



EASTERN WALLS*

* structures partially disappeared

You can find this point of interest in Como – Path 7 - Stage 2

INFORMATION

Location: the eastern walls of the Roman city were located along the axis roughly coinciding with the current Via Bellini; traces of a few sections emerged, no longer visible today (see description)

Services: Car park in Viale Lecco / via Dante (515 parking spaces); city and suburban bus stops available outside the walled city; ATMs in via Giovio and in Piazza Duomo; Located in via Vittorio Emanuele; Pharmacy in via Vittorio Emanuele; Municipality of Como in via Vittorio Emanuele

Leisure and Catering: bars, restaurants and shops of various kinds in Viale Lecco, via Vittorio Emanuele; small garden with playground in via Vittorio Emanuele

DESCRIPTION

Along the eastern side of *Novum Comum* only some sections of the ancient Roman walls have emerged, which ran north-south, parallel to the current Via Vittorio Emanuele but more internally compared with the mediaeval boundary wall, roughly corresponding to the orientation of the current Via Bellini.

These tracts have reemerged over the years either through accidental discovery or archaeological excavation.

The first section to be rediscovered, towards the south, was identified at the end of the 19th century in the garden of Palazzo Giovio, the current site of the Archaeological Museum: behind the *nymphaeum* a hanging garden rests westwards towards the ancient Roman walls and eastwards towards the mediaeval ones.

In 2021, new excavations brought to light a stretch of walls and the base of a square tower in via Vittorio Emanuele II 115, in the property bordering the Museum to the north. These remains are similar to those present in the basement of via Carducci 9.

To the north, in via Perti, in 1962, a second tower came to light when demolishing the building called “Manica Lunga” behind the historic Palazzo Cernezzi (municipal headquarters). It was totally similar to the previous findings.

Finally, other sections of walls and defence towers emerged in via Porta 16 and in via Bellini 10.

From what we have been able to ascertain, even the construction technique of the eastern walls was characteristic of the oldest buildings in Como. This consists in the use of blocks of Moltrasio limestone bound by mortar and arranged along regular courses. Also, on this eastern side the boundary wall was punctuated by square-based towers placed at regular intervals.

However, there are no traces of a defensive wall along the north side where probably the presence of the lake itself constituted a defence against external assaults.