



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

STAGE 2 - FROM BELINZAGHI SQUARE TO THE GIARDINO DELLA VALLE (THE GARDEN VALLEY)

INFORMATION

Departure place Cernobbio, Belinzaghi Square

Arrival place Cernobbio, Giardino della Valle

Route type Urban and tourist-excursion mixed route

Total length Approximately 1000 metres, of which 200 metres inside the Giardino della Valle

Time on foot 20 minutes

Difficulty Tourist-excursion hill route; the route of the Giardino della Valle is partially cobbled and partially is an unsurfaced way; for the most part is made by steps.

Point of interest Oratorio della Beata Vergine delle Grazie, Chiesa Prepositurale del SS. Redentore (Church of The Most Holy Redeemer), L'antica Via Regina (The Ancient Regina Route), Sant'Andrea (The Ancient Centre of St. Andrew), il Giardino della Valle (The Garden Valley)

Rise About 40 metres

Maximum altitude 250 metres above sea level

Paving material Asphalt, cobbled steps, dirt road, paved way

Public means of transport used to reach the departure point Yes in the surrounding areas see the bus websites

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

Parking at the departure point Yes, is to be paid

DESCRIPTION

Belinzaghi Square stands in front of the present Regina street; in the 17th century this was only a country road which led to the possessions of the Gallo Family, but with the time it became the principle arterial road of Cernobbio, getting the name of Regina Street, even though the street with Roman origins went through this stretch a little bit more upstream. The present Regina street ,alternate one-way walk-way, is an elegant and pleasant shopping street, flanked by many commercial and tourist enterprises which keep interesting details of the Liberty style or of the past periods, such as the “Albergo Giardino” building , built on the place where, at the end of the 18th century, stood the country villa of the Clerici family, enclosed by farmhouses and farmlands. We cross carefully Regina street where there are the zebra crossings (crossover regulated by a traffic light with no pedestrian call; it is important to cross with the back to the lake) and we reach immediately the **Oratorio della Beata Vergine delle Grazie**, placed at the beginning- right side- of Monte Grappa Street. Here, for hundreds of centuries, it is possible to worship an ancient and sweet figure of the “Madonna del Latte”, originally on the wall of the little chapel widened during the 17th century. We go up from Monte Grappa Street (asphalt pavement), among the perimeter fences of beautiful villas dating back to the turn of the 20th Century enclosed by neat gardens. After about 100 metres, we turn left in Plinio Street (asphalt pavement); we follow it for about 100 metres until we meet on the left side Luigi dell’Orto Street which, walking down 20 steps, goes to the entrance – on the right – of “Viale delle Rimembranza”. This alley, made up from the Ginkgo Biloba plants, with the typical fan out plants , was realized in the past century on a soul given by the heirs Dell’Orto in order to honour the dead. Going along the alley (with a gravel paving material) which develops on the back of the new parish church, we meet also the cave of the Madonna of Lourdes, built in 1929 basing on the project of the engineer Carlo Pediconi and we come out in Don Umberto Marmori Square (it is important to pay attention to the fact that the alley is closed by gates made of iron on the sides and a little bit further by a central chain which does not allow the access to the cars). On

Don Umberto Marmorì Square, with at its centre a little fountain, stands the façade of the **Church Prepositurale del SS. Redentore** dating back to the 20th Century, built by Luigi dell'Orto, already mayor of Cernobbio, in order to remember its golden wedding with Elisabetta Lucca and given from the heirs to the community. Keeping to the left side, we go along the church facade and always keeping to the left side, we go back in Luigi dell'Orto Street; we rise the 20 steps and, after keeping to the right, we enter Plinio Street, whose road layout, up to recent periods, probably coincides with the "**ancient Regina route**" an important axis of Roman origins which connected Como with the central part of Europe. We crossover Monte Grappa and we walk up the street for about 300 metres, up to **the ancient centre of St. Andrew**. Above the front door at 42 Monte Grappa Street, stands out a fresco painted again with St. Andrew (called "al Portello" and in the background stands out a lake landscape which reminds more the first basin of the Lake of Como than the one of Tiberade. From this point we enter, on the right, Adda Street with a swoop, which after a road elbow goes down (pay attention to the non linear asphalt paving material) for about 200 metres ,coming out in the valley of Garrovo Torrent. From there, a few metres, on the left, a gate made of iron allows the access to the **Giardino della Valle**, a narrow strip of grass all around the torrent bed realized by Lady Pupa Frati with perseverance and love in 30 years of work, consisting in the draining of the public soil. We go up through the main path of the Garden (pay attention to the narrow path partially cobbled and partially unsurfaced way, with many steps) going through a wooden bridge on the Garrovo torrent, in a green environment, pleasant and relaxing, in which during spring and summer there are flowers with thousands of colours. In some points several benches and chairs are placed for a stop, beside nice wooden sculptures representing animals, realized by the local sculptor Giosué (Giò) Aramini. The main plants are pointed out with appropriate tags in ceramic quoting their name, their scientific name and the place of origin. After going along a little lake with marsh plants, it is possible to admire some plants dedicated from the City to the people born in different years, with special poems. We arrive to the toolbox at the end of the garden, where it is possible to get out from this delightful green corner through a wooden gate which faces Monte Santo Street.