



ITINERARY

6



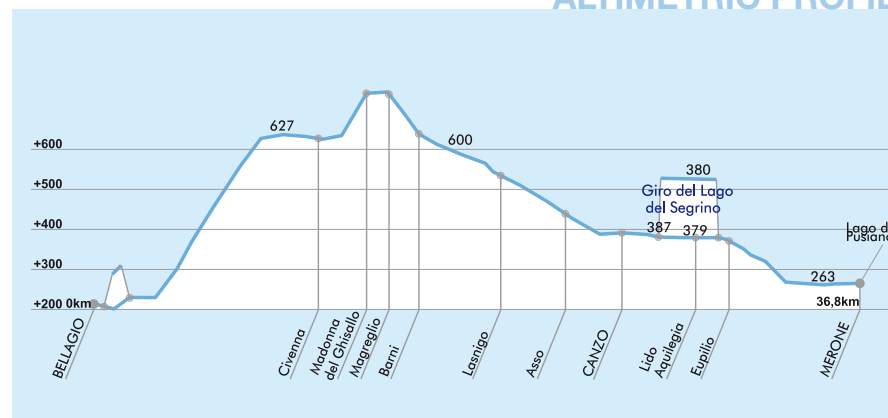
THE GHISALLO



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

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

ALTIMETRIC PROFILE



INFORMATION REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY

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

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

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

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

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE: BELLAGIO

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

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

By bus: Como-Bellagio line.

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

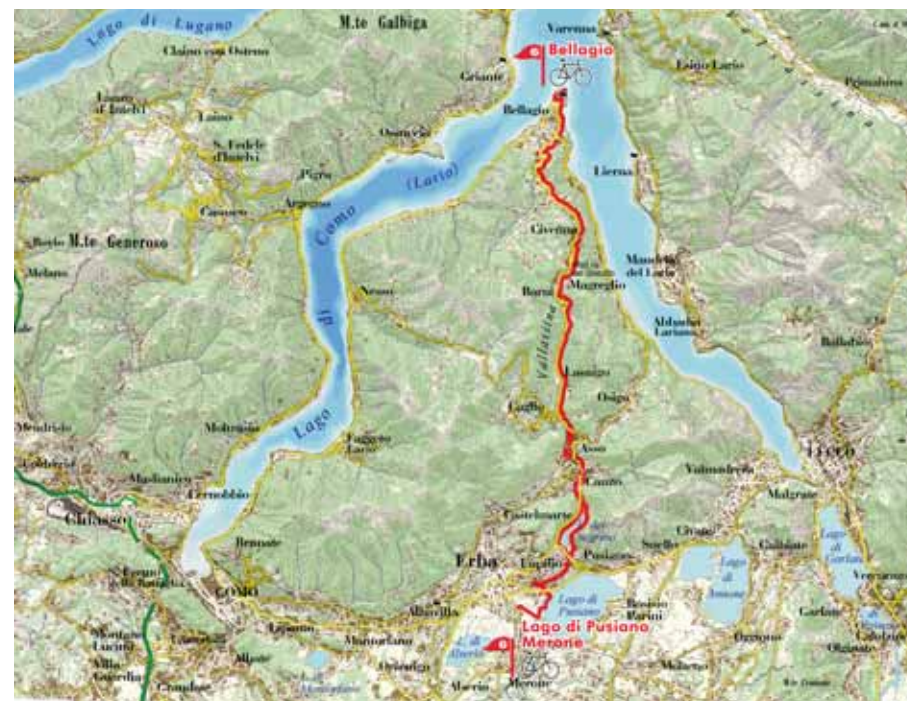


The course which leaves from the FNM station of Merone, crosses the so-called Triangolo Lariano, a mountainous area characterised by the apexes of San Primo (1686mt.), Palanzone (1436mt.), Bolettone (1317mt.). In glacial times, this determined the division of the glaciers which in this way, gave the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

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

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

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





THEMATIC ROUTES

THE CLIMB TO GHISALLO

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

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

WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING PLACES TO VISIT:

Riserva del Sasso Malascarpa:

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

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

INFORMATION:

Cooperativa sociale meta

who also organise educational, environmental activities

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

e-mail: meta.canzo@tin.it

or directly from **ARF of Erba**.

THE TOWN OF BELLAGIO

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

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

Accessibility from the cycle route:

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

Information: **Ufficio IAT**

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

e-mail: prombell@tin.it

www.bellagiolakecomo.com - www.bellagiocomune.it



The lake side of Bellagio

SANTUARIO DELLA MADONNA DEL GHISALLO OF MAGREGLIO

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

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



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

Accessibility from the cycle route:

The Sanctuary can be reached directly from the cycle lane.

Information:

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



The Sanctuary of Madonna del Ghisallo

BIKE SALES AND REPAIR

Cicli Losa (S.A.S.)

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

Pozzi Alessandro (S.N.C.)

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

Cavalcalario Club

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

OTHER SPORTING ACTIVITIES

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

The town of Sormano

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

The town of Bellagio

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

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

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

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

The town of Canzo

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

The town of Civenna

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



SOME PROPOSALS FOR TOURIST TREKKING

Rezzago:

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

Bellagio:

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

Canzo:

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

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

Civenna:

path for the Ghisallo 45 mins, for Vassena 30 mins

Magreglio:

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

TYPICAL REFRESHMENT

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

www.provincia.como.it/turismo

ACCOMMODATION

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

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

TOURIST INFORMATION

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

Tourist Information Office of Como

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

Tourist Information Office of Bellagio

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

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

largo Visconti 4 - tel. or fax 031343211

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

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