



Provincia di Lecco

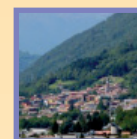
**SISTEMA MUSEALE
DELLA PROVINCIA
DI LECCO**



Provincia di Lecco

Settore Cultura, Beni Culturali,
Identità e Tradizioni

sistemamuseale@provincia.lecco.it
www.provincia.lecco.it



**SISTEMA MUSEALE
DELLA PROVINCIA
DI LECCO**



ITINERARIES

SIMPLE Ways

from the **museum** to the **territory**
towards **Expo** and beyond



MILANO 2015



ITALIA
EXPO MILANO 2015



Regione
Lombardia



ITINERARIES **SIMPLE** Ways

from the **museum**
to the **territory**
towards **Expo** and beyond

A cura di

Provincia di Lecco

Settore Cultura, Beni Culturali,
Identità e Tradizione

Sistema Museale della Provincia di Lecco

Progettazione e Coordinamento

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in collaborazione con il

Comitato Tecnico Scientifico
del Sistema Museale

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Febbraio 2015

(IIª edizione)



**Progetto "Expolake Lecco:
green, healthy, smart land"**

"Iniziativa realizzata con il contributo
di Regione Lombardia"

The 2015 edition of the cultural tourist itineraries **"SIMPLE Ways from the museums to the area, to Expo 2015 and beyond"** is only one of many initiatives to help visitors rediscover and enjoy the rich and varied cultural heritage of the province of Lecco.

This publication, already a success in the first edition, aims to provide the visitor with interesting ways to discover the **collections in the Lecco Museum System**, which counts a total of 29 museums to date. The aim is also to lead the visitor to extend their visit to the area itself with all its heritage sites and multifaceted beauty so that it becomes the real museum to explore.

We have created a virtuous network of itineraries which allow local or tourist to visit the area and enjoy the landscape and natural surroundings with an increased awareness of the historic, artistic and architectural heritage.

SIMPLE Ways are **ten tourist itineraries** exploring the Lecco branch of Lake Como, Valsassina, Val San Martino and Brianza, worthwhile destinations for visitors to the area who want to immerse themselves in the spectacular natural surroundings which still bear traces of the local heritage, at times until recently forgotten and only now rebuilt or restored.

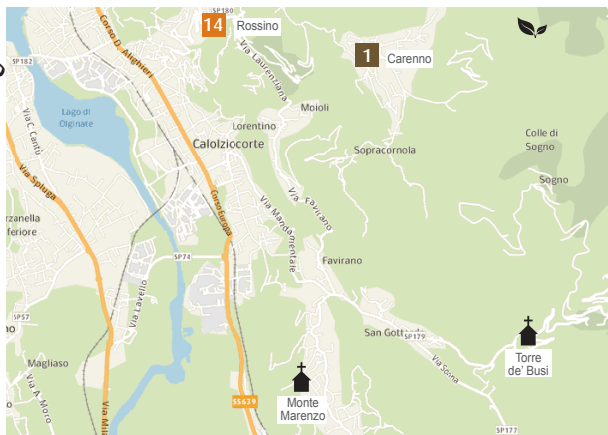
These itineraries are the fruit of a coordinated effort by the museum administrations and the operators, often voluntary workers, to reach the objectives set by the Museum System: conservation, administration of the collections and above all, the promotion of our common heritage.

In this year of EXPO 2015 "Feed the planet, energy for life", we have also focused on the typical foods in our area, often with oral testimony by local people and documents and objects from the ethnographic collections. Apart from visiting places of historical and artistic interest, there will be a chance to taste typical Lombard dishes, with ingredients from our mountains and waterways, with fish (lavaret, shad, perch, trout), dried meats and sausages and cheeses accompanied by a steaming dish of polenta, a drizzle of olive oil from the lake and the bouquet of the local wines.

We hope this will prove a useful and enjoyable guide to our local heritage and we wish all our readers who follow these itineraries a warm welcome and a pleasant stay in the province of Lecco.

Flavio Polano
President

Ugo Panzeri
*Counsellor for Culture
for the Province of Lecco*



- **CA' MARTÌ: THE MUSEUM AND THE "STONEMASONS' VALLEY"** 1
+ the 16 stop points - *Carenno*
- **Pertüs Path**
- **PARISH MUSEUM SAN LORENZO DON CARLO VILLA** 14
- *Rossino (Calolziocorte)*
- **Church of Santa Margherita** - *Monte Marenzo*
- **Oratory of Santo Stefano and Church of San Michele** - *Torre de' Busi*

Recommended time for the visit: 1/2 days



In the medieval village of Carenno, the **Museum Ca' Marti** and the Stonemasons' Valley recounts the history, life and work of the stonemasons of the San Martino Valley. A wealth of knowledge and professional skills passed from one generation to another and still to be seen



in the traditional buildings as well as in the many disused quarries where the memory of hard work, dedication and emigration is echoed. The museum was set up as part of a project to preserve the architectural and folk heritage of the town.

It presents historical documents, photographs and stories of the workers together with a collection of work tools and of the resources which determined the vocation of the area. Starting from the museum itself, the **“Valle dei Muratori”** or Stonemasons’ Valley, is a hiking trail with 16 stop points to illustrate the close ties between the town and the art of construction. Follow the path through the lanes of the historic centre with the medieval Tuzzano tower and the 20th century parish church. Then continue as it winds among rivers and chestnut woods to the frescoed oratory of San Domenico and the ancient lime kilns for lime production.



Ca' Martì. The Museum and the Stonemasons' Valley

Via Fontana, 3
23802 Carenno

Opening times: from April to November on Sunday 3.00-5.00 p.m. / other days by appointment

For info, visits and educational workshops: 0341.610220
www.museocamarti.it



Above Carenno, the **Pertüs Path** is a nature trail for those visitors who are curious about the material culture and the development of this area. The trail is accessible to people with disabilities.



Famous for its castle, the little hamlet of Rossino above Calolziocorte is home to the **Parish Museum San Lorenzo Don Carlo Villa**, with works by major Lombard artists and a singular collection of liturgical vestments and ornaments. This is a trail of discovery of faith, art and folk culture which starts at the medieval Church of San Lorenzo Vecchio which has an extensive fresco cycle and a belfry used as a



lookout and signal point for the entire valley. We proceed from the church to the neoclassical building of the new parish church where there are paintings like the altarpiece of Saint Catherine of Alexandria, dated 1642 and attributed to the Como artists Giovanni Battista and Giovanni Paolo Recchi. The Sacristy has a painting of the Immaculate Conception attributed to Carlo Ceresa, the largest known work by this major Bergamo painter. The museum collection contains some unique objects such as liturgical vestments sewn by hand from the 17th to the 19th centuries and some fine goldsmithery, the highlight being the reliquary of the Holy Thorn by Eugenio Bellosio, as well as a collection of books from the 18th to 20th centuries.

Parish Museum San Lorenzo Don Carlo Villa
Piazza S. Lorenzo, 2

23801 Rossino di
Calolziocorte

Opening times: Saturday
3.00-6.00 p.m. / festive
days 10.00-12.00 a.m. and
3.00-6.00 p.m. / weekday
by appointment

**For info, visits and
educational workshops:**
0341.643259 /
0341.645510



Just south of Calolziocorte, at an altitude of about 600 metres on the top of the hill of the same name which separates the municipalities of Torre de' Busi and Monte Marenzo, the **church of Santa Margherita** is the most important example of medieval art in the San Martino Valley. It takes about 30 minutes from Monte Marenzo on foot to reach the complex which was built in the late 13th century in an isolated position, probably commissioned by a powerful local family to stand outside the walls of a castle. The church is Romanesque in style with a single nave and wide apse and there is a major cycle of



1 Upper San Martino Valley

late-medieval frescos inspired by the life of Saint Margaret, patron saint of women in labour.

Church of Santa Margherita

Monte Marenzo

For info and visits:

0341.602240 (Library of Monte Marenzo)

0341.602200 (Municipality of Monte Marenzo)

0341.603025 (Parish of Monte Marenzo)



The **Oratory of Santo Stefano** is part of the fascinating **complex of San Michele**, the historic and religious centre which for centuries was the point of reference for the communities in the Torre de' Busi area; it dates back to the Dark Ages or even Early Christian times and has a trapezoid nave ending in an apse, rebuilt in the 15th century as can be seen from the groin ceiling, single arch windows in the presbytery and the wooden panels on the ashlar walls. Inside there are paintings of great iconographic interest including a nursing Mother and Child from the late 14th century.

Oratory of Santo Stefano and Church of San Michele

For info and visits:

035.785004 (Municipality of Torre de' Busi)



In the valley is cultivated the **"scagliolo of Carenno"**, a corn of ancient tradition from Bergamo, which today is part of the network of ancient corn present in Expo 2015. From the scagliolo are obtained a tasty polenta, excellent baked goods and crispy and healthy biscuits. For information: Ca' Marti Museum.

To enjoy this speciality visit the web site:

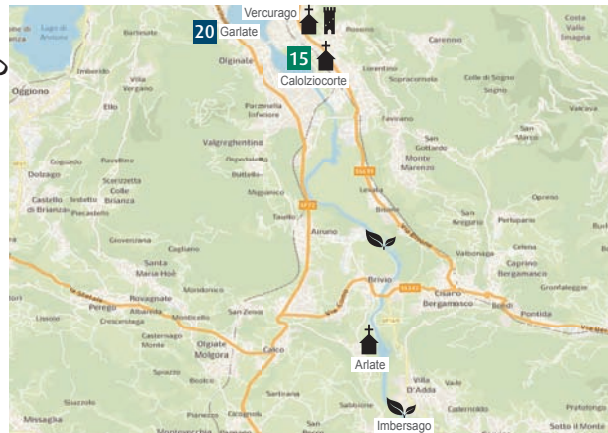
www.lakecomo.com/dove_mangiare



For accommodation:

www.lakecomo.com/dove_dormire

2 On the banks of the River Adda



- **VILLA DE PONTI BOTANICAL GARDEN** 15 - Calolziocorte
- **S. Maria del Lavello Monastery** - Calolziocorte
- **Church of St Colombano and Gottardo** - Calco - hamlet of Arlate
- **ABEGG SILK MUSEUM** 20 - Garlate
- **Sanctuary of San Girolamo Emiliani** - Casa Cittadini - Vercurago
- **Castle of the Unnamed** - Somasca - Vercurago
- **Cycle trail along the Adda river and Leonardo Da Vinci ferry of Imbersago** - Parco Adda Nord

Recommended time for the visit: 1/3 days



A stone's throw from the railway station in Calolziocorte, the **Villa de Ponti Botanical Garden** offers a chance to relax among over 500 species of native and exotic trees and shrubs, some wild, some planted. The park is centred around an elliptical path and the vegetation is planted at variable heights and alternates with lawns. The attention to landscape design is evident everywhere from the vertical wall that looks like a cliff, a dale of conifers which recalls a mountain wood and a hedge of hornbeam marking the park boundaries. There is also an area devoted to medicinal and culinary herbs and fruit and a Mediterranean bed with species like mastic tree and broom.



