Nature, sport, art, culture, shopping, food and wine in the splendid mountain setting of a unique territory.

Councillor for Tourism and Culture Mariella Biollino

Roberto Simonetti

President of the Province

Information point of Bielmonte

Phone +39 015.744102

www.santuariodioropa.it

Taxi Consorzio Biellese

Via Gramsci, 15 Biella

Phone +39 015.30055

Biella - Piazza S. Paolo

Phone +39 015.8493419

Biella - Piazza Vittorio Veneto

Open: 15 June to 15 September, all weekends.

Hours: 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

At the Office Welcome Centre Oropa Sanctuary

Open all year from 8.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. weekday

and from 8.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday as

holidays June and September from 8.00 a.m. to 8.0

p.m. July and August from 8.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Località Bielmonte

This map was produced with the funds from the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 Measure 313, Action 1 "Infrastructure of the regional path network for the realisation of tours on foot, bicycle and horseback".

# Useful information

Biellese Local Tourist Agency Piazza Vittorio Veneto 3, Biella Free Phone Number 800 811 800 E-mail: info@atl.biella.it - www.atl.biella.it rmation point

Via Quintino Sella 12. Biella

www.provincia.biella.it rivero - Centro Zegna Phone +39 015.756129 Open: every morning apart from Sunday oasizegna@zegna.com www.oasizegna.com

Line: Santhià-Biella-Novara Biella - Piazza S. Paolo, 8 Cossato - Via Paietta, 12 www.trenitalia.com

Free Phone Number ATAP 800 912 716

nformation on journeys in Piedmont www.regione.piemonte.it/ptplweb/index.d

to the centres of Milan and Turin, the Biellese erritory is bordered at the north by mountains, and features a collection of diverse valleys framing hills rich in woods and the plain that extends to the south. It offers a variety of natural features, beautiful many sites of interest such as religious and cultural destinations, garden parks and nature reserves, historical hamlets and museums, and

Situated in the north-west of Piedmont, close

sites for winter and summer outdoor activities Nature and landscape The Cervo Valley, so-called after the stream of

the same name. The upper section (La Bürsch) features mountain pastures, refuges, and centres of considerable historical and cultural mportance such as Rosazza, Piedicavallo and Campiglia Cervo, whilst the lower, more open, section extends towards the plain. The Valley offers many possibilities to visitors ooking to discover the most magical sights waterfalls, watercourses, woods, small villages, and panoramic views. Then there are winter sports such as Alpine skiing.

In the upper section, the Valley offers classic mountain scenery, whilst the lower part features extensive hills and major villages The Valley is rich in woods, hills, meadows and mountain pastures and offers a pleasant and relaxing experience with excursions on foot. bicycle or horseback. The cultural destinations are also of considerable interest.

This basin has a number of villages and is the site for the Sanctuary of the Black Madonna. Untouched over the centuries by urban contamination it offers a splendid natural context, as well as the Sanctuary and the Sacred ount complex, and the Special Nature Reserve. It is the perfect destination for culture, nature and sport enthusiasts. The cultural offerings in fact combine perfectly with the many sporting activities (rambling, trekking, mountain climbing mountain biking, Alpine skiing, cross-countr

skiing, freeride skiing).

Burcina Park "F. Piacenza" The Burcina Park - managed by "Riserve Pedemontane e Terre d'Acqua"- is an historical garden situated on a gentle hill close to the Biellese Alps. The park dates back to the 1800s when the Piacenza family started the first

Today Burcina offers visitors the pleasant atmosphere of a park with all its botanical features as well as a particularly spectacular landscape including a romantic lake meadowlands surrounded by woods, a beech tree wood, the tulip tree path, the valley o drons (that in the middle of May offers a unique floral display), a Mediterranean area and the breathtaking view of the mountains The park has much to offer not only in spring and summer with the magnificent floral display but also in autumn with its beautiful foliage

There are eating areas and an environmenta education centre nearby with guided visits

The Sanctuaries, architecture and The Biellese Territory is one in which devotion and religion have left many traces. There are in fact many sanctuaries situated in the heart of the The three main ones are connected by a road that from Graglia Sanctuary in the Elvo Valley,

The territory of Biellese Valleys, sanctuaries and parks. Uncontaminated nature

d'Andorno Sanctuary in the Cervo Valley. The sanctuaries in the Biellese Territory are not only places of worship and pilgrimage destinations, but also offer surprising artistic, historical and cultural sites and the chance to visit pleasant ocations surrounded by natural beauty, making it an ideal location for visitors who are also lovers f natural beauty and the landscape. ne sanctuaries offer accommodation to meet the visitor's various requirements, who can enjoy a

passes via the famous Oropa Sanctuary in the

valley of the same name and reaches San Giovanni

he mountains of the Biellese Territory offer

cluding fixed-aid paths and equipped paths.

he routes are many. Climbings on the plates

d rock chimneys are very popular and fixed-

ert climbers but wish to venture beyond

more traditional paths. The winter climbs,

waterfalls and Alpine skiing complete the winter

The particular location of the mountains of the

Biellese Territory offer views that extend from

the Po Valley plains to the Western Alps. From

We remind you that apart from standard

quipment, you must also carry a helmet,

rness, ropes with snap-hooks and screamer,

and be informed on the climbing techniques

uired on the fixed-aid paths..

