



FONDO EUROPEO AGRICOLO PER LO SVILUPPO RURALE: L'EUROPA INVESTE NELLE ZONE RURALI



From the Adige to the Po.

In the Lands between Adige and Po



The itineraries



a

Right Adige bank

Barbuglio > Legnago-Vr > Verona > Trento > Bolzano > Passo Resia-Bz

d

Left Po/Right Po bank

Polesella > Ostiglia-Mn > Mantova > Ciclabile del Mincio > Lago di Garda

b

- Colli Euganei Ring road
- Tour of the walled cities

e

Polesella > Ro Ferrarese-Fe > Ostellato-Fe > Comacchio-Fe

c

A tour of the walled cities

Barbuglio > Rovigo > Rosolina Mare > Via del Mare (Bibione-Ve)

f

Left Po bank

Polesella > Delta del Po > Via del Mare (Bibione-Ve)

Useful advice

Orienteering: follow the signs labelled with the route's logo. Geo-referenced trails are available for download at www.ciclabiledigeipo.it.

Safety: cyclists should respect the local road regulations, wear protective equipment and take with them a first-aid kit and bicycle repair tools.

Bicycles: the most suitable for the route found in this guide are tourism, city and hybrid bicycles.

Attire: we recommend attire that allows the cyclist to pedal comfortably and safely.

The texts

The texts provide complementary guidance to the cartography, as well as descriptions of the route and other useful information.

For further information on the artistic heritage, nature and monuments of the area as well as options for restaurants and accommodation, please visit: www.ciclabiledigeipo.it.

The Polesine. A land between two rivers

The Polesine, a land between the two largest rivers in Italy, is a unique and charming territory.

Water is its dominant element, being part of its landscape and its history. The rivers, canals and small streams that flow through the area are characteristic of this part of the Po Valley and form a unique environment to be discovered.

A land rich in history, art and culture that fascinates and surprises, it should be visited with the slow pace of cycling in order to appreciate its infinite and multifaceted characteristics.



Those who arrive for the first time in the Polesine area cannot but be surprised by the presence of a dense network of canals that crisscross the territory; their course is nestled between high embankments that interrupt the infinite view of low wheat, rice and rapeseed harvests.

Encircling this narrow strip of land in the characteristic shape of a fish looking towards the sea, are the two largest Italian rivers: the Adige and the Po.

Today, where water no longer flows, there are streets with sinuous paths, elevated in comparison with the surrounding countryside and populated areas, providing evidence of the ancient course of present day rivers.

The route from the Adige to the Po has the charm of discovery and the special peculiarity of the

Polesine to show, in less than 50 km, the geomorphological milestones in the evolution of the landscape and the principal phases of human activity: from the first agglomerations dating back more than 3,000 years, to the various occupations that have taken place over the centuries, defining architectural styles and traditions. In these locations, important chapters of recent Italian history,

art and economy have also been written:

Local museums are accredited with explaining their essential phases in an innovative and engaging way. Integral parts to the itinerary are the natural river environments (floodplains, eddies), and the open countryside that seasonally changes its appearance, giving the landscape novel colours and dimensions.



The Po-Adige route is part of a network of paths and connects with the cycle paths in neighbouring provinces, from Padua to Verona via the Adige, from Mantua to Ferrara via the Po.

One starts from the right bank of the Adige near the village of Barbuglio, locality belonging to Lendinara.

The river flows slowly between the banks that mark its course, and will end in the Adriatic Sea after about seventy kilometres. There are ancient 'stanti' where fluvial place names are engraved: embankments, floodplains, 'marezzane'.

Mounting the bike, one descends from the bank southward. The village of Barbuglio originated in the year 1200 and the redbrick church dedicated to Saint Nicola Vescovo was built in 1940 after the old one had been demolished due to embanking works on the Adige.

Just beyond, Sagedo (km 2,0), whose origins date back to 1170,

is the church of this small village, dedicated to Barnabas the Apostle, which dates back to 1794.

The horticultural market of Lusina can be found not much further away, a prominent fruit and vegetable centre with an excellent



quality of produce.

Crossing the SP 55, one continues south through the Scolo Ceresolo, one of the many reclamation canals in the area.

After just over 2 km we are in Lendinara (km 4,3), an important centre crossed by the Adigetto. With magnificent buildings in the Venetian style and several interesting churches, it is one of the must-visit tourist destinations of Polesine.








