

ENG

IN BICI A PELO D'ACQUA

Cycling
Itineraries
from Valais
to Novara

Cycle Routes
Via del Mare
Pedemontana
Via del Ticino
and Lago
Maggiore Rhone
River Route

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In bici a pelo d'acqua



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CYCLING AT THE WATER'S EDGE

Cycling unhurriedly in the cross-border area, from Valais to Verbano-Cusio-Ossola to Novara, along the cycling networks recognised by the Piedmont Region, to discover the culture, nature, history and food and wine of these territories.

With a view to responsible and sustainable tourism, the Interreg project "In bici a pelo d'acqua" (Cycling at the water's edge) unites Italy and Switzerland through an itinerary on two wheels of about 270 km, where the leitmotif is water. From the Rhone flowing in the Valais to the Toce in Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, from Lake Orta to the Ticino valley and finally among the rice fields of the lower Novara area, furrowed by irrigation canals. A borderless journey along lakes, rivers, streams and into the liquid soul of Alto Piemonte. The itinerary is part of cycle routes recognised as being of national and regional interest, such as the Via del Mare, the Via del Ticino e del Lago Maggiore and the Pedemontana, which run through the territories of more than 40 municipalities in the provinces of Novara and VCO. These are joined by the Rhone cycle route in Canton Valais. The complete route can be covered in several stages and combine train+bike or boat+bike solutions.

It is an invitation to discover the area at a slow pace, like travellers of the past, not only from a cultural or landscape point of view, but also in terms of outdoors and food and wine, encountering tasteful proposals ranging from the wines of the Novara Hills to typical cheeses and the rice of our plain. Come and enjoy a unique experience, cycling at the water's edge!



DISCOVERING THE CANTON OF VALAIS ALONG THE RHONE RIVER ROUTE

Discover Valais along the river

One of the most exciting cycling routes in Switzerland is the route along the Rhone River through the canton of Valais, on mostly flat paths, in several stops to discover the region's curiosities. Historical monuments, wine cellars, emblematic mountains, vineyards and numerous activities await cyclists looking for a getaway on the water.

Le Bouveret. The journey begins in Bouveret, which offers the possibility of water sports on the lake or at the Aquaparc, or to travel on the miniature trains of the Swiss Vapeur Parc. The fireworks on 1 August make it a must-see destination during the summer.

Monthey. At the foot of the imposing Dents du Midi, Monthey is a town known for its cultural and festive character, in particular thanks to the Crochetan theatre and its carnival, one of the best known in French-speaking Switzerland.

St-Maurice. Known for its abbey founded in 515, the town also offers the opportunity to discover its Grotte aux Fées or the Scex chapel, which will take you to the rocky slopes. In Evionnaz, the Labyrinthe Aventure is the ideal place for a family day out.

Martigny. It preserves numerous Roman remains, such as the amphitheatre and the Bâtiaz Castle. The Pierre Gianadda Foundation houses the greatest names in painting, a sculpture park and the largest collection of Swiss automobiles. In Barryland, in addition to the museum, you can visit the Saint Bernard dogs, the Morand Distillery where you can taste schnapps, and the Fromathèque where you can find local products. Major events such as the Foire du Valais and the Festival des 5 Continents attract large audiences every year.

Fully. Best known for its vineyards where the Petite Arvine thrives, the Combe d'Enferi (the vineyard path), the chestnut grove and the Follatères nature reserve, this village is a place where nature reigns supreme. The Fol'Terres pavilion is the ideal place to taste local wine and buy local products.

Saxon. Capital of the apricot, celebrated during the summer, this village is the starting point of many hikes, like 'le bisse de Saxon', a hike that takes you along part of the longest irrigation canal in the Valais.

Saillon. In Saillon, one of the most beautiful villages in Switzerland, everything is dedicated to the memory of Joseph-Samuel Farinet, 'the Robin Hood of the Alps': the world's smallest vineyard, a museum of counterfeit money, a via ferrata (climbing route) and a suspension bridge. Nearby, the spa centre allows you to relax with treatments based on local products.