The history of the Botanical Garden is connected to that of the house, Villa De Ponti, now property of the Mountain Community of the Eastern Lake and San Martino Valley. Both the villa and the gardens date back to the early 20th century and were designed in the eclectic and Art Nouveau styles. They were commissioned by the Milanese De Ponti family who were involved in the chemical industry and settled in the area because of the nearby Barium Salts factory, a prominent example of industrial archaeology in the town.

Villa De Ponti Botanical Garden

Via Galli, 48/A
23801 Calolziocorte

Opening time: from May to August 3.00-6.30 p.m. / from September to October 2.00-5.30 p.m.

For visits and educational workshops: 02.20404175

For info: 0341.240724
int. 2

www.comunitamontana.lc.it



Villa De Ponti is also the seat of the visitor centre of the **Ecomuseum of the San Martino Valley** which includes the municipalities of Erve, Calolziocorte, Caprino Bergamasco, Carenno, Cisano Boscone, Monte Marenzo, Pontida, Torre de' Busi and Vercurago. Its aim is to document, preserve and valorize the historical memory of

the valley. The Ecomuseum promotes research and educational projects, catalogues the tangible and intangible assets of the area, its environmental and historical heritage.

Ecomuseum of the San Martino Valley

Via Galli, 48/A - 23801 Calolziocorte

For info: 0341.240724

www.comunitamontana.lc.it

Continuing along the left bank of the River Adda, on the outskirts of Valle San Martino, rises the historic **Convent of the Servi di Maria and church of the Vergine del Lavello**. This major centre played a vital role in the history, culture and devotions of the local communities. The original settlement dates back to Roman times but was destroyed in 1373 during the bloody massacre of Valle San Martino. In the late 15th century it was the site of a miraculous discovery: digging beneath a tomb, the hermit Jacomino came across



a spring which proved to have extraordinary healing powers and immediately attracted a considerable flow of pilgrims. The main cloister, the residential area of the Fathers, and the minor cloister used for guest quarters open onto the river and the churchyard, divided into three spans with a pitched ceiling. The interior houses many paintings and 18th century decorations.

Church of S. Maria del Lavello

Via Padri Serviti, 1 - 23801 Calolziocorte

Opening time: weekdays 9.00-12.00 a.m. and 3.00-6.30 p.m. / festive days 9.00-12.00 a.m. and 3.00-9.00 p.m.

For info and visits: 0341.1590101
www.monasterodellavello.it



For centuries, the **River Adda** was the natural border between the Venetian Republic and Milan. Just south of the Lavello monastic complex, the disused railway bridge crosses to the opposite bank of the river and the shores of Lake Olginate and Lake Garlate. A cycle trail in the nature reserve Parco Adda Nord will lead you to the old textiles mill in Garlate which is now a museum.

For information: Parco Regionale Adda Nord
www.parcoaddanord.it

For bike rental: BluBike Service Lecco Municipality
www.comune.lecco.it



Recently reopened after extensive restoration work, the **Abegg Silk Museum** in Garlate has some fascinating exhibits recounting the history of the silk industry in Lombardy, from silkworm production using the Pasteur method to the reeling of the cocoons over the centuries and spinning silk into thread as well as a new section devoted to textile production and the future of silk. The museum was founded by the Swiss company Abegg 1953 under its Italian Director Carlo



Job with the mission of documenting the influence of the silk industry on the applied sciences and technological development in silk production. This is carried on today with a particular attention to education and projects for schools. Located in the historic Abegg spinning mill which dates back to the late 18th century, the museum has a collection of machinery, equipment, accessories and products, but the major collection is that of the spinning machinery so



essential to the silk textiles industry. There is a great circular hydraulic doubler dating back to 1815, the first complex machine ever built by man which was capable of twisting hundreds of threads at the same time and in a regular manner. It is a type of machine which reached Italy during the Middle Ages at the time of the Crusades, appearing for the first time in Lucca in the 13th century and it played a fundamental role in the development of the modern silk industry, even being studied by Leonardo da Vinci. Outside there is a historic mulberry orchard, about sixty trees showing the development of this plant which is so essential to the silkworm.



Abegg Silk Museum

Via Statale, 490 - 23852 Garlate

Opening times: from 1st to 30 September Saturday 2.30-6.30 p.m. and Sunday 9.30-12.00 a.m. and 2.30-6.30 p.m.
 / from 1st October to 31 May Saturday 2.00-5.30 p.m. and Sunday 9.30-12.30 a.m. and 2.00-5.30 p.m.

For info, visits and educational workshops: from Monday to Saturday morning by appointment
 331.9960890 - www.museosetagarlate.it



Head downstream along the Adda from Garlate along the cycle path in the Parco Adda Nord nature reserve to Arlate, a hamlet in the municipality of Calco, where the **church of Santi Colombano e Gottardo** sits on a hilltop overlooking the Adda Valley. Founded in Roman times, it is one of the main sites in the province in both artistic and strategic terms. Originally part of a fortified structure overlooking the river, the original nucleus was transformed into a monastery at the turn of the first millennium. The first documented reference dates back to 1162 when the complex offered hospitality to Benedictine nuns under the Prior of the Abbey of Pontida.

Church of Santi Colombano e Gottardo

Via S. Gottardo - 23885 Calco

For info: 039.9920252 (Parish of Arlate)



In the hamlet of Somasca, in the municipality of Vercurago, the **Basilica of San Girolamo** is another important testimony to the devotion of the local people, linked to the figure of San Girolamo Emiliani, a Venetian soldier from a wealthy family who experienced a conversion in 1525. Leaving the Sanctuary, walk through the hamlet of Somasca along the narrow via San Girolamo which passes under a monumental gateway marking the start of a pilgrim path flanked by chapels dedicated to the life of the Saint with a flight of steps halfway leading to a votive grotto. On the outskirts of the historic centre of Somasca overlooking via San Girolamo, the convent of the Ursuline Sisters includes **Casa Cittadini Le Sorgenti**, a museum dedicated to the life of Blessed Caterina Cittadini, where you will find furnishings, personal effects and documents illustrating the life of this holy woman who, together with her sister Giuditta, set up an important teaching mission in the early 19th century in order to provide for the religious education and improve the lot of young women in the area. Accessible at the foot of the Valletta, about 180 metres above the lake, there is the Rock where San Girolamo set up his orphanage. A path leads to the walls of the **castle** which according to local tradition belonged to the **Innominato**, a famous character in Manzoni's historical novel, The Betrothed.

Sanctuary of S. Girolamo Emiliani

Via Alla Basilica, 1 - 23808 Vercurago

For info: 0341.420272

www.santuariosangirolamo.org

Casa Cittadini Museo "Le Sorgenti"

Via S. Gerolamo, 42 - 23808 Vercurago

For info and visits: 0341.420373

www.orsolinesomasca.it

Castello dell'Innominato

Loc. Somasca - 23808 Vercurago

For info: 0341.420272

www.santuariosangirolamo.org



The typical product you can enjoy in this area is the **river fish**, in particular, chub and trout, which can be cooked in many different ways.

To enjoy this speciality visit the web site:

www.lakecomo.com/dove_mangiare

For accommodation:

www.lakecomo.com/dove_dormire



- **MONTI CIVIC SILK MUSEUM** 3 - Abbadia Lariana
- **MOTO GUZZI MUSEUM** 21 - Mandello del Lario
- **Church of San Giorgio** - Mandello del Lario
- **MAGGIANA TOWER MUSEUM** 22 - Maggiana - Mandello del Lario
- **Viandante trail** - from Abbadia Lariana to Colico
- **Punta Grumo and Riva Bianca** - Lierna
- **GIANNINO CASTIGLIONI MUSEUM** 17 - Maggiana

Recommended time for the visit: 1/3 days



The history of the **Monti Civic Silk Museum** of Abbadia Lariana dates back as far as 1818, when this family of silk manufacturers arrived in the lakeside village to open a silk throwing factory. The decision to build along what is now the main road connecting Lecco and Valtellina was actually determined by its proximity to the Zerbo stream, the only water course in the village and an indispensable source of power for the machinery. Subsequent to careful restoration work, the museum is now a major example of industrial archaeology and exhibits original fixtures and fittings, equipment and objects used in silk-making. There used to be a proper silk mill alongside in order to finish the silk manufacturing cycle as well as to produce the raw material directly onsite as well as a dormitory, a refectory and some small apartments for migrant workers. The museum is set out in the 19th century style. Here you can find the grandiose

Along the Lake shore from Abbadia to Lierna



circular doubler, a piece of machinery 5 metres in diameter and 11 metres high with a total of 972 spindles which in 1897 were granted under a bailment agreement by the Tecnorama Museum of Winterthur in Switzerland in perfect working condition with an electric motor. To the rear of the building you can still see the two hydraulic wheels made of cast iron and iron which powered all the machinery in the factory, the largest of which has a diameter of 7 metres.

Monti Civic Silk Museum
Via Nazionale, 93
23821 Abbadia Lariana

Opening times: Wednesday 9.30-12.30 a.m. and 2.30-5.30 p.m. / Friday 2.30-5.30 p.m. / Sunday and festive days 9.30-12.30 a.m. / other days by appointment

For info, visits and educational workshops: 0341.700831
www.museoabbadia.it



The **Moto Guzzi Museum** tells the story of the iconic Italian motorcycle through a marvellous collection of standard production models, sports bikes, experimental prototypes and engines produced here over the years. In the heart of the old factory in Mandello del Lario where the legend of the Eagle was founded in 1921 the exhibition space devoted to the production models gives an overview of the economic and social development of Italy over the past century: there is the classic Norge from 1928, the first touring bike in motorcycle history designed by Carlo Guzzi together with his brother Giuseppe, some of the Guzzi Sports and GT models from the Thirties,

the Airone, the most popular mid-range motorbike in Italy between 1939 and 1957, and then the Falcone, every biker's dream in the Fifties. But Moto Guzzi has also gone down in history for the bikes that got Italians on the road during the Post-war years, models like the Motoleggera 65 (Guzzino) and the Galletto, and the V7 Sport which reinvented the very concept of the sports bike with its 90° V-twin engine. Alongside one-off pieces like the first motorcycle built by Carlo Guzzi in 1919, the only one to bear the initials G.P. (Guzzi-Parodi), and world-famous models like the Otto Cilindri 500 from 1957, an ingenious design by Giulio Cesare Carcano, the museum also has a selection of historic film footage called "The sound of passion". Right next to the exhibition you can also visit the Moto Guzzi wind tunnel, the only facility in the world for aerodynamic tests on motorcycles.

Moto Guzzi Museum

Via Emanuele Vittorio Parodi, 57 - 23826 Mandello del Lario

Opening times: from Monday to Friday 3.00-4.00 p.m. (in July from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.)

