



WESTERN WALLS*

* structures partially disappeared

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

INFORMATION

Location: the western walls of the Roman city developed in a position halfway between the current Viale Varese and via Volta, but only a few sections have been found (see description)

Flooring: the road and its related pavement parallel to Viale Varese leading to the car parks is asphalted. The public garden is crossed by a path made of composite concrete tiles.

Via Cinque Giornate, Via Volta and the Passage Giardini di Ponente Luigi Zuccoli are paved in porphyry tiles; the first two have two stone-paved bands on the sides, the third one.

Services: bicycle rental point in Viale Varese; parking in the parking area along Viale Varese; urban and extra-urban bus stops available in the area; ATMs in Viale Varese; Pharmacy in Viale Varese; Como Municipal Library in Piazzetta Venosto Lucati

Leisure and Catering: bars and cafes in the area; public garden along Viale Varese with a dog area, benches and drinking fountain

DESCRIPTION

Along the western side of the city, only some sections of the ancient Roman walls are uncovered. They ran north-south, in a position halfway between the current Viale Varese and Via Volta, further back than the medieval boundary wall still visible today.

Following our route, looking out at the access gate to the underground garages of the building located in via Cinque Giornate 63, it is possible to see a stretch of walls approximately 10 meters below street level, partially covered by the overhang of the building above.

At the centre of the western side of the walls, more or less corresponding with the current Passage Giardini di Ponente Luigi Zuccoli, there was a door surmounted by a round arch, which constituted the *Porta Principalis Dextera* (Main Right Door) of the Roman wall and which gave access to the *Decumanus Maximus*, corresponding to the current Via Indipendenza. Of this door, now no longer visible, a section of the arch was found in 1926.

Other discoveries were made further south, mostly corresponding with the foundations of the internal facades of the buildings in via Volta 40, via Volta 64 - on the corner of via dell'Annunciata and in the Palazzo Mantero complex, in via Volta 72-74.

These uncovered sections show that the boundary wall of Roman Como was made out of regular blocks of Moltrasio limestone bound by mortar with an average width of 2 metres; it was interspersed, at regular distances, with rectangular towers - inserted into the masonry itself - at the base of which a plinth of 6 steps made the structure more stable.