

Legenda

- ALTAVIA
- ITINERARIO DEL LAGO DI FIMON
- ITINERARIO DELLE QUATTRO VILLE DEL PALLADIO
- ITINERARIO LE MERAVIGLIE DELLA PIANURA BERICA
- LA CICLABILE RIVIERA BERICA
- ITINERARIO DELLA LIONA
- ITINERARIO DEL BISATTO
- ITINERARIO DEL BACCHIGLIONE
- STRADE PRINCIPALI
- CENTRI ABITATI
- INFORMAZIONI



Lungo l'itinerario della Liona nei pressi di Grancona
Along the Itinerary of the Liona - Grancona



Fondo europeo agricolo per lo sviluppo rurale: l'Europa investe nelle zone rurali

Nella Natura, Storia e Cultura.

Altavia dei Berici e Itinerari fluviali

Italiano

Arrivare nei Colli Berici

I Colli Berici si estendono a sud di Vicenza, raggiungibili e visitabili grazie ad una comoda rete viaria.

AUTO
Da Vicenza la panoramica strada provinciale SP 19 Dorsale Berica li attraversa all'interno; la strada SS 247 Riviera Berica -collegata all'autostrada A31 Valdastico Sud- li percorre nel versante est; le strade SR 11 Padana Superiore, la SS 500 e la SP 14 S. Feliciano -collegate ai caselli autostradali A4 di Montebellio e Montebello- li raggiungono nel versante ovest e meridionale.

TRENO
Fundamentale è la stazione di Vicenza, ma possono essere utili anche le stazioni locali di Grisignano di Zocco e Lerino dal lato Padova, e quelle di Lonigo, Montebello e Altavilla-Tavernelle dal lato Verona, specialmente per il servizio "Treno+bici".
Lo stesso Consorzio Pro Loco Colli Berici offre la possibilità di noleggio bici e servizio navetta dalle stazioni di Grisignano di Zocco e Vicenza.

IN AUTOBUS
Dal piazzale di fronte alla stazione ferroviaria di Vicenza e da viale Roma, degli autobus collegano Vicenza ad alcune località dei Berici prossime alla città (linee AIM n. 8-12-14), mentre dall'adiacente stazione delle Ferrovie e Tramvie Vicentine (FTV), varie corse di pullman raggiungono tutti i Comuni (linee n. 6-28-31-32-33).

MUOVERSI NEI COLLI BERICI
In un primo momento potrà sembrare piuttosto complicato, ma tenendo a mente alcune fondamentali direttrici sarà facile orientarsi.

La SS 247 Riviera Berica percorre e delimita da nord a sud il margine est dei Colli Berici. Da essa partono numerose strade secondarie che portano ai comuni più interni. Ugualmente la SP 500 delimita da nord a sud il margine ovest dei Colli. A sud i Colli sono delimitati dalla SP 14 S. Feliciano, che collega Noventa e Lonigo.

La suggestiva Dorsale dei Berici (SP 19) parte dalla Basilica di Monte Berico a Vicenza e si divincola poi sui Colli offrendo incantevoli scorci dei paesi e delle pianure sottostanti, con vista sino ai Colli Euganei. Da questa strada collinare si raggiungono inoltre tutti i comuni dei Berici.

Oltre alla macchina, i Colli Berici sono luogo ideale per essere visitati in moto, bicicletta e mountain bike, a piedi, a cavallo e per essere sorvolati in deltaplano.



Altavia in località S. Donato di Villaga
Walking in the Altavia - S. Donato di Villaga



Legenda

- ALTAVIA
- ITINERARY OF THE FIMON LAKE
- ITINERARY OF THE FOUR VILLAS OF PALLADIUM
- ITINERARY "THE WONDER OF THE BERICA PLAIN"
- THE RIVIERA BERICA CYCLING LANE
- ITINERARY OF THE LIONA
- ITINERARY OF THE BISATTO
- ITINERARY OF THE BACCHIGLIONE
- HIGHWAYS
- TOWNS
- i INFORMATION



Nella Natura, Storia e Cultura.

Altavia of the Berici and Blue Ways

English

Reach the Berici Hills

BY TRAIN
The main station is Vicenza, in the nearby other useful stations, especially for the service "train+bike", are Lerino and Grisignano di Zocco (direction Padua) as well as Lonigo, Montebello and Altavilla/Tavernelle (direction Verona). The Consortium offers the services of bike-rental and shuttle transfer from the train stations of Lerino, Grisignano di Zocco and Vicenza.

