

Cycle-pedestrian Routes
in the province of **Brescia**



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Regione Lombardia



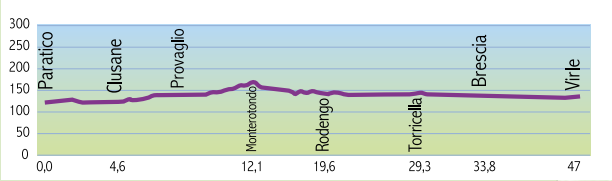


1 The Lakes Cycle Route Part 1

From Paratico to Rezzato along the Emila Gallica Roman road

The route follows a path known since prehistoric times which linked the centre of Europe to the ports on the Adriatic. This ancient link reached Italy near Como and, touching on the cities of Lecco, Bergamo and Brescia, arrived at its destination in the small town of Adria. Having been completely refurbished in Roman times, this important pathway became a consular way and was renamed Via Emilia Gallica. Through the centuries various buildings equipped to provide travellers and pilgrims with assistance were erected along the route, such as the hospices dedicated to Saint Giacomo and lined up between the Lake Iseo and Rezzato. The cycle path exists thanks to a planning agreement between the Provincial Administrative Offices of Brescia and Bergamo. Lecco and Milan to join up their cycle routes into one route called the Lakes Cycle Route, part of the BI12 route (also named the "Pedemontana Alpina Cycle Route") and included within the Bicalta tourist cycling network.

Starting Point: Paratico
Destination: Virle di Rezzato
Level of difficulty: light
Bike type: MTB and Citybike
Length: 47 km

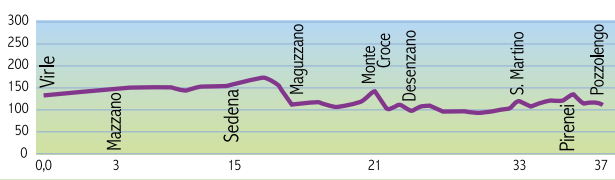


2 The Lakes Cycle Route Part 2

From Rezzato to Pozzolengo towards Mantova and Verona

Completely redesigned in Roman times, the route between Brescia and Verona is described in the diary of a pilgrim travelling from Bordeaux to Jerusalem in 333 A.D. The stretch between the two cities remained in use until the early Middle Ages, when it was pushed back on to the moraine hills nearby due to silting of the land between Sirmione and Peschiera. Over the centuries, buildings were constructed along this historical path to offer assistance to travellers and pilgrims, such as the hospices dedicated to St. James in Rezzato and in Pozzolengo. The cycle path exists thanks to a planning agreement between the Provincial Administrative Offices of Brescia, Bergamo, Lecco and Milan to join up their cycle routes into one route called the Lakes Cycle Route, part of the BI 12 route (also named the "Pedemontana Alpina Cycle Route") and included within the Bicalta tourist cycling network.

Starting Point: Virle
Destination: Pozzolengo
Level of difficulty: light
Bike type: MTB and Citybike
Length: 37 km

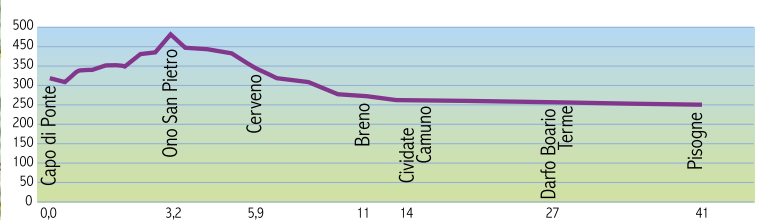


3 The Valle Camonica Cycle Route

From Capo di Ponte to Pisogne

When the Valle Camonica route is completed, it will provide the entire area with a long cycle route which, from the border with Trento and Sondrio, will allow cyclists to reach Lake Iseo and there join the Lake Cycle Route to Bergamo and Verona and/or the Oglio Cycle Route to Cremona and Mantua, thus providing the valley with a number of internationally renowned cycle routes for tourists. This trail will start from the Tonale and Aprica passes, and will then unwind along two routes which will join in Edolo, and will then continue first along the left bank of the river Oglio, and then on its right – hand bank until it joins Lake Iseo. At the moment, the sections which are open and viable are the one between Ponte di Legno and Vezza d'Oglio, Capo di Ponte and Pisogne, which touches Breno and Clivade Camuno, and the short but beautiful section of cycle path directly facing Lake Iseo between Toline and Vello.