Chamoson. In this picturesque municipality, literature lovers can visit St-Pierre-de-Clages, the Swiss village of books, with its 11th-century Romanesque church, while local wine cellars invite you to taste Johannisberg, the region's emblematic wine.

Sion. Before reaching the capital of Valais, several attractions await you, such as Europe's largest underground lake in St-Léonard or the Happyland amusement park. Once in Sion, visit its emblematic castles and old town. In its historic centre, there are many terraces where you can eat and you will learn everything about Valais visiting the three cantonal museums.

Sierre. A visit to one of Switzerland's most important wine regions. A stop at the Château de Villa wine cellar, where you can taste 650 different wines, is a must. The city offers a rich range of different activities, such as visiting the Rilke Foundation or the Maison de Courten, rafting, e-biking or a trip to Lake Géronde. During the summer, Sierre hosts numerous events, such as the Sierre Blues Festival, the Couleur Pavé, the 'Festival au bord de l'eau' or the 'Marche des Cépages', a market dedicated to grapes.

Salgesch (Salquenen). From Leuk, the Rhone flows wild to Salgesch, a wine-growing municipality known for its numerous wine cellars and a wine and vine-themed museum.

Leuk (Loèche). Welcome to Leuk, the gateway to the Finges Forest, the largest pine forest in Central Europe. On the heights of the village, the castle with its glass dome stands proudly, while its park of satellite dishes is a sight.

Raron (Rarogne). Make a stop in Raron, where you will find the grave of the poet Rainer Maria Rilke and the Michaelskirche, Europe's largest cave church. A little further on, in Gampel, the plain hosts an open-air festival that attracts around 100,000 visitors each summer.

Visp (Viège). Visp, best known for its developments in biotechnology, lies at the foot of Europe's highest vineyard and is a crossroads of mountain destinations such as Saas-Fee and Zermatt.

Brig. The journey ends in the town of Brig, with its famous Stockalper Castle. Be sure to try a Cordon Bleu to gain strength at the end of your trip, or relax your muscles in the thermal baths of Brigerbad or even cross the impressive Ganter Bridge on the way to the Simplon Pass.

If you have well-trained legs and breath and a good amount of adventurous spirit, you can ride over the Simplon Pass, which connects Switzerland with Italy and leads to Domodossola, where you can also arrive by train directly from Brig (CH), loading your bike.



THE VIA DEL MARE

Domodossola. The city develops around Piazza del Mercato with 15th-century arcades and 15th- and 16th-century buildings. In the city centre you can also find the Collegiate Church of Saints Gervasius and Protasius of Romanesque origin, restored during the 15th and 18th centuries. The collections of the Natural Science Museum and the Civic Museums are rich, housed in historical buildings in the centre, such as Palazzo San Francesco, built on the 13th-century church of the same name, or the Renaissance Palazzo Silva. Noteworthy is the Sanctuary of Monte Calvario built in the mid-17th century, a UNESCO heritage site.

Villadossola. The Romanesque Church of St Bartholomew contains valuable frescoes and a beautiful coeval bell tower. A short diversion leads to the hamlet of Piaggio, where the Castle and the Romanesque Church of the Beata Vergine Assunta can be admired. Documents related to the Ossola Republic are preserved in the Museum of the Resistance.

Pallanzeno. Bathed by the River Toce, it is still possible to admire how the Ossola river environment once was.

Piedimulera. Located at the mouth of the Anzasca Valley, the village is dominated by the majestic 17th-century Parish Church of Saints George and Anthony. The centre is characterised by the presence of numerous 17th- and 18th-century buildings and the charming Piazza del Mercato with Palazzo Testoni; from here you can admire the Ferrerio Tower.

Alternative route to Vogogna

From Piedimulera and Pieve Vergonte you reach Vogogna, where the 14th-century Visconti Castle and the Gothic-style Palazzo del Pretorio can be admired in a commanding position. The diversion continues along the left bank of the River Toce, touching Premosello Chiovenda and Cuzzago.