BY CAR
The SS 247 Riviera Berica -connected to the highway A31 Valdastico South-runs along the eastern side of the hills. The streets SR 11 Padana Superiore, the SS 500 and the SP 14 S. Feliciano -linked to the A4 highway's exits of Montebello and Montebello- cover the southern and the western sides of the hills. The striking Dorsale Berica (SP 19) passes through the hills. It starts from the Basilica of Monte Berico in Vicenza and then twists and turns on the hills, offering enchanting views of the towns and the plain below, with views up to the Euganean Hills. From this hilly road you can reach all the municipalities of the Berici.

BY BUS
From the square in front of the railway station of Vicenza and from Viale Roma the bus-service connects Vicenza to some of the municipalities of the Berici (lines AIM no. 8-12-14). From the adjacent station of Railways and Tramways of Vicenza (FTV), various coaches reach all the municipalities (lines no. 6-28-31-32-33).

In addition to car and motorbike, the Berici are the ideal place to be visited by bicycle, mountain bike, on foot and on horseback, along the trails and paths created and maintained by the Consortium. They may finally be overlooked in hang-gliding.



Altavia of the Berici and Blue Ways

The Berici are a macrossom only partly known and unfortunately only by few people, remaining still unknown to most people. They have nothing to envy to the most popular tourist destinations: the routes studied by us to discover them are partly immersed in a lush and sometimes wild nature and partly developed on quiet paths and streets with very low traffic. They are littered with art villas, oratories, churches and sites of undoubted importance, beauty and history create a spectacular frame. They run along valleys and fields that generate products of the highest quality that the local cooking tradition enhances, always following the seasonality. They run on banks and channels that collect water from the near hills but also from the further mountains.

We have enclosed in this publication 7 routes created by us, or already existing but kept by us, or that we simply kindly recommend. For convenience, we divided them into *blue ways* (along the canals) and *green ways* (up and down the hills), They are suitable for walkers, hikers, bikers and also for horse-riding. It is banned the use of motor-vehicles.

The lion's share is the AltaVia dei Berici (HighWay of the Berici), the main and solid backbone of the slow-tourism of the Berici and of the other green ways of the hills.

The Altavia of Berici Immerse yourself in the Berici

The AltaVia (literally HighWay - itinary nr.1) is a purely naturalistic route, divided into 11 sections, backbone of the slow-tourism and of the green ways of the Berici. It is designed for those who love to immerse themselves in nature, to deal with ups and downs, to observe flora and fauna, to discover typical rural structures, to admire solitary aedicule, calm fountains, small villages and remote districts, to know *covoli* and quarries, to enjoy views of marvelous beauty.

The project was born from the idea and the active commitment of the Consortium Pro Loco Berici and the municipalities of the Berici's area, first in line the Municipality of Villaga, for the historical and ethnographic rescue and recovery of the old streets (nowadays often paths in the woods). The intent is to create an integrated touristic plan for our hills: from the AltaVia start and are linked up all the other thematic itineraries developed in the Berici Hills, as well as the many naturalistic trails that already exist. Moreover, each municipality is free to establish a descent from the AltaVia to the downstream town.

Features:

-It is a route for hikers, bikers, horse-riders, while it is forbidden for motor vehicles;
- the total length is about 130 km, on local roads, plus possible descents to the downstream, such as the one already realized for Longare of 10 km;
- the route is deliberately the highest possible (in altitude) and in ring, in order to be able to depart and arrive at the same point;
- it touches the territory of 17 municipalities.

Each stage is designed to be accessible and reachable by car. Thus, it is up to the visitor to decide the length and the duration of the itinerary, and to choose to be accompanied by a local guide, to equip himself with a printed or a virtual map (GPS maps available at http://mytrekking.org or www.colliberici.it) or simply to follow the signs. The duration of each stage is meant for hikers.

Stage 1
Total km: 13.5 without deviation
Duration: 3.5 hours without long stops
Difficulty: medium - very scenic, different artistic places to visit
Starting point: pier of Fimon Lake (Arcugnano)
Arrival point: Contrà Giacomelli (Longare)

From the old pier, with ample parking, skirt the lake for almost all its entirety, then start to rise in altitude along Strada delle Grancare, passing next to the ancient Ca' Teliونا (locality Favaretti).

From here, taking the left (** Deviation nr. 1) you could go down through Santa Tecla road to reach and visit Costozza and Lumignano of Longare.

