



WELCOME TO LAKE ORTA

Ready to go? Our beloved Lake Orta and the surrounding area are a perfect destination for mountain bike lovers and for all who seek a more aware form of tourism. It will take you from the mountain called Mottarone to the wild Strona Valley, down to the shores of the lake, through rolling hills, charming woods and lush meadows, cycling through fairy-tale villages. This gorgeous land, abounding in uniquely pretty cycle paths, will astonish you with its gift of an enormous variety of landscape and experiences to enjoy. You can reach the top of our beautiful mountains, enjoy the ups and downs of our hills or pedal along our shores and not miss any of their art and architecture, ancient churches and villages where time seems to have stood still. What's more this is an area of great hospitality and rich farm and food products. It is possible to stay in over 50 hotels or guest houses or savour the food in the any of the excellent restaurants that we have selected for you in this guide. Lake Orta is an ideal destination also for all who have chosen to invest in the sustainable development of tourism, combining hospitality, sport and culture. This is our future and we believe it has to go hand in hand with looking after the environment. For this reason, our guide is one of the first in Italy dedicated also to e-bikes. So that everyone can enjoy excursions on two wheels and discover our unspoilt territory, get to know the farms and agricultural businesses who are looking after the countryside and share in our day-to-day life among the beauties, history, art and spirituality of this land. We hope you will all enjoy your holiday with us, and as Alex Langer used to say, take the ride: "more slowly, more gently and more deeply".



LAGO DORTA

Oreste Primatesta President Unione Turistica Lago d'Orta



ITINERARIES

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SLOPE

POINT OF RETURN

The tracks are made available by download for the sole purpose of information and promotion of the territory. Those who decide to tackle the route assume responsibility for the risks and dangers that may be encountered, considering that the practicability and state of the roads and paths changes over time. There is no obligation of the Lake Orta Tourist Union to update the information on the site, on which the itineraries traveled by the creators are collected. The Tourist Union of Lake Orta therefore decollected. The Tourist Union of Lake Orta therefore de-clines any responsibility for consequences related to the use of the tracks or information related to this guide and the information sheets contained therein and on the site.



Carcegna / Pettenasco / Sacro Monte / Orta San Giulio / Legro / Carcegna

ORTA SAN GIULIO AND ITS GEMS

Nature and culture around Italy's most romantic lake

Route type: EASY





INFORMATION

SINGLE TRACK **PATHWAY BICYCLE LANE** MINOR ROAD **ASPHALT ROAD**

1.31 km 3.21 km 0.50 km 3.30 km 6.22 km

RECOMMENDED PERIOD: JANUARY / DECEMBER

Pettenasco



14,2 km



0:54 ore



8,9 Km/h



Carcegna



GO TO THE POINT OF DEPARTURE

EAT and SLEEP IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Hotel Ristorante Villa Crespi Hotel Ristorante San Rocco Hotel Ristorante Leon D'Oro Hotel Ristorante Locanda di Orta Hotel la Contrada dei Monti B&B Al Dom Ristorante Ai Due Santi

Ristorante La Motta

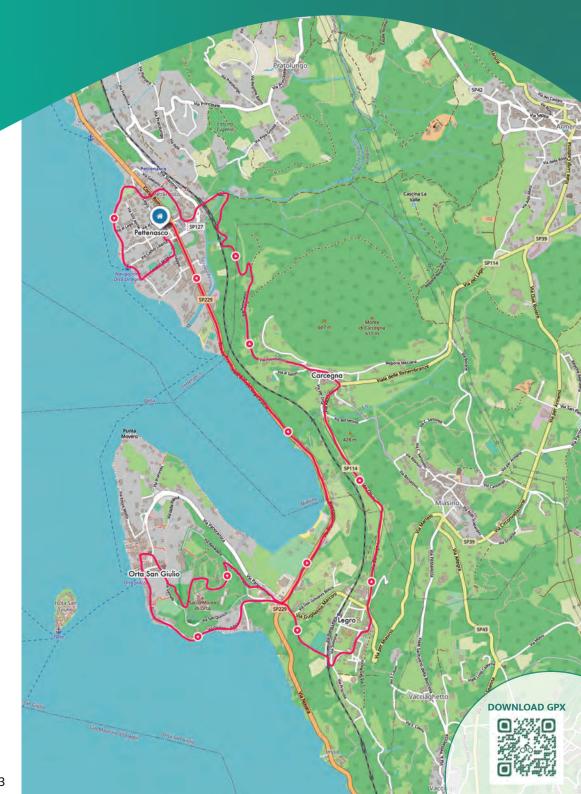
Bistrot Pane & Vino Ristorante Pizzeria Il Pozzo Bar tavola calda civico 26

This is a charming ride through uniquely beautiful panoramic landscapes, art and nature. It is mainly on tarmac roads and cobbles and is suitable for all levels of biking expertise and fitness. Departure Is from Carcegna.

We pedal along the cobbled road flanked by stone houses typically Italian in style. Fóllowing our GPS, you soon reach a gravel and dirt road and then a crossroads which, when you turn left, will take you the 300 metres to the village of Pettenasco. As you approach you will see the Pescone River and a gorgeous little Roman bridge under which is a spring of the purest water called "Paganetto".

At Pettenasco don't miss the parish church dedicated to Saint Audenzio which, on the northern end still features Its medieval Romanesque bell tower, one of the oldest along the Riviera of Lake Orta. The cycle ride proceeds along the promenade which takes its name from the English lawyer, Peter Benenson, founder of Amnesty International, one of Pettenasco and indeed the lake's most loyal friends, who loved to take his holidays here.

The approach to Orta Is along the eastern shore with the transparent waters of the lake on the right and flower filled gardens on the left, accompanied by the scent of jasmine, roses and evergreen trees. There are private and public beaches, pontoons, the mouth of the river Pescone, and the sculpture of a catapult



by Roselyne Elutti and above all the gorgeous views. At the end of the promenade, we turn on to the tarmac road that flanks the Hotel L'Approdo.

Turning right, proceed along the road: after a few minutes you will reach the big roundabout where you turn down to Orta. Just beyond it is the impressive Villa Crespi, an enchanting reproduction of a Moorish palace and the renowned hotel and restaurant made famous by the Michelin starred celebrity chef, Antonino Cannavacciuolo. Going right again, after a few minutes you will turn left and take the hill following the sign for the Sacro Monte, or Holy Mount.

After a few hairpin bends, you reach the top of the hill and the timeless atmosphere of this simply unique place. Here in a wood of pine and beech trees, is a path through 20 chapels tracing the life of St Francis of Assisi, in the form of a spiral. It was conceived, planned and carried out between 1591 and the middle of the 1700s, enriched along the way with loggias and porticos, with 376 life-size, very realistic statues in painted terracotta, telling vivid stories of the saint's life. The Sacro Monte is made more impressive and magical not only by the mastery of the artists' work but also by the beauty of the natural setting and the breath-taking view over Orta and the Island of San Giulio. The philosopher Nietsche himself described it "One of the most evocative places in the world". From here, take the descent into Orta San Giulio's village, passing a monumental fountain, a wonderful statue of St Francis of Assisi and the Church of the Assunta. The beautiful, broad cobbled hill leads into Piazza Mario Motta, considered to be the salon of Orta, the heart of village life. Lined on three sides by old palazzos, porticos and horse chestnut trees, the Piazza hosts the ancient town hall, or Broletto, going back to 1582. There is an incredible view over the lake to the romantic Island of San Giulio with its Palace of Bishops, the bell tower of the San Giulio Basilica and numerous period villas appearing to rise from the water and point to the sky.

A series of charming little roads lead off the square, narrow and winding, closed to traffic and lined with pretty villas and palaces in different styles, but





also with fascinating little shops, bars and local restaurants.

After a good look around, hit the saddle again and off you pedal to the left of the square, passing the Holy Trinity church and skirting the lake on your right.

Continuing along the road, turn right and take a little diversion down to Ortello, a little bay and group of houses which in past times were home to farmers and fishermen and where today there is a pontoon where the public boat stops and also a pretty little sand and gravel beach.

Back on the main road again, ride up the hill towards Villa Crespi and the large roundabout that marks the beginning of Orta.

At this point, turning right, you can go to the little village of Legro which has become popular for the interesting wall paintings on the facades of the houses, done by Italian and foreign artists, with poetry by local poet Gianni Rodari and scenes from films made on the shores of Lake Orta. With the help of your trusty GPS, return to Carcegna and its parish church, the last point of interest on the itinerary and also its point of departure.

HIGHLIGHTS

NOT TO BE MISSED ONLINE GUIDE WITH THE ITINERARY, POINTS OF **INTEREST AND INFO** ON THE ROUTE.















PIAZZA MOTTA



Pettenasco / Pratolungo / Crabbia / Borca / Monte Barro / Agrano / Pettenasco

LA RIVIERA OF PETTENASCO

Gardens, landscape and unforgettable views

Route type: INTERMEDIATE



INFORMATION

SINGLE TRACK **PATHWAY BICYCLE LANE** MINOR ROAD **ASPHALT ROAD**

3.87 km 5.70 km 0 km 3.80 km 6.60 km

RECOMMENDED PERIOD: JANUARY / DECEMBER



1024 m

19.4 km

1:57 ore









EAT and SLEEP IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Hotel Ristorante Giardinetto Hotel Ristorante L'Approdo Riviera Lake Resort Hotel Ristorante Sibilla Cusiana **B&B II Barsot** Casa vacanze Skipper Appartamenti Cascina Thumas

Appartamenti Al Pescone Villa Antica Colonia Camping Allegro Camping Verdelago Camping Punta Crabbia Ristorante Pizzeria Il Cormorano ming lanes. Ristorante Pizzeria Dolphins Hotel ristorante Madonna della Neve

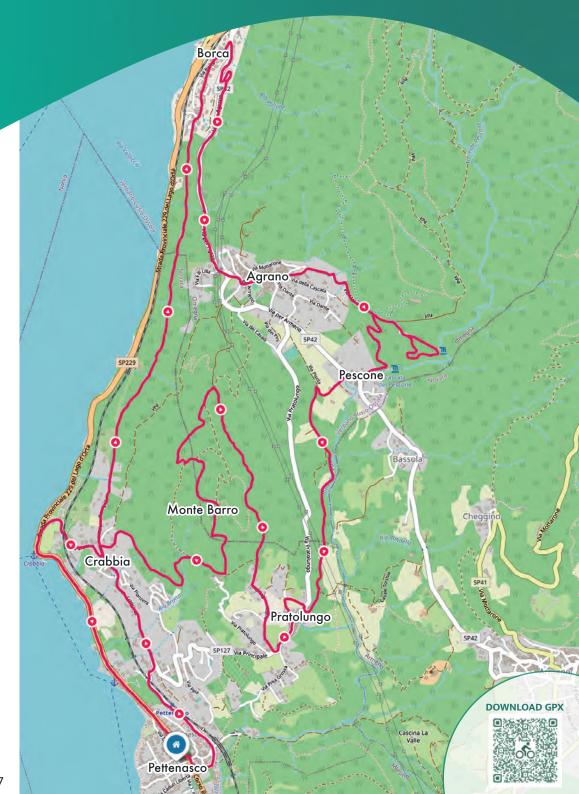
Dedicated to discovery of the villages cradling Lake Orta, this itinerary offers picturesque, enchanting views over the lake waters and surrounding valleys. This is a circular route which, while not presenting any great difficulty, is dedicated to cyclists with a degree of training: there is plenty of uphill pedalling and roads requiring good riding abilities. The first part of the trip is on tarmac roads while later there are dirt roads and single tracks through lush vegetation characteristic of the Riviera and the hills behind.

