:	almost always easy.
COURSE DIFFICULTY:	Some difficult sections:

Moderate:**Difficult/ a sporting challenge:**

Ca.Franca in the town of Lipomo
Cascina Bassetto in the town of Merone
Ponte Nuovo-Cimitero in the town of Merone.
Camerlata (Como) from the multi-storey car park to Villa Salterio
Belvedere di Alserio in the town of Alserio
Monticello in the town of Alserio

PLACES FOR STOPS:	Under construction: town of Monguzzo in the area of Casen by the ARCI Pesce.
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PANORAMIC PLACES AND OBSERVATION STOPS:	The town of Alserio in via Belvedere, the town of Monguzzo along the didactic course of the lakeside of Alserio.
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LINKS WITH OTHER ITINERARIES:

by bicycle: the course links up with itinerary 4 "From the pine tree park, to the city of Como", and to Itinerary 6 "The Ghisallo" and with Itinerary 7 "Art and Literature among the lakes of Brianza".

by train: train travellers can link up with itinerary 4 "From the pine tree park, to the city of Como." (FFS line Lecco-Como) with itinerary 6 " The Ghisallo" (until Asso with the Milano-Meda-Asso line of the FFS Lecco-Como) and with itinerary 7 "Art and Literature among the lakes of Brianza" (FFS Lecco-Como line)

by boat: with the navigational lake service, the boat traveller can link up with Itinerary 6 (Como-Bellagio line) or with itinerary 8 " The lakeside Riviera from Lecco to Colico.)

ALTIMETRIC PROFILE





INFORMATION REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY

DEPARTURE/ARRIVAL: COMO

By car: take the motorway A9, take the turn off for Como Sud. From Switzerland take the motorway E5 (via S. Gottardo-Lugano-Chiasso).

By train: take the direct Milano-Como line (FFS and Ferrovie Nord Milano), Milano-Chiasso-Basilea (FFS) and Lugano-Chiasso (Ferrovie Federali Svizzere).

By bus: take the main lines from and to the cities of Lecco and Varese.

By boat: navigational service of the lake of Como.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE: LAGO DI PUSIANO (the district of Merone)

By car: take the motorway A9, take the exit for Como and go along the road SS.Briantea 342, in the direction of Lecco (about 19km).

By train: take the Milano-Meda-Asso Ferrovie Nord Milano and Como-Molteno-Lecco FFS.

By bus: Crernago-Lurago d'Erba-Erba and Erba-Bosisio Parini line.

Leaving the multi-storey car park of the hospital of Camerlata (Como), the course moves in the direction of Lecco, first crossing the centre of Lipomo and then Capiago Intimiano. Already at this point, the countryside begins to change and it is characterised from a historical-artistic point of view, by the presence of ancient town centres, near the small lakes of morainal origin, of which the best example is the village of **Montorfano**. Leaving Capiago, in fact, the itinerary continues in the direction of the Lake Montorfano, where a visit to the historical town of the same name, is worth a visit. Here it is possible to visit the Church of San Giovanni Evangelista, consecrated in 1044, restored in 1197 and completely restored in 1578 and admire some examples of noble residences, of which Villa Mandelli in particular is only visible from the lake. Leaving the lake behind you, the course continues and crosses the district of Orsenigo to reach Alzate Brianza. At about one km from the cycle lane, it is possible to arrive at the **centre of Fabbrica Durini**, an estate

on a morainal summit, with a villa and English parklands, redesigned in a neo-classical age, probably built over a fortified area of late medieval origins. It is worth making a stop in the historical centre of Alzate, to see **Villa Baragiola** and **Villa Odescalchi**.

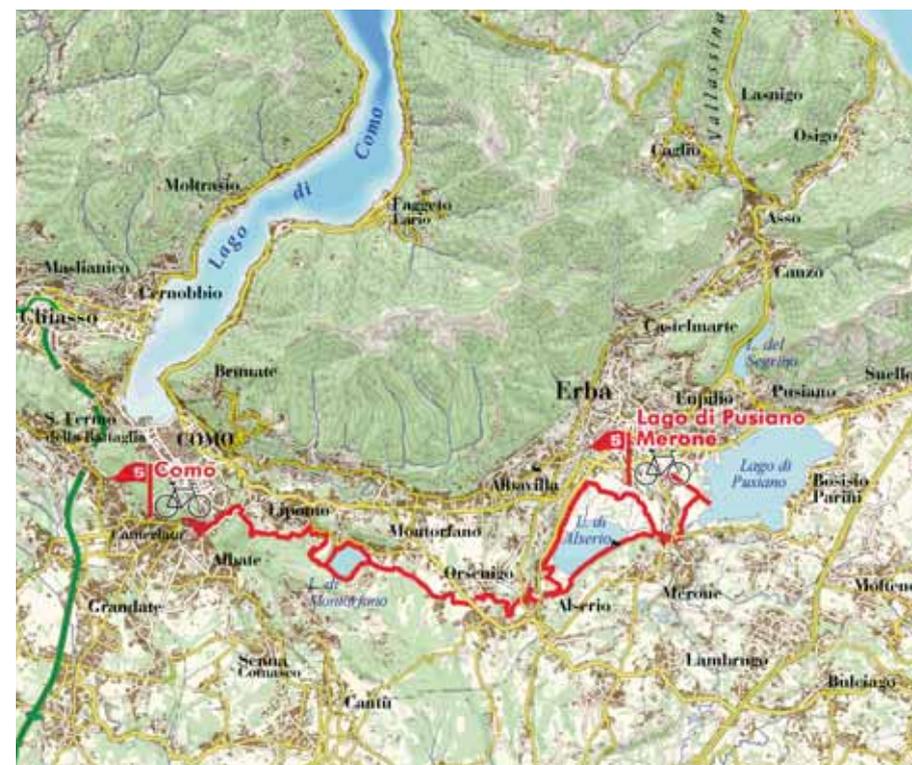
The first, of Baroque origin was constructed by the Alciati on the foundations of a medieval fort, maybe the feudal castle of the village, with a tower remaining as testimony, while the second represents a 17th century centre. It was probably reorganised in the 18th century, as the rational distribution of the whole building shows, together with the clear external organisation of the windows. The villa was also the personal residence of Papa Innocenzo XI (Benedetto Odescalchi, 1611-1689). Furthermore, always in the historical town, it is possible to visit the **Church of San Giorgio**, characterised internally by a precious series of Renaissance frescoes. If we look closely at the family crests figured here, the series could have been commissioned by the local family of Balduini,

probably the painter Marco d'Oggiono or maybe Sigismondo de'Magistri, who was in the area of Como and Valtellina in the year between 15th and 16th centuries, in the regions of Como and Valtellina.

Before leaving the town, we recommend a visit to the **Santuario della Beata Vergine di Rogoredo**, positioned in the south of the town, in an area that was once the evocative wooded area (perhaps the nickname Rogoredo is linked to rogere, oaks) near the swamp of the

Terrò. The tradition has attributed to the Virgin, a number of miracles, to who will come there, which is linked to the protection of the wayfarers from highwaymen.

The course continues in the direction of Anzano del Parco, until you reach the town of Alserio where you can see the **Parish Church of San Clemente**, a Renaissance style church (it was consecrated in 1574), which has a façade with a classical stamp and inside it is of the Baroque period. Continuing in the direction





of Lecco, you cross the town of Monguzzo, Albavilla and Erba. We recommend a stopover in the last place, Erba, because there are lots of historical/artistic assets to see. In particular we recommend a visit to the **Monumenti ai caduti** and the **Teatro Licinium**, that rise on the summit of a hill and are west of the town centre. The first was built at the top of a flight of steps, an axis with one of the most important roads in Erba, that from here opens in many different directions; the second is only a little further away.

The **Monumenti ai caduti** was created by the rationalist architect Giuseppe Terragni in 1932, six years from the first sketch designs. The **Teatro Licinium** which is an open air theatre was the idea of the brothers Alberto and Federico Airoldi. The work was inaugurated in July 1924 and it soon put on many important

theatre and opera presentations. As the original wooden terraces were destroyed in 1928, the theatre was built with a more stable structure by the same Airoldi, but with the designs of engineers Bassi and Bozzoli.

The **Castello di Pomerio** is also of great interest and of note also is the one at **Casiglio** (this last is now a 4 star hotel), the first dates back to the 11th –13th centuries and the second slightly earlier and whose foundation, according to an ancient book written on Genealogie, says that it should be the work of Beltramo Parravicini.

A must, is also **Villa Amalia**, re-built in the years between the 18th and 19th centuries, transformed from a 15th century monastery of Reformed Franciscans, whose oratory was partially incorporated into the villa by the designer Leopold Pollack. Also the parklands surrounding the villa, has interesting constructions and

neoclassical statues. If it is taken all together, it can be considered a unique emergence, a monumental system, if it is valued with the nearby **Monumento ai caduti**, designed by Giuseppe Terragni and the open air **teatro Licinium** (1926). For those who are passionate about archaeological findings, since 1977, the **Villa Comunale in Crevenna** has housed the **Civico Museo of Erba**, created in 1961 and already operative in 1964 in the office in Villa Majnoni. It has collections of the remains of the ancient population of the area and it illustrates the character of the Brianza area from its history and from its geo-morphological character.

The course that ends near the FNM station of Merone, continues before reaching the Lake Pusiano, the last stop on the itinerary. At Pusiano it is worth visiting the **Palace Beauharnais** (which today has partial scholastic use, an

accommodation part and a congress centre.) which is an interesting example of a noble residence of Renaissance origin (probably founded in 1521) and enlarged in the 19th century. Cardinal Carlo Borromeo stayed here and the Viceroy Eugenio Beauharnais, the son of Napoleon Bonaparte, lived here. The landscape of the Lake Pusiano, like many other places in Brianza, is linked to the work of the painter Giovanni Segantini (1858-1899), who stayed in this area more than once between 1881 and 1886. From the banks of the Lake of Pusiano, Segantini painted "Ave Maria a trasbordo" in 1882 with which he won the gold medal at the Universal Exhibition in Amsterdam.

The course represents the initial part of a much longer itinerary that links the City of Como with that of Lecco, crossing the minor morainial lakes of Brianza (link with itinerary 7)



View from Villa Amalia

THEMATIC ROUTES

A NATURALISTIC COURSE OF THE MORAINAL LAKES

The course is dedicated to who likes lake scenery, but also to who wants to discover protected areas and places of environmental beauty. An easy itinerary which is fascinating at the same time, as it unwinds between pools of water that are high in naturalistic value. The lake of Montorfano, a nature reserve which was created in 1984 has a place in the park that is understandably linked to the system/project "Spina Verde" of Como.

The Lake Montorfano is the smallest of the lakes in Brianza (measures 1 km.). It is fed

only by underground springs, it originated when they got rid of morainics in the south (allowing the water to settle in the conch dug out of the glacier). The name comes from Mons Orphanus, the mountain (m554) that sores higher and more solitary than the rest of the nearby mountain chain. Among the other minor lakes of morainic origin, is the Lake Alserio, which is also a nature reserve and the Lake Pusiano where it is possible to admire L'Isola dei Cipressi, which positioned only a few meters from the northern bank, represents



a natural monument of great historical and environmental value. The island which is about 18,000 mq. is characterised by its long and oval shape and in the middle of the island there is a 19th century villa.

The story of the island goes back to Neolithic times (10.000 B.C) when on its eastern point, a village of lake dwelling people settled (some poles that were discovered here in 1863, can be seen in the **Museo Preistorico of Erba**). Because of its oblong shape and because it is close to the bank, you can follow the lakeside road parallel with the island for quite a long way and it offers a very varied view, from woods to fields to cypress trees.

The environment of the morainic lakes is further characterised by the presence of the

Parco del Valle del Lambro and by PLIS of the Brughiera Briantea and of the Lake Segrino. The naturalistic course of the morainic lakes represents a unique occasion to spend a relaxing day out in the countryside.



Games of light in the swamp

WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING PLACES TO VISIT:

The district of Montorfano: a nature reserve at the lake of Montorfano

INFORMATION:
Consorzio Lago di Montorfano c/o Municipio
piazza Roma, 18 - 22030 Montorfano (CO)
tel. [031201745](tel:031201745) e fax. [031553097](tel:031553097)
e-mail: lagomontorfano@hotmail.com

Lake di Alserio: riserva naturale a nature reserve in the park Valle del Lambro.

INFORMATION:
Consorzio Parco Regionale della Valle del Lambro
via Vittorio Veneto, 19 - 20050 Triuggio (MI)
tel. [0362970961](tel:0362970961) e [0362997137](tel:0362997137)
fax [0362997045](tel:0362997045)
e-mail: silvia.galli@parcovallelambro.it

On the banks of the Lake of Alserio there is an educational, environmental centre "Bambini di Beslan", that has a didactic laboratory at Castel

del Lago. There is a didactic, botanical-naturalistic course in the woods of the Buerga, on the eastern bank of the lake and an electric boat which can take a class group for excursions on the lake. To take part in educational environmental projects, contact the following number
tel. [0362970961](tel:0362970961) or [0362997137](tel:0362997137)
e-mail: silvia.galli@parcovallelambro.it

The district of Longone al Segrino

lake and PLIS del Segrino.

The district of Pusiano

Isola dei cipressi (cannot be visited)

THEMATIC ROUTES

ART AMONG THE LAKES



Cycling along the side of Lake Pusiano

The course is dedicated to art and history lovers, because of the diffuse presence of historical buildings of great quality, which refer to all periods in History, from pre Christianity to the early 20th century, with numerous examples of the overlapping of styles verified with the passing of time. The itinerary allows the discovery of the region, through an introduction to its cultural assets, that testify the past, historically, artistically and industrially. Among the most significant monuments and assets which concern the identity of the place and which we recommend you visit are:



THE VILLAGE OF MONTORFANO

the first settlements in the area go back to the Bronze Age and to the following Iron Age, when the area was inhabited by a population that were concerned with the culture of the "Golasecca" (drythroat). Following this the 'Galli Insubri' created a fort on Mount Orfano, but were defeated by the Romans in 196B.C. So the process of cultural Romanization of the region started, by means of the settlement of colonies. After the fall of the Roman Emperor, the 'castrum' on mount Orfano was part of a defence system that was developed from Alta Valtellina to Castello Baradello in Como, taking a strategic role also in the fight between the Torriani, Visconti and the Rusconi. Following this the 'castrum' was knocked down and re-built more than once, until it was completely destroyed by Charles V. The remains of two long walls have been preserved, two towers and a quadrangular room which was once cross vaulted in brick with ribs. The town centre of Montorfano has buildings around courtyards, with the facades running along the road, generally in a curvilinear shape. This is counter pointed by the square, with its regular shape giving it a Renaissance flavour, culminating in the

parish church of San Giovanni Evangelista which is positioned towards the mountain. The church is on a central layout, was already consecrated in 1044, restored in 1197 and completely restructured in 1578.

In the village the secluded noble residence is the Villa Mandelli, which is visible, however, only from the lake.

Accessibility from the cycle route:

the cycle lane goes right round the lake and the village

Information:

Town Hall of Montorfano

tel. 031553316



Picture of the village

BEAUHARNAIS RESIDENCE OF PUSIANO

The building is in the town of Pusiano, on the road to Lecco which separates the villa from the shores of the lake. Today, partially employed for scholastic use, it also houses , an accommodation structure and a congress centre and it represents an interesting example of a noble residency of

Renaissance origin (founded in 1521). Part of its interest is also in its position on the edge of the ancient village, which gives it character. It is organised around a courtyard, closed on the lake side by a low porch and the wings were created in different periods. Particularly beautiful is the 18th century

wing, whose style is like that of Giovanni Ruggeri, who was the greatest interpreter of Lombard architecture of his time. The simple façades of the courtyard are softened by the raised porch, with triple lancet windows which are placed in sequence, with coupled columns in sandstone. Worthy of note is also the 19th century expansion, linked to the new productive dimension of the area (a mill on the edge of the garden is significant). The historical value of the building is also high, as the cardinal Carlo Borromeo stayed there and it was the residence of the viceroy Eugenio Beauharnais, the son of Napoleon Bonaparte.