Via P. Micca 13, Biella

zza Italia 2, Mosso

Phone +39 015.74106

raz.Guala 5, Trivero

Phone +39 015.756246

e-mail: cai.trivero@libero.i

raz. Granero 101, Portula

e-mail: caivalsessera@tin.it

Via C. Durio 14, Varallo Sesia (VC)

e-mail: segreteria@caivarallo.it

sezione di Biella del CAL

e-mail: casb2003@teletu.it

hone +39 015.787766

e-mail:cai.mosso@tiscali.i

e-mail: caibiella@caibiella.it

he Alpine peaks you can delight in spectacular

aid paths are available for those who are not

laxing break surrounded by nature, whilst learning about the artistic, religious and cultural neritage of the Biellese Territory. Oropa Sanctuary and the Sacred Mount The ideal destination for those seeking to combine serenity and cultural discovery in a unique context a Sanctuary is a jewel set in the green of the meadows and surrounded by the mountains Situated at 1,200 m above sea level, it is the most important Marian sanctuary of the Alps and thought to date back to the 4th century. The majestic complex is composed of the Old Basilica,

factory". This laboratory of artistic creativity is

the site for important cultural events, exhibitions

and educational activities. Here you will find the

The surrounding area has craft shops and eating n which the Black Madonna is worshiped, the Upper Basilica, the cloister, monuments and the steps that lead to Porta Regia. he complex is also the site of an ex-voto collection, the Royal Apartments of Savoy, the Meteorological Observatory, the Library and Historical Archive and the Treasure Museum as well as the

Exhibitions, events and guided visits are organised at the Oropa Sanctuary. It also has commercial outlets and eating areas. The Special Nature Reserve of the Sacred Mount

of Oropa, listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, is located close to the sanctuary. The complex has twelve chapels dedicated to the life of the Virgin Mary and life-size polychromatic terracotta statues within a natural reserve. Oropa also has an interesting Botanical Garden that is the site for various events and educational

The Graglia Sanctuary is located in the open and picturesque Elvo Valley surrounded by woods. Its origins date back to the beginning of the 1 century. The visit to the sanctuary starts at the Basilica housing the Chapel of the Loreto Madonna. The Cappella degli Esercizi on the first floor and the four chapels of the Sacred Mount connected to the sanctuary are also of special interest. Outside the Basilica are two artistic sundials and a splendid stone fountain. The verdant landscape, the pure water of the mountain springs and the splendid panorama of the plain make this an ideal destination for nature lovers. There are many hikes nearby for all, as well as other outdoor activities

Not far from Campiglia Cervo, the Sanctuary of S Giovanni Battista in Andorno rises in a particularly panoramic position. It is reached via a picturesque road immersed in the greenery of the Cervo Valley The primitive church dates back to the 1 century, with a fountain, a rector's office and hospitality buildings successively added. The wooden statue of the Saint, housed in its original natural cave niche, can be admired within the

A road connects San Giovanni to the Oropa Sanctuary via the Rosazza tunnel. he Sanctuary of San Giovanni is often the site of exhibitions connected with local traditions. San Giovanni in Andorno is also a popular destination for hikers In particular, it is one of the stages of the Grande Traversata delle Alpi or GTA (Great

church, as well as various prized works of art. Ippovia del Biellese (Biellese Horse Trail) with There are eating areas nearby. www.sacromontedioropa.it www.santuariodioropa.it www.santuariodigraglia.i www.santuariosangiovanni.i Alpine Crossing) and is the last stage of the www.sacrimonti.it



Sacred Mount of Oropa - UNESCO Site

# Useful information Sport and outdoor activities. Refuges and camping The Alps of the Biellese Region are very well shops, ski schools and cross-country ski hire

Activities for lovers of winter sports include

downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, snowboar

Skiing in the Biellese Territory means pure

pleasure in an extremely varied landscape that

at the same time is geographically divided into

medium-sized spaces. Bielmonte and Oropa are

Bielmonte offers a variety of pistes for all tastes

on the different mountain slopes, ranging from

the easy downhill runs exposed to the sun at

the south, also suitable for snowboarding, to

the more difficult run at Dosso Grande. There

are 18 km of downhill runs with 9 ski-lift facilities

and 20 km of pistes for cross-country skiing

suitable for every type of technique departing

from Bocchetto Sessera. Mention should also

be made of the cross-country route that crosses

all of the Alta Valsessera and after 20 km

connects with the Alpe di Mera resort in Valsesia.

Not to be missed the ice-skating rink where you

Bielmonte has ample free parking, hotels, re-

staurants, bars, cafeterias, agritourisms, shops,

ski schools and ski and equipment hire outlets.

The Oropa ski resort, situated in the Basin of

the same name, has two ski-lift facilities to reach

Mount Mucrone and Mount Camino and two

cross-country ski routes: a 1 km beginners

route that runs through meadows and woods

that surround the new Basilica and the 3.5 km

"pista Paradiso". The Oropa Basin is also a

sancano and Camino are now classified as

We recommend that you contact the ATL (Local Tourist

Agency) of Biella for the exact opening periods of

Church of the Madonna della Neve, Upper

managers. See box under "Useful Information

Madonna della Neve Refuge (1 480 m)

Generally open from June to October.

e-mail: info@rifugiomadonnadellaneve.it

Lago della Vecchia, Upper Cervo Valley

Generally open from June to September.

Sleeps: 20. Winter accommodation always

www.rifugiomadonnadellaneve.it

ago della Vecchia Refuge (1.872 m)

Cervo Valley - Selle di Rosazza

Phone +39 015.6097000

Phone +39 338.5027668

Phone +39 015.2476141

Phone +39 015.20437

www.rifugiolagodellavecchia.com

Alfredo Rivetti Refuge (2,150 m)

Mologna Grande, Upper Cervo Valley

Mount Camino, Upper Oropa Valley

Lake Mucrone, Upper Oropa Valley

Open all year round. Sleeps: 30

Generally open from June to September.

