

Sulle Orme DEL VIANDANTE

TRA I SAPERI E I SAPORI DEL LAGO

COMPLETE ITINERARY

History

The oriental side of the Lake of Como has been interested since antiquity by a series of path that connected Milan with Alpine passes.



*Historical postcard:
Varenna view from Fiumelatte*

In the early decades of the nineteenth century, a new military

road direct to the Stelvio's pass (built between 1817 and 1834) was opened; this caused the abandonment of the previous road system, now called "The Wayfarer's Trail". It was rediscovered recently and enhanced by the Company for promoting tourism in the Province of Lecco.

The path starts shortly before Abbazia Lariana, near St Martino's church. The path continues along the lakeshore, and then it reaches the church of St George in Mandello del Lario, and continues to Maggiana, Rongio and Sonvico. From Génico the path splits apart in two parts: following probably the

medieval path, you can go to Lierna. Instead you can head inland, passing by the ancient church of Saint Peter in Ortanella.

Both routes meet at the castle of Vezio, one of the most important fortified hamlets of Eastern Lario.

From Vezio the paths continue to Bellano, where, after passing the Pioverna stream and its famous Horrid, you arrive at the sanctuary of Lezzeno.

In the North of Bellano you reach the castle of Dervio and pass through the ancient village of Corenno Plinio.



Corenno Plinio snowy village

From here the path runs along the small lake of Piona and then it reaches the sanctuary of Our Lady of Val Pozzo.

The most important feature of this path is the equilibrium between human activities and the nature.

The Wayfarer's trail is 40 Km long, with difference in altitudes between 400 and 1000 meters. You can experience it in four stages.

The wayfarer's trail is characterized by orange signs along the path and offers you the most attractive and evocative settings of Lake Como, together with its rich vegetation, particular geological features as well as architectural elements such as historical building, churches, hamlet and farmstead.



Panoramic view of the lake

1° STAGE: **Abbadia**

Lariana - Lierna

DATA SHEET

HEIGHT DIFFERENCE: 360 m

LENGTH: 10.6 km

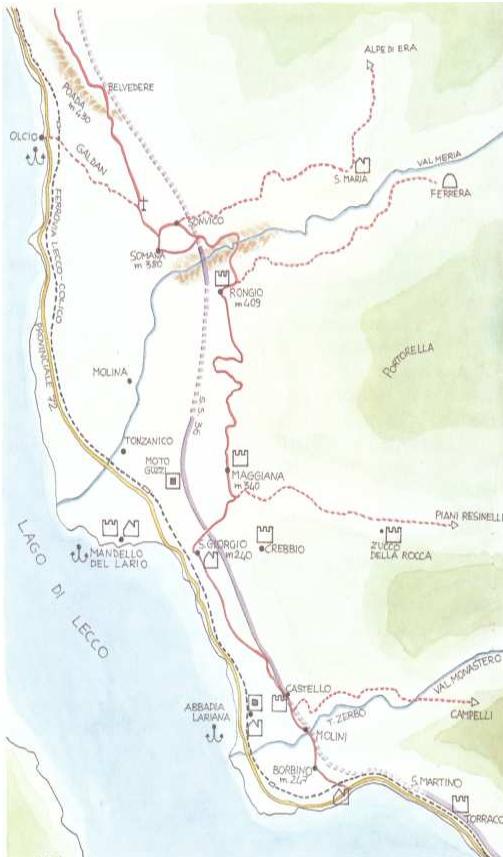
TIME: 3.5 hrs.

TRAIL DIFFICULTY: T/E

Share -out: 212 m ASL

Share of Arrival: 224 m ASL

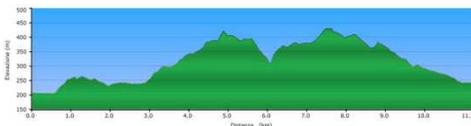
Maximum altitude: 445 m above sea level



The path starts in Abbadia Lariana, from the Church of St Martin, near the exit of the Freeway.