For info and visits: 0341.709237, www.motoguzzi.it



Along the eastern shore of Lake Como, the "**Sentiero del Viandante**" is an ancient trade route leading from Milan to Switzerland. Nowadays, it is a unique opportunity to rediscover the natural beauty and artistic heritage dotted along the lake shore from Lecco northwards. The path heads halfway up the hillside from Abbadia Lariana and runs in and out of hamlets and villages as far as Colico, the gateway to Valtellina.

www.leviedelviandante.it



In a panoramic position along the "**Sentiero del Viandante**", the **church of San Giorgio** in Mandello del Lario has a single nave with a trussed roof and quadrangular apse with a groin

vault. Most likely Romanesque in origin, the church has a rare cycle of frescos dating back to the period from 1475 to 1485, a time of repeated outbreaks of the Plague, part of the cultural and religious matrix of the Cistercian movement promoted by Saint Bernard. An important sign of Marian devotion in the province of Lecco, the **Santuario della Beata Vergine del Fiume** at the mouth of the River Meria in Mandello was founded in 1624. The original floorplan of an octagon surmounted by a dome and lantern saw the later addition of an elegant portico with nine arches and the 14 Baroque chapels of the Stations of the Cross.



The **Maggiana Tower Museum**, one of the best preserved in the entire Lecco area and fully accessible on all five floors, is situated in a panoramic position in the hamlet of Maggiana which is now part of the town of Mandello del Lario. The massive square building which dominates the lake once controlled the Ducal Road along the lake shore and was in communication with all the fortifications on the eastern shore of Lake Como. It was built in a strategic position in relation to all the tracks leading toward the rich pastures and mines of the nearby Meria Valley and the Piani Resinelli highlands. Although it has undergone renovation work on numerous occasions throughout the years, the Tower dates back to the 12th century

and was possibly commissioned by the lords of Mandello. Its name harks back to the 19th century restoration work (1828) when a plaque was uncovered which mentioned that Emperor Federico Barbarossa had stayed there in 1158. Tradition also has it that there was once a castle situated on a hillside just north of the town. Situated within a small fortified courtyard, the Tower still has the pointed archway over the door and traces of the original windows in the upper section which are now bricked up. There are also vertical arrow slits above the ancient doorway which was once located on the first floor, standard practice in medieval buildings of this type. Other windows were added at a later date, from the 16th century onwards, giving a more harmonious aspect to the

whole. The picturesque terrace on the roof is the work of one of the restoration projects and from here the visitor can enjoy magnificent views of the lake and of the town of Mandello. The original rooms are still intact (one with an interesting painted ceiling). These now house the Museum where a series of artifacts and paintings from the late 19th and early 20th century tell the history of Maggiana and the way local people lived and worked in this area.

*In Mandello the area of you can find the following paths: **The Paths of Memory - Itinerari della memoria; Pathways in Mandello remind us - Le vie di Mandello ci ricordano; Walking Along the Canal - A piedi lungo la roggia; Towers in the Old Village - Torri nell'antico borgo.***

Maggiana Tower Museum

Via della Torre di Federico, 2 - Maggiana - Mandello del Lario

For info and appointment: 339.7391647 / 335.5470555

[www.museotorremaggiana@gmail.com](mailto:museotorremaggiana@gmail.com)



Along the Lake shore from Abbadia to Lierna



Punta Grumo and Riva Bianca in Lierna are among the largest free beaches on Lake Como which are suitable for bathing.



Giannino Castiglioni is the most prominent of the many artists who have stayed in Lierna. The museum dedicated to him is currently under construction and will be home to the plaster casts which his heirs so generously donated to the municipal authorities. Born in Milan in 1884, he studied at Brera and during his long career took part in exhibitions in Italy and abroad. A painter in his youth, he later became exclusively focused on sculpture and was extremely prolific, producing about 700 works including the monumental sculptures for the Houses of Parliament in Montevideo, the statue of Christ the King in the Catholic University of Milan and that of Dante in the courtyard of



the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana, not to mention countless funeral monuments in the Monumental Cemetery in Milan or the Monument to the War Dead in Lecco and Mandello del Lario. Castiglioni was also involved in the construction of the war cemeteries in Redipuglia, Grappa, Caporetto, Zara, Pola and Timau and coined many medals to commemorate famous historic figures. He first came to Lierna in the early years of the 20th century and had a studio in via Roma where he worked on the reconstruction of the local cemetery. Here he designed the central church of San Michele and the sculptures and bas reliefs for the chapels of the Micheli, Balbiani, Spada and Costa families.

Giannino Castiglioni Museum

For info: Lierna Municipality
0341.740108

The museum is currently being set up.



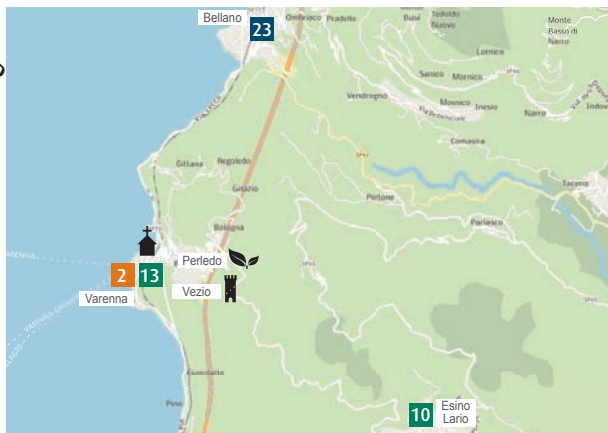
The typical product that you can enjoy in this area is the **lake fish**, in particular, "**lavarello**" (white fish) and "**missoltino**" (dried twaite shad), which can be cooked in many different ways.

To enjoy this speciality visit the web site:
www.lakecomo.com/dove_mangiare



For accommodation:
www.lakecomo.com/dove_dormire

4 Varenna and Bellano from the villages to the Grigna mountain



- **VILLA MONASTERO HOUSE MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL GARDEN** 2 - Varenna
- **Villa Cipressi Garden** - Varenna
- **Church of St George and Village of Varenna**
- **Vezio Castle** - Varenna
- **LUIGI SCANAGATTA ORNITHOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM** 13 - Varenna
- **Viandante Trail** - Varenna
- **LA CA' DEI RADIO VECCHI MUSEUM** 23 - Bellano
- **MUSEO DELLE GRIGNE (GRIGNE MUSEUM)** 10 - Esino Lario

Recommended time for the visit: 1/3 days



Originally a Cistercian convent dedicated to the Virgin Mary, **Villa Monastero** in Varenna owes its current eclectic appearance to repeated reconstruction projects over the course of nine centuries. It was the Mornico family from Valsassina who transformed the convent into a private residence between 1609 and 1645, but it then passed to a series of different owners including some illustrious members of Milanese high society at the turn of the 20th century such as Carolina Maumari Seufferheld, a relation of the novelist Alessandro Manzoni. It was bought by the German industrialist Walter Kees who renovated it in a particularly Nordic style between 1897 and 1909 before passing to the De Marchis, a Milanese

family with Swiss roots, who left it to the Italian state in 1939 to become public property and a museum. There are 14 rooms open to the public with a wealth of furnishings in a variety of styles. Still in use as a conference centre, Villa Monastero has hosted many major scientific conventions over the years, including the summer school of the prestigious Italian School of Physics which counts 60 Nobel Prize winners. The lush **Botanical Garden** contains a variety of native and exotic species and extend for almost two kilometres along the lakeside so that in every season the villa is an explosion of colour, shapes and scents.

Villa Monastero House Museum and Botanical Garden

Via G. Polvani, 4
23829 Varenna

Opening time for the Botanical Garden: from 1st March to 1st November open daily 9.30 a.m. - 7.00 p.m.

Opening time for the House Museum: from 1st March to 31st July and from 1st September to 1st November Fri-Sat-Sun and festivities 9.30 a.m. - 7.00 p.m.; from 1st to 31st August open daily 9.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m.

For info, guided tours and educational workshops:
0341.295450
www.villamonastero.eu





Practically opposite Villa Monastero, with access from beside the Varenna tourist information office, the **Luigi Scanagatta Ornithological and Natural History Museum** was founded by a local scholar of ornithology, malacology and botany who left his collection of local and migratory birds to the town. The museum has a major scientific library of over 1,500 volumes, monographs and pamphlets, with examples of Natural Histories dating back to the 18th century. The first floor has a series of dioramas and exhibition cases while the second floor focuses on evolutionary and survival strategies of various organisms, with examples of nesting and egg laying.

Luigi Scanagatta Ornithological and Natural History Museum

Via IV Novembre, 7
23829 Varenna

Opening times: from April to October from Tuesday to Saturday 10.00-12.00 a.m. and 3.00-5.00 p.m.; Sunday 10.00-12.00 a.m.

For info: 0341.830367
infoturismo@comune.varenna.lc.it
www.varennaturismo.com

Perched on the hilltop above Varenna, **Veizio Castle** is considered one of the loveliest on Lake Como. This medieval fort has uncertain origins and is believed to be connected with the Lombard queen Teodolinda. It centres on a square tower with battlements and a drawbridge, is home to a centre for breeding birds of prey and offers breathtaking views over the lake.

Veizio Castle
Frazione di Veizio
23828 Perledo - Varenna

For info and visits:
348.8242504
www.castellodivezio.it



photos by A. Locatelli



From the little piazza outside the Church of Sant'Antonio Abate, the ancient path the Scabium Way or "**Sentiero degli Scabium**" in the hamlet of Veizio, now a part of the "Viandante Trail", (see page 15) leads downhill to the Varenna cemetery. From there you can go left, following the directions for the "**sorgente del Fiumelatte**" and the cave and the spring from which the river gushes foaming white (hence the name, Milk River) due to a natural siphon effect.



Varenna is a particularly lovely village with a wealth of sights, popular with tourists for the spectacular scenery and historic architecture. It has a typical Roman layout with the space organised

Varena and Bellano from the villages to the Grigna mountain



into insulae. The oldest church in the village is probably that of **San Giovanni Battista** right in the middle of the main square. The Romanesque single nave has important fragments of frescos dating back to the mid-14th century, while the paintings in the apse are from the 16th century. The provostal **church of San Giorgio** contains a number of frescos from different periods including a rare image of the Lombard queen Teodolinda, the driving force behind the Christianisation of the lake area as well as an interesting polyptych by Giovanni Pietro

Brentani dated 1467. On the right in the second Chapel you can see the old Altarpiece of St. Mary Monastery (Now Villa Monastero). Apart from places of worship, Varena also has architectural attractions such as Villa Cipressi, composed of buildings constructed between the 17th and 19th centuries and the Hotel Royal Victoria, once a textiles mill and a hotel since 1838, where illustrious guests supposedly included the English Queen Victoria. Opposite is the multipurpose room Rosa e Marco De Marchi" used for Exhibition and Convention Centre.