Accessibility from the cycle route: 5 km circa Information:

Town Hall of Pusiano

tel. 031655704 or fax 031657142



Picture of Palazzo Beauhamais

SEGANTINIAN PLACES

(the lake of Pusiano): the areas of Brianza, and in particular those near the lake of Pusiano, are linked to the activity of the pointillist painter Giovanni Segantini (1858-1899), who stayed there more than once between 1881 and 1886. From the banks of the Lake Pusiano, Segantini painted the 'Ave Maria a trasbordo' in 1882, for which he won the gold medal at the "Universal Exhibition of Amsterdam". The tie that the artist had, in the late 19th century, with these places, was important and this reverberates in his pointillist paintings, as he paid more attention to atmospheric values and colour, than to just to raw landscapes. In Pusiano a new virtual museum is due to open, with computer archives of Segantini's paintings, as well as multimedia interactive courses, to increase knowledge of the place

and the interwoven relationship with the paintings.

Accessibility from the cycle route: 2-3 km circa Information:

Town Hall of Pusiano

tel. 031655704 e fax 031657142



"Ave Maria a trasbordo", painting by Segantini



BIKE SALES AND REPAIR

Masnaghetti Claudio cicli Corsa

via Monte Grappa, 45/A - Tradate
tel. 0331841670

Ferca cicli

via Dottesio, 8 - Como
tel. 031300160 e fax 031331994

Fase 2 sport

via Canturina, 196 - Como
tel. 031526181/3933713123 - fax 031526181

Flli Riccardi Di Riccardi Maurizio E C. Sas

Commercio Bicycle repair
via Armando Diaz, 90 - Como
tel. 031260105

Martinelli Franco & C. (S.N.C.)

Bicycle and Motorbike sales
viale Lecco, 95 - Como
tel. 031264417

Solesun Srl

via Achille Grandi, 17 - Como
tel. 031263025

Maglificio supersport

via Grassi, 361 - Lipomo Como
tel. 031282549 e fax 031283631

Vismara Snc

corso Ariberto, 34 - Capiago Intimiano - Como
tel. 031460038 e fax 031460038

Cicli Losa (S.A.S.)

Cicli e Accessori
via Giuseppe Mazzini, 86 - Erba - Como
tel. 031641448

Pozzi Alessandro (S.N.C.)

Sales and bicycle repair
via Valassina, 14B - Monguzzo - Como
tel. 031617999

Rullo bike

via Grandi - Como
tel. 031263025

During the summer months, mountain bike excursions are organised

OTHER SPORTING ACTIVITIES

For who wants to spend a day in the countryside, doing sport:

**The district of
Montorfano**

SHORE: **Lido del Lago di Montorfano**
tel. 3341017173

GOLF: **Golf club Villa d'Este**
tel. 031200200 e fax 031200786
www.golfvilladeste.com
e-mail: golf.villadeste@fin.it

**The district of
Alzate Brianza**

FLYING CLUB: **Aeroporto Giancarlo Maestri**
tel. 031619250 - 031632345 - 031927151
<http://www.avl.it> - e-mail: avlsegreteria@libero.it

**The district of
Capiago Intimiano**

HORSERIDING: **Centro ippico "Il Grillo"**
tel. or fax 031462219

The district of Eupilio

SWIMMING POOLS: **Lido Aquilegia**
tel. 031655160

SOME PROPOSALS FOR TOURIST TREKKING

Longone al Segrino:

a cycle lane which circles the Lake Segrino.

Erba:

path to the Lake Alserio – 20 mins. One for the Lake Pusiano 30mins, to the Buco del Piombo – 1 hour, to Monte Bolettone (departure from Crevenna)- 3 hours, to Monte Croce (departure from Caslino d'Erba) - 2 hours, to Dosso Mattone (departure from Caslino d'Erba) –1,45 hours.

Pusiano:

a path to Monte Cornizzolo- 3 ½ hours, to the oratory of San Pietro al Monte in Val dell'Oro – 2 hours

Tavernerio:

a pedestrian stroll along the old tram network from Solzago to Camnago Volta (about 2 km.), path to the Valle di Tavernerio 2 hours, to Brunate 1,15 hours, route to the Capanna San Pietro, Monte Bolettone, Torre del Broncino and Albavilla and back 5 hours

TYPICAL REFRESHMENT

For information about the complete list of restaurants along the route, consult the site:

www.provincia.como.it/turismo



ACCOMMODATION

LOCALITY	TPOLOGY	STRUCTURE	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Como	hotels	Barchetta ★★★★★	piazza Cavour, 1	0313221
	hotels	Como ★★★★★	via Mentana, 28	031266173
	hotels	Grand Hotel di Como ★★★★★	via per Cernobbio	0315161
	hotels	Le due Corti ★★★★★	piazza Vittoria, 15	031328111
	hotels	Metropole & Suisse ★★★★★	piazza Cavour, 19	031269444
	hotels	Palace Hotel ★★★★★	lungo Lario Trieste, 16	031303303-23391
	hotels	Terminus ★★★★★	lungo Lario Trieste, 14	031329111
	hotels	Villa Flori ★★★★★	via per Cernobbio, 12	03133820
	hotels	Continental ★★★	viale Innocenzo XI, 15	031260485
	hotels	Del Duca ★★★	piazza Mazzini, 12	031264859
	hotels	Engadina ★★★	via Fratelli Rosselli, 22	031570008
	hotels	Falchetto ★★★	salita Peltre, 37	0313365033
	hotels	Firenze ★★★	piazza Volta, 16	031300333
	hotels	Il Loggiato dei Serviti ★★★	via Barelli, 4	0312753382
	hotels	Larius ★★★	via Anzani, 12/C	0314038102
	hotels	Locan. dell'Oca Bianca ★★★	via Canturina, 251	031525605
	hotels	Marco's ★★★	via Coloniola, 43	031303628
	hotels	Mini Hotel Baradello ★★★	piazza Camerlata, 9	031523180
	hotels	Park Hotel ★★★	viale Rosselli, 20	031572615
	hotels	Plinius ★★★	via Garibaldi, 33	031273067
	hotels	Tre Re ★★★	piazza Baldoni, 20	031265374
	hotels	Fontana ★★	via D. Fontana, 19	031271110
	hotels	Funicolare ★★	via Coloniola, 8/10	031304277
	hotels	Milano ★★	via Canturina, 19	031521282
	hotels	Posta ★★	via Garibaldi, 2	031266012
	hotels	Quarcino ★★	salita Quarcino, 4	031303934
	hotels	Valtellina ★★	via Bellinzona, 265	031540750
	hotels	Baita Bondella ★	via Bel Paese, 9 fraz. Brunate	031220307
	hotels	Dinner ★	via Borgovico, 45	031570108
	hotels	Dogana ★	piazza XIV Maggio, 6	031541185
	hotels	Nuovo Mondo ★	via San Giacomo, 52	031541240
	hotels	Piazzolo ★	via Indipendenza, 65	031272186
hotels	Sant'Abbondio ★	via Sant'Abbondio, 7	3386481143	
hotels	Sociale ★	via Maestri Comacini, 8	031264042	
rented rooms	In riva al Lago s.n.c.	via Crespi, 4	031302333	
rented rooms	Palazzo del Borgo	via Borgovico, 123	031575222	
Albavilla	hotels	Hotel Motel Albavilla ★★★★★	via Carcano, 6/A	031626242
	B&B	Villa Margot	via C. Cantù, 42	3387292680
Alzate Brianza	hotels	Villa Odescalchi ★★★★★	via Anzani, 12	031630822
	house flat/holiday	Villa Odescalchi	via Benzi, 18	031630822
Anzano del Parco	hotels	Cisa ★★★	viale Ortelli, 5	031631572

Erba	hotels	Castello di Casiglio ★★★★★	via Cantù, 21	031627288
	hotels	Leonardo Da Vinci ★★★★★	via L. Da Vinci, 6	031611556
	hotels	Centrale ★★★	via XXV Aprile, ang.V. Dante	031641052
	hotels	Erba ★★★	via Milano, 12/D	031611515
	hotels	Campeggio ★	via Capanna Mara, 1	031627151
	rented rooms	Marinelli Pasquale	via Como, 17	031627588
	B&B	Il Giardino di Sofia	via G. Marconi, 81	0313338571
Long. al Segrino	B&B	Le Due Torrette	via Chiesa Molinari, 18	031641944
	B&B	Ortensia Bianca	via Roma, 16	031640201
Merone	hotels	Il Corazziere ★★★★★	via G. Mazzini, 17	031617181
	hotels	Pontenuovo ★★	via Roma, 12/A	031650827
Monguzzo	hotels	Castello ★★★	via Valassina, 22	031650183
	hotels	Nastro Azzurro ★★★	via Chiesa, 8	031617373
Montorfano	hotels	Santandrea Golf Hotel ★★★★★	via Como, 19	031200220
	camping	Montorfano ★★	via per Alzate, 30	031200305
Orsenigo	holiday farms	La Cassinazza	loc. Cassinazza	031631468
Pusiano	hotels	Negri ★	via Mazzini, 24/26	031655706
	B&B	Leon d'Oro	piazza Parini, 2	031658865
Tavernerio	RTA	Casina ★★	via Casina, 20/B-loc. Solzago	031560059
	rented rooms	Larioceramiche		031421081

TOURIST INFORMATION

For further information, consult the web site www.provincia.como.it/turismo or www.lakecomo.org or ask for the annual hotel guide *Guida all'ospitalità del lago di Como*, which can be found:

Tourist Information Office of Como

piazza Cavour, 17 - tel. 031269712 - fax 031240111, e-mail:lakecomo@tin.it

Tourist Information Office of Bellagio

piazza Mazzini (imbarcadere) - tel. or fax 031950204, e-mail:prombell@tin.it

Tourist Information Office of Cernobbio (open in the tourist season)

C/o Municipio - tel. 031343235

Tourist Information Office of Canzo (open in the tourist season)

piazza Chiesa, 4 - tel. or fax 031682457, e-mail:procanzo@tiscali.it



ITINERARY

6



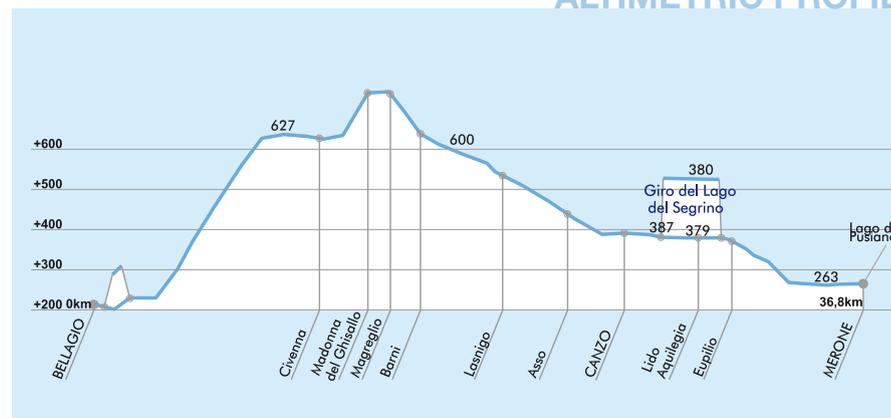
THE GHISALLO



LENGTH OF THE ROUTE:	36,7 Km
DEPARTURE - ARRIVAL:	Lake Pusiano (in the town of di Merone)
ARRIVAL - DEPARTURE:	Bellagio
THE CONDITIONS OF THE TRACK:	The track is currently practicable with a city bike and a racing bike as it runs totally on roads that climb to the Sanctuary of the Madonna del Ghisallo, before descending to Bellagio. Because of the steepness and the fact that it is on roads, this route is particularly recommended to those who are very fit and passionate about cycling.
ROUTE TIME:	3 hours
COURSE DIFFICULTY:	The easiest part is the stretch between Merone and Canzo, while the rest of the itinerary from Canzo-Bellagio, is of moderate difficulty.
PARTICULARLY RECOMMENDED:	For fit and sporty people and those who are passionate about cycling on roads.
PLACES FOR STOPS:	The Town Hall of Civenna on the via Provinciale.
PANORAMIC PLACES AND OBSERVATION STOPS:	The town of Erba, the town of Eupilio near the school and near the Lido Aquilegia, the town of Magreglio near the Madonna del Ghisallo, the town of Civenna.
LINKS WITH OTHER ITINERARIES:	By bicycle: the course links up with itinerary 7 "The Morainial lakes of Lecco" and with itinerary 5 "The morainial lakes of Como". By boat: cross using the navigational service

and you can link up with itinerary 5 "Pine tree parks and the city of Como" (Bellagio-Como line), with itinerary 8 "The Lakeside Riviera from Lecco to Como" (Bellagio-Varenna, Bellagio-Colico line), with itinerary 7 "The morainial Lakes Lecco" and with itinerary 9 "The circular track of Lakes Garlate and Olginate". (only in summer periods – May/September – Bellagio-Lecco line)

ALTIMETRIC PROFILE



INFORMATION REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY

DEPARTURE/ARRIVAL: LAGO DI PUSIANO (in the town of Merone)

By car: take the motorway A9. Take the exit for Como and go along the road SS.Briantea 342 in the direction, Lecco (about 19 km).

By train: : Milano-Meda-Asso Ferrovie Nord Milano and Como-Molteno-Lecco FFS.

By bus: : Cremnago-Lurago d'Erba-Erba and Erba-Bosisio Parini.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE: BELLAGIO

By car: from Erba climb along the Vallassina in the direction of Bellagio (direct), or the SS.583 from Lecco or Como.

By train: Milano-Meda-Asso line until Asso.

By bus: Como-Bellagio line.

By boat: : Navigational service on the Lake of Como.