Pieve Vergonte. The Parish Church of Saints Vincent and Anastasius, which was rebuilt during the 17th century, is worth mentioning; in 1940, construction work began on the Rumianca Workers' Village. Particularly interesting is the Eco-Museum of Val Toppa linked to the gold deposits in this area

Anzola d'Ossola. It rises at the alluvial plain between the Toce and the mountains behind; the main monuments of the village are the parish church of San Tommaso of Romanesque origin, the Oratory of San Rocco and the Sanctuary of the Madonna del Carmine, which dominates the village.

Migiandone. In this hamlet of the municipality of Ornavasso, the Walser people from Simplon settled around the 14th century; not far away, at the height of the Cadorna Line, is the Necropolis of Ornavasso.



Ornavasso. The Walser centre is the gateway to the Ossola valley, famous for its quarries, which, with the nearby Candoglia quarry, have provided marble for many famous monuments in the Lombardy area; today, it is used for an important music festival. In an elevated position is the 16th-century parish church of San Nicolaò, whose façade is made of brown-striped marble from a nearby quarry. The House Museum of the Partisan 'A. Di Dio' is worth mentioning. A diversion to the heights leads to the Sanctuary of Madonna della Guardia with its 14th century tower, and the Sanctuary of Madonna del Boden.

Alternative route to Mergozzo

A second diversion crosses the Toce and leads to the village of Mergozzo with the rise of Monte Orfano, an enormous block of granite; in the village of Montorfano, the Romanesque Church of Santa Marta (11th century) and the 17th-century Parish Church of the Assumption are worth a visit.

Gravellona Toce. Among the most important monuments is the 10th-century Romanesque Church of St Maurice, built in stone blocks, with 15th-century frescoes and flanked by the leaning bell tower. The Parish Church of St Peter the Apostle, erected in the 12th century, is also worthy of note.

Casale Corte Cerro. Its territory is criss-crossed by a dense network of paths that lead to the various alpine pastures from which you can enjoy a suggestive panorama. The Baroque parish church is dedicated to St George and Our Lady of the Rosary. There are numerous hamlets along the route, such as Cerreda with the Oratory of Saints Anthony and Rocco, Ramate with the 16th-century parish church of San Lorenzo and Sant'Anna, Pramore whose name derives from 'blackberry meadow', meaning the mulberry trees used for raising silkworms.

Crusinallo. It is the largest and most populous hamlet of Omegna located on the border with Casale Corte Cerro; the castle of the Counts of Crusinallo stood here.

Omegna. The town is located at the northernmost point of Lake Orta, crossed by the Nigoglia stream, which has the peculiarity of flowing northwards. The late Romanesque Church of Sant'Amrogio, which houses the mortal remains of the patron saint San Vito Martire, is prestigious. It is famous for being the birthplace of Gianni Rodari, journalist, pedagogist and writer: the Parco della Fantasia is dedicated to him, a literary park where you can lose yourself in his stories and nursery rhymes to learn while playing. It is located in the Forum area, built on the site of the old 'Cobianchi' ironworks, which houses a permanent exhibition associated with the production of household goods and temporary exhibitions.

Bagnella. A locality directly overlooking the lake, which can be reached via a cycle path that runs along the lake basin.

For an adrenaline-pumping experience, try the Lago d'Orta Zipline, or you can hire special bicycles with huge floating wheels that allow you to pedal on the waters of the lake. *You can reach Orta San Giulio, also loading your bike on the boat departing from the Imbarcadere. The ancient village and Sacro Monte are worth a visit.*

Nonio. Famous for its serpentine quarries in the locality of Oira, its parish church is dedicated to San Biagio Martire; in the centre is the 17th-century Oratory of San Rocco. In the hamlet of Brolo, the parish church is instead dedicated to Saint Anthony Abbot. It is also famous for being the town of cats, which appear painted and carved on the façades of houses, on tiles, in squares and streets, a tradition linked to a local legend.

Cesara. It extends over the western heights of Lake Orta with its hamlets of Egro and Grassona; in a dominant position stands the Romanesque parish church of San Clemente.