On the contrary, if you proceed along the main itinerary, keep the right and pass next to the church of St. Rocco. Go through the municipalities of Longare and Arcugnano and reach the "Crosara de Osela" crossroads along the way Longara-Villabalzana which leads to Pianezze (on either sides, possibility of parking). Through Via Castellaro you come again into Longare, arriving in Contrà Giacomelli with the distinctive courtyard. Here also the Deviation n. 1 rejoins the main itinerary through the path that goes from the "Brutta Riva" (literally Bad Bank) of Lumignano.

**** Deviation no. 1**
Total km: 10
Duration: 3 hours without stops for important visits
Difficulty: medium – easy descent but difficult rise, very scenic, numerous artistic places to visit
Starting point: crossroad between Strada S. Rocco and Strada S. Tecla (Longare)
Arrival point: Contrà Giacomelli (Longare)

The deviation allows you to do a longer and more scenic segment. At the crossroad between Strada Favaretti and Strada S. Rocco turn left to take Strada S. Tecla and pass along the Pluto base. Doing so, you reach Costozza, the so called "Pearl of the Berici". Here you can visit the church of St. Mauro, the Oratory of St. Anthony Abbot, Da Schio Villa, the rocky houses, the church and fountain of St. Sophia, Villa Kolia and much more. Then move to Lumignano, famous for the peas and rock-climbing: people from all over the world come here to enjoy the quality of the coralline cliffs and the beauty of the landscape. Take Strada Priare Vecchie and the Brutta Riva (literally "Bad Bank"), a speaking name about the difficulty but of incredible beauty, to rejoin the main route in Contrà Giacomelli.

Stage 2
Total km: 16
Duration: 4.30 hours without stops for important visits
Difficulty: medium – woods and lush nature
Starting point: Contrà Giacomelli (Longare)
Arrival point: Locality Scudeletta (Barbarano Vicentino)

Following the path nr. 1 of Monte delle Rose, leave the municipal road and enter in the forest of the Berici's cherries. Characteristic are the farmsteads on the edge of the forest. After outdoing a beautiful shrine, continue until locality Sermondi, pass a church of the 18th century, and continue until reaching Nanto, known for the ham, the oil and the truffe. Pass the fountain of Trene and arrive at the summit of the mountain to admire the famous prehistoric caves of Trene and the fortification of Balza (inscription dated to 1509).

Continue along the steep Strada dello Zimo and enjoy the wide and spectacular chiasm created by the Scaranto Degora, while in Contrà Tomasetto you can discover a gipsan and secular chestnut. Going further, you come to a view of the highest peak of the Berici: Monte Alto (literally High Mount – 440 m). Then you enter in the territories of Mossano (with a descent into the town you can visit the mills, the cave of St. Bernardino and the so-called Prisons) and of Barbarano Vicentino, birthplace of the Tai Rosso. Pass the old church of St. John, which was sold in 1954 along with the monastery to the Transmission's Command of the Italian Army, and begin the descent until you reach locality Scudeletta.

Stage 3
Total km: 19
Duration: 5 hours without stops for important visits
Difficulty: medium in the former section, easy in the latter one – lush nature
Starting point: Locality Scudeletta (Barbarano Vicentino)
Arrival point: Pozzolo plateau - west side (Villaga)

Start from locality Scudelletta, go along Strada St. Martin. We recommend you to stop to admire one of the most original devotional shrine of the Berici, erected by the peasant's piety. Every niche indicates a cardinal point: the Redeemer in direction of Venice – east; the Madonna of Monte Berico in direction of Vicenza – north; St. Bertilla towards Brendola - west; St. Anthony towards Padua - south. Entering the municipality of Villaga, famous for the "*ampusola*" (rapunzel) and the peas, you pass in front of the caves and the hermitage of St. Donato, where there was a Benedictine monastery carved into the rock.

At the crossroad called Crosaron (where you can also eventually leave the car), go down to the crossroad Boccadorno, eastern gateway to the plateau of Pozzolo. We are now in the territory of Sossano; after Monte Costorello, which deserves a climb to the top to enjoy the view over the Val Lione, you come back in the territory of Villaga and then you come into San Germano dei Berici. Here you can meet many fountains that the Pro Val Lione has flagged, reporting the old toponym. Along the way you find also the most beautiful panoramic viewpoint over the Val Lione: the cross of Mount Lupia. Going on along the ridge, you finally come to the western entrance of the Plateau of Pozzolo.