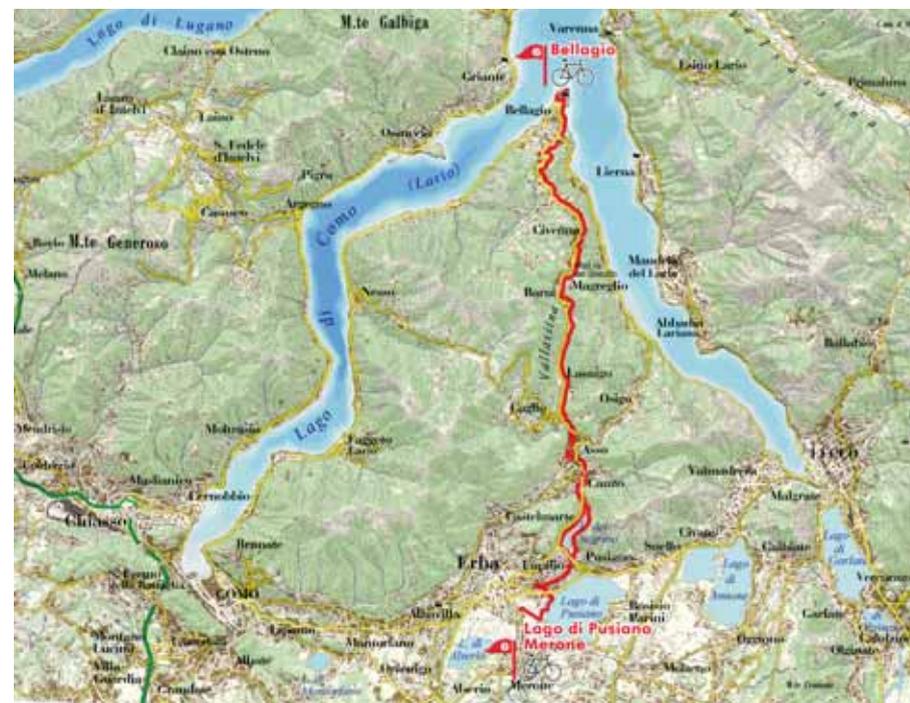


The course which leaves from the FNM station of Merone, crosses the so-called Triangolo Lariano, a mountainous area characterised by the apexes of San Primo (1686mt.), Palanzone (1436mt.), Bolettone (1317mt.). In glacial times, this determined the division of the glaciers which in this way, gave the two branches of the Lario their shape. Crossing the towns of Merone, Erba and Eupilio, which are already included in itinerary 5, you reach the **Lake Segrino**, from where you continue in the direction of Canzo, where we suggest you make the first stop to admire some significant buildings. There is the baroque **Parish Church of Santo Stefano**, the **Teatro Sociale** which was created for the requirements of the aristocratic people from Milano who stayed in the towns in the Como area, in the summertime. It was designed in 1828, by the architect Gaetano Besia from Milano. Then there is **Villa Meda**, of 16th century origin which was re-structured the Count Meda from Milano, by the architect Simone Cantoni (1739-1818), a representative of the first Italian neoclassicism. The **Public Washhouses** are of interest, marked by their neoclassical portico with six windows (of which one has been bricked up.) Concluding the visit to the historical centre of Canzo, you can continue the course until you reach Asso, which was Roman vicus (of which the Valassina), as well as being the principle rural district and centre. It was of interest, in as much as it was the central point for several important roads of communication in the Como area and of the roads that lead to the lake. In particular we recommend a visit to the **Parish Church of San Giovanni Battista**, built by Rusconi between 1641 and 1675 on a place where there was a pre existing building, which was written about in 1018 and was demolished in 1634. Another **Church is Santi Giovanni and Paolo**, that dates back to the

last ten years of the 13th century. Inside the church a 15th century fresco has been preserved, with two war like saints, but it is barely visible. Notable also is the quantity of the noble residences, among which **Palazzo Visconti**, a 17th century building, was re-structured in the course of the 19th century. **Palazzo Scipiotti**, built between the end of the 16th and the beginning of the 17th centuries and **Casa Citterio** that has its origins in the 15th century, as the ogival single lancet windows show, of which the frames in terra-cotta are originals and the façade faces onto an internal courtyard. On the upper floor, a room housed a series of frescoes of which significant traces are conserved in the Pinacoteca of Castello Sforzesco in Milan and could date back to the 8th,9th, or 10th year of the 15th century. The itinerary which now becomes more difficult, continues until it reaches, first the town of Lasnigo, a village of ancient origin, probably Roman (the name probably derives from Assi Vicus "a village of Asso", then it became Asvicus, then Nasnigo) where there are places of cultural interest. There is the **Church of Sant'Alessandro** which dates back to the 12th century, but the main body of the building is 15th century. Then there is the town of Barni, from where you can continue to Magreglio, reaching the summit of the climb up to Ghisallo. The stop here at the **Church of the Madonna del Ghisallo** is a must for any cyclist. It was founded in 1949, when the Madonna del Ghisallo was consecrated as the patron of cyclists. Since then, the church has become a real museum, where historical bicycles are conserved and there are examples that have been used by great champions during matches, but there are also tomb stones and relics. From Magreglio the course continues always downhill, until you reach the promontory of Bellagio, a lakeside town, loved by tourists and characterised by large 18th and

19th century villas, with huge gardens and situated in areas of great panoramic beauty(in particular we would like to mention **Villa Giulia**, **Villa Serbelloni**, **Villa Melzi d'Eril**, **Villa Trotti** and **Villa Trivulzio**). and by numerous buildings of religious character localised in the numerous hamlets in the district. In particular we suggest that you visit, the **Church of San Giovanni Battista** in the hamlet of San Giovanni, enlarged and re-organised in 1785 when it took on the present day countenance of a monumental Baroque façade. Worthy of note is the altar piece on the altar, of "Christ risen among Saints and donors," oil on a canvas of the late 16th

century, attributed to Gaudenzio Ferrari. The church of San. Pietro probably dates back to the second half of the 11th century, the **Church of San Giorgio** to the 11th century. It was then re-structured and given a bell tower and portico in the 17th century. The **Church of San Martino** in the hamlet of Visgnola in Roman style, preserves a polittico (a painting in three sections), of the Lombardian school (beginning of the 16th century), a wooden statue (Christ dead) and a 16th century canvas (Madonna of the roses). Another church to visit is the Church of S. Giacomo, a wonderful example of Romanesque architecture from Lombardy.





THEMATIC ROUTES

THE CLIMB TO GHISALLO

The route represents a sort of “Forced stretch” for cycle lovers, as it is the view at the **Sanctuary of the Madonna del Ghisallo**, patron of cyclists since 1949, which today is a small thematic museum. Inside it preserves historical bicycles, from races, as well as various historic remains. Even though the route is reserved almost exclusively for sports use, a bus service guarantees the possibility

for everyone to visit the church-museum. For lovers of art and culture, Bellagio offers innumerable possibilities to visit both the historic town and the splendid villas that face the lake. Even under the naturalistic profile, the region offers various routes and you can visit the Riserva naturale del Sasso Malascarpa and the monument of the Pietra Luna in the town of Bellagio.

WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING PLACES TO VISIT:

Riserva del Sasso Malascarpa:

in the district of Canzo there is, the Reserve’s visitors centre, where there is plenty of information on wall plaques and natural findings specified to the protected area regarding geology, vegetation and animals.

During the whole year, educational environmental courses are held and field trips.

INFORMATION:

Cooperativa sociale meta

who also organise educational, environmental activities

tel. and fax [031684878](tel:031684878)

e-mail: meta.canzo@tin.it

or directly from **ARF of Erba**.

THE TOWN OF BELLAGIO

The old town is characterised by tiny lanes and characteristic pebble work stairways, old buildings and intriguing houses. Bellagio which is called ‘the pearl of the lake’, offers the possibility of numerous routes and itineraries, that unwind between the streets in the centre, and the possibility of discovering the villas that face the lake. In the village, you can see the **Church of San Giorgio** and the **Basilica of San Giacomo**, but even the hamlets offer interesting start-offs for itineraries and cultural visits. We recommend you visit the gardens of the **Villa Melzi** and **Villa Serbelloni**. The first was built between 1808 and 1810 by Giocondo Albertolli from an assignment by Francesco Melzi d’Eri, a friend of Napoleon Bonaparte and Chancellor of the Reign of Italy. It is curious to know the list of personalities, who stayed at the villa in the past: Eugenio Beauharnais, Francesco I of Austria, Stendhal and Liszt. **Villa Serbelloni**, on the other hand, is on the promontory of Bellagio, a place in which according to tradition was the villa “Tragedia” of Plinio il Giovane. The building

was actually built on a 15th century pre existing structure, from the wish of Marchesino Stanga, but was successively enlarged and restructured by Sfondrati who gained possession in 1788, the year in which Serbelloni inherited it.

Accessibility from the cycle route:

the village can be reached directly from the cycle lane, that ends near the imbarcadero.

Information: **Ufficio IAT**

p.zza Mazzini, tel. and fax [031950204](tel:031950204)

e-mail: prombell@tin.it

www.bellagiolakecomo.com - www.bellagiocomune.it



The lake side of Bellagio

SANTUARIO DELLA MADONNA DEL GHISALLO OF MAGREGLIO

The church, which foundations date back to 1623, was probably built on a previous Romanesque construction. In 1681, a loggia was added, with three arches that were all curved, to the body of the church which was just one room. The notoriety of the church started in 1949, when the **Madonna del Ghisallo** was consecrated patron of cyclists.

Since then the church has become a real museum, where historical bikes are conserved and things used by the great champions of this sport during the competitions, but there are also tombstones and relics. In the churchyard it is possible to see the monuments to Fausto Coppi and don Ermelindo Viganò, rector of the sanctuary. On the right hand side of the church



there is the monument to cyclists, work by Elio Ponti. A new site for the museum is still under construction, that will give an extraordinary visual panorama of the Grigne mountains and of the Lecco arm of the Lario.

Accessibility from the cycle route:

The Sanctuary can be reached directly from the cycle lane.

Information:

Open every day. Free entry
For information tel. [031965710](tel:031965710)



The Sanctuary of Madonna del Ghisallo

BIKE SALES AND REPAIR

Cicli Losa (S.A.S.)

Bicycles and Accessories
via Giuseppe Mazzini, 86 - Erba (CO)
tel. [031641448](tel:031641448)

Pozzi Alessandro (S.N.C.)

Sales and Bicycle Repair
via Valassina, 14/B - Monguzzo (CO)
tel. [031617999](tel:031617999)

Cavalcalario Club

Località Gallasco, Guello, Bellagio (CO)
tel. and fax [031964814](tel:031964814) - [3395308138](tel:3395308138)
www.bellagio-mountains.it - e-mail: cavalcalarioclub@tiscalinet.it
Minibus service for who wants to repeat the downhill

OTHER SPORTING ACTIVITIES

For those who want to spend a day in the countryside while doing sport:

The town of Sormano

HORSERIDING: Az. Agrituristica La Conca d'oro
di Valsecchi Giorgio
tel. [031677019](tel:031677019)

The town of Bellagio

HORSERIDING: Az Agricola Clarke
tel. [031951513](tel:031951513)
Cavalcalario Club
tel. [3395308138](tel:3395308138)
www.bellagio-mountains.it
e-mail: cavalcalarioclub@tiscalinet.it
Club gli Indomabili
tel. [3487679126](tel:3487679126)
e-mail: info@allatorretta.com

WATER SPORTS: Circolo Vela Pescallo
tel. [031950932](tel:031950932)
e-mail: cvpescallo@tin.it
Liquid Park Water Ski Club
tel. [3358281065](tel:3358281065)
Cavalcalario Club
tel. [3395308138](tel:3395308138)
www.bellagio-mountains.it
e-mail: cavalcalarioclub@tiscalinet.it

SHORE: Lido di Bellagio
tel. [031950597](tel:031950597)
Bellagio Sporting Club
tel. [031952123](tel:031952123)

PARAGLIDING: Cavalcalario Club
tel. [3395308138](tel:3395308138)
www.bellagio-mountains.it
e-mail: cavalcalarioclub@tiscalinet.it

The town of Canzo

HORSERIDING: Club Ippico La Ravella
tel. [3392184403](tel:3392184403)

The town of Civenna

PARK FOR CHILDREN: Jungle Rider Park
Piano di Rancio
www.jungleraiderpark.com



SOME PROPOSALS FOR TOURIST TREKKING

Rezzago:

path to the earth pyramids 20 mins, to Mount Palanzone passing the Bocca Vallunga, Bocchetta di Palanzo 3,30 hours.

Bellagio:

path for Mount Garnasca from Visgnola 1 hour, for Mount San Primo 2 hours.

Canzo:

path for Mount Cornizzolo 2,30 hours, for Mount Rai 3 hours, for the church of San Miro

al Monte 30 mins, for the Corni di Canzo going near L'Alpe Grasso 3,30 hours.

Civenna:

path for the Ghisallo 45 mins, for Vassena 30 mins

Magreglio:

path for the Sanctuary of Ghisallo 15 mins, for Mount Ponciv and Alpe di Magreglio 2 hours, for the summit of Costone and Mount S. Primo 1 hour.

TYPICAL REFRESHMENT

For information about the complete list of restaurants along the route, consult the site:
www.provincia.como.it/turismo

ACCOMMODATION

LOCALITY	TPOLOGY	STRUCTURE	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Bellagio	hotels	G.H.Villa Serbelloni ★★★★★ L	via Roma, 1	031950216
	hotels	Belvedere ★★★	via Valsassina, 31	031950410
	hotels	Centrale ★★★	via Plinio, 7	031951940
	hotels	Du Lac ★★★	piazza Mazzini, 32	031950320
	hotels	Excelsior Splendide ★★★	l.Lario Manzoni,28	031950225
	hotels	Firenze ★★★	piazza Mazzini, 46	031950342
	hotels	Hotel Metropole Bellagio ★★★	piazza Mazzini, 1	031950409
	hotels	Bellagio ★★	salita Grandi, 6	031950424
	hotels	Europa ★★	via Roma, 21/23	031950471
	hotels	Fioroni ★★	viale D. Vitali, 2	031950392
	hotels	Il Perlo Panorama ★★	via Valsassina, 180	031950229
	hotels	La Pergola ★★	piazza del Porto, 4	031950263
	hotels	Nuovo Miralago ★★	via per Pescallo, 19	031951294
	hotels	Silvio ★★	via Carcano, 12	031950322
	hotels	Giardinetto ★	via Roncati, 12	031950168
	hotels	La Genzianella ★	via San Primo, 1	031964734
	hotels	Suisse ★	piazza Mazzini, 8/10	031950335
	RTA	L'Ulivo ★★★★★	via E. Vitali, 24	031956434
	RTA	Il Perlo Panorama ★★	via Valsassina, 180	031950229
	house flat/holiday	Pontenuovo ★★	salita Plinio, 26	031932895
house flat/holiday	SGE srl	viale D. Vitali, 32	031950322	
holiday farms	Agriturismo Pinuccia	loc. Prafilippo, 61	031963624	
holiday farms	Clarke Elizabeth	loc. Visgnola	031951325	

	holiday farms	Osteria Da Gaetan	loc. Prafilippo, 38	031964612
	B&B	Da Tony	via Cernobbio, 72	031964832
	B&B	Alla Torretta	via Nuova, 3 - loc.Visgnola	031951272
	B&B	Locanda Barchetta	salita Mella, 13	031951030
	B&B	Praa Volt	via Pra Filippo, 51-loc. S.Primo	031963532
Canzo	hotels	Canzo ★★★	piazza Garibaldi, 2	031670572
	hotels	La Zuppiera ★★★	piazza Verza, 56	031681431
	hotels	Volta ★★★	via Volta, 58	031681225
	hotels	Fonte Gajum ★	via Gajum, 32	031681077
	hotels	Parabum ★	piazza Remo Sordo, 2	031683176
	hotels	Sorgente ★	via Gajum, 36	031681119
	holiday farms	Corni di Canzo	loc. Terz'Alpe-via per le Alpi, 13	031682770
Erba	hotels	Cast. di Casiglio ★★★★★	via Cantù, 21	031627288
	hotels	Leonardo Da Vinci ★★★★★	via L. Da Vinci, 6	031611556
	hotels	Centrale ★★★	via XXV Aprile, ang.V. Dante	031641052
	hotels	Erba ★★★	via Milano, 12/d	031611515
	hotels	Campeggio ★	via Capanna Mara, 1	031627151
	rented rooms	Marinelli Pasquale	via Como, 17	031627588
	B&B	Il Giardino di Sofia	via G. Marconi, 81	0313338571
B&B	Le Due Torrette	via Chiesa Molinari, 18	031641944	
Eupilio	B&B	Il Vigneto al Lago	via Lecco, 26	031657874
Lasnigo	hotels	Sole ★	via Fioroni, 30	031670274
Long. al Segrino	B&B	Ortensia Bianca	via Roma, 16	031640201
Magreglio	hotels	Il Nibbio ★	via Adua, 13	031965688
Merone	hotels	Il Corazziere ★★★★★	via G. Mazzini, 17	031617181
	hotels	Pontenuovo ★★	via Roma, 12/A	031650827

TOURIST INFORMATION

For further information, consult the web site www.provincia.como.it/turismo or www.lakecomo.org or ask for the annual hotel guide *Guida all'ospitalità del lago di Como*, which can be found:

Tourist Information Office of Como

piazza Cavour 17 - tel. 031269712 - fax 031240111 - e-mail:lakecomo@tin.it

Tourist Information Office of Bellagio

piazza Mazzini (imbarcadero) - tel. e fax 031950204 - e-mail:prombell@tin.it

Tourist Information Office of Cernobbio (open in the tourist season)

largo Visconti 4 - tel. or fax 031343211

Tourist Information Office of Canzo (open in the tourist season)

piazza Chiesa 4, tel. or fax 031682457 - e-mail:procanzo@tiscali.it



ITINERARY

7



ART AND LITERATURE AMONG THE LAKES OF BRIANZA



LENGTH OF THE ROUTE:

28 Km

DEPARTURE - ARRIVAL:

Lake Pusiano (town of Merone)

ARRIVAL - DEPARTURE:

Lecco

THE CONDITIONS OF THE TRACK:

The track is currently practicable if accompanied by a good map, good instructions and the use of a mountain bike for the track sections that are uneven. Particularly critical because of the traffic, are the sections in the city of Lecco, so we do not recommend this way for families or weaker travellers.

