



CERNOBBIO – PATH 1 – FISHERS, QUEENS, AND SILK WEAVERS

STAGE 4 – FROM THE ANCIENT BORDERLINE OF THE THREE MUNICIPALITIES TO VILLA BERNASCONI

INFORMATION

Departure Place Cernobbio, the ancient borderline of the three municipalities

Arrival place Cernobbio, Villa Bernasconi

Kind of route Urban

Total length 900 metres

Time on foot 15 minutes

Difficulty Tourist

Point of interest “The Cittadella della seta” (Citadel of Silk) , “Villa Nuova o Gastel” (New Villa or Gastel) , Villa Erba, Villa Bernasconi

Rise Almost non-existent

Maximum Altitude 212 metres above sea level

Paving material Asphalt, porphyry, tiles, unsurfaced ways

Public means of transport used to reach the departure point Yes, see the bus websites

Public means of transport from the arrival point Yes, see the bus websites

Parking at the departure point Yes in Libertà street

Description

After 10 metres we cross the street and at our right we enter the narrow and peaceful Manzoni Street, which, shrinking after the crossover with Gianolini Street, drops entering- at the left side- Aquileia Street where there is Piazzale del Cimitero (Piazzale dei Caduti). In this area, and for the ending part of the route, the walk crosses “**la cittadella della seta**”, that is to say the area where, at the turn of the 20th Century, the silk plants owned by the engineer Davide Bernasconi of Milan stood. We walk on the right sidewalk of Aquileia Street up to the point where, always taking the right, we drop through a short slide protected by a banister till a big parking behind the City. It is important to notice , just after the parking, the high chimney in terracotta tiles “il caminum”, the only symbol of the silk plant Bernasconi who stood in this area. We cross the short carriageable road to the park, we walk along it for a short stretch on its right, along a protected and tiled route and on the left side, we enter directly a little public garden, through a short path where, at the beginning of 21st century, the “luogo della memoria” has been set up: a circular space delimited by benches with at its center a flower bed decorated with a street lamp. In the flower bed an iron manufactured article , made by the sculptor Riccardo Mantero, remembers the victims of the nazi-fascism; other 11 ones, placed to delimit the circular space, remember some characters of that period linked to the territory or to the terrorism victims. With our backs to the little garden we go to the back entrance of the city hall – on the left side we walk- first residence of the engineer Davide Bernasconi and left to his son in 1906. Going along the back side of the City hall, we walk through an alley made of tiles delimited by palms in the margins of onsite car parking at the city hall); on the left side, begins Largo Luchino Visconti, crossed by Regina street. On the opposite street of Largo we can see the adjacent entrances of two other wonderful villas of Cernobbio: **Villa Nuova or Gastel** on the left side and **Villa Erba** on the right side. At the end of the palm alley we turn in Cinque Giornate Street, where is the “Asilo Infantile Bernasconi” realized in 1881 with the important contribution of Bernasconi . We keep the right side of the street, observing on the left side the so-called “Casone” built always by Bernasconi for his workers at the beginning of the 20th Century. After about 100 meters, on the right side, we meet the parish church of S. Giuseppe (built at the beginning of the sixties of the previous century basing on the project of the architect Manouk Manoukian) and we cross Cinque Giornate Street in order to enter the

private Bernasconi street. This street is closed in the center and on the right side by two liberty gates in wrought iron which are always closed; it is possible to enter it from the gate placed on the left side which is always open (pay attention to the stake placed in the middle of the route). After about 100 meters there is a mobile barrier which can be bypassed on the left paying attention to the two stakes placed one two meters before the barrier and the other one, after 50 cm. At about the end of the private Bernasconi Street, on the left side, we can still see a building which one time belonged to the Tintoria Allamel, after bought by Bernasconi and at the end of the years thirties converted in council houses. We lead to a recess of Regina Street used as a parking, from where we can admire the wonderful profile of **Villa Bernasconi** in Liberty Stile. Further, on the left side, we can see the bourgeois house which one time hosted the prefectures and the warehouses of Bernasconi Industries and today seat of the public library, of the “Spazio Giovani”, of the Association Scout CNGEI and of the “Scuole Secondarie di Primo Grado”.