Generally open from June to September.

Generally open from June to September.

Winter accommodation always open, sleeps: 8

the refuges and the telephone numbers of the relevant

freeride skiing paradise. The ex-pistes at Bu-

freeride skiing zones. Oropa has parking, ac-

The Bielmonte ski resort also has night lighting

frozen waterfall climbing.

the two main ski resorts.

on a southern piste

can also hire skates.

ding, hiking with snowshoes, Alpine skiing and



ses on Mucrone, Argimonia and Mount Mars

equipped for the safe practice of this activity.

There are a few of frozen waterfalls that in many

cases have stops equipped with stainless stee

fixes. After heavy snowfall, the potential danger

of avalanches should be carefully considered

Starting point of the "Periplo del Monte Rosso" ski race - Oropa



Biellese Territory that offer ever-changing land-

scapes and slopes. Many routes are suitable to

beginners, whilst some are on harsher slopes.

interspersed with rocky descents and mandator

passages and so require an expert skill level

The practice of Alpine skiing and freeride skiing

and good knowledge of the terrain as well as

Phone +39 015.401960 o e Agostino Coda Refuge (2,280 m) Colle di Carisey, Upper Elvo Valley. Generally open from June to October. Sleeps: ! Winter accommodation always open, sleeps: 8 Phone +39 015.2562405 Fax +39 015.590905 Alpe Cavanna Refuge (1.470 m

Generally open from June to September

Località Cavanna, Upper Elvo Valley

Alpe Piana del Ponte

Mount Bo

www.cnsas.it Open all year round. Sleeps: 8 www.soccorsoalpino.biella.it Piana del Ponte Refuge (1,100 m) Generally open from June to October and during the Christmas period. Sleeps: 24 Phone +39 366.3976595

Opening period: All year round. Sleeps: 12 Baita Bagneri (920 m) CAI Biella. Località Bagneri CAI Biella Phone +39 015.21234 e-mail: caibiella@caibiella.it

Località Alpe Toso (Valsesia) CAI Varallo Phone +39 0163.51530 e-mail: info@caivarallo.it Natural Reserve of Mount Mars (Valle d'Aosta) Località Bielmonte 11, 13844 Piatto (BI) Phone +39 015.744102 - +39 015.74410 icemont@libero.it - www.bielmonte.net Piazzale Funivie, 6 - 13900 Oropa Biella Phone +39 015.2455929 info@funivieoropa.it - www.funivieoropa.it

Alpine guides in the Biellese Region, head

Soccorso Alpino e Speleologico Piemontese

(National Alpine and Speleological Rescue).

e-mail: segreteria.saspbiella@gmail.com

sasp.biella@libero.it

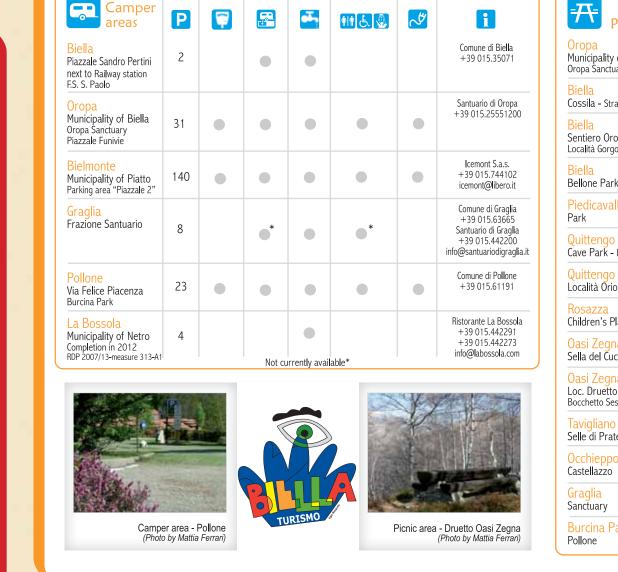
group Biellese Alps: Carlo Gabasio.

Phone +39 338.1493356

Alpine rescue

del CNSAS del CAI





# Valsesia Nord 2 Punta Serange dell'Alto Sessera Bonom

# Municipality of Biella Cossila - Strada dell'Antua Località Gorgomore Bellone Park 5 | • | • | • | • Cave Park - Località Balm Località Oriomosso 11 | • | • | • | • | • Children's Play Area Sella del Cucco - Sagliano Loc. Druetto Superiore Selle di Pratetto Castellazzo 11

## - Difference in altitude: 590 m ascent, 930 m descent - Difficulty: Moderate route connects the two Sanctuaries of Oropa nd Graglia in a splendid mountain context featuring neadows, pine forests and gentle slopes. Stage 1: Oropa - Chiavolino (Pollone Stage 2: Chiavolino (Pollone) - Sordévolo Stage 3: Sordevolo - Graglia Sanctuary Route from Pollone to Zumaglia Departure: Pollone (620 m) Arrival: Zumaglia (620 m) Intermediate sites: Cossila S. Giovanni (580 m) Miagliano (550 m), Sagliano Micca (580 m), Andorno Micca (560 m) Difference in altitude: 710 m ascent, 710 m descent Time required: 7 h Difficulty: Moderate route winds from Pollone, the site of the Burcina ark and then continues to Andorno and finally to olma in the Cervo Valley. he deep roots of Biellese culture. . The Alp road - L61