ROUTE TIME:

2,30 - 3 hours

COURSE DIFFICULTY:

Moderate:

It is easy, but some sections are difficult:

- The locality of Garbagnate Rota in the town of Bosisio Parini.
- The locality of Gaggio in the town of Nibionno
- The locality of Cariolo in the town of Civate.
- In the historic centre of Malgrate.
- The locality of Rio Torto in the town of Valmadrera.

Difficult:

- In the town of Galbiate near the junction for Oggiono.
- The locality of S. Nazaro and Celso in the town of Galbiate.

PLACES FOR STOPS:

In the town of Civate

PANORAMIC PLACES AND OBSERVATION STOPS:

the town of Malgrate on the via Volta

LINKS WITH OTHER ITINERARIES:

By bicycle/train: link with itinerary 5 "the Morainial lakes of Como" (FFS Lecco-Como line), with itinerary 9 "circular tracks of the Lakes of Garlate and Olginate" (FFS Lecco-Bergamo-Brescia line), itinerary 6 "The Ghisallo" (FNM Milano-Meda-Asso line until Asso.) and itinerary 8 "Discovering the eastern banks of the Lario" (FFS Milano-Lecco-Sondrio line)

ALTIMETRIC PROFILE



INFORMATION REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY

DEPARTURE/ARRIVAL: LAGO DI PUSIANO (town of Merone)

By car: take motorway A9, and the exit for Como and go along the road SS.Briantea 342 in the direction of Lecco (about 19km).

By train: Milano-Meda-Asso line Ferrovie Nord Milano and Como-Molteno-Lecco FFS.

By bus: Cremnago-Lurago d'Erba-Erba and Erba-Bosisio Parini.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE: LECCO

By car: take the SS342 Briantea, then the SS639 to the lakes of Pusiano and Garlate, SS538 Larianan, SP72 and SS36 to Lake Como and to Spluga.

By train: FFS Como-Molteno-Lecco line, Milano-Lecco-Sondrio and Brescia-Bergamo-Lecco.

By bus: links with the main cities of Milano, Como and Sondrio.

By boat: the navigational service of the Lake Como (from May to the end of September).



The itinerary starts near the station 'Ferrovie Nord Milano of Merone' and from there you continue in the direction of Rogeno until you reach Bosisio Parini. This is a town on the banks of the morainal Lake Pusiano, the biggest and deepest of the lakes in Brianza (5.25 sq.km, and 27m deep). Here you will find the house where Giuseppe Parini was born (1729) and where he lived until the age of 10. The house which was recently restored on the occasion of the bicentenary of his death (1999) is today a museum dedicated to the writer. Inside the house there are things conserved, that are representative of the rural life of the people of Brianza in the 18th and 19th centuries. A visit to the town can be completed following the 'Itinerario pariniano', a route which leads through the historical centre of Bosisio and the hamlet of Garbagnate Rota, discovering the places Parini loved. The itinerary continues towards Cesana Brianza, crossing the town of Suello until you reach Annone Brianza, which is on the morainal lake of the same name. It is characterised by the long promontory that juts out so that it is nearly touching the other peninsular of Isella, dividing the lake in this way, into two pools of water (in the free stretch it seems that there once existed a Roman bridge). Here we recommend a visit to the 15th century oratory of San Giorgio. The building is characterised by its gabled façade with a central rose window, the layout is in a single room and there is a cross vault, representing a valuable example of late gothic architecture of Lombardy.

Inside there is some valuable architectural work and some excellent figurative work. On the walls of the apse there is a series of frescoes dated

between 1496 and 1510 which is attributed to Maestro della Pal Sforzesca. There are figures of the Crucifixion, of the Saints, of God and the Evangelists, while under the arch there are busts of the Apostles. The artist was influenced by artists from Ferrara, since he were probably working on the Certosa of Pavia, as well as he was obviously influenced by the teachings of Leonardo da Vinci, as his language is clearly evident. From here the itinerary continues along the banks of the Lake Annone until you reach the town of Oggiono, and the recommended stop for a visit to the monumental complex of the **Prepositurale Church of Santa Eufemia** and the **Baptistery of San Giovanni Battista**. They represent revealing examples of the patrimony of Romanesque, historical architecture in Lombardy, which is inserted in the international cultural-religious itinerary of "the Cloister Route". This is a course for appreciation and for the territorial and cultural promotion which started with the architectural recovery of three monasteries: Santa Maria del Lavello in Calolziocorte (Italy), the Monastery of Buch in Leisnig (Germany) and the Castel of Gussing in the Burgenland Meridionale (Austria). Inside these buildings preserve works of great artistic value and from different periods are preserved. In the church it is possible to admire the valuable frescoes of 1790 attributed to Andrea Appiani and a polittico (a painting on three sections of wood) of the Assumption by Marco d'Oggiono, who is thought to have painted it in 1525. The Baptistery houses precious votive frescoes which date back to the 16th century.

So it is a Romanesque theme that pulls us like a thread along this route, developing in the direction of Civate, for a visit to the **Church**

of **San Calocero**, built in the 11th century on a pre existing 9th century building, which houses the remains of the martyr Calocero from Alberga (transferred to the site in 850). Inside the building there is a series of frescoes which date back to the beginning of the 12th century and recount about 20 biblical episodes in scenes, linked to the theme the Providence.

Leaving the bicycles in the last car park in the highest part of the town, near Via Pozzo and

following the sign indications along path no. 10, after about an hours walk, you reach the **Basilica of San Pietro al Monte** and the **Oratory of San Benedetto** (m 622). This group of buildings is part of the itinerary 'The Cloister Route' and is one of the most important and well organised testimonies of Romanesque in Europe, and its origins are probably linked to a Benedictine monastic settlement from the early Middle Ages even if the first documentation





comes from the first half of the 9th century. Inside the church is characterised by sculptures, paintings and stuccos, dated between the end of the 11th century and the first quarter of the 12th century, which figure the advent of the apocalypse and the day of judgement. Nearly in front of San Pietro is the **Oratory of San Benedetto**, which was probably constructed concurrently with the Basilica. Inside there is, a rare example of a medieval altar in brickwork, one of only five that can be seen in Italy, and moreover it is adorned with frescoes figuring Jesus, Mary, Saint John, Saint Benedict and Saint Andrew.

Returning to the centre of Civate, the itinerary continues crossing the town of Valmadrera, where there is the **villa and the Gavazzi Mill**, buildings which reproduce an interesting, as much as rare testimony of the productive villas (next to the noble villas there was a large complex of silk mills, of which the body of the factories are still in good state). Then you arrive in Malgrate, where it is possible to admire the 18th century **Palazzo Agudio**, home to the Town Hall and where the writer Giuseppe Parini, spurred on by Cannon Giuseppe Candido Agudio, found his inspiration for "il Mattino", which is the first part of his work "il Giorno". The building also boasts in turn, news about other 18th, 19th century Italian writers. In this building Tommaso Agudio was born, a love affair developed between Luigi Giusti and the poetess Francesca Manzoni (1741), and Ugo Foscolo wrote a hymn that was inserted in his work "Le Grazie".

Continuing in the direction of Lecco, in the section between the rock of Malgrate and the final part of the itinerary, you reach the town

of Galbiate, and in this area there is the **Parco Regionale del Monte Barro**. On the mountain you can see deposits of noteworthy interest, erratic blocks and morainal substances, even if the greatest font of naturalistic interest is the great variety of flowers, that number more than 1000 different species. The park has been of great interest for years for archaeological campaigns that discovered a huge residential settlement and a powerful defence system of the Goth age (5th and 6th century B.C). The course allows you to visit archaeological remains and the **Antiquarium** museum which conserves archaeological findings of the ancient Goth civilisation found during excavation work, together with the remains of a Goth Age castle. The Museo Etnografico dell'Alta Brianza is also in the **park of Monte Barro** and here objects give evidence of the **ethnographic history** in the surrounding area, giving the visitor, through our guided tours, the possibility of knowing more about local working conditions. The course concludes returning to Lecco, to the Kennedy Bridge.



The Museo Etnografico dell'Alta Brianza

THEMATIC ROUTES

ON THE ROMANESQUE ROAD BETWEEN THE LAKES OF BRIANZA

The itinerary from the Lak Pusiano to Lecco, is part of a much longer itinerary that, leaving from the city of Como, crosses the area where the morainal lakes are, until it reaches the city of Lecco.

The thread that leads you along the course, offering interesting starting points for the visits to prominent cultural assets and threading together evidence of historical-artistic work in the area, is the Romanesque architecture. It finds its maximum expression in the monasteries belonging to the Cloister Route,

a route of tourist-cultural appreciation, which compares our heritage with that of northern Europe.

The area, full of historical and cultural significance, also offers starting points from a naturalistic point of view and the most beautiful scenery. This is connected to the presence of the lakes' basins, which are of morainal origin and the protected area of Monte Barro.

The cultural and environmental assets which have been identified as being most representative of the area are:



Cycling along Lake Annone



BASILICA DI SAN PIETRO AL MONTE AND THE ORATORIO OF SAN BENEDETTO IN CIVATE

The legend dates the foundation of **San Pietro al Monte** to the times of the Longobardi, when it is said that King Desiderio had it built after the miraculous recovery of his sons sight or maybe after victory over the Saracens.

The origins, however, are probably linked to a Benedictine monastic settlement of the early Middle Ages and the first documentation date back to the first half of the 9th century. In the 11th century the group divided in two factions, but they all were part of the same Abbey: the **Church of San Pietro on the mountain** with the nearby Oratory of San Benedetto and the Basilica and the

monastery of San Calocero in the town of Civate.

You reach the **Church of San Pietro** by climbing a flight of steps, built in a later time than the buildings. The church is on a rectangular layout and has two apses on the opposing smaller sides. On the eastern apse there is the entrance which is preceded by a semicircular gallery on two floors, decorated with double lancet windows and triple lancet windows and under which there is a crypt. Above the main door there is a fresco of Jesus who gives a scroll with the new laws to Saint Paul and the keys to Saint Peter. Also the tabernacle introduces, with stucco



The Basilica of San Pietro al Monte and the Oratory of San Benedetto

and paint, some apocalyptic figures. Over the top of the eastern apse there are the frescoes with the return of Christ at the end of time and the killing of the dragon by the archangel Gabriel. At the sides of the nave there are two symmetrical staircases that lead down to the crypt, where you find figures in stucco of the life of Jesus and Mary.

The Oratory of San Benedetto, which is laid out with three apses, is comparable to a type of baptistery, was built some ten years later than the Basilica. The discovery of numerous tombs has made experts think that the building was linked to the celebration of funeral rites. The little oratory has a square layout with three semicircular apses, and a small rectangular area which

gives access to a second covered area with a cross vault. This is communicating with an internal room, which has a wooden ceiling. Inside there is an extremely rare brick altar painted on three sides by local artists (10th –12th century).

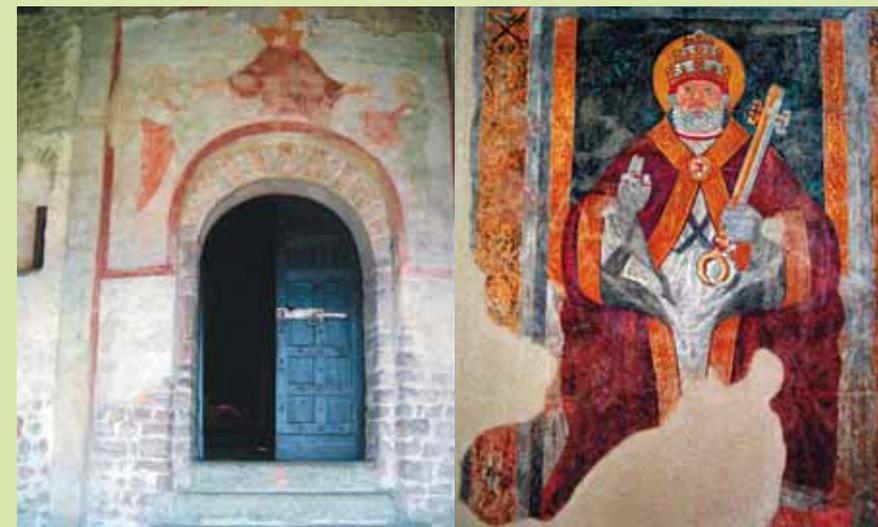
Accessibility from the cycle route:

because there is no road which leads there, the oratory can only be reached on foot, up an ancient track that climbs the slopes of Monte Pedale. The walk takes about an hour.

Information:

San Pietro al Monte a Civate

Contact the custodian at
tel. [3383191501](tel:3383191501)



Particular of the frescoes



MUSEO ETNOGRAFICO DELL'ALTA BRIANZA AND MUSEO ARCHEOLOGICO DEL BARRO IN GALBIATE

Ethnographic Museum:

The museum is dedicated to historical uses and customs of the Brianza territory and to the traditional works of the popular classes during XIX and XX Centuries. The museum hosts items, oral evidences, images and written documents essential to study and to illustrate activities, knowledge, social relationships and attitudes of men and women who once lived in this area.

Archaeological Museum:

The museum is made of an of outdoor historical collection of objects and of the Antiquarium, which collects archaeological relics dating back to the antique Goths civility in Barra, found during some archaeological researches which brought back a settlement and a wide defensive system of the Goths age (V and VI cent.).

Information:

Parco Monte Barro

tel. 0341542266, www.parcobarro.it,
e-mail info@parcomontebarro.191.it



The Museo Etnografico in Camporeso



One of the rooms of the Museo Etnografico

THE CHURCH OF SANT'EUFEMIA AND BATTISTERO IN OGGIONO

The historical centre of Oggiono has its representative axis in the group of monuments of the **Prepositurale Church of Santa Eufemia and the Baptistery of San Giovanni Battista**, which face a piazza that is characterised by the commemorative columns that were perhaps built in 1576. Both the constructions are of Roman origin, but they were rebuilt on a pre existing early Christian building.

Following this the church was redesigned and shows many adaptations that were carried out in the first ten years of the 17th century. The **Church of Sant'Eufemia**, whose name today derives from the 17th century, has its origins further in the past, as the lower part of the bell tower testifies and has a single aisle. Inside there are frescoes from different periods (one 18th century by Andrea Appiani) and above all a polittico made up of ten panels by Marco d'Oggiono, an important painter of the Leonardo school.

