



VOLTA LIGHTHOUSE

You can find this point of interest in Como 6 – Stage 3.

INFORMATION

Location: the lighthouse stands on Mount Tre Croci, in a panoramic position, overlooking the lake

Paving: the avenue and the steps of the access staircase are made of porphyry cubes; the square on which the lighthouse stands is paved in stone

Architectural barriers: to access the square on which the lighthouse stands there is a staircase of 69 steps. Inside the lighthouse 143 steps lead to the top to admire the view

Services: paid parking; Brunate – CAO line bus terminus

Leisure and catering: restaurants and bed and breakfasts in the surrounding area

Other information: for opening hours and costs see the website of the Municipality of Brunate

WARNING: access to the interior of the Lighthouse is closed at present (2026), waiting for restoration works.

DESCRIPTION

(by Lorenzo Marazzi)

The lighthouse, 29 meters high, was built in 1927, to commemorate the centenary of the death of the scientist Alessandro Volta. The initiative was taken by the Institute for National and International Competitions among the Post-Telegraph workers, but then, for financial reasons, it passed to the Institute of Postal Receivers. The project was by the engineer Gabriele Giussani, who chose Monte Tre Croci, in San Maurizio, above Brunate, as the most suitable place. It was chosen because it is overlooking Como and can be seen not only from the first two basins of the lake, but also from the Po Valley and Brianza. The choice, however, was not appreciated by the inhabitants of Moltrasio, on the western shore of the lake, who protested because the alternation of the tricolour light beams with which the lighthouse was equipped disturbed them at night. Once built, the Lighthouse was donated to the city of Como; the Municipality is still its owner. The burden of management was the cause of long discussions and for some time they charged for admission, with the result of a rapid decrease in the number of visitors. For several years the Lighthouse was turned off and the degradation of the building and the surrounding environment increased rapidly. With the rapid progress in the field of communications, the building was reduced to a convenient "base" for antennas of various types and in 1974 it was disfigured by a satellite television antenna, fortunately removed shortly after. Between 1961 and 1965 the Como Tourist Board carried out restoration work; in 2015, thanks to the intervention of the Rotary Club of Como, a technical update was carried out with the installation of an LED light system and so the Lighthouse resumed launching its tricolour lights into the night, alternating beams of white, red and green light.

At present (2026) the lighthouse is closed to the public and the tower is waiting further restoration works. However, the panorama on the lake from the base of the lighthouse is outstanding and the place is well worth a visit.