Starting Point: Capo di Ponte
Destination: Pisogne
Level of difficulty: light
Bike type: MTB and Citybike
Length: 41 km

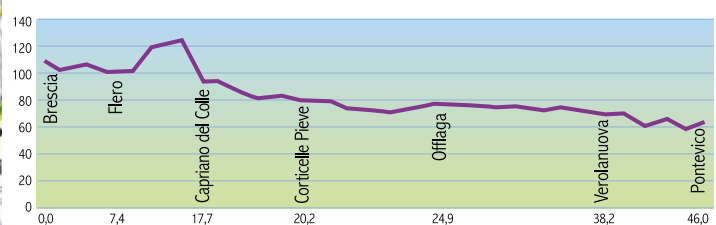


4 The Cardo Cycle Route

From Brescia to Cremona following the Roman pattern of farm-land allocation

The cycle path linking Brescia with Monticelli d'Oglio in the direction of Cremona, with an optional route through Pontevico, winds across the large portion of Brescia plains which, from the first century BC, was developed and farmed by the Romans. The great division of this landscape into parcels was called "centuriation", because it was entrusted to the military centurions. The resulting network of land parcels at strict right angles to each other was created along the axis of the road which linked the two main towns of Brescia and Cremona, and which still today connects the towns of Pontevico, Manerbio and Bagnolo Mella. This road, which was a continuation of the two Cardus Maximus roads (namely the main roads) of Roman-time Brescia and Cremona, was also called the Cardo Massimo. The cycle route that links Brescia to the Oglio river is laid out almost entirely along old rural roads that are efficiently inter-linked, and which maintain the north-east and south-east orientation of those routes which, thanks to their ancient construction, can justifiably be defined as historical.

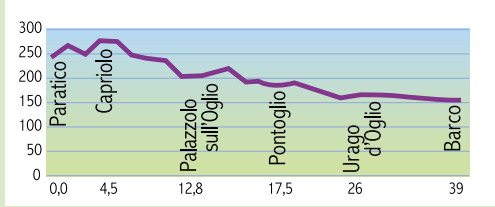
Starting Point: Brescia
Destination: Pontevico and Monticelli d'Oglio
Level of difficulty: light
Bike type: MTB and Citybike
Length: 46 km



5 The Oglio Cycle Route Part 1

From Paratico to Orzinuovi

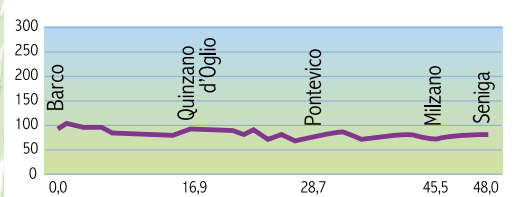
Cyclists, nature lovers, and fans of outdoor excursions alike will all enjoy the Oglio Cycle Route, a trail that from Paratico will take you to Seniga, in the low Brescia plain, following the entire course of the Oglio river. The landscape will change significantly along the route, from the deep slump of the first section (from the exit of Lake Iseo to Palazzolo) to the slow spread of waters across the much softer plain around Orzinuovi, after which the river bed will sink again between high banks toward the end of the route. The appearance of the river Oglio itself changes widely along the route, and the locals have responded to this by using the water in several different ways, all of which you will be able to see clearly on this long but informative cycle ride. At the start of the ride, you will find interesting industrial relics, originally created in order to exploit the water's power, whereas the second part of the ride features great irrigation systems laid out at regular intervals all the way to the edge of the province. This area is intensely farmed today, but was once wild and marshy.