From Lake Vecchia, with the mountains mirrored Mountains and in its waters, you can enjoy a spectacular panorama towards the Valle d'Aosta. e Mountain and Culture routes are seven Alpine Iture routes with panels that illustrate the main 5. The High road of Faith - E1, E5, D15 pects of life, the environment and the culture Departure: San Giovanni d'Andorno Sanctuary f the Biellese valleys. The network of routes is ccessible to all who wish to learn more about Arrival: Oropa Sanctuary (1,180 m)

Cucco - Oropa: 1 h 20

S. Giovanni d'Andorno Sanctuary - Oropa: 3 h 20

The route connects the San Giovanni d'Andorno

Sanctuary to the Oropa Sanctuary, two of the

main sanctuaries of the Biellese Territory. It

winds its way amongst magical landscapes

including the pastures of Mount Cucco where

in spring, you can enjoy the sight of abundan

flowering narcissi. The amazing site of the san-

6. The Threads of History - C1, C1a

From Sordevolo to Trappa, the route winds

through the open and supply Flyo Valley through

verdant meadows and pastures. The arrival point

is also of great interest. The Trappa is an im-

portant historical-architectural monument im-

mersed in nature, as well as a cell of the Eco-

musuem of Biellese and a stage on the Ippovia

Departure: Località Bossola (940 m)

Departure: Sordevolo - Bivio S. Grato (690 m)

ctuary complex awaits you in Oropa.

- Arrival: La Trappa (1,011 m)

Difference in altitude: 271 m

Time required: 1 h 20

Lenght: 2.9 Km

Stage 22: Cossila - Pralungo

Stage 23: Pralungo - Miagliano

Stage 27: Pettinengo - Zumaglia

Departure: Quittengo (800 m)

(880 m), Oneglie (777 m)

Lenght: 16.6 km

Time required: 6 h 40

Difficulty: Moderate

ucco along a panoramic route.

Arrival: Oropa Sanctuary (1,150 m)

- Intermediate sites: Driagno (770 m), Riabella

Difference in altitude: 824 m ascent, 474 descent

The route climbs through the Cervo Valley through

woods and alongside isolated little churches to

arrive at Bürsch. It then connects the Cervo Valley

with the Oropa Valley crossing the distinctive Parco

degli Arbo (the chestnut park) in San Paolo Cervo

and then encircling the gentle slopes of Mount

Stage 55: Quittengo - Driagno (San Paolo Cervo)

Stage 56: Driagno (San Paolo Cervo) - Oneglie

(Photo by Alberto Conte

Stage 57: Oneglie (Sagliano Micca) - Oropa

to the Oropa Sanctuary

Stage 24: Miagliano - Andorno Micca

Stage 25: Andorno Micca - La Colma (Biella

Stage 26: La Colma (Biella) - Pettinengo

Intermediate site: Dorsale Cucco (1,200 m) e Mountain and Culture routes represented Difference in altitude: 200 m Difficulty: Turistico ime required: S. Giovanni d'Andorno Sanctuary - Cucco: 2 h

e route is partially marked on this map. - Departure: Camandona Fraz. Cerale (810 m) - Arrival: Bocchetto Sessera (1,382 m) Difference in altitude: 572 m - Difficulty: Easy

A long ring shaped and well signposted route

nostly at moderate heights through a surprisingly

ch and varied territory that reveto thes ancient

villages and beautiful panoramas. The GTB (The

reat Biellese Crossing) is divided into 57 stages

Route from the Oropa Sanctuary to

Departure: Oropa Sanctuary (1,150 m

- Intermediate sites: Chiavolino, Sordevolc

- Arrival: Graglia Sanctuary (810 m)

the Graglia Sanctuary

Lenght: 14.9 km

ctuaries, naturto the reserves, tradition to the

varying levels of difficulty that can be covered

5 days, but are easily broken down into daily

Cerale - Mazzucco: 1 h Cerale - Bocchetto Sessera: 2 h 30 Mazzucco - Bocchetto Sessera: 1 h 30 e Alpine road follows the trails used for animal ing in search of tranquillity. The mule track ollows the route that was once taken by animals rded to mountain pastures and the captioned anels describe the activities that were part of the

- Departure: Piedicavallo (1,040 m) - Arrival: Lago della Vecchia (1,858 m) - Difference in altitude: 818 m Difficulty: Easy Time required:

4. The leaend of stone - E50

e and the economy of the mountain populations.

del Biellese (Biellese Horse Trail) Piedicavallo - Vecchia refuge: 2 h 20 Piedicavallo - Lake Vecchia: 2 h 30 Lake Vecchia - Colle della Vecchia: 0 h 30 oute in the Upper Cervo Valley from Piedicavallo e engravings such as that of the Leggenda ella Vecchia at the lake of the same name.

7. The Serra panoramas - B11, B11a B12, B13, B13a, B30 - Intermediate site: Alpone (1,431 m) Religious routes

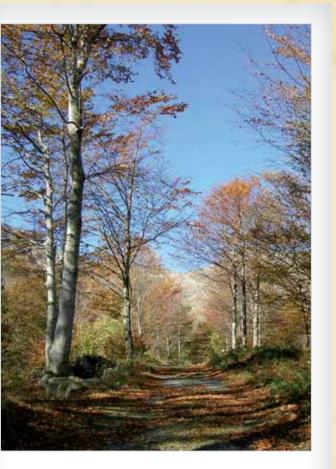
The Frassati Route

 Difference in altitude: 1.422 m ascent - Time required: 4 h 30 Difficulty: Moderate e footsteps of the young beatified mountain er. From a Pollone family, born in Turin and eatified in 1990. Pier Giorgio Frassati was a over of nature, sport and the mountains. There many routes named after him across Italy the Biellese Territory, the Pier Giorgio Frassat oute starts in Pollone, which is also the site o enowned Burcina Park. It follows in the steps the beatified young man to the slopes o icrone, the symbolic mountain of Biellese sing to Alpe Muanda and ends at Poggio P. G assati, from which point you can enjoy a superb iew of the Oropa Sanctuary complex.

