



ITINERARY

7



ART AND LITERATURE AMONG THE LAKES OF BRIANZA



LENGTH OF THE ROUTE:

28 Km

DEPARTURE - ARRIVAL:

Lake Pusiano (town of Merone)

ARRIVAL - DEPARTURE:

Lecco

THE CONDITIONS OF THE TRACK:

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

ROUTE TIME:

2,30 - 3 hours

COURSE DIFFICULTY:

Moderate:

It is easy, but some sections are difficult:

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

Difficult:

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

PLACES FOR STOPS:

In the town of Civate

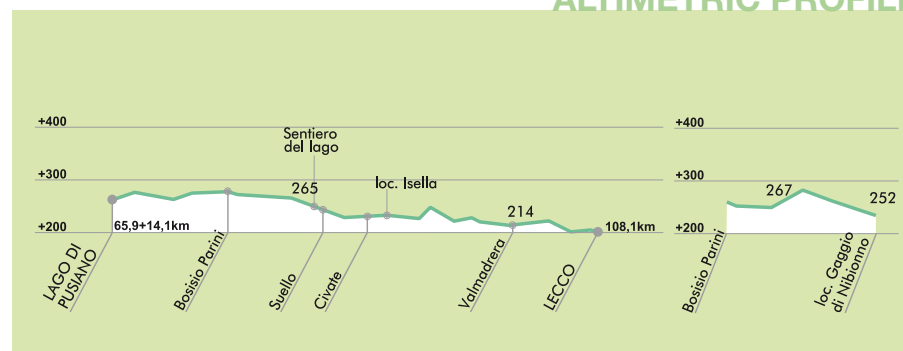
PANORAMIC PLACES AND OBSERVATION STOPS:

the town of Malgrate on the via Volta

LINKS WITH OTHER ITINERARIES:

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

ALTIMETRIC PROFILE



INFORMATION REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY

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

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

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

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

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE: LECCO

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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



The Museo Etnografico dell'Alta Brianza

THEMATIC ROUTES

ON THE ROMANESQUE ROAD BETWEEN THE LAKES OF BRIANZA

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

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

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

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

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



Cycling along Lake Annone



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

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

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

monastery of San Calocero in the town of Civate.

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

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

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

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

Accessibility from the cycle route:

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

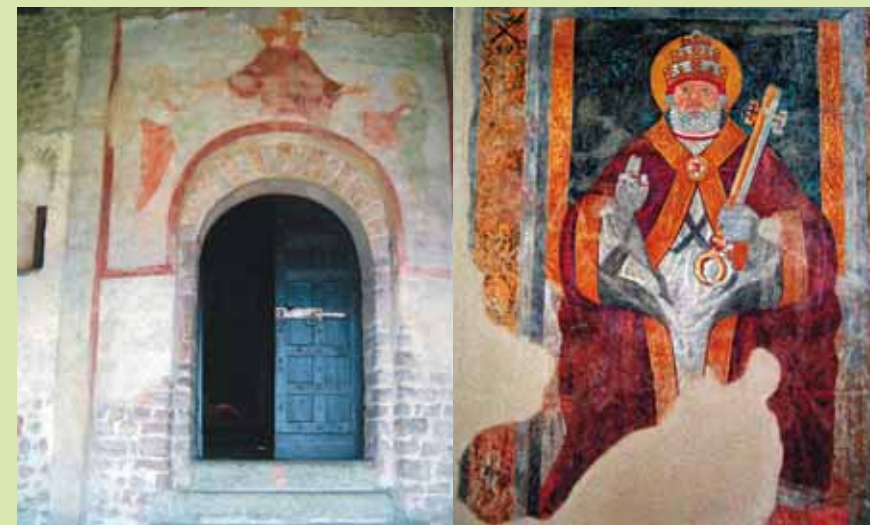
Information:

San Pietro al Monte a Civate

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



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



Particular of the frescoes



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

Ethnographic Museum:

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

Archaeological Museum:

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

Information:

Parco Monte Barro

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



The Museo Etnografico in Camporeso



One of the rooms of the Museo Etnografico

THE CHURCH OF SANT'EUFEMIA AND BATTISTERO IN OGGIONO

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

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

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

Information:

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



The Church of Sant'Eufemia



The Baptistery of Oggiono



BIKE SALES AND REPAIR

Gilardi Ferdinando bicycle repair

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

Mondo Bici S.A.S bicycle sales and repair

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

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

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

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

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

Camping Riviera

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

Dell'Oro Alessandro

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

OTHER SPORTING ACTIVITIES

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

The town of Bosisio Parini

HORSERIDING:

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

The town of Galbiate

HORSERIDING:

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

The town of Oggiono

HORSERIDING:

Centro Ippico Oggiono
Località Pascoli, tel. [0341576433](tel:0341576433)

Az. Agricola Panzeri Giuseppe
via Ca' Pascolo - tel. [3479781780](tel:3479781780)

PISCINA:

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

The town of Sirone

HORSERIDING:

Az. Agrituristica Buzzi Giuseppe
via G. Verdi, 27 - tel. [031853788](tel:031853788)

The town of Nibionno

SWIMMING POOL:

Wet Life Centro Piscine
Loc. Gaggio - tel. [031690501](tel:031690501), www.wetlife.net

The town of Suello

PARAGLIDING:

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

The town of Annone Brianza

GOLF:

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

The town of Lecco

CANOEING:

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

SPORTS CENTRE:

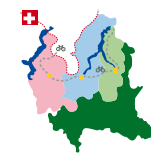
Centro Sportivo Comunale Al Bione
via B. Buozzi, 34 - tel. [0341283563](tel:0341283563)
www.centroginnico.com - e-mail leccosport@hotmail.com

SOME PROPOSALS FOR TOURIST TREKKING

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

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

For information regarding the difficulty of the tracks, please check the website:
www.turismo.provincia.lecco.it



TYPICAL REFRESHMENT

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

ACCOMMODATION

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

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

TOURIST INFORMATION

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

Tourist Information Office of Lecco

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



Lake Pusiano