The museum collection, which opened in 2014 in Bellano along the main road beside the schools, offers visitors an incredible number of vintage radios and gramophones acquired by the avid collectors Paolo and Rina Panatti over a fifty year period. The museum is divided into six sections in chronological order: the area dedicated to Marconi, a section on American radios, the Fascist period, gramophones and records, the Post-war period with the first wire recorders and finally, the section on the Sixties. Rare finds include the first Marconi radio from 1923, the Milan Radio from 1929, a gramophone dated 1897 with the first cardboard record, an Edison gramophone with wax cylinders, vinyl records with songs from the Fifties and many other curious items, all in perfect working order.

La Ca' dei Radio Vegg Museum

Via Manzoni 7
23822 Bellano

Opening times: from May to August from Tuesday to Sunday 10.00-12.30 a.m., 2.30-7.00 p.m.; from September to April Saturday and Sunday 10.00-12.30 a.m., 2.30-7.00 p.m. (other days by appointment, tel. 331 8054154)





and "Piasch" founded by the Romans). The museum bears witness to the oldest human settlements on the slopes of the Grigne.

Museo delle Grigne

Piazza Petro Pensa, 4 - 23825 Esino Lario

Opening times: from July to August; Wednesday 6.00-7.00 p.m., Friday 8.30-10.00 p.m. and Saturday 10.30-12.00 a.m.

For info, visits and educational workshops: 0341.860111
www.museodellegrigne.it



The typical product that you can enjoy in this area is the precious Laghi Lombardi **extra virgin olive oil**, greatly sought after and produced with traditional methods.

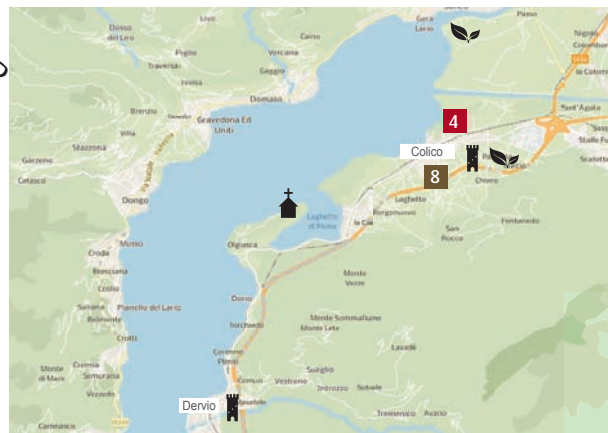
To enjoy this speciality visit the web site:

www.lakecomo.com/dove_mangiare



For accommodation:

www.lakecomo.com/dove_dormire



- **MUSEUM OF RURAL CULTURE** 8 - Colico
- **FORTE DI MONTECCHIO** 4 - Varena
- **Forte di Fuentes** - Colico
- **White War Trail / Cadorna Line** - various places between Varena, Dervio, Vestreno, Suggio, Introzzo, Colico
- **Pian di Spagna Natural Preserve** - Municipalities of the upper part of lake Como
- **Piona Abbey** - Colico
- **Village of Corenno Plinio** - Dervio

Recommended time for the visit: 1/2 days



In Villatico, a district of Colico, the **Museum of Rural Culture** presents a faithful reconstruction of a country cottage between the 19th and 20th centuries, starting with the great kitchen on the ground floor. In the adjoining room you can see the bedroom with the great wrought iron double bed with its traditional mattress,



History and nature on the upper Lake



sheets, blankets and bedspread. In the wardrobe there are period clothes and accessories and a chest containing the precious linen trousseau. You can learn about the farming and forestry traditions of the area, haymaking, cheesemaking, animal husbandry, cereal and grape growing. Not to mention all the crafts which were often practiced under the home roof like wool spinning and iron, wood and leather work. There is also an exhibit on what was traditionally women's work.

Museum of Rural Culture
Via Campione, 21
23823 Colico

Opening times: from June to September 2.30-5.30 p.m./ other days by appointment

For info, visits and educational workshops: 339.5289163
www.museocontadinocolico.it



The historical complex of the **Forte di Montecchio** built between 1912 and 1914 in Colico is one of the largest and best preserved forts in Europe and was part of the northern frontier known as the "Cadorna Line", built

for the first War. It features high walls of cut granite, numerous underground rooms and passages which include a powder magazine excavated over 60 metres into the rock. The four original 149 mm Schneider cannons are still intact in their turrets protected by steel domes, as is the electrical systems and the complex ventilation system. With a range of over 14 kilometres, these imposing cannons controlled lower Valtellina, lower Valchiavenna and the northern stretch of Lake Como thanks to their strategic position which enjoys a magnificent view over the upper Lario. Nature landscapes and history intermingle during a gentle stroll, surrounded by cultural and culinary ideas.

Forte di Montecchio
Via alle Torri - 23823 Colico

Opening time: from March to November; Saturday, Sunday and festive days 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. / August all days 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.

For info, visits and educational workshops:
0341.940322
www.fortemontecchionord.it



The stretch towards the Orobian Alps of the defence line "**Occupazione Avanzata Frontiera Nord**", also known as the "**Cadorna Line**" has features typical of mountain fieldwork fortifications: with the help of military labourers from the Local Militia, civilian builders and craftsmen built kilometres of trenches, little shelters painstakingly excavated into the rock, gunhouses and caves for machine guns and extensive barriers of barbed wire.

Cadorna Line

For info: 0341.910144

[Comunità Montana Valsassina, Valvarrone, Val d'Esino e Riviera]

www.museograndeguerra.com

Built at the turn of the 17th century by the then Spanish Governor of Milan, Don Pedro Enriquez de Acevedo, count of Fuentes de Valdepero, the **Forte di Fuentes** is situated on Montecchio est, in a strategic position to control the Swiss border. The fundamental elements were already in place when

in 1606 the fort prepared to welcome its first garrisons: eight companies of infantry, two thousand sappers and twenty pieces of artillery, later reinforced by a further eight pieces. Inside, the Parade Ground covers 5,000 square metres bounded by a number of different buildings including the Governor's House and the remains of a church dedicated to San Barbara, patron saint of artillerymen.

Forte di Fuentes

For info and visits:

0341.940322

www.fortedifuentes.it



Situated at the point where the valleys of Valtellina and Valchiavenna meet, the **Pian di Spagna** is a wide plain which joins **Lake Mezzola** with Lake Como creating a wetland area of great environmental interest, one of the shortest crossing points on the Alps and a major crossroads on migration routes, an ideal nesting place for a great variety of birds.

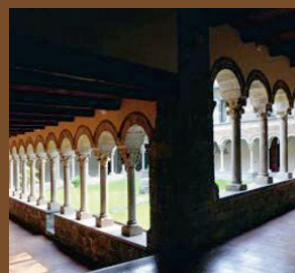
Pian di Spagna Natural Preserve and Mezzola Lake

Via Della Torre 1/A – 22010 Sorico (Co)

For info: 034.484251 / www.piandispagna.it



At the tip of the **Piona** peninsula, the 11th century **abbey** dedicated to **San Nicolò**, protector of sailors, is nestled at the feet of Monte Legnone and Monte Legnoncino on the hillside of Olgasca. Inhabited since ancient times judging by the find in the current monastery church of a sepulchral urn dating back to the 3rd-4th century. In 616, a small shrine was built on the orders of Agrippino, Bishop of Como, dedicated to Santa Giustina, the apse of which is still well-preserved. Inside,



History and nature on the upper Lake



a single nave with long walls made of dark stone and a wooden ceiling ends in a semicircular apse. Of particular interest is the famous cycle of months, a fresco which illustrates the most common rural activities in the

cloister built in the 13th century by Bonaccorso of Gravedona. The order of St. Benedict is a source of inspiration and a reference point to the life of Cistercian monks and for the cloistered community of the Abbey of Piona.

San Nicolò Abbey

Via Abbazia di Piona, 55 – 23823 Colico

For info and visits: 0341.940331
www.abbaziadipiona.it



In Robustello, near Colico just above the ford on the Inganna stream, the dirt road for **Fontanedo** leads to the tower of the same name built in 1357 under the orders of Bernabò Visconti, perhaps to reinforce a pre-existing structure built in a strategic position on the spur on the northern slopes of Monte Legnone to defend the important communications route then known as the "Scalottola", now called "Sentiero del Viandante". There is a small fortified village around the tower with kilns, stables, hay barns, a well and a chapel in a reasonable state of conservation.



Near Dervio the **fortified village of Corenno Plinio** is renowned as one of the most picturesque on the lake. Towering over the houses is the imposing castle built in the mid-14th century by the Andreani family who were granted Corenno by the Archbishop of Milan. The parish church is dedicated to St. Thomas of Canterbury and has interesting frescos and funerary arches on the exterior. Corenno Plinio, a district of Dervio, is located on the eastern shore of the lake at the foot of Mount Legnoncino, perched on a rocky face, overlooking the center lake.



The typical product that you can enjoy in this area is the **chestnut**, formerly important food, picked in the woods, which was essential in the diet of the poor for its high caloric content.

To enjoy this speciality visit the web site:
www.lakecomo.com/dove_mangiare



For accommodation:
www.lakecomo.com/dove_dormire



On the mountains of Muggiasca, Val Varrone and Piani Resinelli



- **MUU - MUSEUM OF MILK AND OF THE HISTORY OF MUGGIASCA** 7 - Vendrogno
- **Alpe Giumello Farms** - Alpe Giumello
- **PREMANA ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM** 12 - Premana
- **Church of San Dionigi (S. Rocco Polyptych)** - Premana
- **PARCO MUSEO MINERARIO** 16 - Piani Resinelli

Recommended time for the visit: 1/3 days



Located in the heart of the hamlet of Vendrogno, the **Museum of Milk and the history of Muggiasca** occupies what was once the local dairy co-op, where for almost a century milk was collected, processed and transformed by artisans. The original building is largely intact and contains a collection of



over 400 exhibits including documents and artifacts. Visitors can see all the equipment used in a dairy in the four rooms which made up the work space on the ground floor of the building. During the tour you will discover objects, images and archive materials supported

by multimedia connected with the various farming and pastoral activities of the area, as well as aspects of the local culture, economy and history, from the woodlands to domestic life, migration and celebrated or little known events of the Resistance.

Museum of Milk and the history of Muggiasca

Via Parrocchiale, 1
23838 Vendrogno

Opening time: May and September Saturday by appointment - Sunday 10.00 - 12.00 a.m.; from June to August, Saturday 4.00 - 6.00 p.m. and Sunday 10.00 - 12.00 a.m./ other days by appointment

For info, visits and educational workshops:
333.3823413
www.muu-vendrogno.it



A paved road leads to the pasture of **Alpe Giumello** at an altitude of 1538 metres. Continuing on foot to the western end of the hilltop you have marvellous views over Lake Como. You can then continue





On the mountains of Muggiasca, Val Varrone and Piani Resinelli

towards the saddle overlooking Val Varrone and finally reach the summit of the hill where the panorama opens out over Valsassina, the Grigna and Resegone, Pian delle Betulle, Legnone and Pizzo Alto.