Pettenasco, is the take-off point, a village overlooking Lake Orta, much appreciated particularly in the summer season. The starting point of the ride is the parish church of Santa Caterina.

Ride north for about 120metres, taking Via Vittorio Veneto and enter a little secondary road on the left. You will see the Museo dell'Arte dedicated to wood turning and the history of this technique from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day.

The route then proceeds up Via della Stazione for about 600 metres and, keeping right, you will go over the level crossing. At the crossroads, keep left and go along Via Francisca for more or less another 170 metres. Straight on, along Via della Chiesa, takes you in the direction of Crabbia, a little hamlet above Pettenasco with picturesque period houses and tiny, char-

Here you will see the church of San Mar-



tino, with its fine altarpiece depicting St Ann.

Turning right into Via Agrano, you will soon reach a crossroads and keeping left, take Via per Omegna from which a lovely green path leads into open countryside, with the chance to pedal through meadows overlooking the lake. The route will take you approximately 3 km through the countryside, through dense vegetation, with little streams - these will sometimes have to be crossed on foot, while you push your bike. Proceed along the route on secondary roads in the direction of Borca, after about 50 metres keeping left, you will reach a junction and the right-hand Intersection, Via Franco Martinoli.

In the hamlet of Borca you will go past the church of San Gottardo. After a further 375 metres, follow the GPS through Via Borca and turn into Via Agrano, taking the tarmac road that leads to the village of Agrano, on the slopes of Mottarone at an altitude of 450 metres above sea level.

The village is known locally for the "Agrano Mummy", the body of a young woman buried there around 1740, miraculously maintained and preserved in the back of the parish church of San Maiolo, which over time has become a local devotional object. Soon after, turn into Via Giulio Isotta and keeping left, going into Via Selviana. At the intersection, keep left and go into Via del Rivo and, a little later, take a right into Via Mottarone, where you will see the famous Pescone River, the main river which flows into the eastern shore of Lake Orta. After a hairpin bend, turning left on the Via per Armeno, you will quickly reach the little mountain village of Bassola, all lanes, gates and stone houses. One again you will meet a junction and, turning right, follow a path leading to Pratolungo, known until a few decades ago for its wonderful orchards. You will enjoy pedalling in the quiet of this old village, as yet untouched by mass tourism despite the remarkable views over the blue waters of Lake Orta. You will see the church of San Grato and the Villa Fortis, formerly a farm that has been redeveloped by the well-known local industrialist, Alberto Alessi. Going back to the 17th century, it extends over 6 hectares of land which today are





vineyards of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes. In the village centre, next to the local recreational club, you will take the path leading to Monte Barro. The route winds along the eastern slope of the mountain, smoothly reaching the twin peaks 639 metres above sea level. The highest point is indicated by a cross and is called "Muntagnin dal Zicar", local dialect for Little Zicar Mountain. There is a magnificent view to be enjoyed from here over Lake Orta and the surrounding valleys before getting back into the saddle. Now follow the signs for Pettenasco (or follow the track of the route) and start the downhill section. You are almost on the home stretch: proceed along Via Principale, turn left into Via Gino Fara Forni and then take another left into Via Parrocchiale and Via Vittorio Veneto, closing the circle and returning to your starting point.



HIGHLIGHTS

NOT TO BE MISSED ONLINE GUIDE WITH THE ITINERARY, POINTS OF **INTEREST AND INFO** ON THE ROUTE.





















Lido Gozzano / Lagna / Pella / Ronco / Lido Gozzano

FROM LIDO DI GOZZANO TO RONCO

On the water's edge among the rushes and lakeside villages

Route type: EASY







a dip along the way.

flask before you set off.

INFORMATION

SINGLE TRACK **PATHWAY BICYCLE LANE** MINOR ROAD **ASPHALT ROAD**

4.15 km 0.43 km

0 Km 2.44 km 13.20 km

RECOMMENDED PERIOD: JANUARY / DECEMBER



20.8 km



0:51 ore





Ronco



OF DEPARTURE

1 km with the rushes on the right, offering an opportunity to observe several wild bird species in the vegetation, such as the grebe and little bittern typical of these waters.

with a whole range of emotions. If you really want to experience Lake Orta and

the waters' edge to the full, this Is the

route for you. Don't forget to pack your

costume and towel so that you can take

The starting point is the lido at Gozzano which in 2020 was awarded Blue Flag status and recognition as Piedmont's

cleanest beach. At the end of the large, strategic carpark, on the left, is a path

which takes you along the coast, with a little drinking water fountain on the left

where you can fill your water bottle or

The path follows a stone wall for about

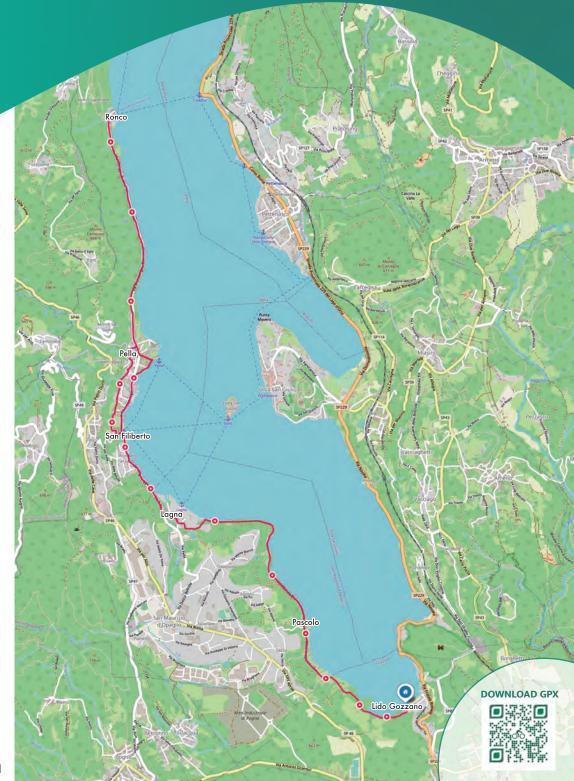
After the path, a slight hill on the left takes you to an area of tarmac road. Along the road Is a series of villas and gardens overlooking the lake, with meadows and fruit trees offsetting the continuous blue of the lake waters.

At the end of the straight section of road, another slight hill leads to a junction. Take the smaller tarmac road on the right and cycle back down to the lake shore among old villas and picturesque little boathouses almost hidden among the rushes. Silence reigns in these places. Cycle past the coloured walls of the



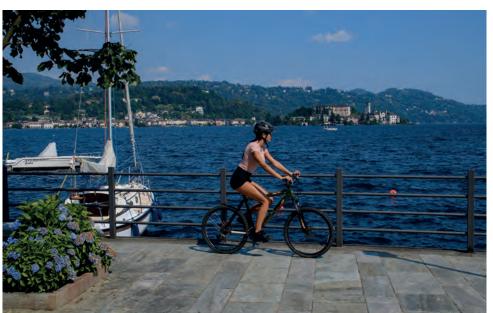
EAT and SLEEP IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Hotel Casa Fantini Ristorante Blu lago cafè Hotel Ristorante Le Betulle Antico Albergo Alzese Ristorante San Giulio Ristorante L'imbarcadero



period houses until you reach a clearing with a little restaurant. This marks the beginning of a new section of dirt road which goes through green countryside along the lake. Do be careful of pedestrians who can be quite numerous during the weekends, particularly as the path narrows. After 600 metres through shade you come out onto the broad stretch of Lagna's beach, with its pontoon and cool, shady pine wood behind it.

Cycle a little further on and turn left: the road climbs steeply for 150 metre and then flattens out again before actually reaching the village of Lagna. A gorgeous 19th century laundry washing area and a series of little waterways lend a cool freshness to the route. At the far end of the village, cross the river by way of the little bridge, or the more athletic among you might like to cycle across the river bed itself. At this point you come out on the main road that connects San Maurizio D'Opaglio with Pella. Be careful of the traffic, especially busy on weekdays, and cycle along the first 400 metres of the tarmac road and turn right. Pedal for another 600 metres, going past Roncallo al lago and following it, the gorgeous parish church of San Filiberto magically framed by the little chapels with the Stations of the Cross and the ancient bell tower soaring above the lake waters. From here it is possible to take your bike on the public boat and go to Orta, stopping off at the Island of San Giulio on the way. Proceed along the road flanking the lake towards Pella, one of the oldest villages in the Cusio area. The pedestrian road runs along the lakeshore which is scattered with sparkling white little boats moored close to the medieval tower and then opens out into the main square. This is a perfect place for a quick stop, the peaceful little village is full of historical little points of interest like the two 16th century churches dedicated to St John the Baptist and Saint Albino the Bishop, the old wash-house so local women were able to do their laundry even when Inclement weather prevented them from approaching the lake, and the former Sonzogno paper mill. Back in the saddle once again, go along the route climbing the Via Roma as far as the tarmac road and turn right.





You can cycle from here to the village of Ronco where the road ends: you will now have about 5 km of total peace and tranquillity, through green woods and past blue lake waters. On the way are many pretty, unusual views over to the Island of San Giulio and the lake waters, such as the one from the little fisherman's chapel. When you get to Ronco, park up your bike so as to enjoy a short walk around the little roads flanked by the period houses and their pontoon.

The way back is the same way you came as far as Pella, where a little diversion to the right takes you to the Pellino River, over a typical little hump back bridge. Follow the signs for San Filiberto, a well-kept path leads you through woods and over a wooden bridge, past a picnic area in the countryside. After 500 metres, you will find you are once again on the road that runs along the lake towards Gozzano where you can dive in for a final swim to cool off. This Is a route everyone can enjoy, ideal for children too, perfect for a picnic or packed lunch. A perfect opportunity to savour a day out by the lake.



HIGHLIGHTS

NOT TO BE MISSED ONLINE GUIDE WITH THE ITINERARY, POINTS OF **INTEREST AND INFO** ON THE ROUTE.





IL CANNETO



PRATERIE DI LAGO

PONTE PELLINO



SAN FILIBERTO







FONTE SAN GIULIO





MADONNA PESCATORI MADONNA SEL SASSO



Pezzasco / Miasino / Vacciago / Corconio / Bolzano Novarese / Monte Mesma / Ameno

ANCIENT TOWERS AND HOLY MOUNTS

History and Spirituality around the lake

Route type: INTERMEDIATE







INFORMATION

SINGLE TRACK **PATHWAY BICYCLE LANE** MINOR ROAD **ASPHALT ROAD**

1.89 km 3.15 km 0 m 2.05 km 11.90 km

GO TO THE POINT

OF DEPARTURE

RECOMMENDED PERIOD: JANUARY / DECEMBER

Pezzasco

547 m

19.6 km

1:36 ore

1:13 ore



12,2 Km/h

Bolzano Novarese



EAT and SLEEP IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Hotel Ristorante Monte Rosa Hotel Ristorante La Genzianella R&R Fattoria del Pino Hotel Residence La Darbia appartamenti Casa vacanze La baia d'acquadolce Ristorante Sant' Antonio Ristorante Antico Agnello Ristorante B&B Ca Mea

Intermediate level route, all nature and spirituality.