- Departure: Pollone (540 m)

Arrival: Poggio Frassati (1,950 m)

San Carlo Path he San Carlo Path is a long walk in 12 stages nat starts in Arona on Lake Maggiore and joins e Via Francigena at Viverone, following in the tsteps of San Carlo Borromeo to discover the ulture and environment of the territories he route is accessible to all and features many eresting sights such as churches, chapels orks of art, villages, sanctuaries and comuseum cells. Amongst the most important re the Sacred Mounts, including the Sacred ount of Oropa, and the sanctuaries (the rughiera Sanctuary and the 3 main sanctuaries an Giovanni d'Andorno, Oropa and Graglia n the Biellese Territory). There are many ospitality and eating areas along the route.



Routes Discovering the Biellese Territory. Walking routes \*\* The Country of the Biellese Territory. Walking routes \*\* The Country of the Biellese Territory.

The Grande Traversata delle Alpi (Great Alpine

Crossing) is particularly favoured by Alpine trekking

enthusiasts. Uniting the western Alpine arch of

Piedmont, it consists of a network of signposted

paths with accommodation stops along the way

The main path has ring routes that reveal the

beauty of specific zones. The best time to visit the

Stage A. From the Sant'Antonio di Val Vogna

Refuge (Valsesia) to the Rivetti Refuge.

- Departure: S. Antonio di Val Vogna Refuge

From Sant'Antonio the GTA arrives at the Rivetti

Refuge through the Colle della Mologna Grande

that joins the Cervo Valley with the Lys Valley against

Stage B. From the Rivetti Refuge to the

Arrival: San Giovanni d'Andorno Sanctuary

Intermediate site: Madonna della Neve refuge

Difference in altitude: 1.130 m descent, 604 m ascent

The stage winds through the Cervo Valley, passing

interesting villages such as Piedicavallo and Rosazza

to reach the most important sanctuaries in the Biellese

Territory where accommodation also available

Sanctuary of San Giovanni d'Andorno

- Departure: Rivetti Refuge (2.150 m)

GTA is from July to September

(Valsesia) (1,381 m)

Lenght: 11.54 Km

- Difficulty: Moderate

(1.454 m)

- Lenght: 13.52 km

- Time required: 3 h 30

- Difficulty: Moderate

Lenght: 5.43 km

Difficulty: Easy

Difference in altitude: 602 m

Bossola - Alpone: 1 h 30

Alpone - Alpe Cavanna: 1 h 15

This route winds between pastures over gentle hills

to reveal magnificent panoramas. At the Alpone

a panoramic view of the Biellese Territory extending

to the morainic hill of Serra and Lake Viverone, the

Ligurian and Tuscan-Emilian Apennines to the south.

chalet, the route crosses over flat terrain to offer

Time required: 6 h 30

Stages of the GTA that cross Biellese:

- Arrival: refuge Rivetti (2,150 m)

- Difference in altitude: 1,300 m

the backdrop of magical landscapes.

Stage C. From the S. Giovanni d'Andorno

Departure: S. Giovanni d'Andorno Sanctuary

Difference in altitude: 590 m ascent, 430 m descent

is stage connects the Cervo Valley with the Oropa

Valley and also joins two of the main sanctuaries

in the Biellese Territory, real territorial "gems" in

The GTA crosses the GTB at Oropa and you can

Stage D. From the Oropa Sanctuary

Departure: Oropa Sanctuary (1,180 m)

Difference in to altitude: 1,200 m ascent, 100 m

om the Oropa Sanctuary the route proceeds to

the Coda Refuge along the slopes of Mount Mars,

with a view that stretches from the plains to the

- Arrival: Coda refuge (2,280 m)

Sanctuary to the Oropa Sanctuary.

- Arrival: Oropa Sanctuary (1,180 m)

Intermediate site: Colle della Colma

enaht: 7.06 km

Difficulty: Moderate

change routes at this point.

to the Coda refuge

Difficulty: Moderate

mountains on a panoramic route.

Time required: 3 h 30

Climb to Lake Vecchia (Photo by Stefano Apollonio,

Bowi Zegna The Oasi Zegna

The Oasi Zegna (Zegna Oasis) is an immense area

between the Mosso Valley, Valsessera and Cervo

Valley, crossed by the panoramic Zegna road.

It was the brainchild of the entrepreneu

mountain with conifers, rhododendrons and

hydrangeas to create an amazing Alpine landscape.

t is the ideal location for both summer and winte

sporting activities practised in contact with nature

e are hundreds of kilometres of marked paths

and in respect for the mountain ecosystem

- Lenght: 3.7 km

- Time required: 2 h 30

The path named after Pope Giovanni Paolo II tha

connects the Oropa Sanctuary with the Beato Pi

Giorgio Frassati Route. The arrival point is Poo

Frassati. At the start in Oropa, is an illustrat

panel with a map of the route that also summaris

the most important dates in the life of Pope Giovar

Paolo II and his words on the occasion of his vi

to Oropa. The path is also marked by plates that

record the thoughts of the Pope. The route pass

through panoramic points with views over Bie

and the Oropa Sanctuary and takes in areas of

magical beauty such as the Laghetto della Mo

(Lake Mora), a small body of water in a

The "Valleys of Faith" is a route that connect

the sanctuaries in the foothills of Piedmont with

Lake Orta. It follows the journey taken man

half of the 16th century from the Banchett

Sanctuary in Bioglio to arrive at Madonna de

The route is surrounded by nature, taking in ar

and religious devotion, with panels that explain

the main historical-artistic aspects of the area

The main buildings of cultural interest over the

route are the Banchette Sanctuary in Bioglic

the Mazzucco Sanctuary in Camandona, t

Sanctuary of Our Lady of Brughiera in Trive

the Novareia Sanctuary in Portula, the Cavaller

Sanctuary in Coggiola and the Brugarola

times by Cardinal Carlo Borromeo in the seco

The Valleys of Faith

- Difficulty: Moderate

rhododendron filled basin.