Elevation profile



Church of St Martin in Abbadia

You cross the railway with a bridge and enter a stretch road that takes you to the paved village of Borbino.

From here the path becomes dirt and crosses the zone of Mulini and little village of Robbianico with the interesting Church of San Bartolomeo, Linzanico and Novegolo.

From this little settlement you take a little dirt path, that continues until the beginning of Mandello del Lario where you can find, on a rock, the Church of San Giorgio, that was built in the IX-X century.



St George in Mandello del Lario

From here the path climbs up towards Maggiana, a little hamlet of the municipality of Mandello del

Lario, where there is the so-called Barbarossa's Tower.

At the end of the village you will again find the dirt and rocky path. And after crossing the woods, it arrives in the hamlet called Rongio.

The path continues with trend mostly flat or with short ups and downs, and, after passing through Mandello, it goes down towards Valle Meria.

From here you go up to Sonvico, where you can see the Chapel of Immacolata; along the path for Galdano, the view of Olcio is wonderful.

The last part of this first stage follows the road near the freeway for a while; then you leave this and go to the villages of Sornico and Olgianico.

After crossing these villages, you finally arrive in Lierna.



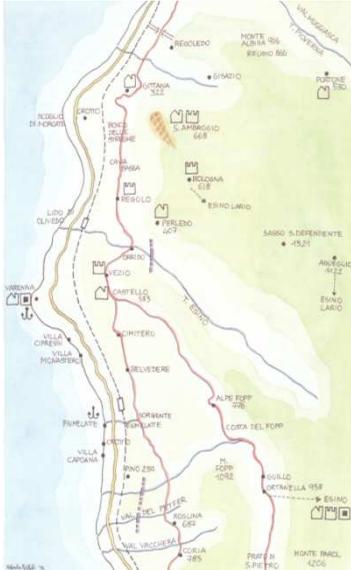
Lierna

2° STAGE: Lierna-Varenna

Elevation profile



In Lierna you have two possibilities to enjoy the second stage of the Wayfarer's Trail: go down to the lake and take the ancient via Ducal (Low Way) or go up the mountain (High Way). The Low Way passes through the hamlets of Castello di Lierna and Fiumelatte, with its short creek mentioned by the genius of Leonardo da Vinci. The High Way rises to the plans of San Pietro offering extraordinary views on Lake Como. Both the paths eventually join again in Varenna.



A) Low way

DATA SHEET

HEIGHT DIFFERENCE: 655 m

LENGTH: 9.4 km

TIME: 3.5 hrs.

TRAIL DIFFICULTY: E

The Low Way runs close to the Lake. Following the path from Lierna, you arrive to the hamlet of Castello; then you rise on a staircase to Ronco, where starts the path for Coria, the highest part of the Low Way.



Castle of Lierna

From here the path walks into Valle Vacchera, where it becomes very narrow, demanding more attention. After crossing the bottom of the Valley thanks to a wooden bridge you can enjoy beautiful views.

There is a walking part close to the provincial road before going up the hill until reaching Fiumelatte sources and then arriving to the beautiful town of Varenna.

B) High way

DATE SHEET

HEIGHT DIFFERENCE: 800m

LENGTH: 10.4 km

TIME: 3.45 hrs.

TRAIL DIFFICULTY: E

From Lierna rise to the village of Genico, and then go up too into the woods; you arrive in a beautiful area where you can enjoy an extraordinary view of the Lake Como and the surrounding mountains. From here the slope becomes gentler and the path goes up to Mezzedo Alp and Pian San Pietro, top of the ascent.



The views of the Larian triangle

After passing the Pond of Pozzal (picnic area) you go straight and arrive in Ortanella, from here you

can take the dirt road that goes around Fopp Mountain.