Iron was first mined in the upper valley in pre-Roman times and in the Iron Room in the **Premana Ethnographic Museum** you can trace the evolution of ironworking in the Prealps from its origins and the period when forgers emigrated to Venice, Milan and Carrara right up to the current production of knives and scissors. As far back as 1574, when Premana had just over 600 inhabitants, there were still 4 swordsmiths, 3 farriers and 40 smiths able to forge knives and scissors as well as keys, railings and locks. This industry was greatly facilitated by the lodes present in Valsassina and Val Varrone and the woodland with water courses to provide power to drive the furnaces. The Farming Room displays objects used by mountain peasants working the hillsides and growing buckwheat and barley as well as herding goats, sheep



and cows; the Costume Room has a display of traditional clothing like the lovely "morel", a wedding dress with Greek-Albanian influences, instruments used for weaving and some of the handiwork of the local women.

Premana Ethnographic Museum

Via Roma, 18
23834 Premana

Opening time: from April to October, Wednesday 10.00-12.00 a.m. and Sunday 10.00-12.00 a.m. and 3.00-6.00 p.m. / August, all days 10.00-12.00 a.m. and 3.00-6.00 p.m. / other days by appointment

For info, visits and educational workshops:
0341.818085
www.museo.premana.lc.it

In Premana you can find the **Cantà Promàn choral group** that presents a musical repertoire of folk songs of Alpine and religious genre. These are songs that accompanied the ritual moments of social life, such as weddings and liturgical festivities, but also daily life.

For info: 0341.818085
www.museo.premana.lc.it





On the mountains of Muggiasca, Val Varrone and Piani Resinelli

In the historic centre of Premana, you will find the parish **church of San Dionigi**, located in a strategic position, a fact clearly demonstrated by the narrow embrasure in the lower part of the belfry, which was once a watchtower. The church, which is first mentioned in the 13th century, is richly decorated inside with interesting works dating back to the mid-17th century attributed to Luigi Realì. A grandiose 16th century polyptych with the saints Sebastiano, Rocco and Bernardo adorns the church. The nearby Oratory of the Immacolata dates back to the late Middle Ages.



In the Piani Resinelli area, the **Parco Museo Minerario dei Piani Resinelli** is a mining museum which includes the "Anna" and "Cavallo" mines, mined for centuries for lead minerals for the production of weaponry and agricultural implements for the Duchy of Milan and the Venetian Republic. Finally shut down in the Fifties due to the drop in prices and consequent decline in mining, they have undergone restoration work so that visitors can discover the different methods used in mining according to the historical period and means available at the time, as well as learn about the lives of miners in the past. There are guided tours where you can go

down into the bowels of the earth. Piani Resinelli are laid on a great pass at the foot of the Grigne Mount; by their dominant position you can enjoy the beautiful view that stretches from the Engadine Alps to Monte Rosa.

Parco Museo Minerario dei Piani Resinelli

Via Escursionisti, 29
23821 Abbadia Lariana (Loc. P. Resinelli)

Opening times: from March to October every Sunday/ July and August, Saturday, Sunday and festive all day, weekday afternoons / from November to February only by appointment

For groups: every days by appointment

For info, visits and educational workshops:
0341.240724 int. 2
(Comunità Montana Lario Orientale – Valle S. Martino)
www.comunitamontana.lc.it

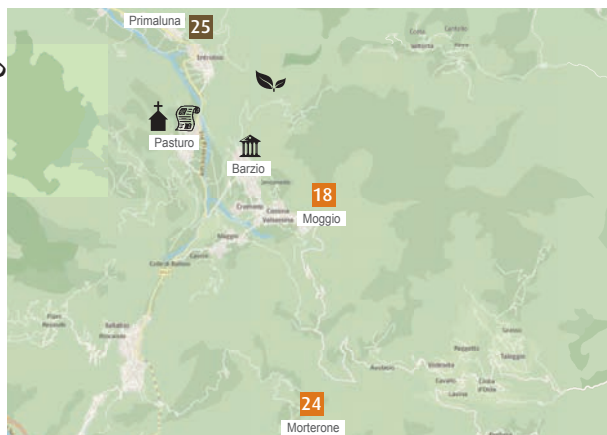


The typical product that you can enjoy in this area is the **mountain butter**, with intense flavour, made with cream and still worked with the traditional churn.

To enjoy this speciality visit the web site:
www.lakecomo.com/dove_mangiare



For accommodation:
www.lakecomo.com/dove_dormire



- **PARISH LITURGICAL AND ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM** 18
- Moggio
- **Sanctuary of the Madonna della Cintura** - Pasturo
- **"Antonia Pozzi" tour** - Pasturo
- **Piani di Bobbio**
- **MORTERONE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART** 24
- Morterone
- **PRIMALUNA MUSEUM** 25 - Primaluna

Recommended time for the visit: 1/2 days



In the southern part of the medieval centre of Moggio, the parish liturgical and ethnographic museum, **Museo liturgico etnografico** gives an overview of the history of the inhabitants and the surrounding area, their way of life, religious customs, traditions and age-old crafts. Tools on display on the ground floor bear witness to local ingenuity and these were used for generations



in the fields and woods, farmhouses and stables. Recently inaugurated, the museum also has reconstructions of traditional domestic environments with original furniture dating back to the 19th and 20th century.

Parish Liturgical and Ethnographic Museum

Via dell'Orto
23817 Moggio

Opening times: Saturday
and Sunday 4.00-6.00 p.m.

For info and visits:
339.1113864
www.parciamoggio.it



In the vale of Valsassina, on the eastern slopes of the Grigna Settentrionale, the town of **Pasturo** owes its name to the fertile pastures on the plain and the mountains above, still some of the finest in the entire province. The wide arena of the clays, marls and moraines which constitute the local soil is cut through by the course of the Pioverna stream which, north of the hamlet of **Baiedo**, winds between two cliffs which plunge almost 300 metres into the valley. This is the Chiusa dam, where the road crosses the stream by means of the old Chiuso bridge, a strategic point in the history of the valley. In Baiedo, the **church of San Pietro Martire**, possibly built in the 15th century, has a fine Baroque altar and the older though much renovated **church of Sant' Andrea**, built beside the cemetery where the poet Antonia Pozzi lies. Her poems were collected and published posthumously by Eugenio Montale under the title "Words" or "Parole".



Inaugurated in Pasturo in 2012 to mark the centenary of her birth, the cultural itinerary "In the footsteps of Antonia Pozzi – a poetic tour of the area" is a

permanent exhibition of words and images dedicated to the Milanese poet.

Sulle tracce di Antonia Pozzi

For info: www.antoniapozzi.it



The Baroque **Sanctuary of the Madonna della Cintura** in Pasturo is one of the major places of worship in Valsassina, an area with a strong tradition of faith where Marian devotion became widespread from the mid-17th century onward. The devotion to the Madonna of the Belt originated with the miraculous apparition of the Virgin to Saint Monica, the mother of Saint Augustine. The 17th century wall decoration is very fine as is the altarpiece by Luigi Reali.



Famed as the “pearl of Valsassina”, **Barzio** is the main summer and winter sports resort in the valley and offers a wide range of free time activities. During the 16th century, Barzio saw the rise of the ancient noble family the Manzoni, who moved here from the neighbouring province of Bergamo and owned a number of manor houses including the 17th century Palazzo Manzoni, today the Town Hall and public library and once home to those very Manzoni who were ancestors of the author of “The Betrothed”.



Small and quaint village, within walking distance from Barzio along a short trail, “**Concenedo**” has maintained the appearance of a farmer village still well represented by the old town where homes and old farmhouses, left largely intact, gather around the small church dedicated to St. Mary of the Assumption. There are many evidences of faith that make “Concenedo” a true “holy ground”. There are the Monastery of Carmel and the house Paul VI used to the Ambrosian clergy, just in the same location, Cantello, where in the fifteenth century an ancient monastery and shelter for sick pilgrims was built, as well as the picturesque Via Lucis, a path of prayer and penance formed by small votive chapels that accompany the traveller during the ascent from Barzio.

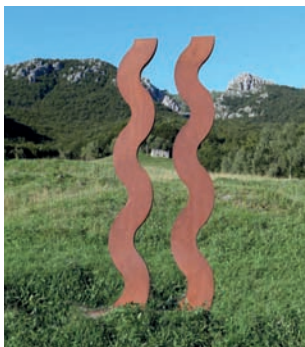


A modern cable car connects Barzio with **Piani di Bobbio** which is renowned for its breathtaking mountain scenery and a popular hiking destination in summer months. In winter, it becomes a ski resort with slopes to suit every level of ability.



The **Mortorone Museum of Contemporary Art** was founded in the mid-'80s in the smallest municipality in Italy, a focal point for many years in the work of the poet Carlo Invernizzi, situated on the other side





Morterone Museum of Contemporary Art

For info and guided tours: Associazione Culturale Amici di Morterone: acammorterone@virgilio.it, tel. 338.1226110.

The following nature trails are also of great interest: "The Big Trees Path", "The Resegone Ring" and other trails for mountain bike and canyoning. www.comune.morterone.lc.it

of the Resegone from Lecco. There is a series of sculptures and paintings by Italian and European artists (initially thirty in all) in a true open air museum set in uncontaminated surroundings. The works of dozens of artists representing the best of Italian and international creativity serve as the hypothesis and concrete possibility of man acting in a way that is not alienated from or exploiting anthroposised nature but rather engaged in dialogue with it which can provide original and meaningful interpretative guidelines for all who inhabit or come into contact with it. The integration of art and nature takes place in uncontaminated places which allow freedom of expression of the affirmation of the fundamental oneness of man and nature, as declared by Francesca Pola, curator of the entire exhibition project and also curator of MACRO, the Rome Museum of Contemporary Art.

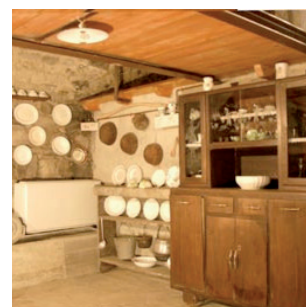


The **Primaluna Museum** has a collection of articles which tell the story of everyday country life in the 19th and 20th century. The museum is housed in a historical 17th century building in the town centre where the visitor will find reconstructions of domestic environments such as the kitchen and bedroom as well as plenty of space devoted to working life in the countryside. Primaluna origins go back to the dawn of time when a people called Orobii occupied this territory after the waters retreat from the valley.

Primaluna Museum

For info: 0341.980253
Municipality

*(From summer 2015
Cortabbio barite mines will
be open to the public -
www.comune.primaluna.lc.it)*



The typical product that you can enjoy in this area is the **Robiola of Valsassina**, derived from cow's fresh milk from the cow. It is a medium seasoned soft paste cheese, nutritious and very tasty.