Stage 4
Total km: 12.5
Duration: 3 hours without stops for important visits
Difficulty: medium – many fountains, caves and woods
Starting point: cemetery of Pozzolo di Villaga
Arrival point: fraction Soghe (Arcugnano)

Take the route from the cemetery of Pozzolo and climb up to Zovencedo, the realm of the stone and of the fountains. Unavoidable is a visit to the Museum of the Stone in the Sengia quarry and to the rocky house "La Sengia", both of property and re-valued by the Municipality. In the nearby stand also the castle of Zovencedo, remembered also by the Barbarossa, and the house of the lady witch of the Berici. Then, go through the valley that runs in the territories of Barbarano, Mossano and Arcugnano until you reach the locality of Soghe.



Blue Ways

2) ITINERARY OF THE FIMON LAKE
Starting point: Longara di Vicenza, along the Riviera Berica cycling lane.
Length: 16 km.
This route, of low difficulty, allows you to explore the Fimon lake and to appreciate the landscape, the contours and soft colors of which vary in different seasons. The ideal starting point is LONGARA. From here, after only 400 m, leave the cycling lane Riviera Berica, cross the SP 247 Riviera Berica, and then take Strada di Longara and, after a while keeping to the left, Strada del Tormeno (1.4 km). A little further (km 2) starts the bike path that takes us up to the Fimon lake, crossing the town of TORRE DI ARCUGNANO. Once you get in the near of the lake, more precisely in via Boeca, turn right. From here the route conforms itself to those already marked by the Veneto Region as I1 and E7, but you have to carry out the itinerary in reverse. We suggest to fill the entire circumnavigation of the basin, equipped with didactic notes, sailing school, bar and pizzeria (at around km 5), thoroughly enjoying the luxuriant nature. At km 9.4 there is also the bayou of the lake, the Debba canal, with an innovative system of lifts for fishes.

From here come out again in via Boeca, turn right and follow for a while the Debba canal. Then, a short rise brings you to the bifurcation with the AltaVia; continue down through via Pallanza, and to the house of the lady witch of the Berici. After a while, turn into Strada delle Grancare) and flank the entire mountain. At km 12.4 you come across for a while the Debba canal, which subsides into the hill and comes out in Longare into the Bisatto. Continuing on Strada delle Grancare at km 15, you can admire the *Commenda* of Longara on the left and finally you come back again on the SP 247 and on the Riviera Berica cycling lane from where you started.

and to the right the river Guà. At km 6.8 pass the Guà on a bridge in order to be able to continue along the cycling lane until LONGO. Just before via S. Giovanni/via G. Pontedera that leads into the center of LONGO, the cycle path ends (km 7.5), but you can continue along the bank, well maintained although not yet equipped. Continue until Bagnolo (km 11), reaching our second Palladian treasure: **Villa Pisani-Bonetti** (1542) included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1996, open to the public.

The ambitious project of Palladio was that to build a country house appropriated for the refined tastes of the Pisani brothers but, at the same time, to give a concrete and rational answer to the need of organization of the rural outbuildings. The result is a complex with an unified design, in which the main house, the stables, the barchessa, the dovecotes and the park, all lay out logically and strategically overlooking the Guà. At the same time the practical needs of the farm life are translated into new forms and new languages inspired by the classical architecture: as a Roman temple, the villa stands on a high pedestal that gives impetus to the building and contains the service areas.



Leave the Guà, passing alongside the Church of Bagnolo, which originally was the oratory of the villa, and take Strada Spessa, to be proceeded completely (5 km long) admiring the church and the Villa Bevilacqua. To our right now runs another and for now still small drain: the Ronego, which pours from the hills of Orgiano. While the SP 5 makes a sharp bend, our route (we are now at the km 16.60") goes straight on along a dirt but large patch that, after passing the LEB station (an underground channel for irrigation), leads us back to a paved road (via Ronego – km 18.6). Follow the road, turning left into via XI February and then right into via Vela. At the km 21.4 you reach the center of ASQUANO. Taking via Roma after a while you get back on the Ronego. Cross a bridge and ride along the right bank up to the km 22.8, then change bank again thanks to a country bridge without parapets. From here the road becomes white until km 26, where, at the intersection with an aedicule dedicated to St. Anthony, you leave it to follow the bank up to km 26.7, at the entrance of POJANA MAGGIORE. Although the route continues to the right, it is strongly recommended to make a short diversion by turning left into the center of the town (SP XI) until you reach the third villa on our itinerary: **Villa Pojana** (1546), listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1996, open to the public.