Sasso in Verbania.

Sanctuary in Ailoche.

- Difficulty: Moderate

to Alpe Maletto

Stage E. From the Coda refuge

Departure: Coda refuge (2,280 m)

- Arrival: Alpe Maletto (Canavese) (1,336 m)

- Difference in altitude: 107 m ascent, 1,050 m descen

- Intermediate site: Colle della Lace (2,120 m)

Time required: 3 h 30

Colle di Carisey and proceeds to the Colle della

Canavese and Valle d'Aosta areas, along an

interesting Alpine path to arrive at Alpe Maletto.

The Alta Via delle Alpi Biellesi is a beautiful and

varied Alpine trekking route that follows the

pine villages of Piedicavallo in the Cervo Valley

with Bagneri in the Elvo Valley. From the mountain

crests, you can take in a magical panorama

revealing nature at its most uncontaminated and

Certain stages of the route have fixed ropes, or

cover broken ground and exposed terrain. The

the end of June to the end of September.

pina Via Alpina

The Via Alpina is a network of Alpine walking

Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Switzerland

five international routes signposted with different

This long route reveals the beauty of the Alps

discover the Alpine environment and delight in

spectacular views of the plain, Valsessera and

Mount Rosa. The proposed routes vary from

he Oasi Zegna is open free to charge to the

public all year round, with many tourist services

Below we describe just one interesting route. To

we suggest you visit the web site:

Rassa (Valsesia) - Alpe Peccia

- Lenght: 8.5 km

650 m descent

- Time required: 5 h

- Difficulty: Moderate

discover the complete range of routes available

Dolcinian Route - First stage, F6

- Departure: Rassa (Valsesia) (917 m)

Difference in altitude: 1,100 m ascent,

A long two day walk in the footsteps of the heretic

The panels positioned along the route tell the

story of the Dulcinians who passed through this

he map shows part of the first stage that starts

in Rassa in Valsesia and passes chalets and

woods to arrive at the vast pastures of Alpe

The second stage is from Alpe Peccia to Bocchetta

the story of Fra' Dolcino where he was defeated

Described below is an interesting route that

reveals archeo-minerals of considerable historical

Archeo-mineral Park of the Alta Val Sessera

- Lenght: 4.2 km

- Difficulty: moderate

- Departure and arrival: Casa del Pescatore (1,200 m)

Difference in altitude ascent e descent: 205

a' Dolcino through Valsesia and Valsessera.

- Arrival: Alpe Peccia (1.350 m)

simple walks to hikes requiring a number of days.

birthplace of ancient traditions.

ome Alpine trekking experience

oute is therefore only suitable for those with

he ideal period for the Alta Via route is from

Alta Via delle Alpi Biellesi

Along the Pope Giovanni Paolo II Path

Pope Giovanni 118 CENTRALE UNICA - Novara - Departure: Oropa, "Via Crucis" (1,160 m) single free phone health emergency number - Arrival: Poggio Frassati (1,950 m) - Difference in altitude: 790 m ascent

> Inform yourself about weather forecasts. greater than 2 it is better not to attempt the route.

and entrances), access to refuges and camping sites, cableways, etc. Communicate your destination and the course you intend to take to family and/or refuge managers.

 Exact location, place-name and altitude Number and condition of injured parties Atmospheric conditions and visibility.

electrical lines, etc.) Protect the injured party from atmospheric conditions (wind, sun, rain, cold,

• Do not administer drinks and/or medicines unless authorised by a doctor. • Aid helicopter landing by collecting clothing and organising backpacks so that they are not disturbed by the turbulence created by the arrival of air

# Ecomuseum of Biellese, Museum, Food and Wine

The Ecomuseum of Biellese is a system structured in fifteen cells that mirror the complexity of the territory, its traditions and transformations. he Ecomuseum offers services that are specifically designed for adults, school groups and children such as guided visits, educational workshops focusing on local traditions, training courses and archive viewings. It also has acmmodation and eating areas. Each unique cell takes the visitor on a journey f discovery into the region and its traditions The Ecomuseum cells are also the site for many events, meetings and exhibitions. The Museum House of Rosazza

The Museum House of Rosazza prese<mark>nts the</mark> traditions of the Cervo Valley in 17 rooms structured on different themes and aspects of life in the region: the stall, the kitchen, the processing of syenite, the ancient schools for building construction, emigration of men and the important role of women. Guided visits are offered. The Alpine village of Bagneri is testimony to the

work of generations allowing the visitor to immerse himself in the atmosphere of times gone by and experience mountain culture firsthand. Here the restoration of material culture is also connected to the birth of new artisan workshops are offered and you can buy local products in the village. Ecomuseum of building tradition: the Trappist Built in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the