To enjoy this speciality visit the web site:
www.lakecomo.com/dove_mangiare



For accommodation:
www.lakecomo.com/dove_dormire

Monte Barro and Alta Brianza



- **BARRO ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM 5** - Galbiate
- **Piani Barra Archaeological Park** - Galbiate
- **ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM OF UPPER BRIANZA 11** - Galbiate
- **Centro Flora Autoctona** - Galbiate
- **Villa Bertarelli** - Galbiate
- **Villa Vasena Ronchetti** - Galbiate
- **Ethnographic Trails - Monte Barro Park** - Galbiate

Recommended time for the visit: 1/2 days



A one kilometre stroll through fields and woods with a marvellous view of Lake Annone takes you from the heart of Galbiate to the **Ethnographic Museum of Upper Brianza** in Camporeso, a research and exhibition centre which focuses on the customs and way of life of the Brianza hills. The museum has long term exhibitions dealing

with pre-industrial and post-industrial society in the area with work tools and implements used in daily life and an audio-visual documentation of silk-worm production, farming, cookery and diet, animal husbandry, rural transport and the Pan pipes which became the predominant instrument in local folk music instrument during the 20th century. Oral and visual communication plays a vital role in passing on knowledge, behavioral models and forms of art and expression. Consequently, the museum carries out its ethnographic research by documenting the lifestyle and memories of local inhabitants, particularly the experiences and stories of those who are the last to live by certain trades or ways of life in the hills and on the lake. A separate section of the museum which focuses on bird snaring and hunting is located in the Costa Perla Roccolo, once a bird blind, on the road leading up towards the Eremo or hermitage on Monte Barro.



Ethnographic Museum of Upper Brianza

Loc. Camporeso – 23851 Galbiate

Opening times: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.00-12.30 a.m. / Saturday and Sunday 9.00-12.30 a.m. and 2.00-6.00 p.m.

For info, visits and educational workshops:

0341.240193 - 0341.542266

www.meab.parcobarro.it,

www.parcobarro.it



The **Barro Archaeological Museum** was founded on the discovery of the major site on Monte Barro, an enormous fortification with over 5 kilometres of walls on the southern perimeter. At Piani di Barra, excavations have revealed a late-Roman settlement connected with the great Prealpine border defence built between the 5th and 6th century to protect against incursions by Germanic tribes before it was overrun by the Goths of Teodoric in the battle of the bridge of Olginate on the River Adda in 590 A.D. Surrounded by an archaeological park with 14 buildings, the museum tells the story of the fortification up until its deliberate abandonment, using information panels, pictorial reconstructions and three-dimensional models along with figures and information to help the visitor understand the place of the Barro site in the larger context of the Italian peninsula. There is also a large exhibition of objects from daily life.

Barro Archaeological

Museum

Loc. Eremo – 23851 Galbiate

Opening times: Wednesday 2.00-5.00 p.m. (from April to September) / Saturday and Sunday 10.00-12.00 a.m. and 2.00-5.00 p.m. and by appointment

For info, visits and educational workshops:

0341.542266 - www.parcobarro.it

The **Parco Monte Barro** nature reserve is of great environmental, historical and archaeological interest with a great variety of plant species due to factors such as its location in the Insubrian district and events connected with Pleistocene glaciations. Excavations carried out between 1986 and 1997 unearthed the only example in Italy of a vast complex residential and military settlement from the period of the Goths. Inside this area, researchers have identified a settled area in Piani di Barra and a defensive system between the Eremo or Hermitage and the south-eastern slopes of the mountain.

Parco Monte Barro

Opening times: Wednesday 2.00-5.00 p.m. (from April to September) / Saturday and Sunday 10.00-12.00 a.m. and 2.00-5.00 p.m. and by appointment.

For info: 0341.542266

www.meab.parcobarro.it

www.parcobarro.lombardia.it

Next to the Hermitage you can also find the **Parco Monte Barro Hostel** (48 beds)
tel. 0341.540512



In collaboration with the Commission for the Protection of the Mountain Environment of the Lombardy branch of CAI, the Italian Alpine Club, the Insubria University and the Minoprio Foundation, the



Monte Barro and Alta Brianza

botanical nature trail called after Giovanni Fornaciari is an integral part of the Native Flora Centre **Centro Flora Autoctona (CFA)** of the Lombardy Regional Authority which is administered by the nature reserve Parco Monte Barro. With its roots in the first alpine botanical garden in Italy created here in 1891, the trail comprises five of the main habitats of the Lombard Prealpine environment: the meadows growing on carbonate rock, scrub, rough pasture, submediterranean brush and mesophile woodlands. At an altitude of 750 metres, at the end of the only road on Monte Barro, the Hermitage or Eremo has a colourful history, starting out as a Roman stronghold, then becoming headquarters of the Ostrogoth command, a Lombard fort, a military outpost of the Sforzas, a Franciscan monastery and, in more recent times, a sanatorium which was in operation until 1968. Since 2013 there has been a modern hostel with spaces for groups and lecture halls. As well as being home to the environmental education laboratory and Visitor Centre, the **Eremo** is the ideal departure point for a tour of the reserve along a loop that winds across the hillside starting and finishing at the nearby Alpine Regiment hut. The **"Nature Trail"** begins at the historic **Church of San Michele**, and continues for 800 metres along the eastern slope of the mountain, offering breathtaking views over the lake and town of Lecco with detailed information panels along the way illustrating the local flora and fauna.



The Headquarters of the nature reserve Parco Monte Barro and the Native Flora Centre is **Villa Bertarelli** with its 7000 square metres of gardens, a natural terrace overlooking the lakes of Brianza. Built in the 18th century, it passed from the Villa family to the Ballabios until in 1873, the house

became the country home of the old Milanese Bertarelli family who began restoration work and a radical redesign of the gardens. The monumental entrance is the work of Giuseppe Bovara as the exhedra which marks the boundary of the garden while Piero Portaluppi was responsible for the Neo-Baroque design. The lovely gardens are laid out on three levels.

Villa Bertarelli

Via Bertarelli, 11 – 23851 Galbiate

For info and visits: 0341.542266

www.parcobarro.lombardia.it



The **Costa Perla Experimental Ornithology Station** is located in an old bird blind for hunting which has been turned into a centre for the study of migration patterns and was recognised by the Lombardy Regional Authority in 1992. Monte Barro occupies a strategic position along migration routes and, thanks to the great variety of invertebrates which populate the meadows, is a stopover and feeding point before or after the crossing of the Alps. It can also be visited during the ringing campaigns, when birds are measured and set free after first being recorded on a European databank.

Experimental Ornithology Station

For info and visits:

www.parcobarro.lombardia.it



There are wooden information stands with information about traditional customs and

Monte Barro and Alta Brianza

beliefs situated along nine trails in the Monte Barro nature reserve. These were recently installed alongside panels on the environment and landscape by the Ethnographic Museum of Upper Brianza as part of the project **"Ethnographic trails - social and ethnographic history in the nature reserve outside the Ethnographic Museum of Upper Brianza"**.

Ethnographic trails

For info and visits:
www.parcobarro.it



Locally known as the Iron House or "Ca' de Fer", **Villa Vasena Ronchetti** in Sala al Barro is an interesting example of Art Nouveau at the turn of the 20th century. It was bought by the Town Hall of Galbiate in 1986 and now houses the administrative offices of the Mountain Community of Eastern Lake Como, San Martino Valley and the Monte Barro Nature Reserve Consortium.

Villa Vasena Ronchetti

Via Vasena, 6 - 23851 Galbiate

For info: 0341.240724 int. 2
www.comunitamontana.lc.it



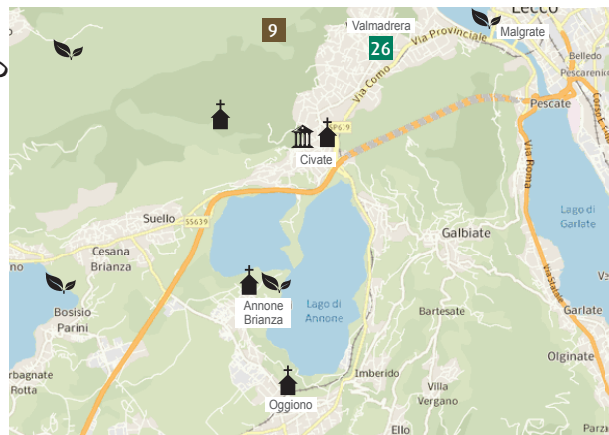
The typical product that you can enjoy in this area is the **Marco d'Oggiono raw ham**, little seasoned, fairly sweet, whose salting is done with the S. Margherita di Savoia Apulian sea salt.

To enjoy this speciality visit the web site:
www.lakecomo.com/dove_mangiare



For accommodation:
www.lakecomo.com/dove_dormire

From the slopes of Cornizzolo to the lakes of Brianza



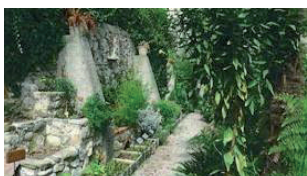
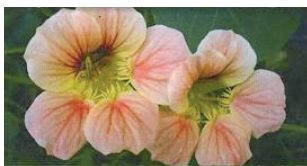
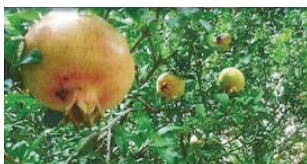
- **BOTANIC GARDEN** 26 - Valmadrera
- **S. TOMASO MUSEUM OF COUNTRY LIFE** 9 - Valmadrera
- **Basilica of St. Pietro al Monte** - Civate
- **Church and Cloister of St. Calocero** - Civate
- **Pilgrim's House** - Civate
- **Baptistry of St. Giovanni Battista** - Oggiono
- **Church of St. Giorgio** - Annone di Brianza
- **Cornizzolo Mountain**
- **Annone and Pusiano Lakes with bicycle track**
- **Lakeside promenade in Malgrate**

Recommended time for the visit: 1/4 days



A proper herb **garden with aromatic and medicinal plants** greets the visitor to the Centro Fatebenefratelli in the historic centre of Valmadrera. The garden was planted in 1986 in the wake of a course on herbalism which had been followed up by an exhibition. On that occasion, the local administration reopened a space which was once the herb garden of a religious order, the Garden of Simples at the Centro Fatebenefratelli. This garden was used to grow medicinal herbs as far back as the 18th century by the Fatebenefratelli religious order, the Brothers Hospitallers, founded in Spain by Saint John of God. In fact, it seems that the particular climate of the Valmadrera

From the slopes of Cornizzolo to the lakes of Brianza



area favours the growth of a wide variety of medicinal and aromatic herbs as well as rare mountain flora. The restoration work was carried out by volunteers in consultation with experts in keeping with the layout of a traditional convent garden. The original division of the garden into four large squares was retained and some modifications were made to the internal paths to better allow close observation of the plants. These are planted in family groups (labiateae, compositae, umbelliferae, rosaceae, graminacea, etc.), bearing in mind their natural habitat (sun, partial shade, wetland, soil quality), along guidelines provided by the Director of the Rezia Botanic Garden of Bormio, Prof. Fornaciari. The garden currently boasts about 450 species; new areas have

been planted with aquatic plants and local wildflowers. Each plant is identified with a plaque bearing its common name, Latin name and family (with a red dot for poisonous or highly toxic plants). The mission of the botanic garden is research, propagation and identification of medicinal and aromatic plants, promotion of events and courses on themes relating to herbs (health, diet, cosmetics and cultivation), the creation of a permanent botanical observatory open to the public, and cultural exchange with other public and private gardens.