Stage 5
Total km: 10
Duration: 3 hours without stops for important visits
Difficulty: medium in the former part, difficult the latter – many fountains, districts, charming nature
Starting point: fraction Soghe (Arcugnano)
Arrival point: locality Acque (Grancona)

Start from locality Soghe of Arcugnano, reach the church of St. Gottardo (Zovencedo) and head toward the Valle del Gazzo (Gazzo valley), where there are still some active quarries and where they were planted new vines and olive groves. Proceeding to Grancona, after the fountain of Monte go down through Strada degli Scaranti, rugged, bumpy and pebbly, until you reach Contrà S. Antonio, locality Acque di Grancona, almost flat, close to the provincial road Bocca d'Ascesa (starting point of the itinerary of the Lionea).

Stage 6
Total km: 9
Duration: 2.5 hours without stop at the museum
Difficulty: quite easy – very green, in contact with the nature
Starting point: locality Acque (Grancona)
Arrival point: locality Monticello (Lonigo)

Cross the provincial road Bocca d'Ascesa and Strada delle Sengele with the small church of St. Anthony. Beyond the district and the fountain of Menin, reach the fraction Corubio with the homonymous fountain. Skim the cemetery of Grancona and arrive in Piazza Roma with the parish church of St. Peter, built on the ruins of a bishop's house. We suggest a small deviation to visit the Museum of the rural life. Proceeding along the main route, through a series of climbs you reach a high-level environment that leads to the end of the stage, in the locality of Monticello di Lonigo.

Stage 7
Total km: 7
Duration: 2 hours
Difficulty: medium – very scenic the former part, military servitude in the latter
Starting point: Locality Monticello (Lonigo)
Arrival point: Strada Cà Vecchie (Alonte)

Cross the provincial road Bocca d'Ascesa and Strada delle Sengele with the small church of St. Anthony. Beyond the district and the fountain of Menin, reach the fraction Corubio with the homonymous fountain. Skim the cemetery of Grancona and arrive in Piazza Roma with the parish church of St. Peter, built on the ruins of a bishop's house. We suggest a small deviation to visit the Museum of the rural life. Proceeding along the main route, through a series of climbs you reach a high-level environment that leads to the end of the stage, in the locality of Monticello di Lonigo.

Stage 8
Total km: 12.5
Duration: 3 hours
Difficulty: medium – very scenic the former part, ups and downs in the latter
Starting point: Strada Cà Vecchie (Alonte)
Arrival point: Via Fontanelle (Grancona)

Starting from Monticello di Lonigo (Montorio) head towards the boundaries of the municipality of Orgiano. Walking through the path no. 45 of Orgiano and skirting the perimetral area of the great "powder magazine" of military property, you encounter the basis for paragliding and remains of trenches of World War II. After passing the entrance of the powder magazine, always following the path no. 45, you enter in the Municipality of Alonte. The stage ends in a clay court in Strada Cà Vecchie, with ample parking.

Stage 9
Total km: 9.5
Duration: 2.5 hours
Difficulty: medium – very scenic the first part, then challenging and uncomfortable climb, finally gentle descent
Starting point: Via Fontanelle (Brendola)
Arrival point: High/Old Brendola

Start from Via Fontanelle to go down until you reach Bocca d'Ascesa, real breaking point between the plain of Brendola to the left and the Val Lione that opens to the right. Cross the pass and head towards the territory of Brendola taking the path of "S. Vito e la Fontana dell'Orco" (no. 31). You encounter two groups of houses, the fountain Valentini, the Scaranto delle Grotte and then, after passing along an old disused and dangerous cave in locality Priare, continue until reaching Contrà Marzari, where awaits for you the refreshing fountain of the Lavo.

Stage 10
Total km: 8.5
Duration: 2 hours
Difficulty: medium – very steep the former part, ups and downs in the latter, ending with a gentle slope
Starting point: Contrà Marzari (Brendola)
Arrival point: Church of Perarolo (Arcugnano)

Start to get to high/old Brendola, a concentrate of villas and parks of great beauty. Once in Via Rocca dei Vescovi reach the Castle of Brendola that offers panoramic views on the immense plain below. Take the trail of the municipal mounts (no. 32) and enter in the territory of Altavilla until arriving at the church of Salve Regina, placed exactly on the border between Altavilla and Arcugnano. The section ends in the fraction of Perarolo di Arcugnano, in the forecourt of the church with an unusual octagonal bell tower.