This work is considered to be one of the most precious in the region of Brianza. The **Baptistry** is a modal testament to Romanesque architecture in Lombardy. It has a central layout, which is unusually octagonal on the outside and circular on the inside and it shows interesting construction ideas. Inside there are valuable frescoes which can be dated between 1400 and 1500 and a semicircular apse, which can be dated at around 11th century, even though various remains have come to light that have made them think that there used to be an early Christian Baptistery here (even 5th or 6th century).

Information:

Associazione Archeologica Oggiono at the Town Hall,
tel. 0341266411
or from the town library **Biblioteca Civica**
tel. 0341576671
e-mail: gruppoarcho.oggiono@libero.it



The Church of Sant'Eufemia



The Baptistery of Oggiono



BIKE SALES AND REPAIR

Gilardi Ferdinando bicycle repair

via Turbada, 15 - Lecco
tel. [0341272523](tel:0341272523)

Mondo Bici S.A.S bicycle sales and repair

via Roma, 47 - Pescate (LC)
tel. [0341368182](tel:0341368182)

Sala Lorenzo Cicli Corsa e Sport (racing bikes and for sport)

via Per Dolzago, 53 - Oggiono (LC)
tel. [0341260433](tel:0341260433)

The Bike di Redaelli M.G. Biciclette - bicycle assistance and clothing

via Promessi Sposi, 16/A - Valmadrera (LC)
tel. [0341201266](tel:0341201266)

Camping Riviera

via Foppaola, 113 - Garlate (LC)
tel. [0341680346](tel:0341680346)
(rented bicycle from April to September)

Dell'Oro Alessandro

Motorcycle and bicycle repair
via Buonconsiglio, 30 - Valmadrera
tel. [0341580803](tel:0341580803)

OTHER SPORTING ACTIVITIES

For those who want to spend a day in the countryside, doing sport, then the districts offer:

**The town of
Bosisio Parini****HORSERIDING:****Scuderia Il Campo:**

via Don Luigi Monza, 123 - tel. [031865829](tel:031865829)

The town of Galbiate**HORSERIDING:****Az. Agrituristica Prisma**

fraz. Villa Vergano, Loc. Campo Novo
tel. [0341249787](tel:0341249787)

The town of Oggiono**HORSERIDING:****Centro Ippico Oggiono**

Località Pascoli, tel. [0341576433](tel:0341576433)

Az. Agricola Panzeri Giuseppe

via Ca' Pascolo - tel. [3479781780](tel:3479781780)

PISCINA:**Stendhal Sport Club**

tel. [0341579189](tel:0341579189) - www.stendhalsportclub.it

The town of Sirone**HORSERIDING:****Az. Agrituristica Buzzi Giuseppe**

via G. Verdi, 27 - tel. [031853788](tel:031853788)

**The town of
Nibionno****SWIMMING POOL:****Wet Life Centro Piscine**

Loc. Gaggio - tel. [031690501](tel:031690501), www.wetlife.net

The town of Suello**PARAGLIDING:****Aire Cornizzolo**

via Mauri, 1 - tel. [031658428](tel:031658428)
www.airecornizzolo.com
e-mail: aire@airecornizzolo.com

The town of Annone Brianza**GOLF:****Golf Club Lecco**

via Pizzighettone, 1
tel. [0341579525](tel:0341579525), fax [0341575787](tel:0341575787)
www.golfclublecco.it, e-mail: info@golfclublecco.it

The town of Lecco**CANOEING:****Società Canottieri Lecco**

via F. Nullo, 2 - tel. [0341364273](tel:0341364273)
www.canottieri.lc.it
e-mail: canottieri.lecco@canottieri.lc.it

SPORTS CENTRE:**Centro Sportivo Comunale Al Bione**

via B. Buozzi, 34 - tel. [0341283563](tel:0341283563)
www.centroginnico.com - e-mail leccosport@hotmail.com

SOME PROPOSALS FOR TOURIST TREKKING

Lecco: among the paths that are marked, we recommend the Sentiero Botanico "Giovanni Fornacieri" in the park of Monte Barro, the Sentiero Natura in the valley of Piani D'Erna (can be reached if you take the cable car from Lecco). For more difficult excursions, take the path for Piani d'Erna 3 hours, for Monte Resegone from Germanedo going through Rovinate, Campo dè Boi, Passo del Fò 5 hours, for Monte Albano 1 hour, for the Como Medale passing through Rancio 2,30 hours, for Monte Barro leaving from Ponte Azione Visconti 2,30 hours, for Monte

Moregallo leaving from Valmadrera 3,5 hours

Valmadrera: the path for the church of S. Martino 15 mins, path for Monte Rai going through Belvedere and Monsonico 3 hours, for the Corni di Canzo 3 hours, for Monte Moregallo 3 hours, for Monte Cornizzola 3,5 hours, for Monte Barro take the path from Gaggio that climbs to al Sasso della Vecchia 2,15 hours.

For information regarding the difficulty of the tracks, please check the website:

www.turismo.provincia.lecco.it



TYPICAL REFRESHMENT

For information about the complete list of restaurants along the itinerary, consult the web site:
www.turismo.provincia.lecco.it

ACCOMMODATION

LOCALITY	TPOLOGY	STRUCTURE	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Bosisio Parini	hotels	Parini Hotel ★★★	piazza dell'Ospedale, 4	031865008
	hotels	Carlön ★★	via Beniamino Appiani, 43	031865455
	rented rooms	Farina	via Pospagliaro, 4	031865008
Civate	hotels	Dogana Vecchia ★★★	via Provinciale, 25	0341211198
	camping	Due Laghi ★★	via Isella, 34	0341550101
Malgrate	hotels	Promessi Sposi ★★★	via Italia, 4	0341202096
Oggiono	hotels	Cà Bianca ★★★	via Dante Alighieri, 18	0341260601
	rented rooms	La Locanda	piazza Stazione, 1	0341576340
	camping	Quattro Stagioni ★★	via Dante Alighieri, 21	0341577022
Sirone	holiday farms	Cascina Chiarello	loc. Cascina Chiarello	3407337050
Valmadrera	hotels	Al Terrazzo Villa Giulia ★★★	via Parè, 73	0341583106
	hotels	Baia di Parè ★★	via Parè, 37	0341582428
	hotels	Bellavista	via Parè, 87	0341581335
	B&B	Il Cortile	via Castagnera, 9	0341581475
Galbiate	holiday farms	San Materno	loc. San Materno, 1	0341542096
Lecco	hotels	Jolly Hotel Pontevecchio ★★★★★	via Azzone Visconti, 84	0341238000
	hotels	Alberi ★★★	lungo Lario Isonzo, 4	0341350992
	hotels	Don Abbondio ★★★	piazza Era, 10	0341366315
	hotels	Giordano ★★★	lungo Lario Cadorna, 20	0341367160
	hotels	Moderno ★★★	piazza Diaz, 5	0341286519
	hotels	Caviate ★	lungo Lario Piave, 17	0341363213
	B&B	Località Manzoniane	via Malnago, 40	0341283196
	rented rooms	Bartolomeo	C. Martiri della Libertà, 131	0341282451

rented rooms	Bartolomeo	via Tubi, 39	0341282451
rented rooms	Cooperativa Sociale "il Talento"	largo Caleotto, 20	0341363567
rented rooms	Cooperativa Sociale "il Talento"	via Belfiore, 74	0341363567
CAV	C&C Maison	p.zza Mazzini, 3 - Galleria Roma	3388111540
camping	Rivabella ★	via alla Spiaggia, 35-loc. Chiuso	0341421143
holiday farms	Ponte Tenaglia	loc. Fontana Marietta	0341495968

TOURIST INFORMATION

For further information consult the site www.turismo.provincia.lecco.it or ask for the hotel guide *Guida all'ospitalità del lago di Como*, which can be found at:

Tourist Information Office of Lecco

via Nazario Sauro 6, tel. 0341295720 and 0341295721 - fax 0341295730
www.turismo.provincia.lecco.it
e-mail: info.turismo@provincia.lecco.it



Lake Pusiano



ITINERARY

8



DISCOVERING THE EASTERN BANKS OF THE LARIO



LENGTH OF THE ROUTE:

52.3 Km

DEPARTURE - ARRIVAL:

Lecco

ARRIVAL - DEPARTURE:

Colico

THE CONDITIONS OF THE TRACK:

The track is currently practicable with city bikes and racing bikes, as the route is on the lakeside road, crossing the towns which are positioned on the banks of the Lario, from Abbadia Lariana to Colico. The route is recommended to sporty people and to who ever frequently cycles on roads. We want to point out in particular, the dangerous stretch between Lecco and the town of Abbadia Lariana. For this reason we suggest you avoid this stretch of road, by using public transport (the train line Sondrio-Lecco-Milano)

ROUTE TIME:

4,30 - 5 h

COURSE DIFFICULTY:

The course is quite easy, except for the stretch Lecco-Abbadia Lariana (we suggest you use public transport to reach these two places).

PLACES FOR STOPS:

The town of Abbadia Lariana near the Setificio Monti, the town of Mandello al Lario, the town of Lierna, the town of Varenna, the town of Dorio, the town of Colico in the locality of Montecchio Nord and near the river Adda.

PANORAMIC PLACES AND OBSERVATION STOPS:

The town of Lecco near the Scuola Canottieri and near the Navigazione del Lago di Como, Embarcadero of Lecco, the town of Abbadia Lariana, the town of Mandello al Lario, the

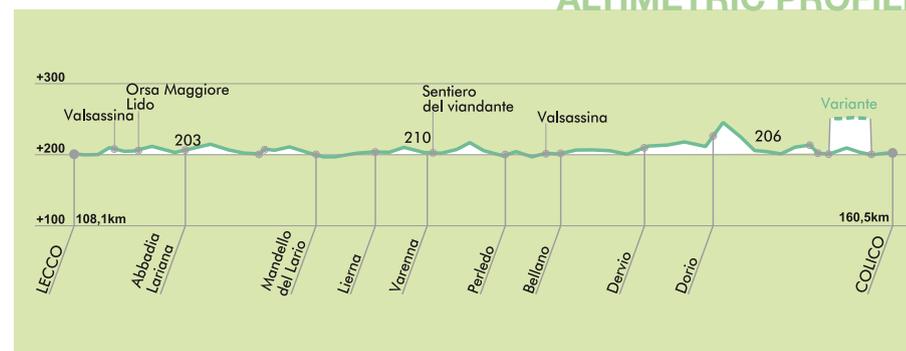
town of Lierna, the town of Varenna, the town of Bellano in the locality of Moc., the town of Dervio.

LINKS WITH OTHER ITINERARIES:

By bicycle/train: the course can link up with itinerary 7 "Art and Literature among the lakes of Brianza" and with itinerary 9 "The circular tracks of the lakes of Garlate and Olginate" (Lecco-Sondrio-Milano line).

By boat : with the navigational service of the lakes, you can link up with itinerary 6 "Il Ghisallo" (Colico-Bellagio, Varenna-Bellagio lines) or with itinerary 5 "From the pine tree parks to the city of Como" (Colico-Como line).

ALTIMETRIC PROFILE





INFORMATION REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY

DEPARTURE/ARRIVAL: LECCO

By car: take the SS342 Briantea, SS639 for the lakes of Pusiano and Garlate, SS538 Lariana, SP 72 and SS 36 to lake Como and to Spluga.

By train: FFS Como-Molteno-Lecco, line. Milano-Lecco-Sondrio- and Brescia-Bergamo-Lecco lines.

By bus: links with the main cities of Milano, Como and Sondrio.

By boat: navigational service Lago di Como (from May to the end of September).

Starting point: Kennedy bridge in Lecco.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE: COLICO

By car: SS 36 of Lake Como and of the Spluga of Lecco.

By train: FFS Milano-Lecco-Sondrio line.

By bus: line links with Sondrio and Lecco-Milano.

By boat: navigational service of Lake Como.

Starting point: brige SS 36 on the Adda in the town of Colico, near the pre-existing cycle lane.

The course starts near the Kennedy bridge, in the town of Lecco and crossing the town, continue along the banks of the lake until you reach the centre of Colico.

However you cannot leave the town of Lecco, without at least having done something on the itinerary dedicated to Manzoni, the writer who found in Lecco with its mountains and lake, the ideal landscape to set his immortal story. Neither can you leave without admiring the historic testimony of the Viscontea domination. The **Torre Viscontea** was part of a fort which was built halfway through the 14th century to defend the walled town and included also the fortified **bridge** on the Adda, built by **Azzone Visconti** on the occasion of the reconstruction of the town, which was partly destroyed by Matteo Visconti a nobleman from Milan, in 1296.

We recommend a walk to visit the places that tradition has fixed like the theatre has fixed the episodes of "Promessi Sposi" (the betrothed). The route takes part in the southern part of Lecco, in Pescarenico, where little remains of

fra' Cristoforo's convent, but where you can still visit the church of **Santi Materno and Lucia** with its rare 17th century wax and paper machè modals and the Trinity by Cerano. Just a little distance from Pescarenico, in the area of Caleotto, it is essential that you visit the residence that belonged to the Manzoni family and that Alessandro eventually sold with a heavy heart. The building now houses the Manzoni Museum that display his manuscripts, first editions, and memorabilia relative to the life and work of the writer. The Manzoni itinerary then continues in the north of the town in the quarter of Olate, which is retained to be the home where Lucia was born and Aquate where the betrothed were to get married. The two quarters dispute with each other over the presumed or traditional "House of Lucia". Above on the promontory of the Zucco, the palace of Don Rodrigo has been ascertained, which is now a rationalist building, while a country road that leads to Germanedo indicates the place of the famous ambush. And again in the quarter of Chiuso there is the place





where the tailor lived, who welcomed a liberated Lucia, where the celebrated conversion of “the unnamed person” took place, whose castle was further away, towards the south of Somasca, a hamlet of Vercurago.

The itinerary continues in the direction of Abbadia Lariana but, because of the intense traffic from Lecco to Abbadia, it is dangerous and we suggest the use of public transport, by train from Lecco station (Milan-Lecco-Sondrio line). From Abbadia the course follows the lakeside road, skimming the gardens of the splendid villas, alternating with delightful beaches and small villages. Here the possibility for things to visit are numerous and accommodate every kind of curiosity.

Of note, is the **Museo del Setificio** (a silk museum) in Abbadia Lariana, a rare contribution to industrial archaeology in Italy. In Abbadia too there are ruins from the medieval past with the ruins of the **Torraccia** (12th-13th centuries).

The itinerary continues along the east bank of the Larice crossing through places that sit along its banks. In the town of Mandello Lario, we suggest a break to visit two religious buildings, the **Sanctuary della Madonna del Fiume**, built between 1624 and 1627 following the overflowing of the river Meria and the consequent destruction of the chapel to the Holy Virgin, where according to the tradition, only part of the wall was found with the image of the Vergine con il Bambino, painted on it. The **Church of San Giorgio**, which was originally a small Roman temple, was reconstructed, with a single aisle and a gabled façade and dates back to the start of the 11th century. The church represents a real picture gallery of frescoes from the medieval world.

Also in Mandello there is the **Museo della Moto**

Guzzi which tells the story of the motorcycle on the Lario. Continuing in the direction of Colico, you pass Lierna, with its tiny medieval centre of **Castello**, that keeps its character of fortified bastion in defence of a small peninsular stretching out into the water. The fact that this place is ancient, is confirmed by the church of San Maurizio, which is maybe of Roman origin, that rises on the banks of the lake and maintains some of its ruins incorporated in the surrounding houses. Lierna, with its two beaches, the white bank and the black bank, is one of the most popular summer holiday places on the lake.

