



Ticino Park . MILANO

## **THE TICINO PARK FROM THE PANPERDUTO DAMS TO THE VISITORS CENTER EX DOGANA AUSTROUNGARICA**

In the North of the Ticino Park, the river valley flows well embedded in the surrounding territory and dominated by the Ticino River also called “Blue River” and the riparian forests. The locality Panperduto, in the Municipality of Somma Lombardo (VA), an hydraulic hub full of history, from which the Industrial Canal and the Villoresi Canal, that brings water to the lands of Northern Milan originate, has been there for 130 years, dominating the waters with its own dams and canals. In 2015 the conservative renovation of the hydraulic guardhouse of the Dams of the Panperduto, a valuable historical building built in 1884, now used as a hostel, was completed. Here, it is possible to visit the historic barrier, the navigation basin, the fish ladder, and the museum of Italian-Swiss waters and to look at a landslide episode, today undergoing partially spontaneous re-naturalisation. The cycle path, that runs along the Industrial Canal allows you to easily reach Tornavento, a little village of Lonate Pozzolo (VA) (a short distance from Malpensa airport), renowned for its belvedere (from which you can enjoy a panoramic view of the Ticino Valley and, on clear days, of the Alps) and for the presence of the “Ex Dogana Austroungarica” a Visitor Centre of the Regional Park, a cultural site, with a shop where is possible to find the products with the Park brand, a concrete sign of sustainable agricultural practices. The Visitors Centre, located along the “open-air museum” Gaggio Way (it constituted one of the most frequented ways of communication with the Ticino Valley, since it linked the village of Lonate to the “port” on the river and to the mill of the same name), is located short-distance from the ecological corridor of Tornavento (green bridge, an element of defragmentation of the Malpensa highway) and from the moors of Malpensa and Lonate (the largest and most important in Lombardy), unique and rare ecosystem (now at risk of disappearance and an habitat of conservative interest) developed on poor and arid soils and having a high landscape value and a great ecological significance (with high-quality presence of fauna) and biogeographical (at the Southern limit of the distribution of the “European dry heaths” habitat).

A guided tour of the Panperduto facilities is proposed, combined with a bicycle excursion along the Industrial Canal to reach the “Ex Dogana Austroungarica” Visitor Centre (about 10 km), where you can taste typical local products. In the afternoon, a visit to the museum halls of the Visitor Centre and to the Gaggio Way heath. We will proceed with a visit to Tornavento to admire the belvedere, to the small church of Holy Mary in Binda in Nosate, of Lombard origin, and then to the meadows of Castano Primo, which are part of the landscape system of irrigation waters and of evergreen meadows that constitute historical testimony of a landscape widely diffused in the past in the Milan plain, and now limited to the Ticino Valley enough to be a candidate for the National Register of Historic Rural Landscapes. The visit will end in Bernate Ticino to view the re-naturalisation works related to a LIFE project of the Park (LIFE “Ticino BioSource”) and to the environmental requalification of the former Turin-Milan motorway detour, as compensation for the construction of the AC/AV Turin-Milan railway line.





Nature and society facing the Anthropocene  
challenges and perspectives  
for landscape ecology

**DESTINATIONS** Panperduto dams in Somma Lombardo (VA), Ex Dogana Austroungarica Visitors Center in Tornavento (VA), Castano (MI) and Nosate (MI)

**DATE** Wednesday July 3rd, 2019

**DEPARTING TIME** 8.00AM

**MEETING POINT** to be confirmed

**DURATION** approx. 10 hours (trips included)

**TRANSPORT** private bus

MIN. 30 MAX. 50 participants

**COST** € 120.00 per person

**SERVICES INCLUDED** transfer from/to Milan; guided tours of Panperduto dams, the Ex Dogana Austroungarica Visitors Center, Castano meadows and Nosate Church; bike rental; lunch

**LUNCH** at *Visitors Center Ex Dogana* with “Parco Ticino” label products

#### PROGRAMME

8.00 a.m. Transfer by bus from Milan

9.00 a.m. Meeting at Panperduto Dams, breakfast

9.30 a.m. Beginning of the visit of the structures, dam outlet, Italian-Swiss Waters Museum, Somma Lombardo landslide

11.00 a.m. Entrustment of the bicycle and start of the excursion

1.00 p.m. Arrival to the Visitor Centre of the Park Ex Dogana and light lunch buffet with typical products

2.00 p.m. Visit to the Visitor Centre of the Park museum halls and surroundings, moorland, Gaggio Way

3.30 p.m. Guided tour in Tornavento, Castano meadows, Nosate church, Bernate Ticino

5.30 p.m. End of the activity and departure for the return

**EXCURSION TYPE** group activity accompanied by nature guides of the Park and “specialists in the field”, with bike ride from Panperduto to the Visitors Center Ex Dogana Austroungarica (approx. 10 km)

**RIDING TIME** approx.. 90 minutes

**TYPE OF RIDE** dirt road/cycle inside the Ticino Park

**OTHER INFO** easy for everybody, children and seniors – no persons with motor disabilities  
We recommend dressing comfortable clothes and shoes. Bring change ti-shirt, sunscreen and sun cream against mosquitoes.

**EXCURSION COORDINATOR** Gioia Gibelli

#### INFO and CONTACTS

For **specific information regarding the contents of the excursion**, please contact

Gioia Gibelli [gioiagibelli@gmail.com](mailto:gioiagibelli@gmail.com)

For **information regarding the excursion registration** please contact

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