

BICYCLE TOURING

Bicycle Touring means witnessing the countless destinations with a slow and a sensorial approach. Enjoy incredible panoramas that suddenly appear. Along the towpath of the **Adda** River or the **Martesana** Canal you will discover the hidden coves and the wonderful landscapes that surround our territory.

Itinerary #1: From Trezzo to Lecco along the banks of the Adda River



Distance: 34 Km from Trezzo to Lecco (17.5 km from Trezzo to Brivio)

Difficulty: Medium

Fund: Mixed

Type of bike: Mountain Bike

Suitable for children: No, if they are too young

Notes: Considering the length of the route (68 km round trip), it is advisable to split it into two steps: Trezzo-Brivio and Brivio-Lecco.

Main stages: Visconteo Castle, Tacconi Hydroelectric Power Plant, Esterle Plant, Bettini Plant, locks of Adda river, Sanctuary of Madonna della Rochetta, information point and restaurant *Adda di Leonardo* Ecomuseum, San Michele Bridge in Paderno d'Adda, Semenza Plant, ferry of Imbersago, bridge of Brivio, historical centre of Brivio with its famous castle, Lake of Olginate, Abegg Silk Museum in Garlate, Lake of Garlate, Lecco.

Route:

The route starts on the northern outskirts of Trezzo, lapping the old power stations that first brought the current to Milan; then you will reach the rapids of Adda river, an unusual and incredible landscape at just 30 km away from Piazza del Duomo. This first cycle path runs along the banks observed by **Leonardo da Vinci**, who first designed the canal of Paderno in order to cross the rapids and transport goods and people from Valtellina to Milan. Works made in the eighteenth century and now in disuse, however, are clearly visible at the side of the path. Leonardo here set the famous painting *The Virgin of the Rocks*.

After passing the rapids, you can admire the mountains of Bergamo and Lecco in the background. After reaching Brivio, a charming village full of restaurants, the route continues to Olginate and then to Garlate. For those wishing to cycle to Lecco (with sections not for cyclists only) continue beyond the lakefront of Olgiate, then reach Pescate and the Visconti bridge of Lecco (cited in the *Promessi Sposi* romance), cross the Adda river and keep the left to reach the lakefront of Lecco.

On the way back, you can visit the interesting historical centre of Trezzo or cycle to **Crespi d'Adda**, one of the most interesting and best preserved historical workers' villages in Italy, and a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Continuing along the towpath of the Martesana canal, you will reach Vaprio d'Adda where you can see the terraced gardens of Villa Melzi d'Eril, where Leonardo stayed for a long period.

Km Route

- 0.0 From Villa Appiani, reach the towpath of the Adda river and go north
- 5.0 Esterle hydroelectric power plant, beginning of the canal of Paderno
- 6.5 Bertini hydroelectric power plant, Porto d'Adda
- 7.3 Beginning of the rapids
- 7.6 Beginning of locks of the Adda river, Sanctuary of Madonna della Rochetta
- 9.8 End of the rapids
- 10.2 San Michele Bridge of Paderno
- 13.0 Imbersago, Leonardo Ferryboat
- 17.5 Brivio
- 26.0 Olginate
- 28.5 Garlate
- 30.0 Pescate
- 32.5 Lecco, Visconti Bridge (cross the river)
- 34.0 Lecco, lakefront and city centre

<http://www.saltainsella.it/ADDA.htm>

<https://www.in-lombardia.it/en/tourism-in-lombardy/tourism-lecco/lecco-martesana-canal>

Itinerary #2: From Trezzo to Milan along the banks of the Martesana Canal



Distance: 38 Km from Trezzo to Milan

Difficulty: Easy

Fund: Mixed

Type of bike: All

Suitable for children: Yes

Notes: A road parapet protects the entire route; pay attention to the intersections with busy roads and the small sections of local roads

Main stages: Sanctuary of Concesca, Vaprio D'Adda, the Manor of Conti Simonetta (now called Villa Castelbarco), Villa Melzi d'Eril in Vaprio where Leonardo stayed, the House of the Water's Guardian (ex custom of Ducky of Milan), the villas and the terraced gardens alongside the canal of Vaprio, the wooden wheel of Gropello, Cassano d'Adda, Inzago, Gorgonzola, Cernusco sul Naviglio, Vimodrone, Milan.

History: The Martesana Canal, which was designed by Leonardo da Vinci and finally completed in 1496 under the guidance of Ludovico il Moro, starts in Trezzo, near the Sanctuary of Concesca and ends in Milan after 38 Km. The route runs alongside the ancient Roman road (the current SS11 Padana Superiore) which crossed the Adda river with two branches: at Vaprio and at Cassano. Francesco Sforza ordered the construction of the canal in 1475 for navigation and irrigation purposes. In 1777, after the opening of the canal of Paderno -built to overcome the rapids of Adda- the connection between Milan and Lake Como became possible. Originally, the Martesana Canal followed the route of the current Via Melchiorre Gioia up to the San Marco locks where it joined the inner circle and then the other canals, allowing the closure of the entire system, from Adda to Ticino. Starting from 1968 the canal was covered in in Cassina de Pomm', however today you can see the basin of Saint Marc near Via Solferino. The boats sailing the canal reached Milan in seven and a half hours and returned to Trezzo in twelve hours helped by two pulling horses.

On the way back, you can visit the interesting historical centre of Trezzo or cycle towards Lecco along the towpath of the Adda river.

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http://www.saltainsella.it/Naviglio_Martesana_pista_ciclabile.htm

<https://www.piste-ciclabili.com/itinerari/207-milano-cassano-dadda-trezzo-sulladda-naviglio-della-martesana>