Stage 11
Total km: 12.5
Duration: 3 hours
Difficulty: medium – flat the former part, ups and downs in the latter
Starting point: Church of Perarolo (Arcugnano)
Arrival point: Fimon Lake (Arcugnano)

Starting from the plaza of the Church of Perarolo take the trail no. 11 (Scaranti di Fimon) and follow the Dorsale dei Berici toward San Gottardo. Admire the ancient rocky constructions and the wonderful panorama to the west with the Rocca dei Vescovi (Fortress of Bishops) and the Lessini. Reach the beautiful village of Villa di Fimon at the foot of Mount Castellaro, with, at the center of a small square, the church of St. Rocco, once dedicated to Our Lady of the Snows. Going further you pass through the famous and verdant valley of the mills of Arcugnano. Interesting are the tracks left in the rock by the wheels of the carts that carried the large boulders of soft stone from the caves of Villabalzana-Soghe downstream. In short, then, you reach the Strada dei Carari that brings you finally to the end (and beginning) of the AltaVia, near the Fimon Lake.

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3) ITINERARY OF THE FOUR VILLAS OF PALLADIUM
Starting point: Meledo di Sarego, locality Paradiso.
Length: 49 km.
This itinerary has been designed for lovers of cycling and art. The main theme is Andrea Palladio, who brings us in a little less than 50 km to discover some of his most spectacular architectural creations, accompanied by the slow flow of the nearby waterways. Our starting point is located on the left bank of the river Guà, in the locality Paradiso. The site is easy to reach arriving by train or leaving the car in the parking area of the train station in MONTESILLO VICENTINO. You can do this itinerary also starting from Chiampo or Valdagno-Recoaro, from where start two nice and wide cycling lanes. From the train station you cross a small bridge and you go straight on along a small municipal road for 1.5 km. Then you follow the left bank of the Guà until you cross via Casa Velo (km 1.5), from where you turn left to reach our first amazing view, or better to say the **Barchessa of Villa Trissino** (1567), included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1996. Alternatively, you can also park your car at the church of MELEDO DI SAREGO and start the route from here, since near the church you find right away the *Barchessa*.

The barchessa are the only surviving part of the project for a villa, never accomplished, by Andrea Palladio, for the project of which we still have statement in the Four Books of Architecture. The dovecote tower, still visible, is equipped with chimneys and frescoed with grotesques, clear sign of a not only utilitarian use.

Coming back along the bank of the Guà, continue until you reach the cycling lane of Meledo-Sarego (at km 3.2), which you follow, enjoying to the left the river Brendola

and to the right the river Guà. At km 6.8 pass the Guà on a bridge in order to be able to continue along the cycling lane until LONGO. Just before via S. Giovanni/via G. Pontedera that leads into the center of LONGO, the cycle path ends (km 7.5), but you can continue along the bank, well maintained although not yet equipped. Continue until Bagnolo (km 11), reaching our second Palladian treasure: **Villa Pisani-Bonetti** (1542) included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1996, open to the public.

The ambitious project of Palladio was that to build a country house appropriated for the refined tastes of the Pisani brothers but, at the same time, to give a concrete and rational answer to the need of organization of the rural outbuildings. The result is a complex with an unified design, in which the main house, the stables, the barchessa, the dovecotes and the park, all lay out logically and strategically overlooking the Guà. At the same time the practical needs of the farm life are translated into new forms and new languages inspired by the classical architecture: as a Roman temple, the villa stands on a high pedestal that gives impetus to the building and contains the service areas.

Leave the Guà, passing alongside the Church of Bagnolo, which originally was the oratory of the villa, and take Strada Spessa, to be proceeded completely (5 km long) admiring the church and the Villa Bevilacqua. To our right now runs another and for now still small drain: the Ronego, which pours from the hills of Orgiano. While the SP 5 makes a sharp bend, our route (we are now at the km 16.60") goes straight on along a dirt but large patch that, after passing the LEB station (an underground channel for irrigation), leads us back to a paved road (via Ronego – km 18.6). Follow the road, turning left into via XI February and then right into via Vela. At the km 21.4 you reach the center of ASQUANO. Taking via Roma after a while you get back on the Ronego. Cross a bridge and ride along the right bank up to the km 22.8, then change bank again thanks to a country bridge without parapets. From here the road becomes white until km 26, where, at the intersection with an aedicule dedicated to St. Anthony, you leave it to follow the bank up to km 26.7, at the entrance of POJANA MAGGIORE. Although the route continues to the right, it is strongly recommended to make a short diversion by turning left into the center of the town (SP XI) until you reach the third villa on our itinerary: **Villa Pojana** (1546), listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1996, open to the public.

