



ANCIENT PORT OF COMO*

* structure completely disappeared

You can find this point of interest in Como – Path 7 - Stage 1

INFORMATION

Location: the ancient port of Roman Como was located approximately in the area of today's Piazza Cacciatori delle Alpi

Flooring: the road surface of Piazza Cacciatori delle Alpi is varied: the part immediately in front of the facade of the church of the B. V. of Loreto of the Collegio Gallio is made of granite composite tiles; the part overlooking Viale Varese is asphalted, because there is access to a private underground car park; around the plants (conifers?) the surface is soil and grass. The pavement that surrounds it on two sides (along via Garibaldi and Viale Varese) is made of slabs of porphyry.

Access: the square can be accessed most easily from its two sides, i.e. from via Garibaldi and from an asphalted stretch that branches off from Viale Varese.

Architectural barriers: the part of the square immediately in front of the church's facade is marked out on the right (looking at the facade) by low stone bollards. On the left side it is marked out by two groups of three low iron posts holding chains; A raised flowerbed surrounding a tree was created between the two groups. In the square there are two stone vases surrounded by low semicircular benches also in stone.

Services: bicycle rental point in the square / via Garibaldi and in Viale Varese; parking available in Viale Varese, car park in Piazza Jasca and via Recchi / Viale Cavallotti; urban and extra-urban bus stops in the area; pharmacies in via Viale Varese and via Garibaldi; ATMs in Viale Varese, via Garibaldi, Viale Cavallotti and via Sant'Elia.

Leisure and Catering: a kiosk in the square; bars and cafes in the area; public gardens along Viale Varese with a dog area, benches and fountains and Parco Sant'Elia with the Labyrinth Rose Garden between via Recchi and via Sant'Elia

Other information: the part of the square in front of the church is not accessible to vehicles.

DESCRIPTION

Hidden under the current road surface of Piazza Cacciatori delle Alpi are the remains of the ancient port of Como, found when the underground car park was built in 2002.

The port dates back to the years immediately following the foundation of *Novum Comum* by Julius Caesar in 59 BC. and confirms the importance of the lake in choosing the site on which to found the Roman city.

The first port of Como was equipped with three parallel docks oriented north-east to south-west, made with limestone extracted from the Moltrasio quarries, with a technique that closely resembles that used in the city walls. The port docks faced from the west onto a wide and narrow lake inlet that ran along the walls and went south well beyond the western gate of the city.

Another factor that influenced the choice of the location of the port was the presence, just to the west, of the Cosia stream, connected to the port through a navigable canal. And the abandonment of the oldest port structure of Como is linked precisely to Cosia, since the frequent flooding of the stream soon led to the silting up of the inlet on which the port docks stood, making them effectively unusable.

The numerous architectural fragments discovered are displayed in the courtyards of the Archaeological Museum.