Pella. At Prorio, we find the dock to reach the village of Orta and the Island of San Giulio (bikes can be loaded onto the boat). Overlooking the lake is the Complesso di San Filiberto with its simple gabled façade and polygonal apse. Only the bell tower remains of the Romanesque structure.

Alternative route to Pella, Ronco and Orta

Taking the road along the lake to the north, you reach the centre of Pella, a pretty lakeside village with a lively little square. Further on, you arrive at Ronco Inferiore, a small medieval town overlooking the water. The Church of San Defendente located on the ancient mule track connecting Valsesia and the lake and, at Ronco Superiore, the one dedicated to San Giulio are worth a visit. A boat plus bike service is available at the landing stage to reach Orta San Giulio..

San Maurizio d'Opaglio. The route winds along the lakeside, passing through the villages of Lagna, Villa Castelnuovo, Pascolo until it reaches the Lido di Gozzano, amidst woods and reeds, in the Buccione Vecchio region.

Gozzano. In Buccione, you can admire the ancient Casa del Vescovo (Bishop's House), a resting place for the clergy waiting to embark for the Island of San Giulio, with the coats of arms of the Novara bishops and a Madonna and Child. In the centre, the Collegiate Church of San Giuliano, built on the remains of an older church that was later remodelled, the Romanesque bell tower and the ancient Church of San Lorenzo are worth a visit. We also recommend the Church of Santa Maria di Luzzara, dating back to the 10th century, beautifully frescoed and not far from the route.

Another unmissable cycling route is the Tour of Lake Orta (approx. 37 km), which winds around the perimeter of the lake. www.distrettoalaghi.it

Briga Novarese. A village of ancient foundation on whose hills lie the remains of an early medieval castle; with the material recovered from its demolition and the partial use of the foundations, the ancient Oratory of San Colombano was rebuilt in 1594. The elevated Romanesque Chapel of St Thomas, dating from around the 11th century, is worth a visit, with valuable contemporary frescoes.

Borgomanero. An active and lively town built in the early Middle Ages in a strategic position on the banks of the Agogna and on important communication routes between the plain, the Cusio and the Simplon. In the town centre stands the Collegiate Church of St Bartholomew, today in its Baroque and neoclassical forms, with its unmistakable façade rich in terracotta decorations, housing valuable works. Also in the centre is the Oratory of San Leonardo, established since the 12th century but with an earlier foundation, which preserves frescoes of great interest. Following the avenue leading to the station, you reach Villa Marazza, home to the Marazza Foundation and the Civic Library, which holds a large collection of books, prints, incunabula and parchments. In the hamlet



of Santa Cristina, the Ethnographic Museum of Local Agricultural Civilisation 'La Manera', housed in the 17th-century Palazzo Bono, is worth a visit.

At Borgomanero, the PEDEMONTANA route indicated on the map with the green colour intersects.

Alternative route to Cureggio and Fontaneto d'Agogna

From Borgomanero, it is possible to take the alternative route that descends towards Cureggio and Fontaneto d'Agogna, villages where the blond onion, a SlowFood presidium, is cultivated according to regulations. Both are of ancient origin and are characterised by important historical-artistic presences: in particular in Cureggio with the Romanesque Baptistery of San Giovanni and the Parish Church of Santa Maria Assunta; we also recommend the Spazio Museale TAM dedicated to the history of the territory between Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. In Fontaneto, the Scurolo di Sant'Alessandro in the parish church by Alessandro Antonelli and the Romanesque Oratory of Saints Fabiano and Sebastiano are worth a visit. There are numerous springs in the area, the abundance of which explains the origin of its name.

Not far from Fontaneto, it is possible to reach Cressa, crossing the SS229.

Cressa. It is a small village that was once dedicated to silkworm breeding. At the edge of the village stands the Romanesque Oratory of San Giulio, the old parish church of the village; the present parish church dates back to the 17th century with interesting paintings.

Suno. An important settlement in Roman and medieval times, it is one of the wine production centres of the Novara Hills and Città del Vino. Noteworthy is the Parish Church of San Genesio, located outside the town on the ancient Via Francisca; already mentioned in the 11th century, it was extensively remodelled over the centuries. The Railway Museum and the Astronomical Observatory are worth mentioning.