Trappist Monastery (Trappa) of Sordevolo owes

its name to a congregation of Trappist monks

who escaped from revolutionary France where

they lived from 1796 to 1802. This amazing architectural construction immersed in nature against the background of the mountains, also stop on the Ippovia del Biellese (Biellese Horse Trail) and also has stables. Located in the ex Lanificio Trombetta industrial archaeology building, that has been restructured

works of Michelangelo Pistoletto, amongst other or information on the Ecomuseum of Biellese, the single cells, opening hours and the workshops We suggest that you visit the web site and contact the cells directly to plan your visit to the Ecomuseum revitalised and transformed into an "idea



La Trappa of Sordevolo Ecomuseum (Photographic Archive Ippica San Giorgio In addition to the fifteen cells of the Ecomuseum of Biellese, the area offers other cultural displays Of particular interest is the Biellese Territory Museum, situated in the 16<sup>th</sup> century cloister of San Sebastiano. It has an exhibition of art from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as fossils and archaeological finds from pre-history to the me-

hen there is the Biellese Alpini Museum in the city of Biella that documents the history of the Alpine soldiers and the Associazione Nazionale Alpini through photographs, badges and uniforms. There are other thematic, archival and museum exhibitions such as: the Government Archive in the city of Biella, the museum and the "Vittorio Sella" photographic exhibition of the Fondazione Sella, the archive of the Fondazione Famiglia Piacenza in Pollone, the Passion Museum in Sordevolo that recounts the history of the Passion of Sordevolo a renowned popular theatre event the Museum of Natural Science in Graglia and the Museum of the Sanctuary Treasures in Oropa. www.anabiella.it www.asbi.it

www.comune.graglia.bi.

The extreme diversification of the Biellese territory is also reflected in its agricultural products: the cheeses that capture the aroma of the Alps, including tome and maccagni, fresh cheeses made from the milk of the Pezzate Rosse of Oropa, the famous cattle of the region, the exclusive wines of the Serra hills and the hills at the foot of Mount Rosa and the PDO (Protected Destination of Origin) There are also the prized meats and cold cuts that

combine perfectly with the various scented honeys. including the most common acacia, millefiori, and chestnut varieties, and the rarer rhododendron. nelata (forest honey) and buckwheat varieties Typical of the Biellese Territory is the delicious and high quality speciality known as paletta. It is made from the most prized shoulder portions of Piedmo pork, seasoned and spiced with herbs, berries and avourings according to ancient recipes. The wines include the still white and sparkling Erbaluce DOCG, and Caluso Passito, still produced with natural drying techniques. Then there are the various Canavese DOC wines from the hills of Serra, Lessona DOC from the east of the Biellese Territory, Vino d'Italia" selected by Quintino Sella to toast the baptism of the first government of a unified Italy, the Coste della Sesia DOC and the Bramaterra DOC from the Serra Regional Winery, in the cellars of the Roppolo Castle that dominates the beautiful Lake Viverone. Apart from the wines, there are also beers and spirits such as the famous Ratafià Mention must also be made of the apple and grape mustards, the jellies and the delicious desserts such as canestrelli, torcetti and the paste d'melia

For more information on typical products and

(cornflour biscuits).

www.biellaebuona.it

www.enotecadellaserra.it

www.atl.biella.it

producers:



The Biellese Territory:

a land of looms

of its traditional textile heritage. Alongside the

religious and cultural routes and the natur

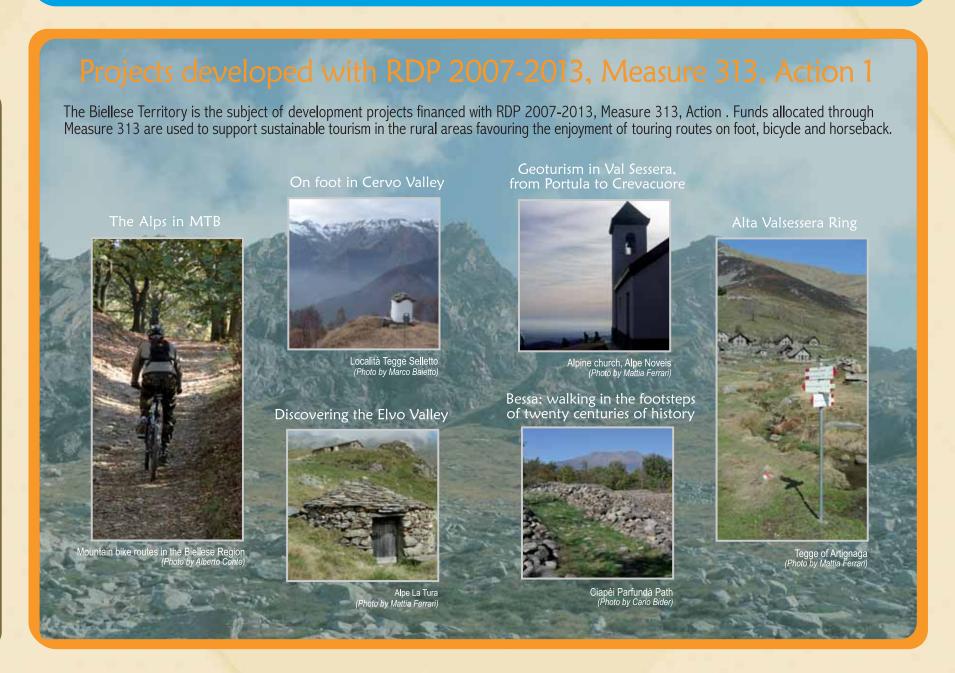
reserves are the textile and wool streets with

often the site for extremely interesting archive

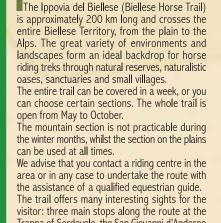
A visit to the exclusive shopping outlets is also

The Biellese Territory preserves many example





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L'Ippovia del Biellese

rappa of Sordevolo, the San Giovanni d'Andorno anctuary and Villa Piazzo in Pettinengo. The stops offer stables and accommodation fo iders (always enquire about availability in





Moncerchio (Bielmonte) - Oasi Zegr (Photographic Archive Ippica San Giorgio,

Mountain bike routes in the Biellese Region The Biellese Territory offers around 250 km of signposted cycle routes for mountain biking in he hills and mountains. The following, highlighted in this map, are just some of the routes offered.

