



## THE ANCIENT REGINA STREET

You can find this point of interest in Path1 - Stage 2

### DESCRIPTION

*(Ambra Garancini)*

The name given to this street represents the ancient route which, following the western shore of Lario, put into connection Como to the Valchiavenna during the Roman times and earlier the plain of Milan with the Valchiavenna. Here through the street Francisca, the route reached Chiavenna, the starting point for reaching the mountain passes to go in the direction of Raetia.

It was created as a branch road of the ancient tracks and as a local connection and support, only second to the more important lake road. The name of "strada" Regina ( that is to say "strada regia", causeway- *strata* - main street, public street) – used afterwards-is documented for the first time in the year 1187. Together the Lario ( river road, shipping way, soldiers and merchants roads) and the Regina street(driveway, muletrack, crossway) used for the local trafficks has represented a true Lario system for centuries, that is to say a structured net of routes which point to the North, to the mountain passes and to the south to Milan. This net was the road junction of the Po valley that has Como as barycentre, (the military and business centre more easily connected to Milan), and as axis the western shore of the Lario, because geographically convergent on Como.

During the centuries the Regina street became more and more important and during the Middle Ages was protected by the inhabitants of the lake. The importance given to the street was second to the lake road, because the difficult morphology of the Lario shores blocked its extension. Starting from the 17<sup>th</sup> century the handover of the Milano area to Spain and after to Austria brought to the traffic shift to the eastern shore of Lario, because of the need to have quicker connections between Milan and the House of Habsburg. The system Lario of the western shore, which had highlighted the history of the Lario lands, became secondary and gave its role to the axis Lecco - Colico. Nowadays the ancient Regina street is restored and is partially walkable, in some parts like "Greenway of Lario". It touches some of the most beautiful landscape of the Lario - in Cernobbio it coincides partially with the axis of Plinio street - and is waiting an appropriate acknowledgement as cultural route at a European level.