Vaprio d'Agogna. In the centre we find the 13th-century Casaforte and Villa Bono, an ancient residence of delight; the Parish Church of Santa Maria Assunta was built in the 17th century and underwent various renovations over time.

Castelletto di Momo. Here stands the Parish Church of Santa Maria Assunta. Not far along the route is the Cascina Linduno, with the small Oratorio di Santa Maria, rich in 15th-century frescoes.

Alternative route to Momo

The splendid Oratory of the Holy Trinity, the Sistine Chapel of Novara, is well worth a visit, with its rich cycle of frescoes depicting scenes from the life of Jesus and other images of saints.

Caltignaga. After crossing State Road 229 and encountering the ancient Cascina Mirasole, you arrive at Sologno where the Romanesque Oratory of Saints Nazario and Celso can be admired inside the cemetery. In Caltignaga, the Oratory of San Salvatore, rich in frescoes, and the Caccia Castle in the cemetery are worth a visit. Along the state road, the remains of a Roman aqueduct are still visible.

Alternative route to Cavagliano, Badia di Dulzago and Cameri

From Caltignaga, a diversion leads to Cavagliano, where in the cemetery you can admire the Oratory of San Vito, with a cycle of frescoes of the Gaudenzian school adorning the back wall of the small church. Instead, the Castle, a rural building with traces of the ancient moat, and the Church of Saints Quirico and Giulitta stand in a dominant position and on an earlier fortification. Not far away, we find the Badia di Dulzago, near the TorrenteTerdoppio and some fountains. A religious site and agricultural settlement of ancient origin, the abbot's and canons' houses, the settlers' houses, a church dedicated to St Julius, a small cemetery and the icehouse could be found there..

Moving eastwards we reach Cameri, where the Parish Church of San Michele and the Oratory of San Rocco are worth a visit. Not far away is Villa Picchetta, home of the Ticino Park, which houses the new accommodation for cyclists (bike hotel).

Novara. You reach Novara from the SS 229 via Vignale. Your gaze is immediately drawn to the imposing dome of the Basilica di San Gaudenzio, one of the world's tallest monuments built entirely of brick and designed by architect Alessandro Antonelli. The 17th-century basilica below, with important Baroque works, is also worth a visit. Just a few steps away is the Faraggiana Ferrandi Museum of Natural History. Moving towards the heart of the historic centre, you will find the Broletto Monumental Complex, consisting of four buildings from different eras, which houses the 'P.A. Giannoni Gallery of Modern Art', where works from the late 19th and early 20th century are exhibited.



Opposite stands the Antonellian cathedral of Santa Maria, which houses works by Gaudenzio Ferrari and Bernardino Lanino, and the early Christian Baptistery, considered the oldest in Piedmont, which preserves a cycle of frescoes of Romanesque origin. The Palazzi del Chiostro della Canonica are home to the Museums of the Duomo's Canonica. Overlooking Piazza Martiri are the Coccia Theatre, and the Visconteo-Sforzesco Castle, which hosts events and exhibitions and where the local tourist office is located (ATL Terre dell'Alto Piemonte, Piazza Martiri della Libertà 3; tel. 039 0321394059; www.turismonovara.it). Leaving the historical centre, you head along the Strada Mercadante; south of the city at Torrion Quartara, looking across rice fields and irrigation courses, it is possible to come across some historic farmsteads, such as the San Maiolo, with a history stretching back thousands of years and a Cluniac site.

Monticello. In the centre we find on a small rise the ancient Parish Church of Saints Gervasius and Protasius and the remains of an ancient castle.

Granozzo. Noteworthy are the Parish Church of the Assumption and the Oratory of Santa Maria and San Rocco, built after the plague in the 17th century.

Casalino. The parish church of San Pietro, scene of the Peace of Casalino of 1194, which sanctioned the truce between Novara and Vercelli after 20 years of fighting, is worth a visit. In the centre are the Parish Church of Saints Peter and Paul, which houses the 15th-century Wall of Saints painting cycle in the Chapel of the Annunziata, and the Castle with its precious garden.