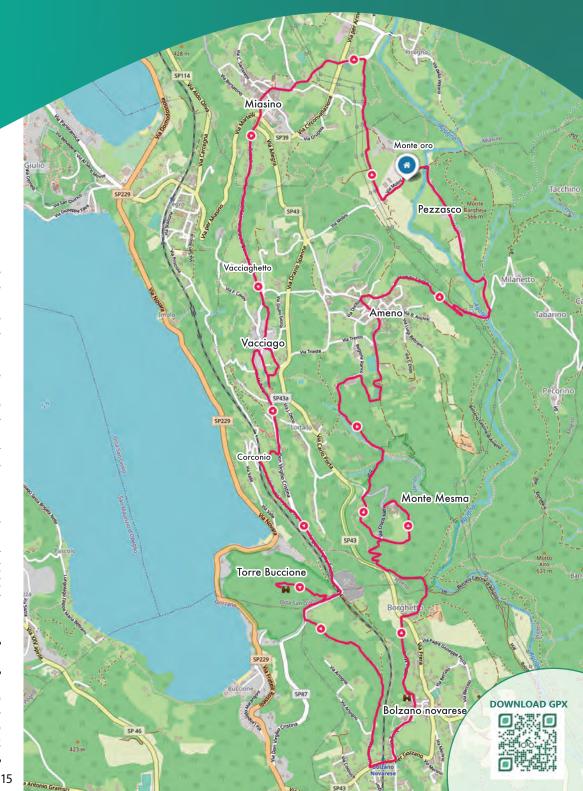
Get into the saddle at Miasino, cycle along the Via Circonvallazione near the E-Bike MTB E-Motion rental depot and towards the village centre, along fields and meadows dotted with placid cows and their calves.

Taking a tarmac road on the right, you will soon reach the heart of the village at the foot of the majestic parish church in white granite and stone, dedicated to San Rocco and declared a national monument.

After going past Via Martelli, start pedalling on the charming cobbled roads in Piazza Beltrami with Its Santa Maria Oratory and the central part of the Villa Nigra, a splendid example of a patrician country residence, one of the most beautiful in the whole Cusio area.

Proceed along Via Tenente Paolo Solaroli, take the panoramic road leading towards Vacciago, passing the imposing Sanctuary to the Madonna della Bocciola. This was built after a miracle in 1500 and the area in front of the church enjoys a unique view, taking in the lake, the Island of San Giulio, Madonna del Sasso and, further away in the distance, Monte Rosa.

If you go into Vacciago, turning left into Via Bardelli, you will come to the Fondazione Calderara, a house and studio which hosts works of contemporary art and sculpture, and a little further on,



enjoying its lofty and isolated position, you will see the charming parish church of Sant'Antonio Abate.

Turning back and taking the road towards Gozzano, you will come to a junction which leads to the pretty little hamlet of Corconio: just a few houses, isolated in the silent green countryside, set in little winding lanes leading to the church of Santo Stefano which overlooks the little village and a characteristic local house called Casa Bonola.

From the centre of Corconio, turn left and follow the signs for the tower, La Torre di Buccione, a military defence tower of great importance from the 10th century onwards, today well-known as a natural park with the same name. The gravel hill going up to it is a bit steep on occasion but in little more than 10 minutes you will reach the tower and the incredible view from there. Once you have torn yourself away and returned down the hill to the tarmac road, with the help of the GPS you will find a pathway through greenery and a wood of oak and elderflower. On the right of the road is the Bersanella spring, whose waters are said to come directly from Monte Rosa, and a designated area where you can enjoy some refreshment. Proceed keeping left, returning close to the railway station at Bolzano Novarese.

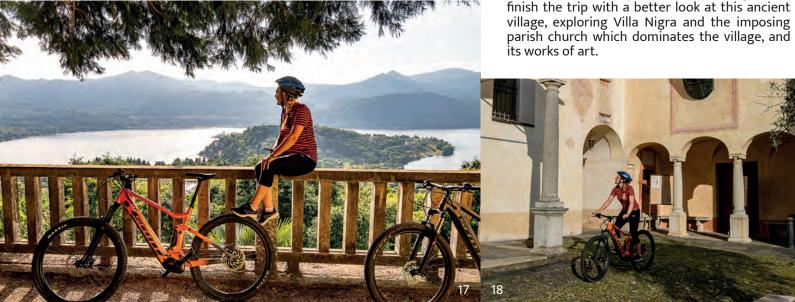
If you follow the road, lined with houses, you will go past the walls of the Bolzano Novarese castle, reaching the Borghetto area where, once again with the help of the GPS, you will take a magical path through greenery, ferns, vegetation and flowers.

Returning to the road, on the right you will see the Way of the Cross going up to Monte Mesma with its fourteen 17th century chapels. Go up the steep hill, along the cobbled road and hairpin bends, finally reaching the special Nature Reserve, and then the top of the hill where you will find the Franciscan monastery and Its Church dedicated to St Francis. From the little church porch and the surrounding silence you will enjoy one of the most stunning views over Lake Orta with Monte Rosa on the horizon. And if you are lucky enough to



find it open, do not miss the chance to visit the monastery's two lovely little 18th century cloisters. Cycling down the tarmac road, you will arrive very quickly at Ameno and, continuing along our route, you get to a little Roman bridge which crosses the Agogna River. With a bit of luck, if you have chosen the right time of day, you might just get a glimpse of some wild animal coming to get a drink from its crystal clear waters.

The route comes to an end cycling along flat dirt road, among the farms and pastures of Pezzasco. Pedal along among the placid cows, sheep and athletic horses, until you reach Miasino again and finish the trip with a better look at this ancient



HIGHLIGHTS

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SAN GAUDENZIO







TORRE DEL BUCCIONE









Maggiora / San Bernardo / Castagnola / Cavallirio / Boca / Maggiora

VINEYARDS AND STORKS ON FENERA

Wine lands and hills at peace with the world

Route type: INTERMEDIATE





GO TO THE POINT

OF DEPARTURE



INFORMATION

SINGLE TRACK
PATHWAY
BICYCLE LANE
MINOR ROAD
ASPHALT ROAD

2.57 km
10.05 km
0 m
1.47 km
5.50 km

RECOMMENDED PERIOD: JANUARY / DECEMBER



↑90 m 19,8 km

1:56 ore

1:25 ore

14 km/h

40%

San Bernardo

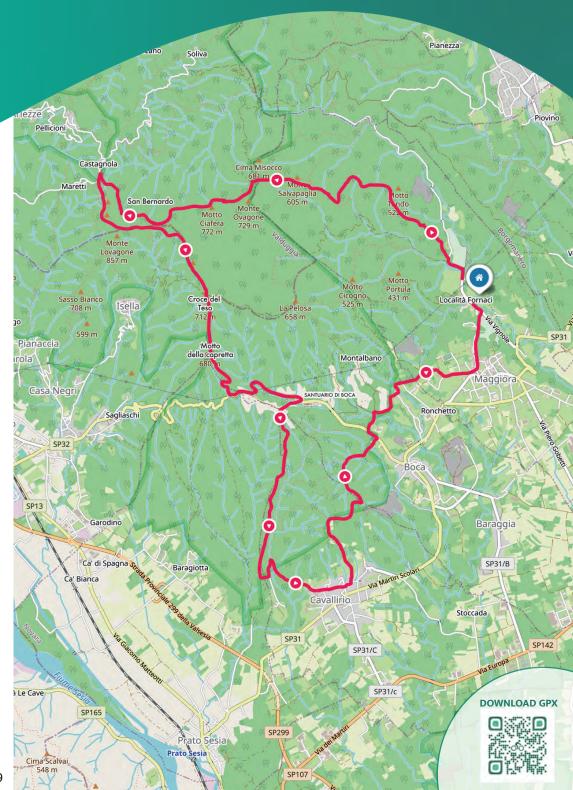


EAT and SLEEP IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Hotel Ristorante Al Sorriso Ristorante Locanda 86 Pasticceria Caffetteria Manuelina Hosteria Orco Bacco Be prepared for a singular adventure full of surprises, a route through unspoilt woods and fields that have been passionately and wisely cultivated so as to yield wine that Iis "nectar of the gods". Mount Fenera is a natural reserve which protects the vast chestnut forests, abundant fauna such as rare storks and roe deer, and age-old cultivations between Val Sesia and Lake Orta. And that is not all.

Mount Fenera is also host to some of the most fascinating grottoes in the area. Like the Buca di Bondaccia, Bondaccia's Hole, at an altitude of 690 metres above sea level, developing over about 400 metres with internal altitude changes of up to 85 metres, or also the Arenarie cave at an altitude of 770 metres above sea level, developing over 3000 metres at a maximum depth of 150 metres. It is so-called as it opens up into the sandy area of Mount Fenera to plunge down, about 10 metres from the entrance, into narrow and not so narrow tunnels, galleries and wells, in a maze of passages made up of splendid concretions. From the top of Mount Fenera you can admire Monte Rosa, overlooking the little village of Alagna, the plains of the provinces of Novara and Vercelli with their vineyards and an infinite number of rice fields.

Our suggested itinerary here is quite a difficult one, particularly the first part where in some places it may be necessary to dismount and push the bikes. The



point of departure is Maggiora, a pretty little town built in red brick, with a wealth of excellent wine cellars. You can leave the car near the motocross centre and take the "Enduro" S1 track which gently leads through thick woods. The good solid earth track is broad. The track goes up gently for about 2 km, almost without noticing the slope, but after a signposted junction where you go right, the path suddenly gets narrower and starts to get steeper. The chalky earth breaks up and can easily get muddy and large clumps do not help an already tough task. If your legs are not good and fit and you may not stay in the saddle, so at certain points over about 200 metres you might have to get off and push, but don't give up, your efforts will be rewarded by what awaits you.

A bit further on, the track evens out and slides away in enjoyable bends sloping both up and down. The view will soon start to open up and at your back you will be able to admire Lake Orta. Once you have passed the hill called Motto Ciafera, you reach a hilltop and a crossroads near the San Bernardo Oratory; he is the patron saint of mountaineers and mountain dwellers. Built in 1600, it is made of stone and has an open apse in front and stone seating. This little oratory is the soul of this journey and an excellent point for observation: if you go up another 200 metres though, you will be able to enjoy all the Fenera natural park's beauty.

Here 5 different paths cross, one of which is ours. For those wishing to make the route longer with a diversion, from here you can get to the villages Maretti and Castagnola, where you will also find drinking water. When you have got back to the crossroads, follow the number 777 path, single file in single track mode going downhill, which then joins the S1 track again until It reaches Motto della Capretta, where you get all-round views of the area. From here the route continues downhill, keeping to the number 777 path, on a fairly difficult part, but nothing that will make you abandon your saddle, but be careful of the surface made smooth my water. Marco, our guide and companion while we mapped out this route, and his trusty singletrack, took us to the end of the





track which comes out on the tarmac Fenera-Boca road and a completely different setting, which took us quite by surprise, as it will you too: row upon row of fine vines and ancient red brick houses. At this stop-off point, thanks to landslides over the ages, in an upside-down volcanic crater, you can see one of the richest areas for the cultivation of autochthonous grapes.

Going downhill along the tarmac road Is the well-known Santuario di Boca, which for centuries has been the destination of pilgrims from all over Piedmont and further afield. Just before the Sanctuary is a little bridge and a dirt track which enters among the rows of vines. Here, in the area around Cavallirio, we met Silvia, a young and passionate wine-maker, who told us her story of this age-old land and how each day she takes care of her beloved vines which yield excellent wine, appreciated all over the world.