Continuing, you arrive in Varenna, which faces the peninsular of Bellagio, and can be reached by numerous ferries and boats. The town which is gracefully entrenched in the mountains, is to be admired from the lake with its precipitous architecture like a colourful pyramid, accentuated by the verticality of the overlooking, sloping woods. Here you can visit two villas of historical interest. **Villa Monastero** rises on the ruins of an ancient Cistercian monastery, which today is a centre for congresses and conferences and is in an extremely picturesque spot, the villa being set in a garden that has great spectacular impact. The second is **Villa Cipressi**, which now is a hotel, but in the Renaissance period, was owned by the family Serponti and in the 19th century by the family Isimbardi. We see it today in its neoclassical form, because of the restructuring work carried out in the second half of the 19th century by Enrico Andreossi. Before leaving Varenna the **Castello di Vezio** is worth a visit. It is in the town of Perledo at the top of the village and can be reached only after walking up some hairpin bends. It is an ancient Manor house that dates back to the 11th century and

has been restructured many times. Today it is like a fort on a square layout, with high walls and a central tower, which is accessible via a functional drawbridge. Continuing on the course you arrive at the town of Bellano, where the ex-cotton mill Cantoni can be seen, a 19th century building which was built over a pre existing factory. Also in Bellano, is the **Church of Santi Nazaro e Celso**, built halfway through the 14th century by Maestri Campionesi, in an elegant gothic form with a monumental façade and a majolica rose window. Conserved here, there is also a professional late gothic cross. In the same piazza there is another church, the **Church of Santa Marta**. The two churches are on the two short sides of the square of Bellano, in the historic centre between the lake and the ancient pedestrian streets that lead up to the mountain. The nearby **Sanctuary of the Madonna di Lezzeno** is a place of pilgrimage. After this break the course continues, crossing the town of Dervio, where the **historical centre of Corenno Plinio**, rising entrenched on a rocky spur, seeming to drop into the lake. It is dominated by the castle enclosure of Roman form, but was redesigned around the years 1363-70. The **Parish Church of San Tommaso of Canterbury** is of interest. Built between the end of the 12th century and the beginning of the 13th, but restructured in the 18th century, it dominates the high square of the village. Outside, there are the tombs of the Andreani Counts, who were feudal Lords of the area. The itinerary continues, crossing the town of Dorio at the doorway to Colico, whose multiple historical artistic testimonies, merit a visit. Coming from Lecco, first of all you come across the **Abbey of Piona**, built on the tip of the peninsular of Olgiasca, outstretched on alto Lario facing Gravedona. Of Longobarda origin,

the actual building dates back to the second half of the 11th century, representing a fundamental testimony of Romanesque architecture, of the Benedictine kind, in Lombardy. The **Forti di Fuentes** and the **Forte Lusardi** are also worthy of a visit. The first was built in 1603, by the spanish Count of Fuentes, governor of the Dukedom of Milan, to safeguard the northern borders from the Grigioni who were allies of the French and the Republic of Venice. The second, on the hills of Montecchio, was designed entirely in stone and cement by Enrico Rocchi, a general who was extremely qualified in the design of forts. And in fact this fort was the most modern fort among those used by the Italian army during the First World War. The cannons positioned on the top of the building and protected by domes in steel and cast iron were the best in Italy and even today, they still work.

The itinerary concludes a little further on at the bridge SS 36 on the Adda, linking up to already existing cycle lanes.



Varenna



THEMATIC ROUTES

SPORT AND CULTURE ALONG THE EASTERN BANKS OF THE LARIO

The itinerary passes through several places and coasts along the banks of the Lario from Lecco to Colico. It is particularly adapted for those who love doing sport and cycling on roads and offers numerous starting points also for who likes mountain biking and trekking. Even though the track is more suitable to experienced cyclists, the itinerary can however be followed, using public transportation for the more difficult parts.

The itinerary as it unwinds, touches small towns on the banks of the lake and it is characterised by

a high concentration of historical-architectural buildings from various times (from rare Roman remains, to Renaissance, to late Baroque and to neoclassical) and is particularly dedicated to those who want to admire the beauty of the landscape. The scenery is spectacular from the pre-Alps at the highest point of the lake to Val Chiavenna and Valtellina and the group of mountains around the Grigne and you can also discover the cultural assets that there are to visit. We recommend:



Abbadia Lariana

THE CENTRE OF PESCARENICO IN LECCO

The residential, historical centre of **Pescarenico** runs along river Adda, a little further south of the Visconti bridge. In the internal part of Pescarenico there is the important parish church of **Santi Materno e Lucia**, which was adjacent to the convent of the Cappuccini, and built under the wishes of San Carlo Borromeo. The convent was built in 1576 by Giovanni Mendoza who was Governor of the plains of Lecco.

The church, like many other Franciscan churches is an aisle less church, with a gabled ceiling which is clearly pronounced with arches. It was greatly restructured in 1810, above all the façade, which has been attributed to the architect Giuseppe Bovara who was particularly focused in the Neoclassical environment of Lecco. In 1824 the church was called **San Materno** and following this **Santa Lucia**. The bell tower which was created in around 1713, but was recently restored, has a single, triangular layout. Among the most precious works we must point out the altar piece of Giovanni Battista Crespi known as the Cerano, which can be dated to 1600 and figures "Francesco and Gregorio Magno in the presence of the Trinity". In 1789 the convent was used as a barracks for the French troops and in 1810 it was suppressed by Napoleon.

The ancient village of **Pescarenico** and the church with the convent are well known above all for the reconstruction of the places where the character Fra' Cristoforo lived, in the novel "I Promessi Sposi" (the Betrothed). The most significant place of the Manzoni

tour is, however, Villa Manzoni, which is only a few minutes from Pescarenico in the area of Caleotto, an area which was once given over to agricultural land and which is now densely built up. The villa was the main residence of the family Manzoni family for nearly two centuries and was part of the vast real estate owned by Alessandro in the area of Lecco. You can enter the museum from the entrance, which is in Via Don Guanella, into one of the courtyards, on the right of which, is the chapel is the Chapel of the Assunta (finished in 1777). You enter the museum's rooms by crossing the stables, which today houses the temporary exhibitions of the Civic Museum of Lecco. In the first room, on



Pescarenico



the ground floor of the ex-household, in a large glass display there are some costumes relating to the time of Manzoni. They were used by Italian television (RAI) for a television production of "I Promessi Sposi". On the wall in front, there is a portrait of the writer Giuseppe Molteni and a bronze represents Lucia by the sculptor Confalonieri. The second room documents the relationship between Alessandro Manzoni and Lecco. A huge plastic model shows the property that Manzoni owned and the nearby district of Pescarenico in 1799. There are some documents, in glass casements, that concern the history of the town. From here you enter

the third room where engravings, lithographs and etchings are conserved, which all have the landscape and lake of Lecco as their subject and can be dated prior to 1840. Here you can find interesting autographs by Manzoni, letters to his cousins Guicciardi in Valtellina and a pack which consists of the declared speech by the House of Commons in honour of King Vittorio Emanuele II. The fourth room, that in the time of Manzoni was called a tinello (morning room), leads the way to the main entrance of what once was, the residential part of the villa. Here there are a series of paintings that depict the scenery of Lecco and the places written about



Villa Manzoni

by Manzoni. In the fifth room, or kitchen, a glass showcase keeps the writers bamboo crib and you can also see a panel with the writers family tree. On the walls there are five 17th century canvases, a series of 12 Caesars, who decorated Pietro Manzoni's study, the father of the writer. Room 6 or 'the red room', where there is a marble fireplace with the Manzoni crest set into it, is dedicated to the literary work of the writer. The four showcases display manuscripts and first editions, his poetic work, tragedies, his novels and essays (Morals, history, linguistic). Room 7 "the grisaille room" is the most important in the villa and here there

is the original furniture and in the centre a precious lamp bought by Giulia Beccaria. Room 8 was the dining room, with a fire that sent warm air into the environment and a ceiling that was decorated with refined stucco work. A notice board/showcase presents a sampling of the boundless repertoire of Manzonian curiosities. Room 9 is dedicated to the first printed edition of "Promessi Sposi", the so called 'Quarantana' and its publishing sequence. Manzoni himself wanted the edition to be richly illustrated and he took great pains with the image of the book, like a real film before release. The last and most atmospheric part of the villa that is possible to visit, are the cellars with a splendid ice house and two original torches from half way through the 19th century. On the first floor of the villa there is the Galleria Comunale d'Arte (the City Art Gallery) which displays work by local artists from Lecco, from the 17th century to the present day.



The Church of Pescarenico

Accessibility from the cycle route:

the cycle lane runs past the village of Pescarenico, and therefore it is very easy to reach.

Information:

Villa Manzoni - Museo Manzoniano and the Galleria Comunale d'Arte
via Guanella, 7

For information call the director of the museum
tel. 0341481247 - 0341481249
fax 0341369251 - www.museilecco.org
e-mail: segreteria.museo@comune.lecco.it



VILLA MONASTERO IN VARENNA

Built on the ruins of an ancient Cistercian monastery, in an incredibly panoramic position in the centre of the Lario. The villa is set in wonderful gardens which are full of flowers and colour and is today a place in which research and studies are carried out and where important congresses and conventions are held in the course of the entire year. These activities are put forward and run, by the Institute of **Villa Monastero**, an instrumental body of the Provincial administration of Lecco which was entrusted with the compendium in 1995 by the present day owner, The National Council for Research. Important restoration work and appropriate re-structuring of the structure, were carried out in the last few years thanks to the intervention of the 'Cassa di Risparmio' in the Province of Lombardy, which has allowed the villa to have more intense and efficient use. The park which covers an area of nearly 2 kms. along the lake from Varenna to Fiumelatte, is visited every year by about 30,000 people, offering an opportunity, not only for relax but also for instruction, thanks to the presence of numerous arboreal autochthonous and exotic species. The villa that for the last 50 years has been holding congresses and various Cultural and Scientific events (several lectures by the Nobel Prize winner E.Fermi have been held here), has become the home of a museum, the **Casa Museo Villa Monastero** which has also recently gained recognition from the Region of Lombardy as it is in possession of all the

requirements laid down by the minister for Cultural Assets. In this historical residence on the Lario, which owes its origins to the presence of a Cistercian monastery built at the end of the 12th century, transformed during the course of the 17th century into a residence for holiday after Mornici from Valsassina bought it, we are pleased to say that the collections and the furnishings from the last two owners, are currently conserved here.

They have given it its present day eclectic aspect and the last owner left the whole property and everything inside, for public use. The institution "**Villa Monastero**" has created a programme to enable visitors to appreciate the villa and to enter inside this historical residence and this was finalised when it was opened to the public. One of the first things that the programme organised, was the reclamation of part of the objects that made up the collections, which, for various reasons had been moved to other places. Therefore they proceeded to create the furnishing for 14 rooms, all of which can be visited, relocating the furniture in their original positions, and organising the restoration of some pieces. The tapestries had to be restored and some pieces of furniture too. We would like to point out that a lot of information has been written out and positioned in the rooms, offering the visitor correct information about the collection housed there. From 2006, to help with school visits, a multimedia room, has been created, with didactic material that

has been organised by the House-Museum. These activities come from a desire to give more knowledge and understanding about the collection housed in the House-Museum of **Villa Monastero** and in the gardens in which it is immersed. It is based on the in-depth search into some themes which are linked to the collections and can be found inside the villa and in the gardens, but allow also appertaining links which have been set up with the area. It is thought that knowing more, can help the correlation.

Accessibility from the cycle route:

Villa Monastero can be reached directly from the cycle lane at the beginning of the town of Varenna, for who is coming from Lecco.

Information:

The Province of Lecco

Istituzione "Villa Monastero"

tel. [0341295450](tel:0341295450) - fax [0341295441](tel:0341295441)

www.villamonastero.it

e-mail: villa.monastero@provincia.lecco.it



Villa Monastero



ABBAZIA OF PIONA IN COLICO

The abbey is on the summit of the peninsular of Olgiasca stretching out into upper Lario, facing Gravedona. It is thought that this place was already inhabited in ancient times, as findings have shown, and in the present day church belonging to the Abbey, there is a sepulchral urn which dates from the 3rd or 4th centuries, dedicated to 'Festina' and in the cloisters there is a sepulchral plate. The origin of the monastery is Longobarda, even if the present day building dates back to the second half of the 11th century and gives therefore fundamental evidence of Romanesque in Lombardy. The abbey of Piona has been since the Middle Ages, an important reference point for the region, whether on a religious or productive level. The church in its simplicity, has a pleasant austerity, that reminds us of its Benedictine construction. It was built in 616, under the orders of the bishop of Como, a first nucleus, a small chapel dedicated to Santa Giustina, of which the apse is still conserved. You can admire it from the outside of the church.

Next to the oratory, a new church was built, consecrated in 1138, around which, in the same century, a cluniac monastery was built. A document from 1169, the first to cite the building, indicated that it was dedicated to Saint Nicholas. In the ten years between the 14th and 15th centuries, the abbey passed in commendam, meaning that they gave the earnings of the monastery to the noble families. The commendam was suppressed in 1798 and the assets of Piona were taken over by the state, so in 1801 it was given to private ownership. So, in 1935 the abbey was bought by the family Rocca, who gave the monastery two years later to the Cistercian monks from Casamari (Frosinone) and still today it is entrusted to the

same Cistercian order.

The church follows the typology of Benedictine medieval with a single aisle (with converging walls) and a semicircular apse, turned to the east. Inside the church is bare with the exception of some frescoes that completely cover the apse, that unfortunately have come to us in a terrible state of preservation and nullify any interpretation. They can be dated between the end of the 12th century and the beginning of the 13th century. The cloisters were constructed from 1252 onwards by Bonaccorso of Gravedona.

The iconographic work of the capitals, that conclude the slender columns of the cloister, are interesting, decorated with refined figures and vegetables.

Accessibility from the cycle route:

about 2 km from the cycle lane

Information:

Contact the **Abbey**

tel. 0341940331 - fax 0341931995



The Abbey of Piona

FORTE LUSARDI AND FORTE FUENTES AT COLICO

In October of 1603, the Count of Fuentes, thanks to financial help from the King of Spain, started work on the construction of the fort of the same name in Colico, created by the architect Gabrio Brusca. It was built on the summit of the hills of Monteggiolo, to defend the Dukedom of Milan from attacks by his Grigioni enemies. The fort which was built on a square layout, had a length of 125 metres and included the palace of the Governor, the church, the mill with an oven, barracks for the soldiers, some water cisterns and some warehouses. Other work on the fort was the tower of Curcio and the tower of Fontanedo. In 1735 the Dukedom of Milan, passed to the Austrians. The fort was demolished by Napoleon during his first campaign in Italy. Not even ruins remain. Between 1820 and 1859, groups of bandits escaping from the control of the Austrians, hid in the ruins of the fort. At the beginning of the 20th century, the fort of

Fuentes, became a support post for the fort Lusardi, constructed between 1905 and 1914 on the hills of Montecchio and equipped with one of the biggest artillery gunboats in Italy.