Valmadrera Botanic Garden

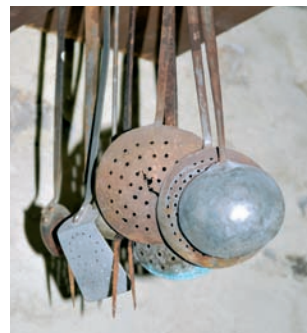
Centro Culturale Fatebenefratelli - 23851 Valmadrera

Opening times: Saturday afternoon 2.00-6.00 p.m. from March to October; other days by appointment

For info: tel. 0341.581960 - 348.8826415
www.visitaroundlecco.it



In the district of San Tomaso just outside Valmadrera, the **Museum of country life** is located in a typical farm building where there is a collection of the most commonly used farm and household tools and implements used in the Lecco area from the 19th century onwards. In the renovated farm buildings, the museum has organised exhibits around the traditional farming calendar, starting on 11th November, the feastday of San Martino. The first room displays equipment used in the autumn like ploughs, seeders and tools for woodcutting and viticulture while in the second room there are implements used in the dairy, for cheese-making, and there is an extensive exhibit on bee-keeping and women's work. A reconstruction of a kitchen and bedroom on the mezzanine floor shows the simplicity of life in the past in a typical rural dwelling.



Museum of country life of San Tomaso

Loc. S. Tomaso - 23851 Valmadrera

Opening times: from March to November the first and the third Sunday of the month 10.00-12.00 a.m. and 1.30-5.00 p.m.

Guided tours: 0341.581814 (CPS Valmadrera)

For info: tel. 0341.240724 int. 2

www.comunitamontana.lc.it; www.visitaroundlecco.it
www.ecomuseomontilaghibriantei.it

From the slopes of Cornizzolo to the lakes of Brianza



From San Tomaso, and the hamlet of Pozzo in Civate, the trail leads to a flat open space where the **basilica of San Pietro** stands beside the **oratory of San Benedetto**. The complex is one of the most important heritage

sites in Lombardy, renowned for the complexity and originality of its Romanesque buildings which still retain their original stylistic and formal coherence and a cycle of frescos and bas reliefs the like of which is hard to find anywhere in Europe.

Basilica of San Pietro al Monte and Oratory of San Benedetto

Loc. San Pietro – 23862 Civate

For info and visits: tel. 346.3066590
www.amicidisanpietro.it

The Brianza hills with their natural, environmental, historical and artistic beauty, mid-way between the provinces of Lecco and Como are the location for the **Ecomuseum of the Brianza Hill and Lake District** which proposes nine itineraries on the trail of architectural and environmental gems.

Ecomuseum of the Brianza Hill and Lake District

For info: 0341.295542
www.provincia.lecco.it

In the square of the same name in the centre of Civate, the **church of San Calocero** was built in the 11th century on the foundations of a previous building and is part of a bigger complex which is now a retirement home called **“Casa del Cieco”**, the House of the Blind. While it retains its original Romanesque features, the church was subsequently extended when a great crypt and oratory were built. There is a cycle of eloquent 12th century frescos commissioned by Archbishop Arnolfo III who was buried here in 1097.

Church of San Calocero (Casa del Cieco)

Via Nazario Sauro, 5 – 23862 Civate

For info and visits: 334.1334856
www.suoreismc.it, www.lucenascosta.it

Still in the centre of Civate, with the entrance from the church square, the **Casa del Pellegrino** or **Pilgrim's House** was a hospice for the sick and a hostel for wayfarers and pilgrims on their way to the abbey of San Pietro al Monte. On the first floor, there is a cycle of frescos illustrating the activities and pastimes of the cultured and wealthy with scenes from the hunt and the pleasures of life at court.



Casa del Pellegrino (Pilgrim's House)

Via Cà Nova, 12 - 23862 Civate

For info and visits: 334.1334856 Associazione Luce Nascosta
www.lucenascosta.it

The new 18 kilometre cycle path along the shore of **Lake Annone** di Brianza encompasses the municipalities of Civate, Galbiate, Oggiono, Annone di Brianza and Suello and is part of the wider regional project called the **“Ciclovía dei laghi”** or Lake Cycle Trail, a network of itineraries criss-crossing the provinces of Lecco, Como and Varese.

Centro visitatori Ciclopedonale del Lago di Annone

For info: 031.655715 (Comune di Suello)
www.comune.suello.lc.it

Monte Cornizzolo is a green outcrop with a rounded profile situated on the south-eastern end of Lake Como. This mountain is at the meeting point of seven municipal administrations (*Canzo, Eupilio, Longone al Segrino, Pusiano, Civate, Suello and Valmadrera*), two Mountain Communities (Triangolo Lariano and Lario Orientale) and two Provinces (Lecco and Como). Also known by the name “Pedale”, it offers breathtaking views over the Prealps and Brianza as far as the Po Valley and the Appenine mountains.

9.

From the slopes of Cornizzolo to the lakes of Brianza



The **Baptistry of San Giovanni Battista in Oggiono** is one of the few baptistries with a central floor plan which still retains clear Romanesque architectural features. Built around the year 1100 on the site of an older building from the Late Middle Ages, in 1731 it was transformed into a sacristy for the nearby Chiesa plebana of Sant'Eufemia. There are painted decorations which date back to the 15th and 16th centuries.



Built on the site of a Benedictine oratory, the **Church of San Giorgio in Annone di Brianza** is typical of the local Late Gothic style. There is a cycle of frescos believed to be by the Master of the Sforza Altarpiece.



In the wake of extensive renovation work, the **lakeside promenade in Malgrate** has become a popular meeting point to pass the time, take a stroll or go for a cycle.



The typical product that you can enjoy in this area is the **potato of Annone**, used in the past as an alternative to cereals and present in this area already in the nineteenth century.

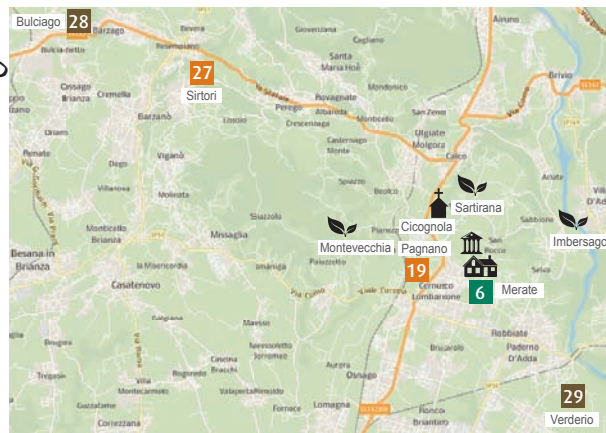
To enjoy this speciality visit the web site:
www.lakecomo.com/dove_mangiare



For accommodation:
www.lakecomo.com/dove_dormire

10.

Merate and the green hills of Brianza



Interesting Sites

- **CIVIC MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY DON M. AMBROSIONI** 6 - Merate
- **Brera Astronomical Observatory** - seat of Merate
- **Nature Reserve of Lake Sartirana** - Merate
- **Regional Park of Montevecchia and Curone Valley**
- **Sabbioncello Convent** - Merate
- **FONDAZIONE GIUSEPPE MOZZANICA** 19 - Pagnano (Merate)
- **Adda Nord Regional Park**
- **Villas and ancient houses** - Merate
- **HOUSE MUSEUM I TRE TETTI** 27 - Sirtori
- **LITTLE MUSEUM OF COUNTRY TRADITIONS** 28 - Bulciago
- **AIA DI VERDERIO - MUSEUM OF COUNTRY LIFE** 29 - Verderio

Recommended time for the visit: 1/3 days



Situated in a classroom of the boarding school Collegio "Alessandro Manzoni", the **Civic Museum of Natural History Don M. Ambrosioni** in Merate boasts a significant collection donated by professor Don Michelangelo Ambrosioni, a teacher in the school from 1891 to 1935 as well as an avid collector. Originally intended as a teaching resource for schools in the area, the museum has a large collection of around 2100 exhibits in display cases with explanatory panels. In the great hall on the first floor there is the



collection of minerals and the paleontology collection which includes some fascinating fossils of plants and animals found in the Lecco area. The zoological section deals with naturalised animals displayed according to biological classification and habitat and is located in the two side rooms. There is a remarkable malacological collection. On the second floor of the Museum the visitors can see the petrographical collection and three large display cases devoted to botany and physics. A room named after the Italo-Canadian Commandant Giacinto Lazzarini, a secret agent and coordinator of a number of partisan groups who, in April 1945, managed to prevent a heavy air raid on the Merate area. This room houses the historical section on the Resistance and there are personal effects and documents from the Lazzarini archive as well as war relics and publications on the history of the Resistance.

Civic Museum of Natural History Don M. Ambrosioni

Via Collegio Manzoni, 45 - 23807 Merate

Opening times: Tuesday 9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. / Thursday 2.30-5.30 p.m. / Saturday 9.30-12.30 a.m.

For info, visits and educational workshops: 039.9903147
www.comune.merate.lc.it

Villa San Rocco, once a Capuchin convent and convalescent home for officials during the Great War, is now home to the Merate branch of the **Brera Astronomical Observatory**. It was founded in response to the increase in interference from public lighting and the vibrations caused by the first tram lines which caused a rapid deterioration in observation conditions in Brera. In 1926 therefore, some observation instruments were transported to Merate for installation, including a modern telescope - a Zeiss reflector with a mirror 102 cm in diameter and a focal length of 5 metres which Italy had obtained from Germany in part payment for war damages under the Treaty of Versailles.

Brera Astronomical Observatory - Seat of Merate

Info for schools: 039.5971016, www.brera.inaf.it/scuole

For reservations and observations visits: 039.5971100
www.brera.inaf.it



The **Nature Reserve of Lake Sartirana** extends over an area of about 24 hectares in the Municipality of Merate. A path, accessible only on foot, runs for 2 kilometres along the shores of Lake Sartirana, that like an enormous pond but is actually an intramoren lake and a typical feature of the Brianza countryside.

Nature Reserve of Lake Sartirana

Orari di visita: dalle 06.00 alle 22.00. L'accesso alla Riserva è consentito tutto l'anno.

For info: www.lagodisartirana.it

The **Regional Park of Montevicchia and Valle del Curone** nature reserve coincides with the far boundary of the green area in southeastern Brianza. A highly diversified area, it includes areas of major environmental interest but also urban areas, industrial estates, farmland and architectures of great artistic and cultural value such as the Sanctuary of the Beata Vergine del Carmelo in Montevicchia, a settlement dating back to Roman times when it was a lookout post guarding the Brianza hills. This role is reflected in fact in the origins of the place name "Mons Vigiliarum" (mount of the lookout post).