It is easy to join the Boca track again which leads back to the village and follows the hillside covered in vines, leading back to Maggiora and then back to the point of departure. Do take some time to explore this area which is rich in both terms of nature and wine and food, as well as culturally. Book a visit to the welcoming wine cellars of the area for refreshment and to meet some of the wonderful people who are preserving and bringing this gorgeous territory to life.

HIGHLIGHTS

NOT TO BE MISSED ONLINE GUIDE WITH THE ITINERARY, POINTS OF **INTEREST AND INFO** ON THE ROUTE.







SAN BERNARDO





RISERVA NATURALE



ORATORIO









SANTIARIO DI BOCA



Madonna del Sasso / Monte Avigno / Artò / Centonara / Boleto / Madonna del Sasso

SPIRITUALITY AND BEAUTIFUL BLUE WATERS

magical woods.

Giant stones and wild enchanted forests

Route type: INTERMEDIATE



INFORMATION

SINGLE TRACK **PATHWAY BICYCLE LANE** MINOR ROAD **ASPHALT ROAD**

1.08 km 7.19 km 0 m 0.20 km 5.60 km

RECOMMENDED PERIOD: JANUARY / DECEMBER



Boleto



1:50 ore



10,8 km/h



Monte Avigno



faint frescoes and inscriptions. Turn left into Via Monte Avigno until you OF DEPARTURE reach a second crossroads and turn left

> After about a dozen bends on the steep hill, you get to white blocks of granite peeping out of the woods in sinuous shapes. This is the area known as Sabbioni, and is well worth the ride and a stop. Dismount for a few minutes to make the easy climb up these rocks so as to enjoy yet another beautiful view over the lake, moulded by the incessant wind and rain over the ages.

again into Via Verso Valpiana.

which marries history and art with the

Our starting point is the Madonna del

Sasso Sanctuary carpark with a dedica-

ted area for camper vans. A visit to the

18th century sanctuary is a must, being

a religious complex with a church, a bell

granite cliff face that plunges down to

After admiring the view from the square

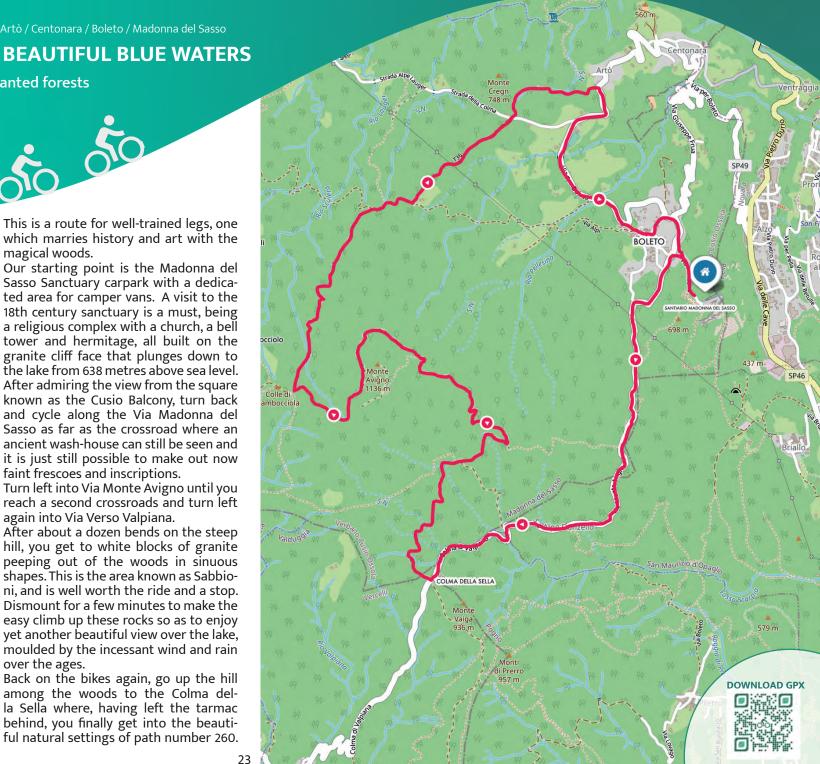
ancient wash-house can still be seen and it is just still possible to make out now

Back on the bikes again, go up the hill among the woods to the Colma della Sella where, having left the tarmac behind, you finally get into the beautiful natural settings of path number 260.



EAT and SLEEP IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Ristorante Ustariola dal Tia Carlo e Tina Osteria Ristorante Antica Cartiera



The opening is easily identified by a little clearing on the right-hand side of the road, marked by a metal bar, next to which the hill starts. There is a 20 minute cycle ride to reach the broad mule trail which goes through a wood of redwood pines as far as Alpe Garsura and beyond.

After a hairpin bend, in between two great chestnut trees on both sides of the road, the woods start to get thicker and thicker, one bend after the other. With a little luck - and the necessary silence - you might just bump into an elegant roe bucks or hear their distinctive call, so characteristic in the mating season. Along the way up the hill you will also have ample opportunity to admire the interesting examples of rural and industrial archeology of this land abounding in minerals and waterways.

Now we are on our way down again, without any breaks, on a constant slope arriving easily at the junction with path number 754. But first we suggest a short 10 minute diversion so as to get to see the peak of Monte Avigno (1.136 metres above sea level) from whose rocky summit you can glimpse the Monte Rosa chain of mountains and the landscape of the hilly Valsesia below.

From here It is all downhill descent, not the easiest but certainly most enjoyable, surrounded by the hills.

Great care and prudence are recommended on this part of the route as there are plenty of leaves on the ground and, particularly in the second part, a few deep channels created by the erosion of the terrain - these should be avoided or taken at snail's pace.

During this downhill section you go through a pretty wood of many different types of tree, made even more lovely by the mountain rhododendrons if in flower, the beech woods scattered with rocky configurations and little streams which make for an atmosphere worthy of an episode of the Lord of the Rings. The last part of the downhill return journey is easier, touching on the little villages of Artò and Centonara (both worthy of a quick stop) and, at the end of the path, the charming little village of Boleto, among paved roads and painted





façades, where time seems to have stood still. A curious little place to stop is the Working Man's Club, run by the local inhabitants since time immemorial (nobody can remember how long it has been open). It is in a late 17th century building which for centuries belonged to the Milanese family of noblemen, the Giulinis; over the course of time it has become an important point of reference for workmen who stopped of there for a bite to eat and a glass of good cheer after a day's work in factory, quarry or woods.

In Boleto you can also visit the new stone-cutters' museum, the Museo dello Scalpellino, dedicated to their difficult and dangerous job, in local dialect they are called "pica sass". From the first decades of the 19th century to the second half of the last century, quarrying and chiselling stone was a feature of this area of the western Cusio territory and particularly of life in all these little villages perched atop granite formations, to which the Madonna del Sasso spur is the most remarkable testimonial.

In the village, there are directions back to the sanctuary and the finish of this unusual route on the western side of Lake Orta.



HIGHLIGHTS

ONLINE GUIDE WITH THE ITINERARY, POINTS OF **INTEREST AND INFO** ON THE ROUTE.









PIANA DELLA SELLA











CARAMBACCIOLO



Quarna Sotto / Alpe Camasca / Monte Mazzuccone / Quarna Sopra / Quarna Sotto

THE ALPINE PASTURES AROUND QUARNA

Cycling through the charm of farms and woods

Route type: DIFFICULT



INFORMATION

SINGLE TRACK **PATHWAY BICYCLE LANE** MINOR ROAD **ASPHALT ROAD** 3.32 km 5.51 km 0 km 2.07 km 1.89 km

GO TO THE POINT

OF DEPARTURE

RECOMMENDED PERIOD: MARCH / OCTOBER

Quarna Sotto

1380 m

12.8 km

2:19 ore 1:36 ore



Difficile



Alpe Camasca



EAT and SLEEP IN THE SURROUNDINGS

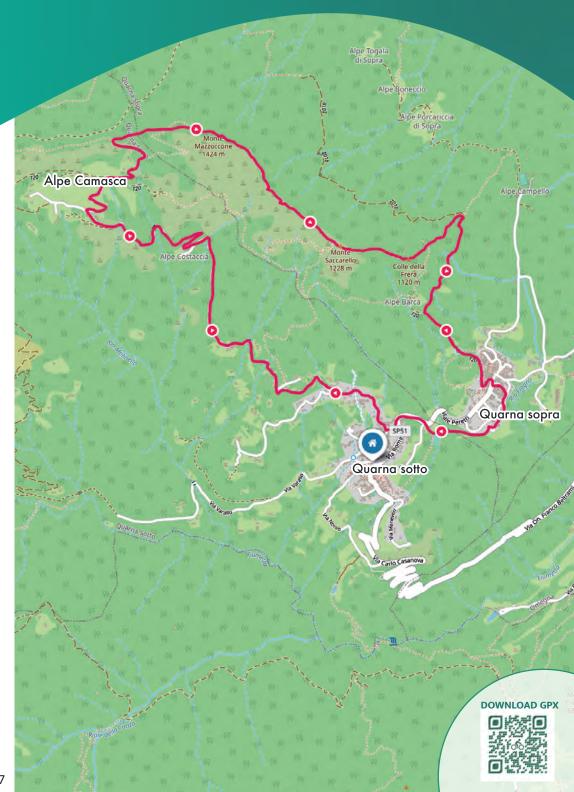
Ristrot Forum Cafè Hotel ristorante Croce Bianca Locanda della Posta di Quarna Area Camper Omegna

Discover a mountain area that to this day has maintained its agricultural and pastural vocation. Our suggested tour here is intermediate level and is nearly all off-road as far as Alpe Camasca, one of the most ancient in the area.

Our point of departure is Quarna Sotto (800 metres above sea level), a place well known locally for the "Festival del Muro Dipinto" the Wall Painting Festival and the open air frescoes that can be admired on the walls of the houses and also for being the "Paese della musica", village of music, due to the production of brass musical instruments of the finest quality. This tradition goes back to the 19th century and has taken the name of this little place all over the world, as the Ramponi & Cazzani business has carried on doing to this very day.

Starting from the village centre, we follow the signs for the 18th century Oratorio del Saliente, near which is one of the area's last functioning mills. In a green valley with a stream running through it, today it is the site of the Ecomuseo Mulino delle Batine and an interesting testimonial to local history: this was what the daily work, efforts and sacrifices of entire generations of families from this and neighbouring villages hinged on.

So, we proceed first along tarmac road and then off-road on trails through thick woods with pretty views of little streams and waterfalls, following the signs for the Alpe Camasca. The red and white



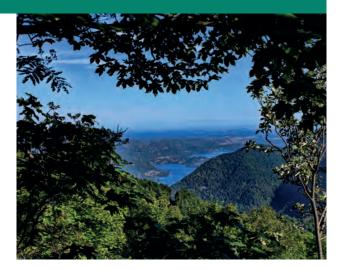
trail signs and the yellow coloured directions with the MTB Indications accompany us up the steep incline: with incredible panoramic views and increasingly cool air we reach the Alpe Scopello and then Alpe Pianero, every now and then coming across many votive chapels to be found dotted all over the area. A little further on, on the right, we get a glimpse of the Alpe Camasca (at an altitude of 1.224 metres), surrounded by extensive pastures.

After a short downhill stretch, we reach the first few mountain huts. We pass the little church of the Alpini, the Italian army's crack Alpine regiment, and a little fountain and we go on as far as a crossroads where several paths meet. Turning right, we follow the directions for Quarna Sopra. Just a bit further on, at the junction, we go right again passing some more chalets. A little pine wood on a slope leads us downhill to the Alpe Ruschini, a gorgeous little chalet in a sunny, panoramic position and amazing views over Lake Orta.