Accessibility from the cycle route:

about 2km from the cycle lane

Information:

Forte di Fuentes

Tourist Information Office of Lecco

tel. 0341295720 - 0341295721

e-mail: info.turismo@provincia.lecco.it

Forte Lusardi

For information **Larius Coop.**

tel. 0341941688

and **Biblioteca of Colico**

tel. 0341934788

e-mail: coop.larius@virgilio.it



Forte Lusardi



Forte Fuentes



BIKE SALES AND REPAIR

Gilardi Ferdinando Bicycle repair
via Turbada, 15 - 23900 Lecco (LC)
tel. 0341272523

Fun Surf Center (rented bicycle and mountainbike)
via Montecchio Nord - Colico

tel. 0341941826-3388148719 - fax 0341933884 - www.funsurfcener.com

Scenini Sauro S.n.c. (sales and repair)

viale della Costituzione, 40 - Mandello del Lario
tel. e fax 0341731505 - e-mail: sceninifra@interfree.it

OTHER SPORTING ACTIVITIES

For who wants to spend a day in the countryside, doing sport:

The district of Lecco

CANOEING:

Società Canottieri Lecco

via F. Nullo 2, Lecco
tel. 0341364273 - www.canottieri.lc.it
e-mail: canottieri.lecco@canottieri.lc.it

SPORTS CENTRE:

Centro Sportivo Comunale al Bione:

via B. Buozzi, 34- tel. 0341283563
www.centroginnico.com - e-mail: leccosport@hotmail.com

The district of Colico

HORSERIDING:

Az. Agrituristic La Vecchia Fattoria di Ferroni Marisa

via Borgonuovo, 2 - Colico
tel. 0341933104 - 3396622711 - 3481013071
www.nellavecchiafattoria.com
e-mail: info@nellavecchiafattoria.com

The district of Mandello

CANOEING:

Canottieri Moto Guzzi

strada Statale, 51
tel. 0341733792

SOME PROPOSALS FOR TOURIST TREKKING

The districts of Lecco: among the paths that are marked we recommend the Sentiero Botanico "Giovanni Fornaciari" in the park of Monte Barro, the Sentiero Natura in the valley of Piani d'Erna (can be reached by cable car from Lecco). For more difficult excursions, take

the Sentiero for I piani d'Erna 3 hours, for il Pizzo follow the signpost to Barco 3 hours, for il Monte Resegone go from Germanedo going towards la Rovinata, Campo dè Boi, Passo del Fò 5 hours, for il Monte Albano 1 hour, for the Como Medale passing through

Rancio 2,30 hours, for Monte Moregallo leaving Valmadrera 3,30 hours.

The districts along the banks of the Lario, from Abbadia-Lariana to Colico : take the Sentiere del Viandante, from Borbino to the Madonna del Posallo. The path which has undergone some work, is passable for some sections even with a mountain bike. It is particularly recommended for trekking.

The districts of Bellano: path for the Alpe Giumello from Mornico, passing through Lornico and Tedoldo 2 hours, for the Monte Croce of Muggio leaving from Oro, passing through Noceno and Cà Maggiore 5 hours.

The districts of Dervio: path for Monte Legnone from Aveno 6 hours, for Monte Croce from Muggio passing Cangiago 5/6

hours, for Monte Legnoncino from the refuge Roccoli Loria 1 hour.

The districts of Colico: take the path for the Cima di Scoggione from Villatico 4 hours, for the Punta dei Merli from Villatico 5 hours, for the Monte Legnone passing through Robustello, l'Alpe Rossa, Alpe Temnasco, Punta dei Merli and cà de Legn 6 hours.

The districts of Mandello del Lario: take the path for the Monte Zucco Petrusio leaving from Rongio 5 hours, for the northern Grigna climbing the Valle Merla again and touching the Rif. Bietti 8/9 hours.

The districts of Varenna: path for Esino Lario 1,30 hours, for the Prati d'Ortanello 2,30 hours, for the refuge Albiga 1 hour, for the summit of the northern Grigna 5 hours.

TYPICAL REFRESHMENT

For information about the complete list of restaurants along the itinerary, consult the web site: www.turismo.provincia.lecco.it

ACCOMMODATION

LOCALITY	TYPOLOGY	STRUCTURE	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Lecco	hotels	Jolly Hotel Pontevecchio ★★★★★	via Azzone Visconti, 84	0341238000
	hotels	Alberi ★★★	lungo Lario Isonzo, 4	0341350992
	hotels	Don Abbondio ★★★	piazza Era, 10	0341366315
	hotels	Giordano ★★★	lungo Lario Cadorna, 20	0341367160
	hotels	Moderno ★★★	piazza Diaz, 5	0341286519
	hotels	Caviate ★	lungo Lario Piave, 17	0341363213
	B&B	Località Manzoni	via Malnago, 40	0341283196
	rented rooms	Bartolomeo	corso Martiri della Libertà, 131	0341282451
	rented rooms	Bartolomeo	via Tubi, 39	0341282451
	rented rooms	Cooperativa Sociale "il Talento"	largo Caleotto, 20	0341363567
	rented rooms	Cooperativa Sociale "il Talento"	via Belfiore, 74	0341363567
	CAV	C&C Maison	piazza Mazzini, 3 - Galleria Roma	3388111540



	camping	Rivabella ★	via alla Spiaggia, 35 - loc. Chiuso	0341421143
	holiday farms	Ponte Tenaglia	loc. Fontana Marietta	0341495968
Abbadia Lariana	hotels	Park Hotel ★★★	via Nazionale, 142	0341703193
	B&B	Il Portone	vicolo del Portone, 8	3287699175
	camping	La Spiaggia ★★★	via al Campeggio, 5	0341731621
Mandello del Lario	hotels	Grigna ★★★	via Statale, 29	0341731105
	hotels	Motel Nautilus ★★★	via St. Lecco/Bellagio-loc. Melgone	0341581373
	hotels	Al Verde ★	via Privata, 1-loc. Rongio	0341735104
	B&B	Dell'Acqua Bianca	v.dell'Acqua Bianca, 1/1-F. Somanà	0341735807
	rented rooms	Mamma Ciccìa	piazza Roma, 15	0341733358
	rented rooms	Zucchi	via Strada Statale, 125/127	0341731304
	camping	Continental ★★	via Statale, 93	0341731323
Lierna	B&B	Il Bogno	via Genico, 12/A	0341740544
	B&B	Le Ortensie	via Roma, 180	3482644190
	B&B	Patrizia	via Superiore, 7	0341741397
Perledo	hotels	Eremo Gaudio ★★★	Eremo di Perledo - loc. Eremo	0341815301
	hotels	Beretta ★	via per Esino, 1 - fraz. Olivedo	0341830132
	rented rooms	Baruffaldi	via della Pace, 2	0341815231
	holiday farms	Castello di Vezio	fraz. Vezio	335260429
Varenna	hotels	Du Lac ★★★★★	via del Prestino, 4	0341830238
	hotels	Royal Victoria ★★★★★	piazza San Giorgio, 5	0341815111
	hotels	Del Sole ★★★	piazza San Giorgio, 21	0341815218
	hotels	Milano ★★★	via XX Settembre, 35	0341830298
	hotels	Montecodeno ★★★	via Croce, 2	0341830123
	hotels	Olivedo ★★★	p.za Martiri della Lib., 4-loc. Olivedo	0341830115
	hotels	Villa Cipressi ★★★	via IV Novembre, 18	0341830113
	hotels	Milano Dipendenza ★★	via XX Settembre, 13 bis	0341830298
	B&B	Orange House	via Venini, 156	3479187940
	B&B	Villa Elena	piazza San Giorgio, 9	0341830575
	rented rooms	Eremo Gaudio	via Roma, 11	0341815301
	rented rooms	Villa Torretta	piazza Martiri della Libertà, 4	0341830115
Bellano	hotels	Meridiana ★★★	via Carlo Alberto, 19	0341821126
	hotels	Villa Stupenda ★★★	via per Lecco, 3	0341810386
	hotels	All'Orrido ★	via XX Settembre, 19	0341810310
	B&B	La Casa delle Rondini	fraz. Oro, 20	0341820586
	B&B	Villa Anita	via per Oro, 12	0341820225

	CAV	Villa Stupenda	via per Lecco, 3	0341810386
Dervio	camping	Europa ★★	via G. Marconi, 20	0341850289
	camping	Turispot ★★	lungolago degli Ulivi, 5	0341850460
	holiday house	Orza Minore Scuola di Vela	via Matteotti, 3	039328301
Dorio	RTA	Oasi dei Celti ★★★	via Piave, 31	0341806864
	B&B	Villa Cristina	via degli Alpini, 5	3392674251
	rented rooms	Locanda dell'Era	via Piave, 6	0341804444
Colico	hotels	Belvedere ★★★	loc. Olgiasca, 53	0341940330
	hotels	Conca Azzurra ★★★	via Piona, 119 - loc. Olgiasca	0341931984
	hotels	Italia ★★★	via Nazionale nord, 20 - loc. Curcio	0341940886
	hotels	Risi ★★★	lungo Lario Polti, 1	0341933089
	hotels	Villa Colico ★★★	via Nazionale, 100	0341930490
	hotels	Aurora ★	via Nazionale Nord, 4 - loc. S. Giorgio	0341940323
	hotels	Continental ★	via Nazionale N., 39 -loc. Trivio Fuentes	0341930864
	hotels	Roma ★	via Laghetto, 8 - loc. Laghetto	0341940147
	hotels	Sci D'Oro ★	via San Fedele, 29	0341940594
	B&B	Le Robinie	via al Boscone, 12/A	0341930497
	CAV	Villa Dina	via Pra La Vaca - loc. Villatico	0341933113
	holiday farms	Baia di Piona ★★	via Vignolo, 11 - loc. Laghetto	0341941473
	holiday farms	Green Village ★★	via Nazionale Sud, 60 - loc. Piona	0341940248
	holiday farms	Lido ★	lungolago Polti, 4	0341941393
	holiday farms	Piona ★	via Nazionale Sud, 78	0341940173
	holiday farms	El Logasc	via Laghetto	0341933139
	holiday farms	El Mercante	via Laghetto 45/C	0341930257
	holiday farms	La Fiorita	via Borgonuovo, 6	0341933128
	holiday farms	La Vecchia Fattoria	via Borgonuovo, 2	0341933104

TOURIST INFORMATION

For further information consult the site www.turismo.provincia.lecco.it or ask for the hotel guide *Guida all'ospitalità del lago di Como*, which can be found at:

Tourist Information Office of Lecco

via Nazario Sauro, 6

tel. 0341295720 and 0341295721 - fax 0341295730

www.turismo.provincia.lecco.it - e-mail: info.turismo@provincia.lecco.it

Tourist Information Office of Varenna (open in the tourist season)

via IV novembre - tel. and fax 0341830367



ITINERARY

9



THE RING OF LAKES OF GARLATE AND OLGINATE



LENGTH OF THE ROUTE:	9.9 Km
DEPARTURE - ARRIVAL:	Lecco
ARRIVAL - DEPARTURE:	Calolziocorte
THE CONDITIONS OF THE TRACK:	The track is currently practicable on the cycle lane and on the roads, with a low level of security and some difficult moments. The course can be undertaken using any kind of bicycle, mountain bike, city bike or racing bike
ROUTE TIME:	1,30 hours
COURSE DIFFICULTY:	Easy
LINKS WITH OTHER ITINERARIES:	By bicycle/train : the course links up with Itinerary 7 "Art and Literature among the lakes of Brianza" (Brescia-Bergamo-Lecco line) and with Itinerary 8 "Discovering the eastern banks of the Lario" (Lecco-Sondrio-Milano line). By boat : cross using the Lake Navigational Service and you can link up with Itinerary 6 "Il Ghisallo" (Lecco-Bellagio line) or with itinerary 8 "Discovering the Eastern Banks of the Lario" (Lecco-Varenna line – only during summer months)

ALTIMETRIC PROFILE



INFORMATION REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY

DEPARTURE/ARRIVAL: LECCO

By car: Brianrea, SS639 for Lake Pusiano and for Garlate, SS538 Lariana, SP72 and SS36 Lake Como and Spluga.

By train: FFS Como-Molteno-Lecco, Milano-Lecco-Sondrio and Brescia-Bergamo-Lecco lines.

By bus: links with the main cities of Milan, Como.

By boat: : Navigational service on Lake Como (from May to the end of September).

Starting point: Kennedy bridge in the city of Lecco.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE: CALOLZIOCORTE

By car: SS 342 Briantea.

By train: FFS Brescia-Bergamo-Lecco line.

By boat: links with Lecco and Bergamo.

Starting point: the centre of the town of Calolziocorte.



The course starts from the Kennedy bridge in the city of Lecco and continues, following the course of the river Adda. Take the cycle lane that coasts alongside the river until you arrive at the campsite at Rivabella. Following the main road in the direction of Bergamo, you reach the town of Vercurago where it is possible to visit the **Santuario of San Gerolamo** in the hamlet of Somasca, which can be reached only after a steep climb.

Near the rock of Somasca San Gerolamo opened in 1533, a small path which is today known as "the saintly stairway", opened. Then the area was enhanced by the followers of the saint, with houses and chapels, so much that today we must distinguish two separate complexes. One can be found in the heart of the inhabited area, famous as the sanctuary, built in 1500, that houses the tomb of the saint as well as valuable paintings. The other is in the area of Valetta where there is a little church, a place of pilgrimage, as well as the place that Saint Gerolamo chose as his night time residence.

Returning to the course, very soon you reach Calolziocorte.

Here, there is a very interesting **botanical garden**, **Giardino Botanico Gaspare De Ponti**, but an obligatory stop is at **Monastero di Santa Maria del Lavello**, a Romanesque building, which name (from Latin labellum, basin for the collection of water) is probably due to the installation of a Milanese family in the area, of the name of de Lavello.

This family were the owners of a fort that was destroyed halfway through the 14th century by Bernabò Visconti, to which there had been annexed a little church with only one apse, that was dedicated to the Virgin.

The monastery today is the fulcrum of the cultural

course of the cloister route, a cultural circuit that links and gives value to the local, historical-architectural heritage with those of two other Northern-European geographic areas, Leisnig (Germany) and Gussing (Austria).

Before leaving Calolziocorte, it is worth visiting the **village of Rossino**, uphill of the town and can be reached by climbing a road full of hairpin bends. In evidence is the ancient **Church of San Lorenzo**, which is probably of early medieval origin, cited for the first time only at the end of the 13th century. Inside it is possible to admire some frescoes from the first ten years of the 15th century, which show scenes of the lives of Saint Lorenzo and Saint Sebastiano; on the walls at the back there is a 15th century crucifixion; on the vault the previous figures of Christ, the Evangelists and finally, on the triumphal arch 'the Annunciation', by Dottori. On a promontory, guarding the **centre of Rossino** and the ancient road to Bergamo, is the **castle**, a fortified building, that was maybe built before the 12th century and that could have belonged to the family Benalio, a feudal Lord of the area and the village, therefore to Rota, until in the 18th century, the castle went through a period of abandon. In the late 19th century the original complex was restored, which was when it was changed into a castle. Before taking up the course again in the direction of Lecco, you must carry out a deviation for a couple of kilometres, to reach the town of Garlate. Here we suggest that you visit the **Church of Santo Stefano**, a building from the early Middle Ages, which is a clear example of the evolution of a type of ecclesiastical architecture from Roman times and the time of counter-reformation. Here recent excavations in the flooring of the church of Santo Stefano, have brought to light a complex historical stratification of the ground: traces of a

Roman Villa built over a 5th century chapel and they found two Romanesque apses with fragments of 13th century frescoes. Numerous, were the precious objects discovered, an early Christian silver shrine and a fibula of Longobardian time. Remarkable is the **Museo della Seta Abegg**,

which opened in 1953. This was the initiative of a Swiss businessman, owner of the silk mill Abegg and the building had housed a silk mill since the beginning of the 19th century and was enlarged around 1885. In 1976 it became the property of the town of Garlate.