Between Parco di Montevecchia and Parco del Monte Barro there is a path linking the southern end of the province of Lecco with the town itself, a trail almost 35 kilometres long which can also be broken up into sections. It starts in the municipality of Lomagna crosses the hill of Montevecchia and from there heads up the slopes of Monte di Brianza. From there it follows the ridge of San Genesio and comes back down the saddle of Galbiate to wind around Monte Barro and finally descend to Lecco.

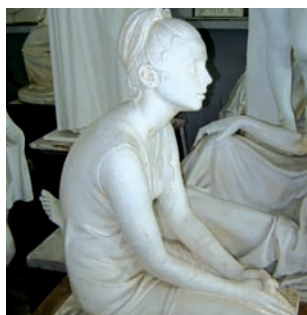
Il Sentierone

Parco di Montevecchia e della Valle del Curone
Loc. Butto, 1 – 23874 Montevecchia

For info: 039.9930384 – www.parcocurone.it



The **Giuseppe Mozzanica Foundation** in Pagnano, a district of Merate, was founded to preserve and promote the work of



a sculptor and painter who was reclusive and averse to publicity, driven by a deeply ethical idea of artistic work rather than aesthetic notions. Set up in 2007, the heart of the Foundation is the gallery of plaster casts, a treasure chest and workshop commissioned by the artist himself in the Fifties in the courtyard of his home. Here there is a display of plaster casts but also works in marble, bronze and terracotta executed between the 1920s and the 1960s, a testimony to the vigorous and coherent studies of the sculptor. As

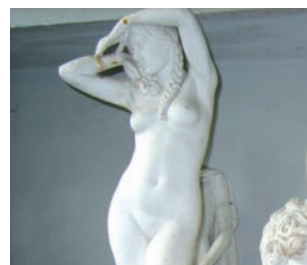
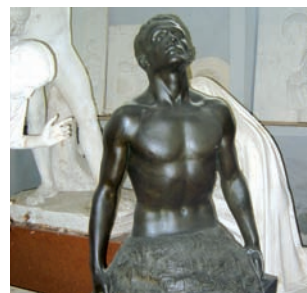
well as the pieces of sculpture (about 260 in all), the collection also includes drawings and paintings by the artist as well as a major series of photographic plates: a corpus of 183 elements which illustrate the artist's working method which was based on observation of reality with few concessions to ornamentation or reticence.

Giuseppe Mozzanica Foundation

Vicolo Chiuso, 5
23807 Merate Fraz. Pagnano

For info: 039.9900706

info@fondazionegiuseppemozzanica.it
www.fondazionegiuseppemozzanica.it



One of the few religious complexes which still has an active community and where the daily routines of convent life is marked by strict observance of the Rule, the **Sabbioncello Convent in Merate** has close ties with the history of the Franciscan order in Lombardy, and in particular with the repercussions of the Lutheran Reformation in the Roman Catholic world.

Sabbioncello Convent. Ordine dei Frati Minori
Via S. Antonio, 5 – 23807 Merate

For info: 039.9902027
www.sabbioncello.com



Just over three kilometres from Merate the **Adda Nord Regional Park** has a famous ferry designed and built by Leonardo da Vinci which connects

the Lecco shore with the Bergamo side of the River Adda. Along the banks of the river in Imbersago, there is also a Leonardo da Vinci Ecomuseum, a nature trail with 14 stations and 47 stopoff points to discover the mark left by Leonardo on the extraordinary landscape of the middle section of the River Adda.

Parco Adda Nord

For info: www.parcoaddanord.it



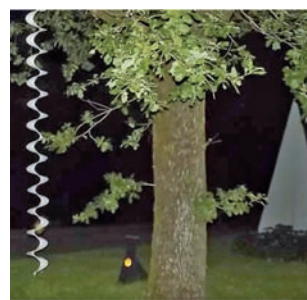
In the past centuries the city of **Merate** was chosen as a favourite holiday place, first by some of the great noble family and later also by the bourgeoisie, especially from Milan. Today you can see many beautiful old villas: Villa Baslini, Villa Crespi, Villa Cornaggia, Villa de Ferrari-Bagatti, Villa Dal Verme, Villa Greppi, Villa Lavezzani. Among the most significant there are **Villa Belgiojoso, Villa Subaglio e Villa Confalonieri**. The latter, owned by the city, with its park open to the public can be visited on request together with others.

For info: Proloco, Via Roma 11, 23807 Merate
Tel. 039.9901323 - e-mail: info@prolocomerate.org



The **3 Tetti Museum** in Sirtori is quite unique in that the works on display are not presented as exhibits but rather as part of a complex whole through which the visitor strolls. Landscape art, light art, architecture, sculpture, painting and design are seamlessly interwoven with poetry and music and a spatialization of sound in order to construct a polysemic whole where the real protagonist is the metalanguage uniting them. The museum opens at sunset when the "light sculptures" stand out against the shadows in the nocturnal

landscape designed by Giorgio Riva for this hilltop in Montevicchia park. At that time of day, the 3 Tetti is like a balcony overlooking the dazzling lights on the valley floor. The lights of Milan, the stars, and, when it rises, the moon, all form part of the composition. But then there are the sounds too: verses from Dante, Homer and Shoenberg's Pierrot, or voices, notes and noises making acoustic trajectories among the branches of the trees, an overwhelming series of multi-sensorial and sinesthetic stimuli. The museum was designed to form a network of different pathways, each of which is constellated with signs, forms and symbols which the hand of the artist has deconstructed and subtracted from its habitual codes and meanings to reveal other possible links of interconnection. And it recomposes them in a weird, metamorphical universe where the spaces, geometric shapes, letters of the alphabet and even punctuation marks are presented and interwoven as if they were characters created for the immediate experience of all the senses, as if it were theatre. The magic of the place consists of the way in which the very purity of the shapes and beauty of the images



is used in a simple almost intuitive approach even in the most complex syntax and spatial designs. Edi Minguzzi, designated president of the nascent museum, offers the following explanation of the inspiration for 3 Tetti: *"To the eye of the artist, the world reveals, together with events, their beginning, together with words, their matrix. This is what lies behind the art of Giorgio Riva: inventing fantastic spaces in the universal language of metamorphosis and polysemy"*. The architectural project for Tre Tetti goes back as far as 1969, the first sculptures and trellis hedges are from the '90s, the first Light Sculpture show was in 2005, and since 2012 there has been a series of exhibitions and concerts every summer. The mobile architecture of the Teatrino dell'Erba Maderna dates back to 2014.

House Museum I Tre Tetti

Via Belvedere - 23896 Sirtori
www.giorgiorivaopere.it



The **Museum of Country Tradition** in Bulciago has a collection of everyday objects from rural life, illustrating the lifestyles and working life in this area between the late 19th and early 20th century.

Museum of Country Tradition in Bulciago

Via Parini
 23892 Bulciago
www.piccolomusedibulciago.blogspot.it



This complex, once used for drying grain, was designed by the architect Gaetano Besia of Domodossola. In 1857 the building was recorded in the land registry and it was inaugurated in 1863. The main building was used for sales offices whereas the yard was where the farm workers spread out the grain to dry in the sun. In 2004 it was purchased by the Verderio family, owners of Coverd, and renovated in order to house the head offices of their company which deals with natural bioarchitecture materials and technologies. The courtyard, paved in granite slabs, houses the **Museum of Country Life** which reconstructs five environments to illustrate the way people once lived through a large collection of original tools and everyday items from the late 19th and early 20th century.

Aia di Verderio - Museum of Country Life

Via Sernovella, 1 - 23879 Verderio
 For info: 039.512487
info@coverd.it, www.coverd.it



The typical products that you can enjoy in this area are fresh or **seasoned cheeses** produced with goat milk and the **wines of the Montevicchia area**.

To enjoy this speciality visit the web site:
www.lakecomo.com/dove_mangiare



For accommodation:
www.lakecomo.com/dove_dormire

Itineraries

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Insights
on places of interest



Nature Itinerary

Museums

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| 1 | Ca' Marti: The Museum and the Stonemasons' Valley - <i>Museo Etnografico</i> - Carenno |
| 2 | Villa Monastero House Museum and Botanical Garden - <i>Museo Storico-Artistico</i> - Varenna |
| 3 | Monti Civic Silk Museum - <i>Museo del Lavoro</i> - Abbadia Lariana |
| 4 | Forte di Montecchio - <i>Museo Storico</i> - Colico |
| 5 | Barro Archaeological Museum - <i>Museo Storico</i> - Galbiate |
| 6 | Civic Museum of Natural History Don M. Ambrosioni - <i>Museo Naturalistico-Scientifico</i> - Merate |
| 7 | Muu Museum of Milk and of the History of Muggiasca - <i>Museo Etnografico</i> - Vendrognio |
| 8 | Museum of Rural Culture - <i>Museo Etnografico</i> - Colico |
| 9 | S. Tomaso Museum of Country Life - <i>Museo Etnografico</i> - S. Tomaso, Valmadrera |
| 10 | Grigne Museum - <i>Museo Naturalistico-Scientifico</i> - Esino Lario |
| 11 | Ethnographic Museum of Upper Brianza - <i>Museo Etnografico</i> - Galbiate |
| 12 | Premana Ethnographic Museum - <i>Museo Etnografico</i> - Premana |
| 13 | Luigi Scanagatta Ornithological and Natural History Museum - <i>Naturalistico-Scientifico</i> - Varenna |
| 14 | Parish Museum San Lorenzo Don Carlo Villa - <i>Museo Storico-Artistico</i> - Rossino di Calolziocorte |
| 15 | Villa De Ponti Botanical Garden - <i>Museo Naturalistico-Scientifico</i> - Calolziocorte |
| 16 | Parco Museo Minerario - <i>Museo del Lavoro</i> - Piani Resinelli |
| 17 | Giannino Castiglioni Museum - <i>Museo Storico-Artistico</i> - Lierna |
| 18 | Parish Liturgical and Ethnographic Museum - <i>Museo Storico-Artistico</i> - Moggio |
| 19 | Fondazione Giuseppe Mozzanica - <i>Museo Storico-Artistico</i> - Merate |
| 20 | Abegg Silk Museum - <i>Museo del Lavoro</i> - Garlate |
| 21 | Moto Guzzi Museum - <i>Museo del Lavoro</i> - Mandello del Lario |
| 22 | Maggiana Tower Museum - <i>Museo Etnografico</i> - Maggiana |
| 23 | La Cà dei Radio Vecc Museum - <i>Museo del Lavoro</i> - Bellano |
| 24 | Morterone Museum of Contemporary Art - <i>Museo Storico-Artistico</i> - Morterone |
| 25 | Primaluna Museum - <i>Museo Etnografico</i> - Primaluna |
| 26 | Botanic Garden - <i>Museo Naturalistico-Scientifico</i> - Valmadrera |
| 27 | House Museum I Tre Tetti - <i>Museo Storico-Artistico</i> - Sirtori |
| 28 | Little Museum of Country Traditions - <i>Museo Etnografico</i> - Bulciago |
| 29 | Aia di Verderio: Museum of Country Life - <i>Museo Etnografico</i> - Verderio |