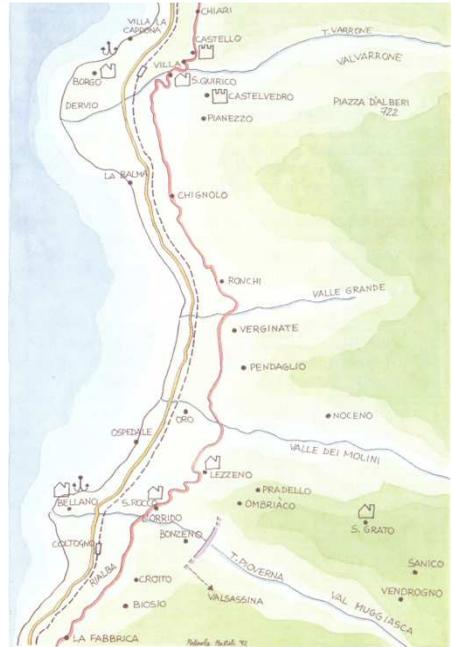
Then go down towards the Colle of Vezio until you reach the Castle.

Here you find the Low way. From here a steep mule-track takes you to Varenna, the final destination of this second stage of the Wayfarer's Trail.

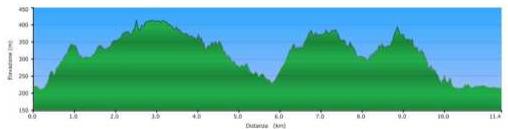


The Castle of Vezio

3° STAGE: Vezio - Bellano - Dervio



Elevation profile



DATA SHEET:

HEIGHT DIFFERENCE: 460 m

LENGTH: 10.5 km

TIME: 4.20 hrs.

TRAIL DIFFICULTY: T/E

At the end of Vezio's houses, follow the path that slopes rapidly dropping to Esino stream valley. Then you have to cross the river through an ancient, narrow, bridge.



Ancient bridge in Esino

After the bridge there is an arcade of the baroque church of Madonna di Campallo. The ancient layout veers northbound among Campallo and among houses it comes out at the entrance of Régolo hamlet, where right in the middle the small baroque church of S. Giovanni Battista stands.

Climbing up toward the hamlet of Regolo, take the road, partially paved, that goes up to Tondello, Bologna, Regoledo and Gittana.

The path leads to Masna Valley, passing through the so-called

Wood of the Witches. At the end of the wood stands a block of rustic buildings, called "Fabbrica", that perhaps used to be a refreshment post, a three-storey stone building refined by a doorway and a small baroque balcony; still in use is the wide vault cellar fitted with a wine press and ancient wine making implements. **Crossed a stone bridge it will take you to Bosio.**

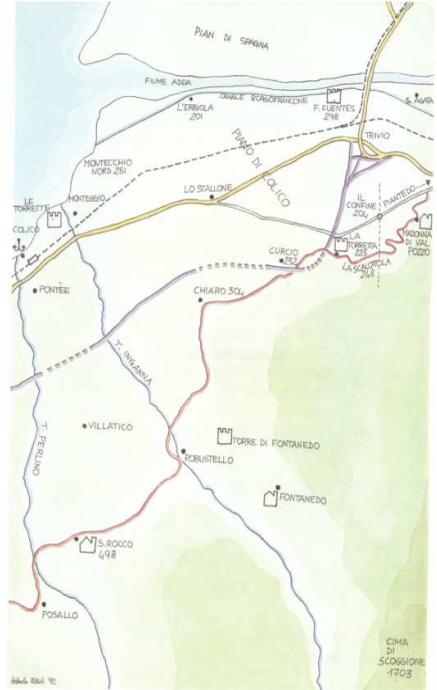
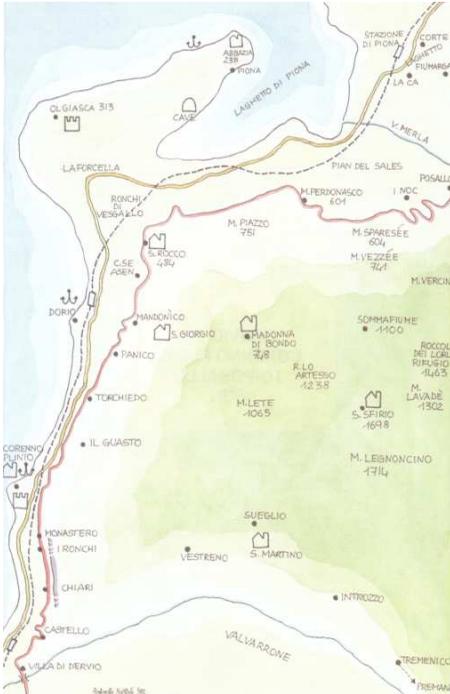
After running along the Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrow, the path climbs down into Bellano. Here you will find a bridge that stands over the Orrido, one of the most famous gorges in Lombardia.

