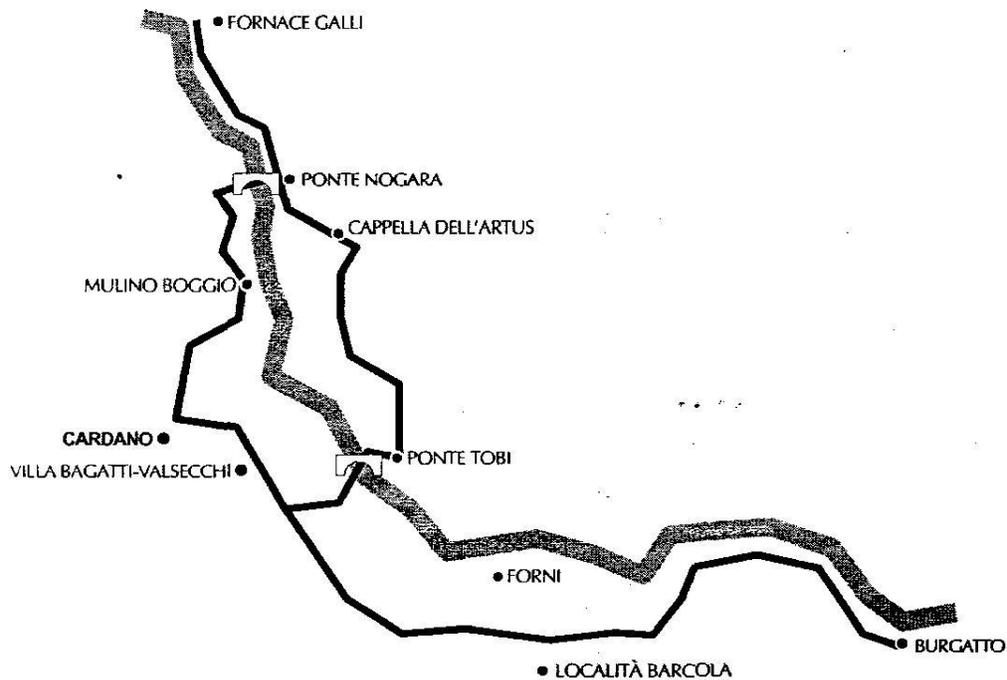


Val Senagra – a taste of industrial history

This route takes us on a journey back in time, through historical mills, silkworks and furnaces, to get a sense of the industries that, until the middle of the 20th century, exploited the power of the River Senagra.



This route 'proper' gets going in the Burgatto quarter of Menaggio, where some old silk factories are sited. You can either leave a car here or get here on foot from the centre of Menaggio. From Piazza Garibaldi, go up to the end of Via Calvi, cross over the main road, and go up Via Caronti, which runs along the left-hand side of the church of San Stefano.

Turn right at the end of the street and, after about 30 yards, take the little cobbled street uphill to the left towards the Castello, an important defensive bulwark until it was destroyed by the Grigioni in 1523. There are still some powerful-looking perimeter walls remaining, and looking up from the town below you can distinctly see the shape of the castle, now converted into houses.

Keep going to the end of Via Castellino da Castello, where, having passed the church of San Carlo (with its sail-shaped bell-tower) you arrive at the road that goes from Menaggio to Plesio. Cross over the road and proceed right on the pavement in the direction of Plesio. As soon as you have passed the Albergo Loveno, take the stone steps on the left that take you back onto the road, and go left for about 35 yards.

When you reach the hairpin bend, leave the tarmaced road and take the cobbled track to the left, going down towards Burgatto. At the end of this cobbled stretch, you can see the former silk works, after which you cross the little bridge and set off on the footpath, which, 30 yards ahead, sets off to the right (near the old Enel power plant) and goes off into the

wood. Climbing gradually away from the river, we cross over a wooded slope and start to come down again towards the Sanagra river, where we find the footbridge that, once we have crossed it, takes us to the Orrido, the ravine.

Disregarding the bridge, we carry on along the footpath which, going under an old stone railway bridge, takes us to Cascina Ginetto. Have a look around this little rural building and then carry on to the left. Along this path we come across a little gate – don't forget to close it after going through! Here we reach the Barcola hamlet, near the agriturismo of the same name. This is a good place to stop for lunch.

Carry on along the lane for 25 yards or so, and then turn right on the cobbled path until you reach another junction, that leads right towards Tobi.

Go down as far as the river, and cross over the stone bridge to go back up to the plain, following a stretch of the *Romantic Way*, around the wooded estate of the Bagatti Valsecchi Villa.*

Leaving the chestnut wood, take the cobbled path on the left, passing close to the Cappella dell'Artus, and going back down to the river, to the Nogara Bridge.

At this point join the path that goes off to the right to reach the Galli Furnace, an ancient works that used to manufacture bricks and roof tiles. Having taken a look, go back to the Nogara Bridge, and cross over, walking along the side of the old Erba Silk Factory and a derelict mill. Then go on to take the first path that goes off to the left, which, following along the side of the Senagra for a good way, takes us as far as Mulino Boggio (the Boggio Mill), the most ancient of all the mills along this river.

The route returns then to Grandola ed Uniti, in the hamlet of Cardano, and winding through the alleyways of this village, we end up at the little square outside the Villa Bagatti Valsecchi. From here the route goes on along the cobbled track to arrive back at the junction where we headed off towards Tobi. This time we go straight, to arrive back at Barcola, from where we head back the way we came to get back to Burgatto.

Notes

Itinerary: Burgatto – Barcola – Tobi – Ponte Nogara – Fornace Galli – Ponte Nogara – Mulino Boggio – Cardano – Barcola – Burgatto.

Time needed – allow 2 hours 20 minutes

Change of level – 150m

Level of difficulty – easy

Blue signs

All year round

- At this point you could walk down to the state road from Menaggio to Porlezza to get the C12 bus back to Menaggio.