Path number T20 takes us downhill while still following the directions for Quarna Sopra. We get to the Alpe Barca and then to the Alpe del Preer. A little later we reach the tarmac road again, the aqueduct and the first houses in Quarna Sopra. Taking Via alla Chiesa, we cycle on as far as the parish church of Santo Stefano which is on a terrace affording splendid views of the village, and then we turn left.

At the end of the road, we stop and turn right, past the Town Hall and the church of the Madonna del Pero, a 16th century oratory situated at the entrance to the village which inherited its name from a great fruit tree which used to grow in the centre of the square. Before leaving the village, take an interesting diversion and visit the Madonna della Neve, a sanctuary along a mule trail which





from Cireggio leads to Quarna Sopra. From the village square (Burghitt) it is an easy ride through a narrow street leading to the local shop and Via Fontegno. After the bridge over the stream called the Flogno, keep right and then immediately turn left, taking a cobbled street, the Fontegno mule trail. Passing the Madonna Pellegrina, you soon reach the Santuario, a truly unique place shaded by age-old trees and a little wall which overlooks the downward slope: a cool fresh water spring and a marvellous panoramic view await you. From the little square you can see the beginning of the Toce valley, the industrial area stretching from to Omegna, the charming basin of Lake Orta with all the villages on the Novara plain and on very clear days you can see as far as the Liguria Apennines.

Once you have started on the road back, at the end of the mule trail, turn left and you will reach the "Area Panoramica Belvedere", set up with picnic tables and another breathtaking view.

To finish, it is quite a quick descent from here towards Quarna Sotto and back to your point of departure.



HIGHLIGHTS

NOT TO BE MISSED ONLINE GUIDE WITH THE ITINERARY, POINTS OF **INTEREST AND INFO** ON THE ROUTE.





OUARNA SOTTO



QUARNA SOPRA





ALPE SCOPELLO

ALPE BARCA

ALPE CAMASCA





MADONNA DEL PERO MADONNA DELLA NEVE







8

Armeno / Coiro Monte / Alpe Nuovo / Alpe Farfossa / Alpe Marigiat / Armeno

FOLLOWING THE TRANSHUMANCE

Among ancient pastures on the Mottarone

Route type: INTERMEDIATE

००० ०००

GO TO THE POINT

OF DEPARTURE

INFORMATION

SINGLE TRACK
PATHWAY
BICYCLE LANE
MINOR ROAD
ASPHALT ROAD
4.85 km
14.70 km
14.70 km
14.70 km

RECOMMENDED PERIOD: JANUARY / DECEMBER



970 m







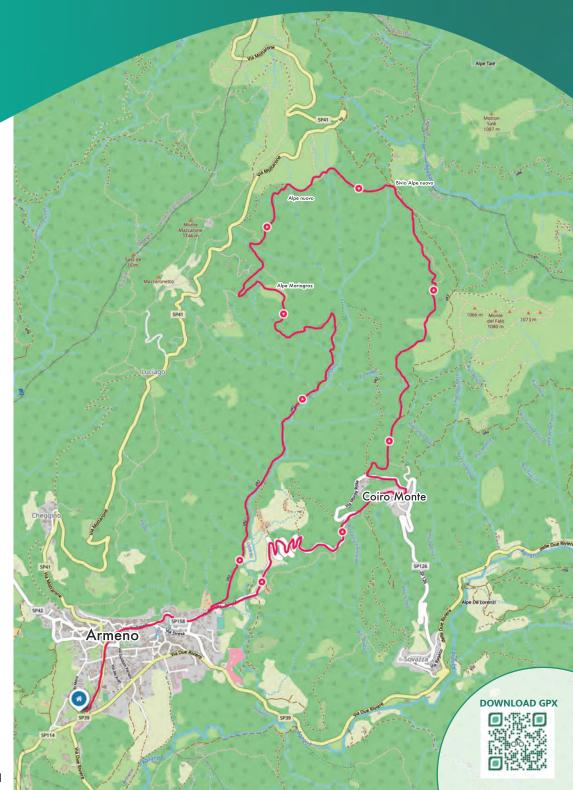






EAT and SLEEP IN THE SURROUNDINGS

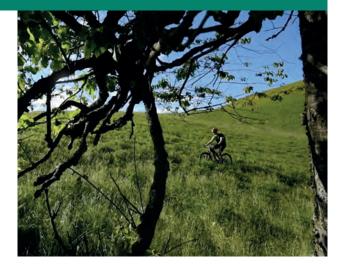
Ristorante Verum Ristorante Villa Pizzini Albergo Ristorante Eden Between Lake Orta and Lake Maggiore, there is a place where beauty and tradition seem to be immune to modern times. We are talking about the mountain known as the Mottarone. Since the 19th century, generations of Milanese slowing trekked up to its peak, some did it on foot others took the little railway that connected Stresa with the Alpino, a charming little holiday location in past times. Today we explore these places on our trusty bikes with an itinerary astonishing for the variety of biotypes we will go through, natural beauties and the remains of an ancient world which we still find exciting. We leave from Armeno. In the remarkable Romanesque church square, dedicated to the Assumption (going back to the 1200s), we take off from the large free carpark and cycle towards the village, taking the narrow roads through the little village centre, between houses and little shops. After the village thins out, we go left on to a panoramic road which rises and winds through mountain streams, pastures and woods as far as the mountain village of Coiro Monte. This charming little village is still inhabited, in particular by a small community of Hindu inspiration (Mirapuri), but it is mostly a holiday place today, as indeed it was in the past, obvious from the impressive old patrician country residences that enhance it. We fill our canteens at the spring where, according to local legend, it is lucky to



drink. From here, we take the Via Monte Rosa, which goes round the high land of village while affording a very good view of it. When we get to a local cheesemaking facility with great local products, we turn right and leave the tarmac road and take path number S1 which rises steeply for 1 km through meadows which often see the arrival of hare and roe deer at dusk. After a series of bends, also steep, going around Monte Falò, also known as the 3 Montagnette, or 3 Little Mountains, we reach the Alpe La Cucca, where the path evens out. From here we go into the beech and chestnut woods while little streams bubble refreshingly and resound through the silence of this rural place. After 2 km of broader trail, still on a slight incline, a view opens on the left over the Ondella valley with Mottarone in front of us. We go through a splendid forest of birch and enormous beech trees to get to the highest point of our route, the crossroad at the Alpe Nuovo. A stop here and then excellent signposting allows us to get our bearings very easily. From here we turn left continuing to follow path number S1, which narrows down a bit and takes us across a few alpine pastures that are still being used, such as the Alpe Farfossa, where we can fill our canteens again at a fountain. If we go further on we will get to a new junction where we meet the Alpe Marigior, still well preserved and which whisks us back to the last century. We keep going left as we follow the S1 in the direction of Armeno and we see the Alpe Lovaga. As we pedal on our way it is hard not to think of the history of these places which is still so very alive today. Before the early 20th century, Mottarone certainly looked quite different, and a different pace of life marked by breeding cycles, pastoralism and the alpine pastures.

This mountain historically was an important summer pasture place for herds of cows, sheep, goats and of course horses who enjoyed these open spaces until at least 1850 when the government of Sabaudia, worried that the animals might end up in the hands of the Austrians, decided to transfer them closer to Turin. Around these mountain places, there was a mass of small, hard-working communities who distinguished themselves with their masterful preparation





of butter and local cheeses.

For a very long time the mountain was dotted with barns for the hay, with their characteristic straw roofs whose remains are still visible. We pick up the path again and cycle down to the bottom of the valley, crossing another 2 alpine pastures which are today abandoned. The path descends steeply and the surface is not always so kind or easy to negotiate due to the layer of beech leaves and a few stray branches along the way. In a large pasture, we find a herd of resident cows who follow us for quite a stetch.

After about 20 minutes we reach the bottom of the valley at the Torrente Ondella stream. River prawns, salamanders and frogs are witness to the health of these waters and the land we are going across. Before we reach the end of our route, we see a group of renovated mountain huts showing us what life was like in past ages. On the upper floor is the shepherds' summer residence with beneath it the cows' stable while in front is a little area where they made the butter and cheese. There are still a few families who do the transhumance, bringing their animals from Armeno and Pezzasco up to the Alpe Verdetta, others spend the summer period there with just a few animals and make butter by hand, using the typical wooden butter churn. Our tour ends at Armeno.

We recommend a visit to this decidedly rural and agricultural village, while you are heré. Excellent Toma cheese from Mottarone is produced, and in case you did not visit it at the beginning of the 34 route, do go and see the Church of the Assunta.

HIGHLIGHTS

NOT TO BE MISSED ONLINE GUIDE WITH THE ITINERARY, POINTS OF **INTEREST AND INFO** ON THE ROUTE.









COIRO MONTE





<u>MOTTARONE</u> ALPE MARIAGRAZ











Cesara / Nonio / Laghetti di Nonio / Alpe Sacchi / Cesara

FROM CESARA TO THE ALPE SACCHI

Geen pastures on the borders with Valsesia

Route type: DIFFICULT



INFORMATION

SINGLE TRACK **PATHWAY BICYCLE LANE** MINOR ROAD **ASPHALT ROAD**

972 m 13.04 km 920 m 1.83 km 11.10 km

GO TO THE POINT

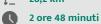
OF DEPARTURE

RECOMMENDED PERIOD: JANUARY / DECEMBER



1060 m







1 ore 56 minuti







EAT and SLEEP IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Ristorante Ponte Bria

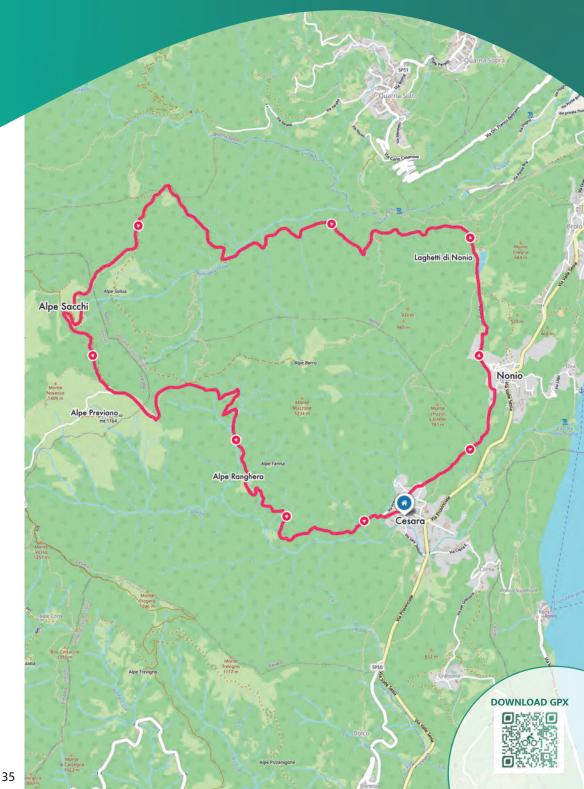
There is another side to Lake Orta, more concealed and adventurous, through thick forests of redwood pine and old beech trees which cover the mountain slopes as far as the eye can

A genuine and unexpected surprise awaits on the western side of the lake. on the borders with the Valsesia, the valley of the eponymous river: the area overlooking the villages of Cesara, Arola and Nonio, little places with their roots still well anchored in history and tradition. This is a route for experts, an itinerary which offers constant difficulties, but should not cause you to give up: once you get to the top, the stunning views and the fun to be had going back down again will soon make you forget the hard climb up.

