



AMPHITHEATRE*

* Partially disappeared structure

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

INFORMATION

Location: the ancient amphitheatre occupied the southern half of the block between Piazza Perretta, Via Cinque Giornate and Via Vitani in Como

Access: None

Services: Info Point in the Broletto in Piazza Duomo and in Via Albertolli; urban and suburban bus stops behind the Duomo, Piazza Verdi–via Bertinelli and on the lakefront; ATMs in Piazza Perretta, Via Albertolli, Via Fontana, Piazza Cavour, Via Boldoni; Pharmacies in Via Caio Plinio, Via Fontana, Piazza Perretta

Leisure and Catering: the area offers bars, cafes, restaurants, shops of various kinds

Warnings: pedestrian zone with limited traffic

DESCRIPTION

The amphitheatres, which have among the most famous examples the Colosseum in Rome and the Arena in Verona, were buildings intended for gladiatorial fights, both between differently armed men and with wild animals.

In Como its location was discerned from the profile of the blocks shown on the maps of the Teresian Land Registry, in particular for the building overlooking Piazza Perretta which originally had a curious curvilinear course.

Only in more recent years have archaeological excavations confirmed the existence of a building for public entertainment in the northern part of *Novum Comum*.

In 1990, 7 radial walls connected to granite (*ghiaandone*) pillars emerged in the building at Via Vitani 13, preserved to a height of 3.5 meters and set on a slab of stones and mortar resting on alder wood pilings. Twenty years later, at the corner of Via Muralto, Via Boldoni and Piazza Perretta, under the floor, another masonry slab came to light, connected to a pillar that delimited the north side of an underground corridor.

The ancient amphitheatre occupied the southern half of the block between Piazza Perretta, Via Cinque Giornate and Via Vitani, overlooking the east at the end of the ancient *Cardo Massimo*. The reconstruction of the lakefront of ancient Como, carried out thanks to the most recent scientific investigations, has highlighted how the amphitheatre of Como stood on a sort of peninsula overlooking the lake, in a position as envious as that of the current city stadium.

However, we know that entertainment and circus shows were not appreciated at all by Pliny the Younger, who, in a letter addressed to his friend Calvisio (IX, 6) openly deplored them, considering it much more useful and sensible to devote oneself to culture.