Starting Point: Paratico
Destination: Orzinuovi
Level of difficulty: light
Bike type: MTB and Citybike
Length: 39 km

6 The Oglio Cycle Route Part 2

From Orzinuovi to Seniga



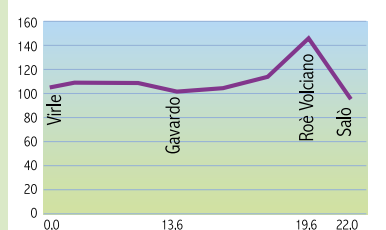
Starting Point: Orzinuovi
Destination: Seniga
Level of difficulty: light
Bike type: MTB and Citybike
Length: 48 km



7 The Naviglio Cycle Route

From Mazzano to Roè Volciano towards Salò

The Naviglio (Canal) Bresciano Cycle Route is built on the bed of the old Rezzato-Vestone railway line. It is easy and pleasant to ride and mostly by the canal. The canal was probably built by the Romans, but it was in 1228 that it got to its definite shape thanks to Bishop Berardo Maggi and to the work of the Benedictine monks. The hydraulic work collects the river Chiese waters near Gavardo. The canal flows through most of the Brescia region to irrigate cereals, flax, fodder and fruit trees in the lower Valle Sabbia and in the countryside near Brescia. Along the cycle route are some mills. The most important one is in Gavardo; it is an imposing building where you can see an original wheel of the fourteenth century.



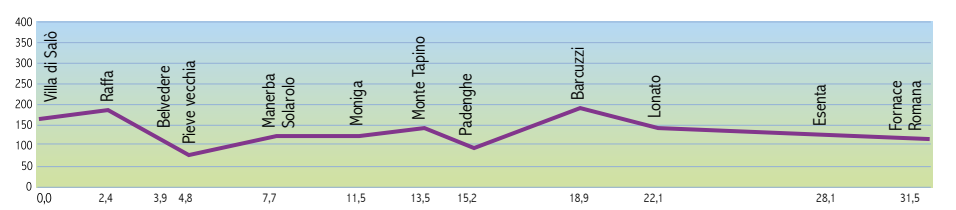
Starting Point: Mazzano
Destination: Salò
Level of difficulty: light
Bike type: MTB and Citybike
Length: 22 km

7 The Valtinesi Cycle Routes

Between Salò, Lonato and Desenzano

When the Lake Garda route is completed, it will be possible for tourists to cycle from Limone to Lonato. At the moment there are two routes between Salò and Lonato; the first one starts in Campoverde di Desenzano and ends in Barcuizi di Lonato. The second one starts in Villa di Salò, pass near the Abbey of Magazzano and continues to Esenta and ends near the Roman Kilns.

Starting Point: Villa di Salò
Destination: Magazzano
Level of difficulty: moderate
Bike type: MTB and Citybike
Length: 18 and 32 km