Proceeding on, you arrive to Lezzeno's sanctuary, that stand out above everything, then to Orio, and finally to Dervio, final destination of this stage.



*"Orrido"
In Bellano*

4° STAGE: Dervio - Piantedo

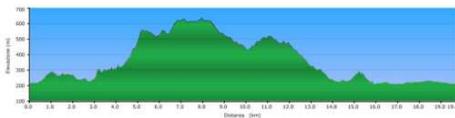


DATA SHEET

HEIGHT DIFFERENCE: 595 m
 LENGTH: 15.6 km
 TIME: 5.20 hrs.
 TRAIL DIFFICULTY: T/E

Share -out: 215 m ASL
 Share of Arrival: 210 m ASL
 Maximum altitude: 635 m above sea level

Elevation Profile



From Dervio, crossing the S. Quirico bridge over Varrone river you have to climb up to the hamlet of Castello.



Dervio

Then, following a paved road and passing along an ancient monastery, you have to climb down into Corenno Plinio, one of the most genuine villages of the lake area.



The village Corenno Plinio

Through a slight slope you reach Torchiedo and then Mondonico, an ancient rural village. From here the path cuts across the hillside toward the little hamlet of San Rocco, with its little church. From the small square, arranged as a Belvedere,

you can appreciate the beautiful view of Dorio; you can also see the Olgiasco peninsula and the rocky juts off Vesgallo. You can fill up your bottle with fresh water thanks to a little fountain, and you can rest here for a while, eating a snack at one of the tables placed in the surroundings.



Panoramic view from St Rocco's church

The paths climb up, following the sides of Mount Legnone and pointing towards Mount Perdonasco and Mount Sparesse. Then it arrives to the little church of Our Lady of the Mountains.

From here, a dirt road goes down to Posallo; then you have to cross Perlino stream. Passing through a **thin woods**, you climb up to S. Rocco church; going down from here, you will reach Inganna river.

From here you can also go up to the tower of Fontanedo, located on a grassy terrace opened on the North side of Mount Legnone.



*Village Fontanedo with tower of XIV century
(Colico)*

Now you have to follow the road that slightly descends towards Chiaro, Chiarello and Curcio.

After the B&B “Casa del Viandante”, the path passes over the highway; at the crossroad, you have to take the paved road on your left.

You also have to take the road on your left, which slightly descends, at the following crossroad.

After passing some houses, the path now dirt, climbs up through

the woods, and then arrives to a panoramic point.

From here the path becoming wider, leads you to a fir-tree shaded glade where there is the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Valpozzo.

On the left of the Church, a bridle-path goes down to the paved road that links Colico and Piantedo; here, at a small chapel devoted to Virgin Mary, the Wayfarer’s Path come to its end.



*Sanctuary Our Lady of Valpozzo in
Piantedo*



By The Office of tourism promotion

Municipality of Abbadia Lariana