Vinzaglio. The old Sella Castle, which stands on a hillock, today presents itself as an aristocratic country residence. The Parish Church of the Assumption dates back to the 17th century. Numerous farmsteads dot the Vinzaglio area, bearing witness to the past and present of an agricultural village dedicated to rice cultivation.

In a westerly direction, you cross the River Sesia and arrive in the Vercelli area; the route continues along the VIA DEL MARE.

THE PEDEMONTANA

Romagnano Sesia. The village is nestled among the vineyards of the Colline Novaresi, where Ghemme DOCG is produced. Around the year 1000, the Abbey of San Silano was founded here, which today preserves archaeological finds and valuable works of art. All that remains of the ancient abbey complex is the so-called Cellar of the Saints, which houses a unique 15th century fresco cycle depicting the life of King David. The 19th-century Villa Caccia, designed by Alessandro Antonelli, is well worth a visit. Today, it houses the Museo Storico Etnografico della Bassa Valsesia (Lower Valsesia Historical and Ethnographic Museum), which tells the story of ancient trades, mostly related to viticulture. In odd-numbered years, Romagnano becomes a protagonist with the Good Friday Sacred Representation, which stages the centuries-old Passion of Christ acted out by its inhabitants.



Alternative route to Monteregio

From Romagnano to the south, there are numerous routes already marked out in the vineyard-growing area of the Colline Novaresi, including the wine-growing areas of Ghemme, Sizzano, Fara Novarese, Briona, Grignasco to the north and Barengo, Cavaglietto and Cavaglio d'Agogna to the east, before rejoining the Via del Mare route at Fontaneto d'Agogna. This area is characterised by hills created by moraine deposits formed by the advance and subsequent retreat of glaciers and the combined action of flowing water; here the microclimate is particularly favourable to vine cultivation due to the proximity of Monte Rosa.

Alternative route to Biandrina Road - Asta del Sesia

From Ghemme we move south along the Sesia river shaft, on the ancient Via Biandrina, on white and communal roads to reach Sizzano, Carpignano Sesia, Landiona, Vicolungo, Biandrate and San Nazzaro Sesia, until we reach the Vercelli area, crossing the Via del Mare.

Prato Sesia. It is a village of ancient origins where Fra' Dolcino was born. The parish church is dedicated to St Bernard of Menton; founded in the Middle Ages and remodelled in the 17th and 18th centuries, it houses paintings by Gimignani and Grassi. In an elevated position, the remains of the Castle of Sopramonte with the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Giant Orange Bench No. 127 can be seen. From here, you can enjoy a splendid view of Monte Rosa, Valsesia and the Sesia River, where the area of the Supervolcano, recognised by UNESCO as a Geopark, once stretched.

Cavallirio. The village is included in the Fenera Park and the Baragge Nature Reserve. The parish church of San Gaudenzio underwent various changes until it reached its present form. In the countryside stands the Romanesque Oratory of San Germano.

Boca. The village lends its name to the DOC of the same name, a full-bodied Nebbiolo-based wine; the Parish Church of San Gaudenzio stands on a rise, while the majestic Sanctuary of the Santissimo Crocifisso, designed by Alessandro Antonelli, whose construction was completed by his son Costanzo, is worth a short diversion.



Maggiora. A village with a strong Antonellian imprint, in the centre is, in fact, Casa Antonelli, the residence of the architect's family. Also in the centre stands the Parish Church of the Holy Spirit, inside which is the scurolo of St Agapito by Antonelli, as well as the architectural layout of the cemetery.

Borgomanero. An active and lively town built in the early Middle Ages in a strategic position on the banks of the Agogna and on important communication routes between the plain, the Cusio and the Simplon. In the centre stands the Collegiate Church of St Bartholomew, today in its Baroque and neoclassical forms, with its unmistakable façade rich in terracotta decorations, housing valuable works. Also in the centre is the Oratory of San Leonardo, established since the 12th century but with an earlier foundation, which preserves frescoes of great interest. Following the avenue leading to the station, you reach Villa Marazza, home to the Marazza Foundation and the Civic Library, which holds a large collection of books, prints, incunabula and parchments. In the hamlet of Santa Cristina, the Ethnographic Museum of Local Agricultural Civilisation 'La Manera', housed in the 17th-century Palazzo Bono, is worth a visit. In Vergano, the Castle stands in a panoramic position, with an elegant 15th-century square tower, traces of a drawbridge and a round window with a noble coat of arms.