Departure is from Cesara, a little well-preserved village which offers a few artistic and historical gems. The 17th century San Clemente parish church and its gorgeous little arched portico is one of these, together with the historical home just opposite the church, one of the better-preserved villas on Lake Orta, with its stone roof and decorated windows typical of the Cusio area.

We pedal along the flat path which links Cesara with Nonio, another interesting village rich in architectural and historical beauties.

The climb starts in the village centre,



following the signs for the laghetti di Nonio, Nonio's little lakes. In about 10 minutes the valley opens up with its body of water and the waters of the impetuous streams that cross it. Leaving these blue mirrors behind, there is a quick climb, on the right the part over cobbles is accompanied for a good part of the way by a rushing stream.

At this point, the terrain is both slippery and bumpy and immediately puts the cyclist's determination and tenacity to the test: even if the road is broad it sometimes gives very little grip, though it is quite flat in places and does allow you to get your breath back.

You proceed along roads that are lined by thick woods, past a few streams which every now and again cross the road, giving you a chance to catch your breath and gleefully enjoy a touch of wild happiness.

After about 3 km you enter a beech wood. The route continues on an unsurfaced road which occasionally makes it hard to get up to the peaks.

At one point in the beech wood, not far from the final climb up to the top, you will find a wooden sign at the base of a great beech which says Fo' al'Umbrela, an old beech which is distinctive for its fantastic foliage that looks just like an umbrella. While you stop to draw breath, do not miss taking a look at it.

After a refreshing little break, prepare for the final ascent: here the path gets narrower and skirts the mountain for about 1 km before magically coming out at the foot of the Alpe Sacchi.

In summer the cow bells will give you final encouragement to reach the peak which touches an altitude of 1,230 metres above sea level. Here you will realise just how much beauty and magnificence this place on the borders of Valsesia offers: unique observation points to admire Lake Orta on one side and on the other Varallo Sesia and the surrounding valleys. Quite apart from the incomparable views, for those who wish, the Alpe Sacchi also offers a pleasant pause for some good food and a drop of wine. During the summer, (at weekends and during the week if you book) a local family offers the chance to have lunch





made with their own products: polenta, cheese, local meat from the breeding of their own herds. Together with the gorgeous views, this will be ample compensation for all your efforts.

Leaving the alp behind you, follow the road toward Varallo for 300 metres. Once you get to the bend, just make another little stop to contemplate the beautiful landscape and the view over the waters of the lake and the peninsula of Orta and then you take a left on to the path number S1 for about 3 km, which leads over an Interesting single track as far as path S3.

The way down is steep and requires good ability in handling your bike. After about 2 km, you turn into the enjoyable S2 that crosses the Alpe Ranghera. We skirt Monte Mazzone on its left side following the signs for the S1, for about 4 km. At this point we are almost back at our starting point, and along the way we get some interesting views of Lake Orta on the right. Once we are back at the village of Cesara, this tough tour comes to a close but will stay in your hearts for the precious beauties you have discovered during it.

This route Is dedicated to the expert and intrepid, but is also for those who want a challenge and perhaps, with more calm and determination, will be able to discover the places and overcome the hard bits without hurrying. For the inexpert or unfit, we would advise an electric mountain bike which would certainly offer relief at certain points of the ride.

HIGHLIGHTS

ONLINE GUIDE WITH THE ITINERARY, POINTS OF **INTEREST AND INFO** ON THE ROUTE.





CESARA







LAGHETTI DI NONIC





FO' AL'UMBRELA









Miasino / Pisogno / Mornerona / Invorio / Borgomanero / Soriso / Gozzano / Vacciag

FOLLOWING THE AGOGNA RIVER

Along the river's waters among farms and historical villas

Route type: EASY



INFORMATION

SINGLE TRACK **PATHWAY BICYCLE LANE** MINOR ROAD **ASPHALT ROAD**

1.55 km 15.00 km 0 m 15.90 km 33.20 km

GO TO THE POINT

OF DEPARTURE

RECOMMENDED PERIOD: JANUARY / DECEMBER



Miasino





43.3 km



3:05 ore



14,2 km/h



Borgomanero

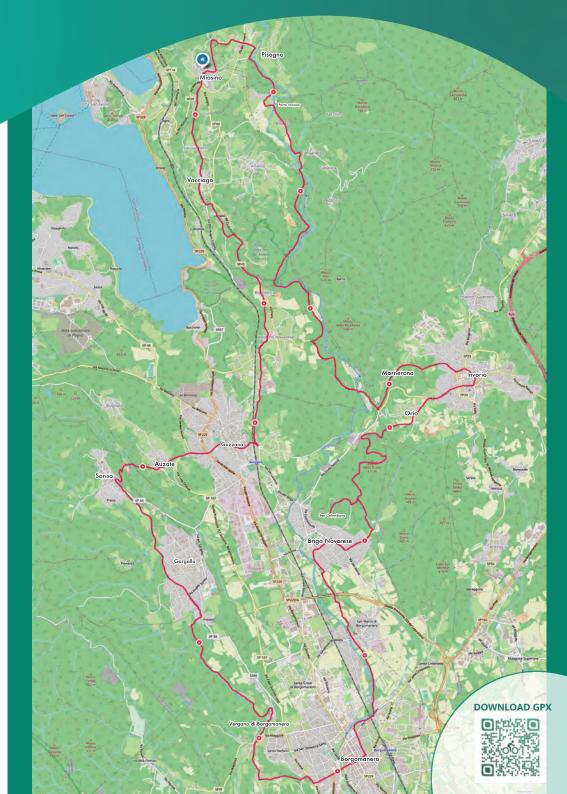


EAT and SLEEP IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Ristorante Gu.Sta.Re. Ristorante Mottarone Ristorante Locanda del Prete Lido di Gozzano Pasticceria Manuelina

The Agogna river flows between Lake Orta and Lake Maggiore. From its source among the rocks of the mountain called Mottarone, its waters are a feature of the territory, first cleaving lonely, wild woods then gathering its tributaries until it reaches the Novara plain and runs into the River Po. Its course - one of the longest in Piedmont, about 140 km - skirts Lake Orta and over the course of time has determined its history, driving the development of villages and benefitting agriculture and handcrafts for decades. We will accompany the river during this itinerary, cycling along its banks to discover the villages, farms and many places of worship that have grown along its course.

We leave Miasino, the car conveniently in the carpark opposite the historical Villa Nigra. We go through the charming village and its silent cobbled streets with its Baroque façades and wooden gates, towards the village of Pisogno where we will meet our travel companion, the Agogna. But before we set off, we suggest a little look around the hamlet we are in. beyond Piazza San Carlo. Take a look at the place's pride and joy, the Baroque parish church dedicated to San Gottardo. Pedalling on, we take the dirt trail which crosses Pezzasco and its farms and we go over the river on a splendid little Roman bridge. Following the river's course we reach a crossroad where a road and two paths meet, just before the bridge



over the Agogna. We take the path that goes along the left bank of the river for 3 km, a good little single track which takes us over the river again and as far as the fork with path number S1, leading us to Mornerona, minute little hamlet in the area of Invorio, just a handful of old houses around a tiny church. At this point we take the Via Monte Rosa to the little hamlet of Orio, near Invorio, a cheerful little border village between the Vergano and Lake Orta. Continue along Via Orio for 100 metres then, after a hairpin bend, follow Via San Colombano. You have to make the climb up towards the top of the hill to be able to get the best view of the church of San Colombano. Our eye takes in the whole area, to the left the plain extending as far as Novara, to the right Monte Rosa standing out in all its beauty and the hills around Lake Orta. Cycling down towards the little town of Briga Novarese we get back on to the path which every now and again touches on the River Agogna.

After about 4 km we find we have arrived at Borgomanero in Via Maioni. Passing the railway on our left, we follow Via della Libertà and reach Villa Marazza, a beautiful park and the cultural centre of the town. Its roads and period bars, cafés and shops on the main street offer the opportunity for a little stop, as good today as it was decades ago when the town was an important crossroads of routes leading from Novara to the Riviera of Orta and the Simplon and from Turin to Lake Maggiore.

Starting on our journey again, we cross the Agogna and reach Via Maggiora and then after a series of roundabouts, the main provincial road for Gargallo, a village with architectural interest affording a view of Borgomanero from on high. So, we take Via Casale Roncallo towards Soriso, another interesting little village with typical buildings, also well known, thanks to the well-known chef, Luisa Valazza, who made local ingredients her stylish signature and her village a gourmet destination. At this point, we start the road downhill and cross the village of Auzate and whizz past some busy crossroads and roundabouts to get to Gozzano. The doorway to Lake Orta, it still maintains the charm typical of





little country towns on the plain. If we go through its little streets, we can peek into courtyards and well-tended internal courtyard gardens belonging to the houses on the main street, and if we make a little diversion, we reach the basilica dedicated to San Giuliano, on the top of the hill within the confines of the ancient castle of Gozzano, and, just outside the town, the ancient San Lorenzo church, traditionally said to be founded by the same saints Giulio and Giuliano.

At this point, follow the railway line along Via Degli Alpini, among fields and little woods and here we are back at Bolzano Novarese. If you have time, take a look inside the walls of the old castle where you might see a family of fallow deer who live there in complete freedom. Once we have passed the village, we start the climb back, skirting Monte Mesma, the natural park on whose peak is built the eponymous Franciscan monastery and the church dedicated to St Francis. There is a very small community of friars still living here and one of the most beautiful views of Lake Orta is to be enjoyed from the church porch. Back on the road again, we go through the well-preserved villages of Lortallo and Vacciago, with gorgeous 19th century villas and timelessly beautiful churches. Our suggestion is for you to stop at the Sanctuary of the Madonna della Bocciola where you will not only be able to admire the view but also drink at the fountain and contemplate one of the local devotional sites of greatest importance. Returning along the panoramic road, we are soon at the end of our tour and back at Miasino.

HIGHLIGHTS

NOT TO BE MISSED ONLINE GUIDE WITH THE ITINERARY, POINTS OF **INTEREST AND INFO** ON THE ROUTE.











