

ON THE TOP OF THE LAKE

Pian di Spagna/south route

LENGTH: 20.85 Km

GRADIENT: completely flat

PHYSICAL DIFFICULTY: EASY, suitable for all cyclists

TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY: EASY, without any problems for all cyclists.

ROAD SURFACES: asphalt, gravel track, paved road

RECOMMENDED PERIOD: all year round

BIKES RECOMMENDED: city bikes and mountain bikes even those without shock absorbers

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE: Sorico, piazza C. Battisti

This tour takes you round the south part of the Pian di Spagna flat area, which is surrounded by lake Como and the Adda and Mera rivers: the area where man has transformed the land during the earlier centuries with drainage and changing the course of the Adda river to create a arable farming area.

The signs of the past let us guess just a little bit of how the land was and the strategic importance of the area through history, nothing remains of the antique hamlet of Olonio with its tower (one of the most important fortresses in the Como area in medieval times) and its Santo Stefano church, buried in the silt and rocks which the Adda river brought down from the mountains.

1-2 FROM SORICO TO PONTE DEL PASSO (2,4 Km)

Start from the C. Battista square in Sorico in front of the town hall, go to the end of the car park to the right and along via Torre and onto the cycle track shown in the notice board map. Over the little bridge then turn right downhill on Via Don A Pasini by the cemetery. At the end of the road go along the rough cycle track which goes along the Mera river and then filter out onto the main road, opposite the Il Torchio Bar, right and over the Ponte del Passo bridge and then immediately right after the 'Pian di Spagna' restaurant

2-3 FROM PONTE DEL PASSO BRIDGE TO BORGOFRANCONE BRIDGE (6,1 Km)

At the fork in the road immediately after the restaurant take the road signposted "Boschetto" on the right; parallel to the river Mera following the signs for the camper service "La Punta" When you arrive here after 2,4Km of asphalt road left on the gravel road which goes into the woods following the sign 'percorso naturalistico Sud/Fabbrichetta'. Right at the two junctions in the woods until you come out on Via Dell Alberone; from here left following the sign 'Ponte Borgofrancone' and carry on the straight road for about 1,4Km until the Adda Fort. At the fort turn right staying on the gravel road which brings you out on the bridge over the canal, go over this immediately left following the instructions for the 'Ponte sull' Adda'

3-4 FROM THE BORGOFRANCONE BRIDGE TO THE FOCE DELL'ADDA. (4,74 Km)

The rough track carries on until a junction, (there is an electricity pylon here) here go straight on to the level crossing near the bridge on the Adda river, right onto the straight rough road that leads to the 'foce – mouth of the Adda river, about 3Km. On the way you will pass the gravel works which you can avoid by taking the cycle track which goes along the side of the river. Just before the end of the river there are ponds with amphibians and invertebrates and there is a den from which you can see many types of waterbirds. From the shed pass along the side of the river so as to not disturb the animals who come to the Adda river mouth, there is a wonderful view from here over the lake and the surrounding mountains.

4-5 FROM THE MOUTH OF THE ADDA RIVER TO THE STALLONE VENINI (3,95 Km)

Go back down the road along the side of the river until the junction immediately after a electricity cabin (about 1.8km from the end of the river) turn left following the 'Ponte Borgofrancone/fabbrichetta' signs, at the second fork after 200mts go left to return to the borgofrancone bridge and back along the straight road until the junction with the Stallone Venini and then right on the gravel road which goes past the houses at the Stallone until you come to the asphalted road of Via Fabbrichetta.

5-1 FROM THE STALLONE VENINI TO SORICO (3,66 Km)

From Via Fabbrichetta go straight on until the 'Pian di Spagna' restaurant, over the Ponte del Passo bridge and bear left on the SS340 towards Sorico, go onto the cycle track opposite the 'Il Torchio' bar and carry on along this round by the Mera river. At the end of the gravel road go left uphill on via Don A Pasini and just after the cemetery left over the bridge over the Sorico torrente and downhill into C. Battisti square.

other easy bike rides are available at the Association Pedaleggiando at Sorico - see www.pedaleggiando.it