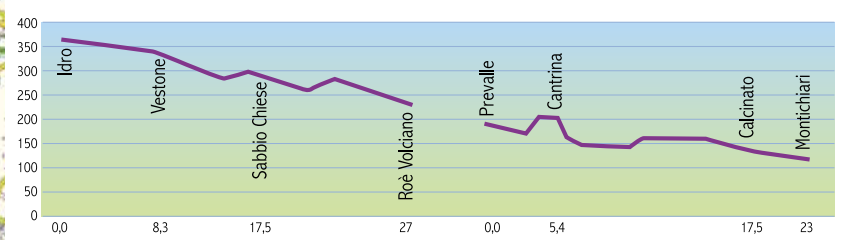


8 The Valle Sabbia and Chiese Cycle Route

From Idro to Montichiari

The Valle Sabbia and Chiese Cycle Ride is still in the process of being built: to date the sections open to the public link Vobarno to Roè Volciano, and Bedizzole to Montichiari. If you pay attention, you can leave Idro and reach the start of the journey in Vobarno by travelling on smaller roads or country trails. Once completed, the route will link the Oglio cycle path, and consequently the entire network of cycle paths in the Padana plain, with the Trento network which at the moment starts at Ponte Caffaro. The landscape you will cross is extremely varied: from the peaks surrounding Lake Idro and the soft waves of the hills around Lake Garda, to the large rocky planes around Calcinato and Montichiari. Equally varied are the historical and artistic monuments, from the Napoleonic castle of Anfo to the churches of Pontenove or Montichiari; and from the medieval remains of the castles at Nozza and Sabbio Chiese to the neo-gothic romanticism of the Bonoris castle in Montichiari.

Starting Point: Idro
Destination: Montichiari
Level of difficulty: light
Bike type: MTB and Citybike
Length: 30+23 km

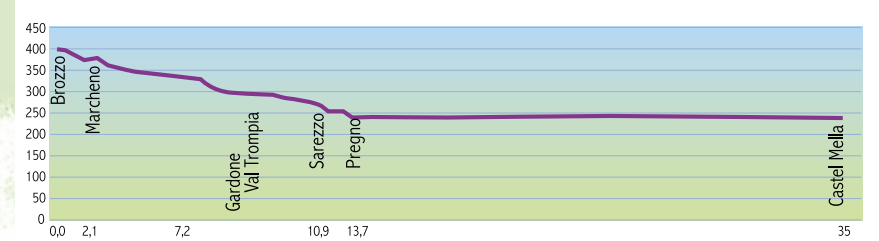


9 The Valle Trompia and Mella Cycle Route

From Marcheno to Castel Mella

This route takes us from the Valle Trompia to the vast farmed fields of the low Brescia plain, and unfolds almost entirely along the river banks of the Mella or in its immediate proximity, crossing market areas and large urban developments as well as nicely designed parks and undeveloped landscape. This is a taste of metropolitan culture which may occasionally be a little rough, but also holds several pleasant surprises, and you will find yourself pedalling amongst woodland, waterfalls, and next to large commercial archaeology sites. Some of these sites have been abandoned and are falling apart, while others have been restored and transformed into museum exhibits. There will be a few unexpected pleasures too, such as crossing the hump-backed bridge at Inzino or discovering the gorgeous Romanesque church in San Giacomo al Mella, which is hidden between the ring-roads and the surrounding apartment buildings.

Starting Point: Brozzo di Marcheno
Destination: Castelmella
Level of difficulty: light
Bike type: MTB and Citybike
Length: 35 km



10 The Road of Karst Springs

From Lograto to River Mella and back to Lograto

Karst springs are typical phenomena in the Po Valley. They are mainly responsible that this area remains fertile and so they are particularly important for agriculture. It is ground water that becomes visible on the surface and it is from natural sources. To explain this phenomenon, it should be noted that the upper part of the soil is out of very coarse gravel and crushed stone. They allow the absorption of large amounts of water through the lower layers of the earth, both meteoric and fluvial. The south gradient of the Po Valley ensures that this huge flow of groundwater arrives at the finest and most impervious layers which are causing the continuous accumulation of water and so their ascent to the surface. The water of the karst springs remains at a constant temperature all year round and so it never freezes during the winter months. These sources are constantly running water made sure that a very profitable agriculture developed. Because of the constant temperature and constant flow within the sources, the development of a very special aquatic vegetation and a very varied fauna was possible. The route takes us past many "heads" of the karst springs, from where a canal system starts. They ensure that large agricultural land can be irrigated – an irrigation system as it was already used by the Benedictine monks in the Middle Ages.

Starting Point: Lograto
Destination: Lograto
Level of difficulty: light
Bike type: MTB and Citybike
Length: 55 km

