



THE *DECUMANUS MAXIMUS*

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

INFORMATION

Location: the *Decumanus Maximus* of the *Novum Comum* corresponded to the current Via Indipendenza

Paving: Via Indipendenza is paved with porphyry tiles, with two stone paved bands on its sides

Architectural barriers: -

Services: parking in the dedicated area along Viale Varese; Multi-storey car park in Viale Lecco / Via Dante (515 parking spaces); urban and suburban bus stops available at the ends of the street; ATM in Viale Varese; Pharmacy in Viale Varese; Municipal Library of Como in Piazzetta Venosto Lucati

Leisure and Catering: bars, restaurants and shops of various kinds; public garden along Viale Varese with dog area, benches and drinking fountain; small garden with playground between Viale Lecco and Via Dante

Other information: Via Indipendenza is in a pedestrian area with limited traffic, as well as the entire historic centre

DESCRIPTION

The *Decumanus Maximus* was one of the main axes of the city, crossing from east to west, connecting the two gates *Principalis Dextera* and *Sinistra*. Even today it is possible to walk along the street, corresponding to the current Via Indipendenza, from one end of the walled city to the other without interruption, although the profile of the buildings overlooking the street makes the route relatively sinuous, due to the various renovations carried out over time.

Along this axis stood important public places, including perhaps the Forum itself, and private homes belonging to high-ranking personalities. One of these houses has been identified in the former complex of San Colombano *in Balneo*, between Via Indipendenza and Via Diaz 60-62, where excavations have brought to light seven rooms of an ancient *domus* built between the first century BC and the first century AD. This *domus* was also used in later times and in one of the rooms in the second century AD a splendid polychrome mosaic was laid covering a previous *cocciopesto* (Roman cement) flooring, characteristic of an older building.

The nearby area of the former Cressoni Theatre (at the corner of via Indipendenza with via Diaz 77-89) has also proved rich with discoveries, with architectural and epigraphic elements that suggest the presence of important public spaces overlooking the ancient *Decumanus*. This is the place where in 2018 the so-called "treasure of Como" was found, consisting of a thousand gold coins accumulated and carefully hidden in the fifth century AD, in the turbulent period of the collapse of the Roman Empire.

The rising water of the lake and the presence of modern buildings, whose stability can be jeopardized by too extensive excavations, always makes it difficult to investigate the Roman levels of ancient Como, which generally emerge only from excavations of limited extent.