MONTE BARRO

MORNERONA





INVORIO



SAN COLOMBANO **BRIGA NOVARESE**





VILLA MARAZZA



Omegna / Germagno / Luzzogno / Otra / Campello Monti / Strona / Omegna

WILD VALSTRONA

A gorgeous itinerary in the ancient valley of the Walser peoples

Route type: DIFFICULT



INFORMATION

2.11 km SINGLE TRACK 4.95 km **PATHWAY** 282 m **BICYCLE LANE** 5.63 km MINOR ROAD 33.1 km **ASPHALT ROAD**

RECOMMENDED PERIOD: JANUARY / DECEMBER







3 ore 34 minuti



impegnativo



Campello monti



GO TO THE POINT

OF DEPARTURE

EAT and SLEEP IN THE SURROUNDINGS

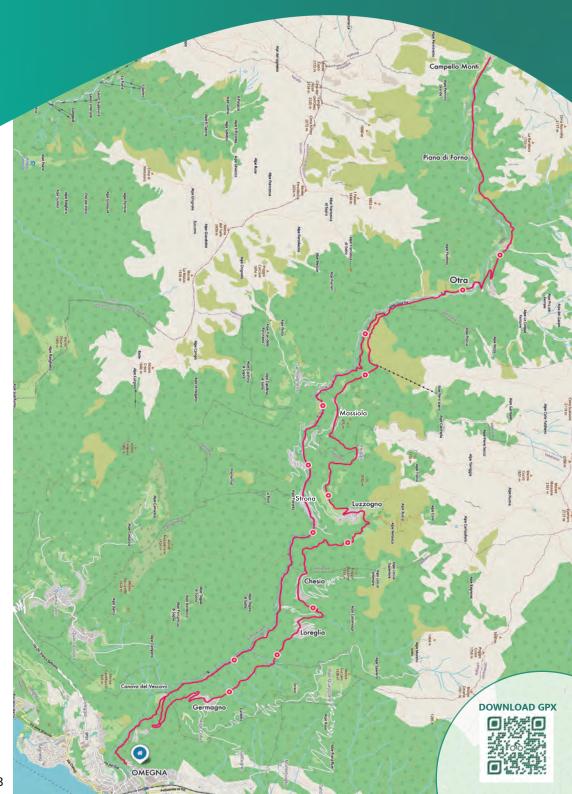
Albergo Ristorante Del Leone La Locanda da Francisca Ristorante Canottieri Omegna Ristorante Al Centrale bistrot Osteria La Speranza Ristorante Salera 16 Alvaro Bistrot

If there is somewhere nature meets man, that place can only be Valstrona.

It is a wild, tough valley telling stories with testimonials to ancestral cultures. Our route will explore the whole valley right to its very end, Campello Monti, the Walser village joining Valsesia and Macugnaga. The starting point is Omegna, an industrious little town on the lake shore, home to the writer Gianni Rodari and his imaginative stories which have touched on our lands.

Starting from the lakeside carpark, we cross the town in the direction of Strona. Going over the bridge on the eponymous river, we take the Via Valle Strona, keeping left. The eponymous valley takes its name from the river crossing it. Woodwork is the traditional activity of these lands, which over the decades also brought it the nickname of "the valley of spoons". There is still some production going on but whereas once upon a time it was spoons and ladles, local artisans have given themselves over to other wooden objects and in particular to statues of Pinocchio, so that it is more likely nowadays to hear the valley called "Pinocchio's Valley". A we go along our route, we come up against a hairpin bend where we will keep right and then proceed into Via per Germanio reaching Canova del Vescovo, a little hamlet with a tiny little community and a little church dédicated to St Anthony of Padua.

Later, keeping right, we will turn left



and take the Via per Omegna, and cycling along it we enter Germanio, where you just can't help noticing the Church called St Mary of the Graces, with three semi-circular apses showing its Romanesque origins (circa 1300). Shortly afterwards, at the intersection, we will turn right into Via Santa Maria, then turning left into Via alla Fontana for about 100m and then turning right on to a secondary road. After a hairpin bend into Via Sasso, at the fork we turn right and follow Via Loreglia for about 1,45 km.

We enter the little village of Loreglia, where we find the Baroque church of San Gottardo, built in 1593, on the right. At the next junction, we turn left and proceed along the road taking a right at the intersection for 220m into Via Carrozzabile, later taking a left-hand hairpin bend on to a secondary road. We follow the road keeping right, guided by the GPS, until we return a little later on to the main road.

At the junction, we turn left heading along Via Roma Imperiale where we meet the Church of San Rocco, well-known for the valuable 18th century paintings by Luca Rossetti and G. Battista Cantalupi, excellent Cusio artists.

We then cycle along the whole of the Via Tempio della Vittoria until we get to Luzzogno, a village situated halfway up on the northern side of the Strona Vallev.

Taking a right, we go into Via Pianaccia. A point of interest here is certainly the Sanctuary of the Madonna della Colletta, which owes its name to the place called Colletta and is dedicated to Caravaggoi's Madonna. Neither historical documents nor oral tradition is able to accurately reconstruct the origin of the Sanctuary which hosts a "miraculous" painting of the Virgin Mary, which has been a cult object for centuries. It is said the painting was completed in a single night. We turn into Via Vittorio Emanuele III and, after 60 metres, we go left following the same road for about another 180 metres and then continuing straight ahead into Via per Innuggio.

All around us Nature starts to show itself in all its glory. The valley, steep and





wooded, hosts many species of animals typical of this territory: Golden Eagles, roe deer, and a myriad of migratory birds.

At the fork in the road go left following the Via Principale in order to reach Innuggio, a little hamlet in the Strona Valley.

As we go on with our tour, we turn right on to ZO, and we soon find we are in the proximity of another fork where we will go left into Via Fratelli di Dio. Advancing into Via Martiri della Libertà we soon arrive at an intersection where we go straight on. After passing another little hamlet in the Valley, we go on into Via delle Cascine, passing the little hamlets of Otra, Peira and Forno as we cycle uphill.

The road narrows down and we go into the most uncontaminated nature, then reaching Campello Monti, our destination. This little corner of paradise is a point of passage for great excursions towards Monte Rosa, dotted with meadows and streams, and is the perfect place for a stop to regenerate.

The way back follows the main road through the valley - via Omegna - which goes down through the villages of Piana di Fornero and Strona and is great fun to cycle. You can do it fast and furious, or slowly, savouring the pretty little villages and meeting the gentle folk of this valley, who are always ready to tell anecdotes of history and life in these places.

HIGHLIGHTS

NOT TO BE MISSED ONLINE GUIDE WITH THE ITINERARY, POINTS OF **INTEREST AND INFO** ON THE ROUTE.









SAN GOTTARDO





PINOCCHIO



MASSIOLA









12

Ameno / Pezzasco / Cassano / Sculera / Alpe Marandino / Tacchino / Ameno

THE PLEASANT WAYS OF THE INDACO ROUTE

Enchanted paths through the WWF Oasis

Route type: INTERMEDIATE



INFORMATION

SINGLE TRACK PATHWAY BICYCLE LANE MINOR ROAD ASPHALT ROAD 1.76 km 3.32 km 0 km 1.22 km 6.84 km

GO TO THE POINT

OF DEPARTURE

RECOMMENDED PERIOD: MARCH / NOVEMBER

Ameno

762 m

13.1 km

1:31 ore 0:58 ore

0:58 ore 10 km/h

% 32%

Alpe Marandino



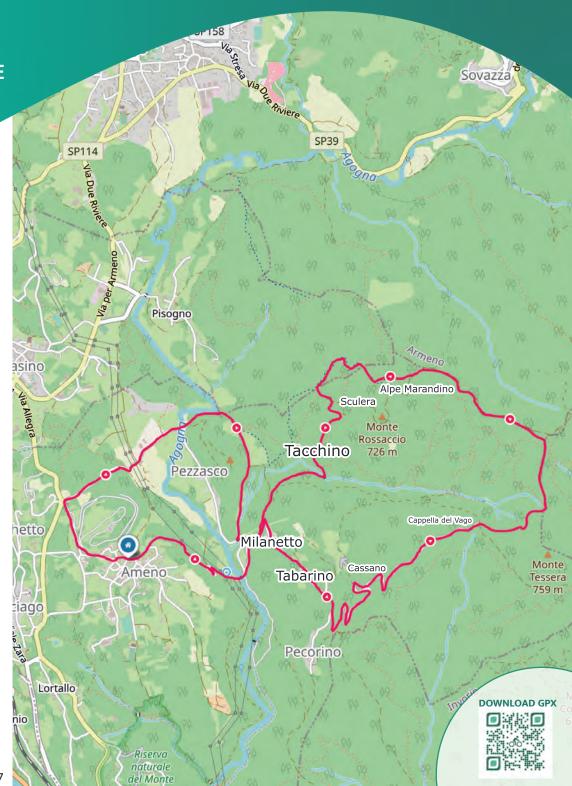
EAT and SLEEP IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Ristorante Monte Oro

This route goes through one of the best conserved valleys around Lake Orta, an oasis where animals and human activity have always lived contentedly side by side. This is born of reciprocal respect where man has wisely preserved and respected great stretches of wood and used "difficult" pastures, making the history of these places. Wherever a hut was established, a microscopic little world was created, caring for herd animals and transforming the products from the breeding and milking. And at the same time everything around the woodland has continued to live undisturbed in all its beauty, offering shelter to many animal species, many of which are rare, such as the Black Woodpecker, and, in more distant times, bears.

Half of our route goes uphill at first but then flattens out and heads straight into open countryside. Being mainly on dirt trails, it requires skill in handling the bike and you need to be fit and in training in order to complete the full itinerary without too many problems. Our route takes us through this unspoilt and natural place in the first instance by following the Indaco Ring, one of the four Quadrifoglio itineraries, with an interesting diversion towards the end.

Departure is from Ameno, a cheerful little village, the nerve centre of many artistic and cultural activities. Before setting off, don't miss a visit to the little Gothic park and the Tornielli palazzo, now the



seat of the municipal authorities, where the little lanes in the central part of the village take us back to times past thanks to the locals ensuring its excellent state of conservation. As you leave the village, you go down an untarmacked road towards the hamlet of Pezzasco, where a vast clearing is made over to a horse-riding centre and several farmhouses where excellent cheese products are made and sold. On the other side of the Roman bridge crossing the Agogna River, we run into a bucolic atmosphere. We follow the tarmac road into the hamlet where goats and cows are put out to pasture. A little further on, we turn left in the direction of Milanetto. Here the road becomes really steep for a kilometre or more. The views start to be interesting on the right until, once at the cool water fountain, the tarmac gives way to dirt trail which leads to the village of Cassano. This hamlet is a little masterpiece with its narrow little streets going past stone period houses as far as the church dedicated to St John the Baptist and its belvedere. From here you can see the whole of the Agogna valley, the lake and, in the distance, Monte Rosa.

As you leave Cassano you keep on going uphill and a little further on you reach the Chapel of Vago, a devotional site of some significance as can be seen from the votive offerings left there in times past and still kept there. This crossroads opens up a number of interesting destinations as far as Lake Maggiore. You will find a picnic area here with spaces for barbecuing and tables to eat at.

On we go now, following the signs for the Alpe Cascione where three age-old beech trees mark the point of entry into the silence of the WWF oasis. If you are there in the early hours of the morning or at sundown, you may well see roe deer, badgers and boar, and a great many birds, such as woodpeckers and great tits.

As we arrive at the first open space of the Alp, we have our first opportunity to fully admire the view that stretches towards Mottarone. Ancient farm houses share with us moments of rare authenticity. We go on uphill over terrain that is crumbly and on wet days quite muddy, to get to a fork where excellent signpo-





sting guides us towards the Alpe Marandino. Once on the Alp and at the highest point of the route, take a break, take in and enjoy the majesty of the Mottarone mount and the 3 Little Mountains. On clear days with very blue skies, you can see the Grigna and the Swiss Alps. Now, back to your pedals and set off again, and if on occasion you see no directions, just keep right when you find a field in front of you. There are few signs here, but do not worry, you are not lost, and very soon you will see they return again to show you the way.

Now the downhill part starts. If you are skilled in downhill, this will be right up your street: the fast, winding bits will thrill you. Follow the signs towards Ameno and you'll soon get to Sculera, a little hamlet in the wood around the farms of Ameno. Like Cassano, it has a large church in the woods. Here every year a very popular celebration is held, attracting all the inhabitants of the valley, with hundreds of people camping in the woods, communing with mother earth and taking part in the religious service.

