



VIA DEL FERRO (The Iron Trail)

DESCRIPTION

(Comunità Montana Valli del Lario e del Ceresio)

The Via del Ferro is a thematic itinerary that traces the ancient tracks that linked the valleys Cavargna and Albano (Lombardy) and Morobbia (Ticino), through the Motto della Tappa or Cima Verta (2078m asl.) and their mining and steelworks sites. These places preserve important vestiges of the activities of the past: settlements, charcoal, post stations and routes between mining areas (quarries, mines); artifacts related to the processing (blast furnaces, forges, hammers of water hammers) and the disposal of the products.

The iron industry in these valleys is attested starting from 8th century but begins to have a significant impact in the second half of XVth century, thanks to Muggiasca, wealthy merchant family of Como that settled in Bellinzona. In the last two decades of the XVIIIth century the steel industry purchases a more industrial character: the first blast furnace of Bergamasco and Norwegian type was built in Forni Vecchi in San Nazzaro, while in Val Morobbia the doctor Giovanni Bruni from Bellinzona rebuilt the steel complex of Carena.

The longest activity is placed in Valle Albano: the first company was founded in 1801 and, between 1842 and 1845, when it became Rubini Falck, Scalini & C., in this factory was built the first Italian rolling-mill for iron. The new Lombard Anonymous Company of Steelworks and Foundry dates back at 1906 and it was owned by the Falck group until the 80s of the last century.