THEMATIC ROUTES

THE ROUTE OF THE MINOR LAKES

The itinerary which leaves from the city of Lecco, crosses a stretch of territory included in the green area surrounded Mount Resegone on the east, the valley of S. Martino on the southeast, the Mount Brianza, Mount Crocione and Mount Barro, and the lakes of Garlate and Olginate, which are positioned to the south of the Lario. The track across

some of the residential villages is characterised by the presence of historical-architectural evidence, linked to religious buildings and buildings that are of industrial archaeological interest. In particular we suggest you to visit:

MONASTERO DI LAVELLO IN CALOLZIOCORTE

The abbey and the **Church of Lavello** have represented, since the end of the Middle Ages, a reference point for the region. With the assets that were once annexed to the monastery and the organisational role that the monks in service in the Renaissance and Baroque centuries took on, so the process of territorial organisation was determined. The church even in its simplicity and for the typology value of its contents, has figured work of great worth, that was created in the 18th century Renaissance period. The place on which the monastery was built carried out an important role in ancient times, for its strategic position between the Lake Como, the valley of San Martino and the river Adda, a location on the border of different dominions. The church, despite its simplicity, has a collection of several remarkable paintings made from the Renaissance time to the 18th century.

It was in 1480, that a miracle happened. A hermit, who was seeking refuge in the crumbling church, discovered a tomb, from which clear water poured. Following other miracles, the church became a place of pilgrimage. Around 1486, because of



The cloister inside the Monastery

the copious amounts of pilgrims, the 'Order of the service of Maria' was given to the monks, allowing them to establish themselves in the church and to use the surrounding land. In 1510 the monks re-built the monastery. In 1566 work began on the biggest cloister and this continued until 1597. Between 1582 and 1585 the church was further enlarged and some of the very interesting frescoes in the chapel on the left, the one dedicated to San Filippo, could date back to this phase. The richness of the monastery is visible also in the artistic conformation of the building that was built in the 16th and 17th centuries. The two cloisters, the large one and the small one, are splendid.

Accessibility from the cycling route:

the building can be found on the banks of the lake of Olginate, where the lake narrows to flow into the river Adda, south of the residential part of Calolziocorte. It can be seen from the cycle lane, from which it can be easily reached.

Information:

Fondazione Monastero del Lavello

tel. 0341643733 - 0341295485 and fax 0341295441

Ass.ne Unaltrastoria:

tel. 0341284154 - 3386225427

www.unaltrastoria.it - e-mail: info@unaltrastoria.it



Particulars of the Monastery



MUSEO DELLA SILK ABEGG AT GARLATE

The museum is housed in a 19th century mill, which was enlarged around 1885. The museum contains one of the most complete collections in the history of silk production. By means of machinery, looms, paintings, prints and furnishings from the 18th to the 20th century, the customs of silk worm breeding are presented from the breeding of the silk worms to the drawing and the twisting of the silk, which are the two most important operations. It opened in 1953 under the initiative of Swiss businessmen, owners of the silk mill Abegg in Italy.

It was however given over to the Town Council of Garlate in 1976. Full of interest, among many other things, is the large round layout and the wooden shape and the 18th

century twisted mill. In a room that was already used as a silk mill, some examples of silk worms have been conserved and with a didactic aim, the reproductive cycle is on display right up to the formation of the cocoon.

Accessibility from the cycle route:

about 2 km. And it cannot be seen from the cycle lane.

Information:

for further information

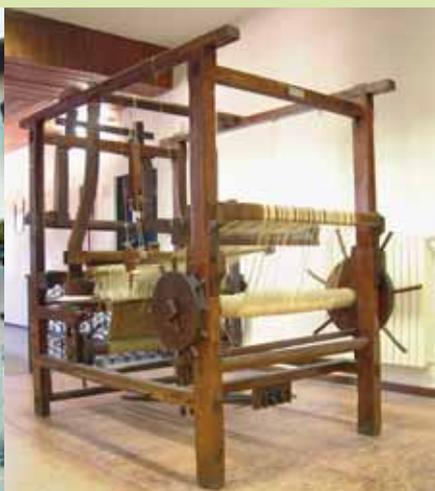
tel. and fax 0341650488

e-mail: museoabegg@virgilio.it

For guided tours, contact the museum or the association *l'Associazione "Tracce"* tel. 0341202069



The entrance of the Museum



Particular of the Museo della Seta

BIKE SALES AND REPAIR

Gilardi Ferdinando Bicycle Repair

via Turbada, 15 - Lecco - tel. 0341272523

Mondo Bici S.A.S

Bicycle Sales and Repair

via Roma, 47 - Pescate - tel. 0341368182

Fratelli Greppi Srl

via Statale, 1755 - Garlate - tel. 0341655511 - fax 0341655567 - www.fratelligreppi.com

Camping Riviera

via Foppaola, 113 - Garlate - tel. 0341680346 - e-mail: camping.riviera@libero.it
(rented bicycle from April to September)

OTHER SPORTING ACTIVITIES

For who wants to spend a day in the countryside, doing sport, the districts offer:

The district of Lecco

CANOEING:

Società Canottieri Lecco

via F. Nullo 2, - Lecco

tel. 0341364273

www.canottieri.lc.it

e-mail: canottieri.lecco@canottieri.lc.it

SPORTS CENTRE:

Centro Sportivo Comunale al Bione:

via B. Buozzi, 34 - Lecco

tel. 0341283563

www.centroginnico.com

e-mail: leccosport@hotmail.com

SOME PROPOSALS FOR TOURIST TREKKING

The district of Lecco: among the paths signposted we recommend, the Sentiero Botanico "Giovanni Fornaciari" in the park of Monte Barro, the Sentiero Natura in the valley of the Piani d'Erna (which can be reached by cable car from Lecco). For more difficult excursions take the Sentiero for I piani d'Erna 2 hours, for the Pizzo follow the signpost to Barco 3 hours, for Mount Resegone

from Germanedo pass through Rovinata, Campo dè Bui, Passo del Fò 5 hours, for Mount Albano 1,30 hour, for the Corno Medale go through Rancio 2,30 hours, for Mount Moregallo leaving from Valmadrera 2,30 hours..

For information regarding the difficulty of the tracks, please check the website:

www.turismo.provincia.lecco.it



TYPICAL REFRESHMENT

For information about the complete list of restaurants along the itinerary, consult the web site:
www.turismo.provincia.lecco.it

ACCOMMODATION

LOCALITY	TYPOLOGY	STRUCTURE	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Lecco	hotels	Jolly Hotel Pontevecchio ★★★★★	via Azzone Visconti, 84	0341238000
	hotels	Alberi ★★★	lungo Lario Isonzo, 4	0341350992
	hotels	Don Abbondio ★★★	piazza Era, 10	0341366315
	hotels	Giordano ★★★	lungo Lario Cadoma, 20	0341367160
	hotels	Moderno ★★★	piazza Diaz, 5	0341286519
	hotels	Caviate ★	lungo Lario Piave, 17	0341363213
	B&B	Località Manzoni	via Malnago, 40	0341283196
	rented rooms	Bartolomeo	corso Martiri della Libertà, 131	0341282451
	rented rooms	Bartolomeo	via Tubi, 39	0341282451
	rented rooms	Cooperativa Sociale "il Talento"	largo Caleotto, 20	0341363567
	rented rooms	Cooperativa Sociale "il Talento"	via Belfiore, 74	0341363567
	CAV	CAV C&C Maison	piazza Mazzini, 3-Galleria Roma	3388111540
	camping	Campeggio Rivabella ★	via alla Spiaggia, 35-loc. Chiuso	0341421143
holiday farms	Agriturismo Ponte Tenaglia	loc. Fontana Marietta	0341495968	
Calolziocorte	hotels	Locanda Del Mel ★★★	piazza Vittorio Veneto, 2	0341630265
Garlate	hotels	Nuovo ★★★	via Statale, 1122	0341680243

	rented rooms	Barbera & Champagne	via alla Chiesa, 37	0341651660
	camping	Riviera ★★	via Foppaola, 113	0341682592
Pescate	hotels	Le Torrette ★★★	via Roma, 151-loc. Torrette	0341272885
	hotels	Parco Belvedere ★★★	via Belvedere, 50	0341283562
Vercurago	hotels	San Gerolamo ★★★	via San Gerolamo, 76 loc. Somasca	0341420429

TOURIST INFORMATION

For further information consult the site www.turismo.provincia.lecco.it or ask for the hotel guide *Guida all'ospitalità del lago di Como*, which can be found at:

Tourist Information Office of Lecco

via Nazario Sauro, 6

tel. [0341295720](tel:0341295720) and [0341295721](tel:0341295721), fax [0341295730](tel:0341295730)

www.turismo.provincia.lecco.it - e-mail: info.turismo@provincia.lecco.it



SOME HELPFUL ADVICE FOR THE CYCLE TOURIST

1 CHOOSING THE COURSE: for a first time “cycle tourist”, it is absolutely essential to choose a simple course, with little difficulty and that allows an easy re-entry. It is useless to face exhausting itineraries, in places that are not well known, because the risk is that you will never want to hear about cycle tourism ever again.

2 OBTAIN ALL THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS BEFOREHAND: by surfing on the net you can obtain all the necessary information, by visiting the pages of the itinerary and special offers by Associations. In the tourist guides of each Province, there are several links or you can buy a guide and specific maps about the course. This is also a good way to start enjoying your journey, in advance.

3 PHYSICAL PREPARATION: the cycling preparation should go hand in hand with general physical preparation. It is not essential to train as you would for competitive sport, but it is important to arrive at the start of the course in good physical shape. More specifically, the preparation should centre on the creation of a good basis and in the habit of staying in the saddle for quite long periods. Generally a journey does not require intense exertion, but an approximate preparation can mean that you could pay the price. The scarce ability to recover is a problem that could arise after the first few days of travel. In the months prior to leaving, it is therefore recommendable to go out cycling on a regular basis, favouring distance rather than short and intense outings, making sure that you have at least one trip out a week, of more than four hours. Much depends also, on the course you are going to do.

4 THE CHOICE OF CREW: as for any other do-it-yourself journey, you need a good dose of team spirit among the participants. Travelling 10-15 km per hour (which is really little if you try it) you will manage to cover interesting distances, having also time to stop to visit cultural assets, to take photographs or just to enjoy the view. Go out together before leaving. You will only need a few hours every now and again, to know how both you and your companions are getting on.

5 ALIMENTATION: pedalling is predominantly an aerobic activity, that brings about a high expenditure of energy prolonged in time. Alimentation during your cycling trip should respect one principle fundamental : when you are in the saddle and if you feel hungry or thirsty, then you should never wait. When the symptoms arrive, it is already too late. Therefore to avoid your lights going out and your legs becoming weak, you must consume liquids regularly, once every 15-20 min and take solid energetic foods, in small quantities that are easy to digest, but continuously, once every 40 or 50 min. Salts must be reintegrated in the final part and above all after cycling activity, while sugar must be easily absorbed but never abused. Being practical? In your rucksack and at hand, you should always have some fruit (an apple, a banana, energy bars made of dried fruit and cereal). In your water bottle, tea which is enriched with honey.

6 CLOTHING: the difference between a cycling vacations, compared with the customary day trip, is that rarely you wear yourself out on a continuous pedalling trip. During a cycling holiday, the stops are more frequent and often the cycling stretches are divided into morning or afternoon, breaking the cycling stretches with a snack or a light lunch. So this means that your chosen clothing must be comfortable, even for the times when you are not in the saddle. The sports market promotes articles of clothing that have technical characteristics, but at the same time present an aspect of ‘free time’. But this a personal choice. You should not be without technical articles of clothing : shorts, underwear, gloves, sunglasses, a helmet which is essential, a windproof jacket and a change of clothes for the longer pauses. Footwear : those for competitions are not recommended, while the choice falls on those recommended for common use, but they must be good for pedalling and walking.

7 ACCESSORIES: if you have to buy a new one, then we recommend a bike for tourists : they are usually strong, they have gear shifts and allow for a comfortable posture. If you have a mountain bike and want to use it, then you should have the foresight to substitute the original tyres, with smoother ones. It will be an expense that you will not regret. Obtain also a cycle computer and somewhere to carry your bag. For this last outlay, buy one which is strong (the very light ones break very easily) and take into account that the ones at the back give more stability, than those at the front. You should know that the bags are never big enough. Try to get a small bag that you can tie to the handlebars: they are useful for keeping your camera in, money, documents and they usually have somewhere to keep your map on the upper part. Don't forget a full water bottle and the equipment for the first stage.



8 LUGGAGE: here you will need to limit yourself. If you have decided to travel around for a while, then you must resign yourself to the fact that you will have to wash some things. Some soap for washing clothes, takes up far less space than a complete set of T-shirts for twenty days.

9 RESPECT THE HIGHWAY CODE: the cyclist must respect the Highway Code, like any car driver. For reasons of security, always go the same way that the traffic is going, keeping to the right, always keep in the right lane for going round bends, make the correct hand signs and stop at traffic lights and at stop signs.

10 BASIC TECHNIQUES: maintain a moderate rhythm. Learn to change speed so that you can proceed without tiring yourself and go at a sensible speed. If your legs are 'burning' then this means that the gear is too long and so change it to a shorter one. If your lungs are 'burning', then change it to a higher gear. Relax on the uphill parts. Sit up straight, with your shoulders relaxed and open. This position helps you to breathe. Alternate the position on the uphill climbs. On longer uphill stretches, change position often to allow the muscles to relax. Remain sitting with your hands on the straight part of the handlebar near the mount. Occasionally put the handlebar at the same height as the coupling and stand up on the pedals. By standing, more power is transferred to the pedals, but this asks for more physical exertion. Pedal also when you are going downhill. On the routes where you are going up and down, try not to go in free bursts of speed, put the longer gear on and keep pedalling. The rush that will follow, will allow you to accomplish, the following up hill climb without any problems.

Have a good trip!

LECCO

TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist Information Office of Lecco

via Nazario Sauro, 6

tel. 0341295720 and 0341295721 - fax 0341295730

www.turismo.provincia.lecco.it - e-mail: info.turismo@provincia.lecco.it

Tourist Information Office of Varenna (open in the tourist season)

via IV novembre

tel. and fax 0341830367

COMO

Tourist Information Office of Como

piazza Cavour, 17

tel. 031269712 fax 031240111 - e-mail: lakecomo@tin.it

www.provincia.como.it/turismo - www.lakecomo.org

Tourist Information Office of Bellagio

piazza Mazzini (imbarcadere)

tel. e fax 031950204 - e-mail: promobell@tin.it

Tourist Information Office of Cernobbio (open in the tourist season)

largo Visconti, 4

tel. 031342111

Tourist Information Office of Canzo (open in the tourist season)

piazza Chiesa, 4

tel. and fax 031682457 - e-mail: procanzo@fiscali.it

VARESE

Tourist Information Office of Varese

via Carrobbio, 2 - Varese

tel. 0332283604 - e-mail: iatvarese@provincia.va.it - www.vareselandoftourism.it

Tourist Information Office of Cuveglio (open in the tourist season)

via Battaglia di San Martino, 114 - Cuveglio

tel. 0332651343

Tourist Information Office of Gavirate

piazza Dante, 1 - Gavirate

tel. 0332744707 - e-mail: ufficio@progavirate.com

Tourist Information Office of Castiglione Olona

via Branda, 13 - tel. 0331858048

or c/o Museo Branda - tel. 0331858301 - www.castiglioneolona.it

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Provincia di Lecco



Provincia di Como



PROVINCIA di VARESE

UFFICI INFORMAZIONI E ACCOGLIENZA TURISTICA

LECCO

Ufficio informazioni turistiche Lecco:

Via Nazario Sauro, 6

tel. 0341295720 e 0341295721

fax 0341295730

www.turismo.provincia.lecco.it

info.turisma@provincia.lecco.it

COMO

Ufficio informazioni turistiche Como:

Piazza Cavour, 17

tel. 031269712 fax 031240111

www.provincia.como.it/turismo

www.lakecomo.org

lakecomo@tin.it

VARESE

Ufficio informazioni turistiche Varese:

Via C. Carrobbio, 2

tel. 0332283604

www.vareselandofourism.it

iatvarese@provincia.va.it

info@varesottoturismo.com

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