Here the VIA DEL MARE, identified on the map with the colour red, intersects.

Gattico-Veruno. In Gattico, the Parish Church of Saints Cosma and Damiano stands on a rise and preserves valuable wooden decorations inside. At the edge of a forest along the itinerary, the evocative remains of the Romanesque Church of San Martino are worth a stop. The church is roofless, but its structure is still clearly visible in its three naves ending in apses. The site of a rural Roman settlement, the Muggiano farmstead was a fortified court in the Middle Ages and later the seat of the Lords of Gattico, also equipped with a mill. A diversion leads north of Muggiano into the Parco dei Lagoni di Mercurago, a UNESCO-recognised pile-dwelling site.

Alternative route to Borgo Ticino

From Gattico in a southerly direction, touching the village of Veruno, it is possible to take an alternative route that then joins the Ticino Cycle Route south of Castelletto in the Cascinetta region, passing through the Bosco Solivo Nature Reserve, included in the protected areas of the Ticino Park.

Alternative route to Oleggio Castello

The hilltop village is famous for the Villa Dal Pozzo D'Annone, a rare example of Victorian architecture in Italy.

Comignago. A village of ancient origins, in the centre stands the Abbey of Santo Spirito, remodelled over the centuries, with a beautiful Romanesque bell tower; at the top of a rise stands the Parish Church of San Giovanni Battista, built in the 17th century on top of an older building. Within the Lagoni di Mercurago Park, in the Comignago area, is the Motto Caneva Necropolis dating from the 4th and 5th centuries AD.

Castelletto Sopra Ticino. Skirting the Oratory of Glisente and after crossing State Road 32, you reach the centre of the ancient village, where evidence of prehistoric finds dating back to the Golasecca civilisation are preserved. In the Middle Ages, the village developed around the Visconti Castle with its well-planted park, while the parish church was built in the 18th century on a previous 15th-century building. From here, the Pedemontana route can reach Lombardy via the Sesto Calende bridge, or by travelling along the part of the Via del Ticino towards Somma Lombardo, through the municipality of Varallo Pombia.

VIA DEL TICINO

The Piedmontese Ticino Park covers an area of more than 6,000 hectares; it extends along the north-western bank of the river, from the outlet of Lake Maggiore to the border with Lombardy and includes part of the territory of 11 municipalities: **Castelletto Sopra Ticino, Varallo Pombia, Pombia, Marano Ticino, Oleggio, Bellinzago, Cameri, Galliate, Romentino, Trecate and Cerano.** It is Europe's largest river protected area, recognised as a world heritage site on the MAB-UNESCO circuit. The route of the cycle path runs for a total length of 63 km, in a direction parallel to the river, mostly using existing dirt roads; with the exception of a few stretches where the route of the cycle path coincides with asphalt roads or passing roads, the route is closed to motor vehicle traffic. It is divided into five stages of varying lengths, which begin and end at a point that is easily accessible by car and where parking facilities are available. The maps can be downloaded from www.parcoticinolagomaggiore.it





TERRE DELL'ALTO PIEMONTE



CAMERA DI COMMERCIO
MONTE ROSA LAGHI
ALTO PIEMONTE



REGIONE
PIEMONTE



PROVINCIA
DI NOVARA



Città di Novara



ARGE PROTETTE DEL TICINO
E DEL LAGO MAGGIORE

BI + NO + VC + VCO - *Le Province con un futuro nel corso*

DISTRETTO
TURISTICO
DEI LAGHI



Lago Maggiore
Lago d'Orta
Lago di Mergozzo
Monti e Valli d'Ossola



FIAB
Novara
Amici della Bici

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BICPELOACQUA

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