



THE NECROPOLIS*

* structures completely disappeared

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

INFORMATION

Location: the Roman necropolis immediately outside the western walls of *Novum Comum* was located in the area between the current via Torriani, via Benzi and Viale Varese

Services: bicycle rental point in Viale Varese; parking in the dedicated 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 dog area, benches and drinking fountain.

DESCRIPTION

Since burials were not allowed within cities, the places chosen for the burial of the deceased were located along extra-urban road axes. Burials were often marked by posts or memorial stones bearing inscriptions regarding the deceased.

Immediately outside the western walls, one of these necropolises, developed as a series of funerary enclosures even with monumental tombs, was found in 2000 during the excavations for the construction of the complex currently occupied by the offices of the Lombardy Region, between via Torriani, via Benzi and Viale Varese.

This cemetery area ran alongside a road paved with gravel and small brick fragments to consolidate the road surface. This veered off just south of the *Porta Principalis Dextera* (Main Right Gate) of the city. This road, which passed north of the current Via Benzi, was 5 metres wide, had an east-west orientation and connected the city centre with the main road axis of the territory - the ancient Via Regina which connected Milan to Chur, running alongside the western shore of the lake.

Along this road, around the age of the Plinys, a first suburban neighbourhood arose, later also accompanied by a monumental building, recently interpreted as a temple dedicated to the imperial cult. It is interesting to remember that another temple in Como dedicated to the eternity of Rome and imperial glory (*Templum Aeternitati Romae et Augustorum*) had been started in the 1st century by Lucius Cecilius Secundus, father of Pliny the Younger and probably completed by the latter himself.

With the crisis of the 3rd century and the related political instability, the neighbourhood was progressively abandoned; instead, the necropolis area remained active until the beginning of the fifth century.

Archaeological excavations have revealed other necropolises from different eras, some of which are located along the Via Regina; another cemetery complex was found in via Carloni, along another route of the suburban road towards the south-east, under the commercial complex called “Dadone”, from which also comes the burial of a cymbal player (percussion instruments made up of two small plates metallic).