Arranged at the end of a wide court and flanked by gardens and cultivated fields, the villa stands on a pedestal, destined as service areas. The main floor, built as Roman thermal baths, is dominated by a large rectangular room with vaulted ceiling, on the sides of which they are distributed symmetrically smaller rooms richly frescoed. In front of the villa are still visible the remains of the medieval castle with the adjoining dovecote tower, both in a serious state of disrepair.

Coming back on our main itinerary, cross the bridge over the Ronego, turn left to continue along a dirt road that runs along the right bank of the drain up to km 29.5 and then change once again bank thanks to a bridge until reaching CASALE DI NOVENTA VICENTINA (at km 33.2 intersection with the state road). Continue keeping the Ronego on the right, which now has become a bigger canal, until it flows into the Frassinie (locality Chiavicone – km 37.6). At the intersection, take the left and pass the hamlet and the bridge over Roneghetto (which is, despite the name, actually very large – km 38.4). From here you are unfortunately forced to travel the SP 247, turning left for three km; you are able to leave it only at the km 41.5 turning right in via Padovana, which is marked in fact by the border between the territories of Vicenza and Padua. Follow the road for two kilometers until SAUVE di NOVENTA VICENTINA, pass alongside the Oratory of St. Anthony, go straight across the bridge over the Frassenella and, keeping to the left, via Bella Venezia, then pass above the new highway Valdastico Sud.

At km 47, in via Finale (locality FINALE) di AGUGLIARO, you can admire Villa Saraceno called the Palace of Trumpets (XVI century, arch. M. Sannicelli) and little further the fourth villa of our itinerary: **Villa Saraceno** (1548), owned by the Landmark Trust, included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites since 1996 and open to public.

Extraordinarily simple, almost ascetic, the building is a pure volume built of brick and plaster, each decorative element is banished and the rare use of carved stone is limited to the most significant architectural elements (such as windows and doors) and to the structural parts. It is only the architectural design that infuses magnificence to the building, in spite of its small size, deriving its elements by the architecture of ancient Roman temples.

The last effort brings you finally to reach the SP 247 Riviera Berica and the Riviera Berica cycling lane (km 49), from which you can easily reach Vicenza or Noventa, both by bicycle or by FTV bus.

4) ITINERARY "THE WONDERS OF THE BERICA PLAIN"

Starting point: Sossano, in front of the Cathedral.
Length: 45 km. A detour (at more or less the half way) allows you to reduce the journey to 35 km.

This circular itinerary has been studied to discover the treasures of six towns on the southern edge of the Berici, at the border with the province of Padua. It runs all on municipal and paved roads, in level and with little traffic, factors that make this itinerary particularly appropriate for cycling holidays for any age. The path intersects several other trails, so you can also choose to supplement the round with interesting variations (see in this regard the guide "Along the Riviera Berica cycling lane" and the other maps and itineraries published by the Consortium).

For convenience, the departure point is set in SOSSANO, in front of the Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel, with ample parking and large public park for picnics. We suggest to carry out the route in a clockwise direction, even you can also go counterclockwise, with road signs for each of the two directions. Near the center of the town you can admire the lovely Church of the Olmo, Villa Feramosca-Giovanelli (now town hall) and Villa Loschi-Gazetta (now seat of associations). Take via S. Sepolcro, pass the Lione and a traffic light. Then turn to the left into via Lione that runs above the right bank of the canal. Following the paved road but abandoning Lione, you reach old CAMPUGLIA. Keeping the left in via Ferroso you can admire a little farther ahead Villa Repetta-Bressan. Continue straight on along via Pilastrì and, after about 2 km, join the Riviera Berica cycling lane. Follow the path south for about one kilometer, entering in the municipality of AGUGLIARO. To our left via Ponticelli (only for walkers and bikers) skirts the Lione. From here you can appreciate, on the other bank, the wonderful Villa dal Verme, prototype of the Venetian villa for excellence. Moving to the centre of the town other relevant buildings are the Oratory of St. Gaetano and the mighty barchessa Trollo, unique witnesses of the Villa Pigafetta, designed but never built.

Go ahead to reach the locality FINALE, admiring Villa Saraceno, so-called the Palace of Trumpets and Villa Saraceno-Franchin (all open on request). Not far away you reach also Villa Saraceno (1548), exquisite early work of the Palladio, now property of *The Landmark Trust*. Continue until NOVENTA VICENTINA, where of outstanding interest are Villa Barbarigo (now the town hall), Villa Manin-Cantarella and the Cathedral, with the altar piece of the Tiepolo. Our next stop is POJANA MAGGIORE, where you can reach deviating from the main road to go through the quieter streets via Ponte Novo and via Cosella. Once in Pojana, turn left at the intersection with the Strada Provinciale Pojanese, and only after few meters you can admire Villa Pojana of the Palladio (1546) and, on the opposite side of the road, the remains of the medieval castle with the adjoining dovecote tower, in a serious state of disrepair.