We whizz down to Tacchino, a hamlet near Ameno whose four farmhouses are now abandoned and uninhabited. We go left at the fork and take the wide mule trail which, after the bridge over the Agogna River, takes us back to tarmac roads. We now cross over the Agogna River again and take the cobbled street going past the riding stables. If you have time before ending the tour, do take a little time in the park of the Villa Monte Oro, with its centuries-old trees.

HIGHLIGHTS

ONLINE GUIDE WITH THE ITINERARY, POINTS OF **INTEREST AND INFO** ON THE ROUTE.













TACCHINO





ALPE MARANDINO

CASTAGNI CENTENARI

Gozzano / Lagna / Pella / Omegna / Pettenasco / Carcegna / Orta San Giulio

THE TOUR OF LAKE ORTA

All round the lake and its beauties

Route type: DIFFICULT



INFORMATION

SINGLE TRACK **PATHWAY BICYCLE LANE** MINOR ROAD **ASPHALT ROAD**

11.00 km 5.45 km

1.70 km 7.84 km

12.60 km

RECOMMENDED PERIOD: JANUARY / DECEMBER



Gozzano



535 m 39.8 km



3:37 ore



2:45 ore



11,6 km/h



Gozzano



GO TO THE POINT **OF DEPARTURE**



EAT and SLEEP IN THE SURROUNDINGS

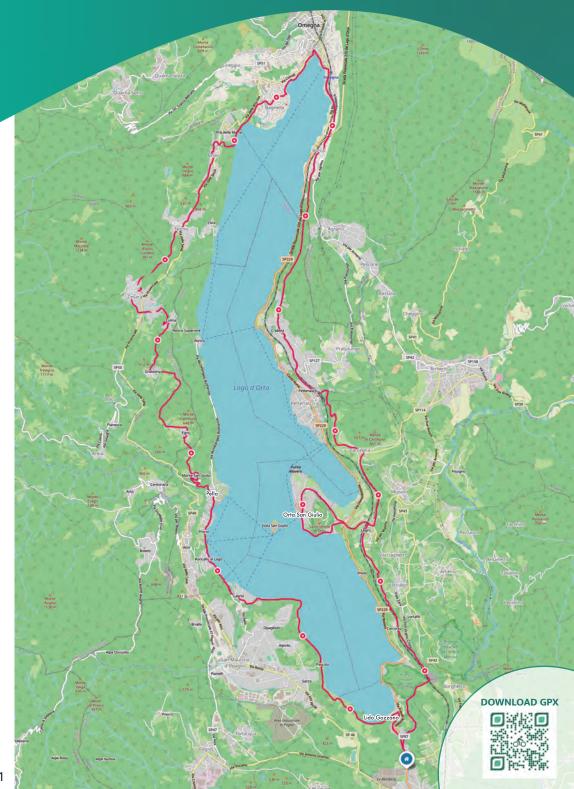
Appartamenti vacanze Roccetta Fiorita Ristorante La Cucina della Darbia B&B Lavanda e Rosmarino Ristoro Spiaggia Miami Camping Castellania Osteria San Martino Luci sul Lago ristorante

Ready to explore Lake Orta in all its many facets? This itinerary will introduce us to Lake Orta's many souls and, at the same time, will be a joy on two wheels, passing through an easy, pretty cycle path as well as challenging mule trails, fun downhills in single-track and some quite difficult paths and hills, through evocative woods and lakeshore borgos and the surrounding hills with their ancient flavour.

This is not a route for beginners, it requires discrete technique and good physical preparation due to the length and the difference in altitude during the tour.

We depart from the Lido di Gozzano riding towards Pella. Once out of the carpark, we take a little untarmacked road leading into a nice cycle and footpath which develops in the shade of the trees while skirting the waters of the lake. More than half of the route is untarmacked or gravel, with a few stony little up and downhills.

We ride through the village of Lagna with its pretty houses, passing little bays, beaches sheltered by pine woods and glimpses of the water's edge on our way, with a lovely view of the eastern shore of the lake and the Island of San Giulio. In the last stretch, you have to pass over the main road, meeting, on a field on the left, the complex of San Filiberto, the most ancient of all the chapels (11th century) on the western shore of Lake Orta, decorated with fourteen pretty little chapels of the Way of the Cross going



back to the 18th century and an interesting Romanesque bell tower (11th and 12th centuries). From here it is an easy ride to the peninsula on which the ancient borgo of Pella was built, overlooked from behind by steep granite cliffs. In the heart of the village we can admire the parish church dedicated to Saint Albino with its valuable canvases, frescoes, and paintings, and the old wash-house in Piazza Ravedoni, which in times past allowed the women of Pella to do their laundry even when conditions on the lake were prohibitive.

From Pella's little square we head towards the old Roman bridge and then we take the old mule trail to Egro, coming out at the belvedere and, once past the borgo, we reach the little Cappellania Church, where an enjoyable mule trail (itinerario T0) goes downhill as far as the village of Grassona.

Staying on the itinerario TO, we go through Colma, crossing the main road which links Alzo with Cesara and we take the untarmacked road in the wood passing through Vanzera and coming out at the cemetery in Nonio with its little lakes, where a sunny picnic area is ideal for our lunch break.

A little further on we get back on the T0 with three downhill variants, also of varying difficulty: the first is the left-hand one with a few stretches which are quite technical going towards Cireggio; the second, the one in the middle, is the easiest and also goes to Cireggio; lastly the third, to the right, is well signposted, leading directly to Brolo, on the high slope with a few points that are quite exposed and a fun final bit going downhill.

In case you opt for one of the first two variants, just before reaching Cireggio, you have to go right into Via Varallo to go up to Brolo and find the track again for the Church of Saint Anthony. Once you reach the tiny village of Brolo you go down towards Prà della Marta. The enjoyable mule trail leads as far as Omegna, passing through the area of Bagnella, from where the cycle/footpath starts and skirts the lake shore.

After the hospital we get on to Via della Repubblica, keeping the railway on our right and we get to the village of Borca. Here there is a good stretch of sin-





gle-track, some up and downhill and a few streams in the wood of chestnut and oak trees, until you come out at Crabbia and then after Crabbia. Pettenasco.

At this point we leave the lake again, going uphill towards the railway bridge, and carrying on uphill on the mule trail and then untarmacked road leading through the wood until you get to the cobbled roads and historical houses of Carcegna, arriving at its parish church, Saint Peter's, which is characteristic because its façade was never finished and its bell tower leans slightly to one side.

From Carcegna we set off again for the village of Miasino and, along another mule trail, we get to "the painted village" of Legro. From Legro we head for the peninsula of Orta San Giulio, cycling the whole stretch on a narrow cycle/pedestrian path (about 1 metre wide) requiring a certain amount of caution. Once you reach the church porch, you can face the lake once again and look at the enchanting view of the Island of San Giulio. We are plunged into the almost unreal peace and quiet of the downhill section of mule trail leading towards Bolzano Novarese and from here we take the path back to the Lido di Gozzano.

HIGHLIGHTS

ONLINE GUIDE WITH THE ITINERARY, POINTS OF **INTEREST AND INFO** ON THE ROUTE.





CESARA







SAN FILIBERTO

RONCO

GOZZANO









PETTENASCO













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Via Ponte Bria 100 - 28887 Omegna (No) Tel. +39 339 8523401

LE CAMION Chef a porter

Area Cipir 28014 Gozzano (No) Tel. +39 342 9123455

L'AVVENTURA PRENDE QUOTA

RENT E-BIKE MONTEORO

NOLEGGIA le nostre bici elettriche e scopri i meravigliosi itinerari del lago d'Orta LA NATURA



MONTEOR



SHOPPING CENTER

CON ALL'INTERNO 15 NEGOZI!!

Piazza Nobili De Toma

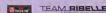


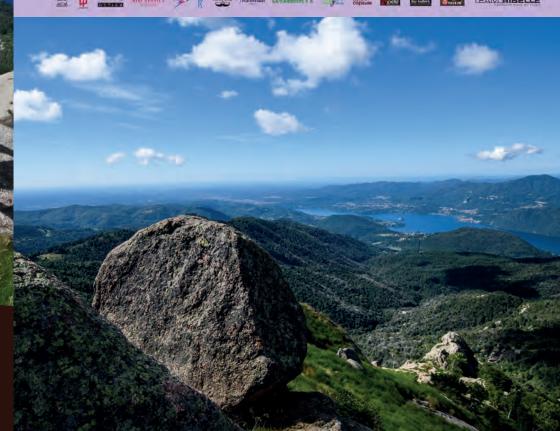












Via Molini, 7 - Località Monteoro 28010 Ameno (NO) Tel. +39 389 9835059



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Testi: Francesca Naboni, Diana Trissino

Bikers e modelli: Adele Avallone, Leonardo Cerutti, Marco Cerutti, Francesca Naboni, Riccardo Manzetti, Giorgia Micali, Diana Trissino

Sponsor tecnico: Monte Oro RENT E-bike Coordinamento Unione Turistica Lago d'Orta:



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www.lagodorta.piemonte.it

ALTRI UFFICI TURISTICI

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I.A.T. Associazione turistica Orta San Giulio

Via Panoramica, 2 - Orta San Giulio (NO) info: +39 0322 905163 - turismo@comune.ortasangiulio.no.it

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Piazza XXIV Aprile, 17 - Omegna (VB) Tel. +39 0323 61930 - info@proloco.omegna.vb.it www.proloco.omegna.vb.it



























PUBLIC

TRANSPORT

SERVICE









SERVIZIO NAVIGAZIONE DI LINEA SERVIZIO Il servizio pubblico di navigazione ad orario è attivo da marzo ad ottobre e collega i principali approdi del lago: Omegna, Orta, Isola San Giulio, Pella, Pettenasco e Gozzano. **DI LINEA**

· Marzo e ottobre: solo domenica e Festivi

Da aprile a settembre: tutti i giorni

Orario completo su www.navigazionelagodorta.ii

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE

The public scheduled navigation service runs from March to October and connects the main landings of the lake: Omegna, Orta, Isola San Giulio, Pella, Pettenasco and Gozzano.

· March and October: only on Sundays and holidays

· From April to September: every day

Complete timetable on www.navigazionelagodorta.i

















Lago Maggiore / Verbania / Svizzera







can can get on board in Gozzano Lido to reach Orta Thursday the trips continues to the weekly market in Omegna

TARIFFE ANDATA E RITORNO TICKETS ROUND TRIP												
prezzi in euro (€)	OMEGNA	OIRA	RONCO	PUNTA DI CRABBIA	GIARDINETTO PETTENASCO L'APPRODO	ORTA	ISOLA SAN GIULIO	PELLA	SAN FILIBERTO	LAGNA	MIAMI	
OIRA	3,20											
RONCO	5,00	3,20										
PUNTA DI CRABBIA	5,80	3,20	3,20									
GIARDINETTO PETTENASCO L'APPRODO	6,30	5,00	5,00	3,20								
ORTA	7,60	5,80	5,00	5,00	5,00							
ISOLA SAN GIULIO	7,60	5,80	5,00	5,00	5,00	3,20						
PELLA	7,60	7,00	6,30	5,00	5,00	5,00	4,50					
SAN FILIBERTO	7,60	7,00	6,30	5,00	5,00	5,00	4,50	3,20				
LAGNA	7,60	7,00	6,30	5,00	5,00	5,00	5,00	3,20	3,20			
MIAMI	8,80	8,80	8,80	6,30	6,30	6,30	6,30	6,30	6,30	6,30		
GOZZANO	8,80	8,80	8,80	6,30	6,30	6,30	6,30	6,30	6,30	6,30	3,20	