Route 6 — Occhieppo Superiore

- Departure: Occhieppo Superiore (450 m) - Arrival: Occhieppo Superiore (450 m) - Lenght: 39 km - Total climb: 1,200 m - Average time required: 3 hours - Difficulty: very demanding, particularly in the downhill sections that require particular The route overlooks the Biellese plain, winds through woods, meadows and pastures, with both dirt road and asphalted sections. The starting point is Occhieppo Superiore. The route passes through Graglia, with its famous Sanctuary, as well as the small Alpine villages of Bagner and Tranna of Sordevolo, both cells of the Ecomuseum of Biellese where you can discover

more about mountain life and culture. Route 7 — Graglia Sanctuary - Arrival: Graglia Sanctuary (800 m) Average time: required 1 h 15 Difference in altitude: 395 m Difficulty: very demanding, particularly in the downhill sections that demand a degree of experience. The route passes through woods and meadows with both dirt road and asphalt sections and

along a panoramic route that overlooks the plain

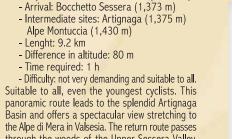
offers an extensive panorama of the Biellese The route starts at the Graglia Sanctuary, one of the most important in the region, and proceeds with its perfectly conserved ancient stone bridge.

in Oasi Zegna The Oasi Zegna (Zegna Oasis) has three marked routes that are suitable for mountain bike riding, with departure and arrival at Bocchetto Sessera. E-mail: info@atl.biella.it - www.atl.biella.it Route A — Artignaga Circuit

It then continues to cross the Dolcinian path at

the height of the "Ponte dei Lavaggi" to return

The route can be shortened to 11 km by making



through the woods of the Upper Sessera Valley. Route C — Alta Val Sessera Circuit Departure: Bocchetto Sessera (1,373 m) - Arrival: Bocchetto Sessera (1.373 m) - Intermediate site: Piana del Ponte (1,038 m) Difference in altitude: 680 m - Time required: 2 h 30 - Difficulty: demanding

extending to the Alps of Liguria and Lombardy.

Departure: Bocchetto Sessera (1,373 m)

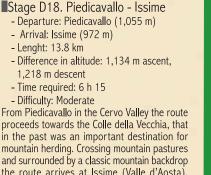
It then descends though woodland to arrive again

Mountain bike routes

An extraordinary route within the rugged landscape of the Upper Sessera Valley suitable for riders who are both fit and technically The route offers many historical-naturalistic points of interest. The route crosses the Piana del Ponte

Mountain bike routes in the Biellese Region

Mountain bike routes in the Biellese Region



trails that connect eight countries (Italy, Slovenia, in the past was an important destination fo France and the Principality of Monaco) along mountain herding. Crossing mountain pastures and surrounded by a classic mountain backdrou colours (red, blue, yellow, purple and green) with the route arrives at Issime (Valle d'Aosta). equipped paths that are accessible to all and tops for accommodation and refreshment. www.via-alpina.org the vastest European natural space and the

Piedmont mountains in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Stage D17. Gressoney-Saint-Jean -

- Arrival: Piedicavallo (1,055 m)

Difference in altitude: 1,403 m ascent,

he path from Gressoney-Saint-Jean (Valle d'A

osta) crosses ancient Walser settlements, and

Beyond the Colle della Mologna Grande the route

proceeds through the Cervo Valley to the inte-

resting mountain village of Piedicavallo.

asses through Alpine villages and woods.

Piedicavallo

- Lenaht: 16.4 km

1,690 m descent

- Time required: 6 h 50

- Difficulty: Moderate

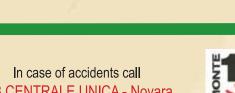
Piazza Vittorio Veneto 3, Biella Two stages of the blue itinerary cross the Biellese Territory in the footsteps of the Walser, the ancient E-mail: info@atl.biella.it - www.atl.biella.it

> Rondolere that dates back to the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The site was use<mark>d for the treatmen</mark>t of lodestone and all processing phases were conducted at the location. The site has been restored and is now open to the public. The blast furnace, almost completely rebuilt, is of particular interest. limbing the slope again, you reach the Argentera waterfall. Leaving the main path, you descend to the archeo-mineral site of Argentera. Here there is a proto-industrial building that dates back to the beginning of the 18th century that was used to grind and wash galena (an argentiferous lead mineral that was extracted rom the mine above). At the end of the visit, you rejoin the main path until Alpe Artignaga di Sotto and then change direction to re-enter the departure point.

mineral Park of the Alta Val Sessera

The route starts at the archeo-mineral site

Archeo-mineral site of Argenters







• In winter, check on the snowfall danger level (from 1 to 5). If the level is • Research the geomorphologic situation of the area (practicability of paths

Call 118 (single free phone health emergency number) and state:

 Your name and telephone number. What has happened and how.

Reference points for location from the air and potential obstacles (cables

etc.) with dry clothing.

rescue and move all unnecessary people from the area.