Take via Fornase Baraco and flank the canal Ronego (via Ronego, for specific directions see the Route of the Four Villas of Palladio, to do in the opposite direction), then turn right into via Roma and reach the center of ASIGLIANO VENETO (about 6 km), homeland of the so-called radicchio di Asigliano.

From here we turn to Orgiano (via XI Febbraio, via Ronego, via Paradiso, via Perara). If you want, you can reach the centre of the town to visit Palazzo dei Vicari, now the town hall, and Villa-Fraccanzan Rievone with its magnificent park. From here take via Cree Storte, reach almost Pilastrò, take via Campanella, and finally you return to the starting point in Sossano.

5) THE RIVIERA BERICA CYCLING LANE

Starting point: Piazzale Fraccon di Vicenza, to the side of the *Arco delle Scalette*.
Length: 32.5 km.

The provincial road SP 247 Riviera Berica connects Vicenza with Noventa, running on level and alongside the banks of the Bacchiglione, the Bisatto and other minor streams. After the First World War, a railroad was built (FTV - Railways and Tramways



of Vicenza), which basically ran along the road connecting the centers of all towns, in function until the 80s. Thirty years after, above this track, it was built the Riviera Berica cycling lane, inaugurated on the 20th May 2012, excellent result of the cooperation of all the Municipalities of the Lower Vicentine area. It is surely a commendable reuse and regard in ecological key of a public and historical infrastructure, not coincidental with the major roads but still close to served points.

It is thus an alternative joint for the towns an point of departure and arrival of many other itineraries (see in this regard the guide "Along the path of the Riviera Berica" and the other maps and itineraries published by the Consortium).

Indirizzi utili

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Punto informativo di Lonigo: Pro Loco Lonigo
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Punto informativo di Longare: Pro Loco Longare
c/o ex Casello, Piazza Valaurie, 36023 Longare (VI)
lungo la Ciclabile Riviera Berica

Start from the Arco delle Scalette (Arch of Ladders), that leads to Monte Berico and of Palladio's design, and follow the routes of the region signed as I1 and I2. Shortly after the start, you can admire the Villa Amerigo Capra called La Rotonda (1566), undoubtedly the most famous villa of Palladio and UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994, and Villa Valmarana ai Nani (XVII-XVIII c.) with frescoes by Giambattista and Giandomenico Tiepolo.

In LONGARA begins the **Route of the Lake Fimon**, first possible detour. Continuing along the cycle path, you pass *Debba*, with its old navigation lock (XVI century) and COLDRUBA, where the Bacchiglione gives some of its water to the Bisato. Then arrive in the town of LONGARE, from where you can do the **Itinerary of the Bacchiglione** that leads to Padua; we suggest also a little deviation to visit the hamlet of COSTOZZA, known also as the Pearl of the Berici. Along the cycling lane, at Ponte di Costozza, the old toll-station has been restored and it has become the new tourist info-point of the Pro Loco Longare and of the Consortium Pro Loco Colli Berici. From here you can also take the **Itinerary of the Bisato** that, following the left bank of the river, leads you to Albettone and, if desired, also to the regional route E2 – Ring of Euganean Hills.

Continuing along the cycling lane, you cross LUMIGNANO, homeland of the peas, CASTEGHERO, famous for the cherries, and NANTO, prominent for oil and truffe. You have done half of the path, having covered 16 km.

From here and for a while the path runs more detached from the SP 247, to approach it again forward. Touch Ponte di Mossano, famous for the mills, and BARBARANO, famous for its red wine Tai Barbarano. At km 24 you reach Ponte Boti di ALBETTONE, from where you can take the **Route of the Lione** and, up ahead, you enter in the municipalities of CAMPUGLIA and AGUGLIARO, where the Lione river changes direction to flow into the Bisato (Vò Euganeo). Between fields and streams, in the distance, you can admire Villa dal Verme and Villa Saraceno of the Palladio.



Quietly you are reaching the final destination: in the fraction Bergoncino di NOVENTA VICENTINA the path moves towards the center of the town, where it ends. From here, if you wish, you can make the **Itinerary of the wonders of the Berica plain** that touches all the towns of the Lower Berica area.

6) ITINERARY OF THE LIONA

Starting point: via Gazzo, Gazzo-Pederiva.