The majestic bell tower of the Cathedral of St. Sofia (one of the highest in Italy) looks down over its surroundings. Also interesting is the nineteenth-century **Church of St. Biagio** (1) with its neo-classical lines; but it is the Madonna of Pilastrello that attracts thousands of faithful devotees. The Piazza Risorgimento with the Praetorian

Palace, the Clock Tower and the balcony of the Town Hall are all charming; noteworthy are also Ca' Dolfin-Marchiori with its romantic garden, the Ballarin Theatre, the Malmignati and the Cattaneo Palace, dating back to the sixteenth century. A visit to the Citadel of Culture, home to the library, the historical archives and the Museum of the Risorgimento "A. Mario and J. White" cannot be missed.


Writings and memorabilia take us to the discovery of two protagonists of the Risorgimento battles; a section is finally dedicated to the historical photography with nineteenth-century shots of the Marchiori collection. One should not forget to taste the "Puazza", a local sweet made with almonds, dedicated to the marble figure that decorates the Praetorian Palace.


Legend




Viability

-  secondary roads
-  heavy traffic road
-  highway
-  railroad
-  danger
-  waterways
-  underpass




Scale

 0 0.25 0.5 km
1:20.000
1 cm = 200 m

 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km
1:75.000
1 cm = 750 m

-  panel number
-  detail number
-  adjacent panel number

Routes

-  paved bicycle path
-  bicycle path on roads with low traffic
-  bicycle path with connection to city centres





Toponymy

- ROVIGO** city
- Polesella** municipality
- Bornio location
- Vie Trento* road/avenue/square
- Gorgo Dolfin* point of interest
- F. Adige* hydrography

Information

-  tourist information offices
-  bicycle assistance
-  train station
-  bike + train
-  partial distance
-  departure - arrival

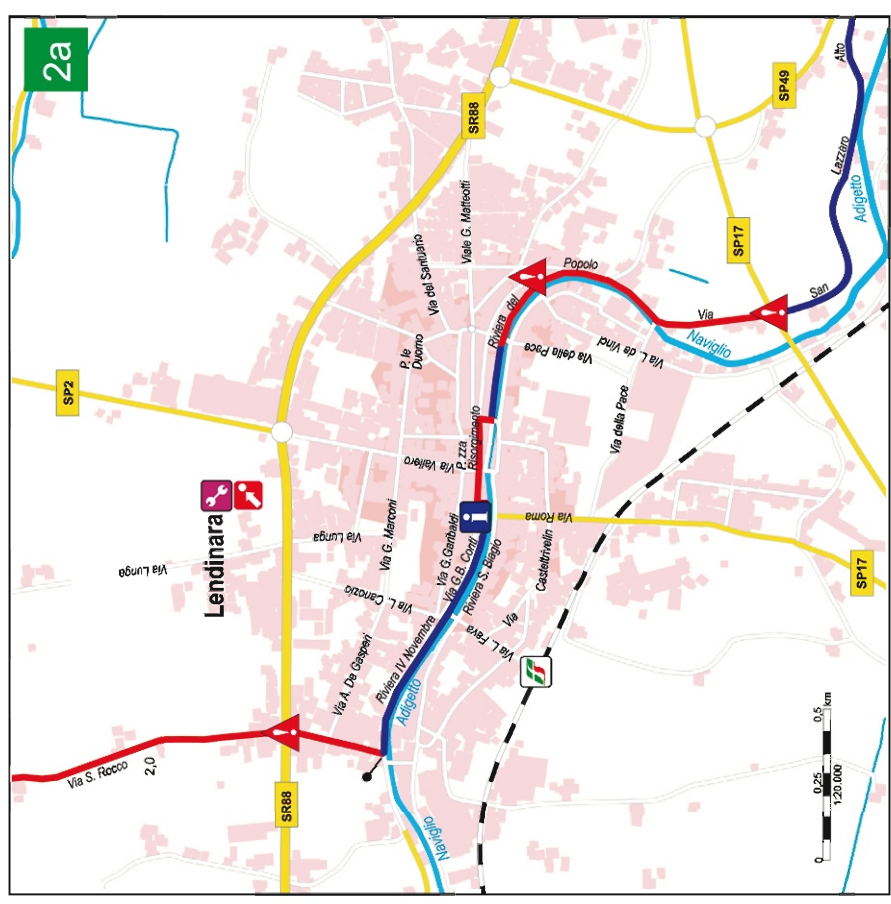
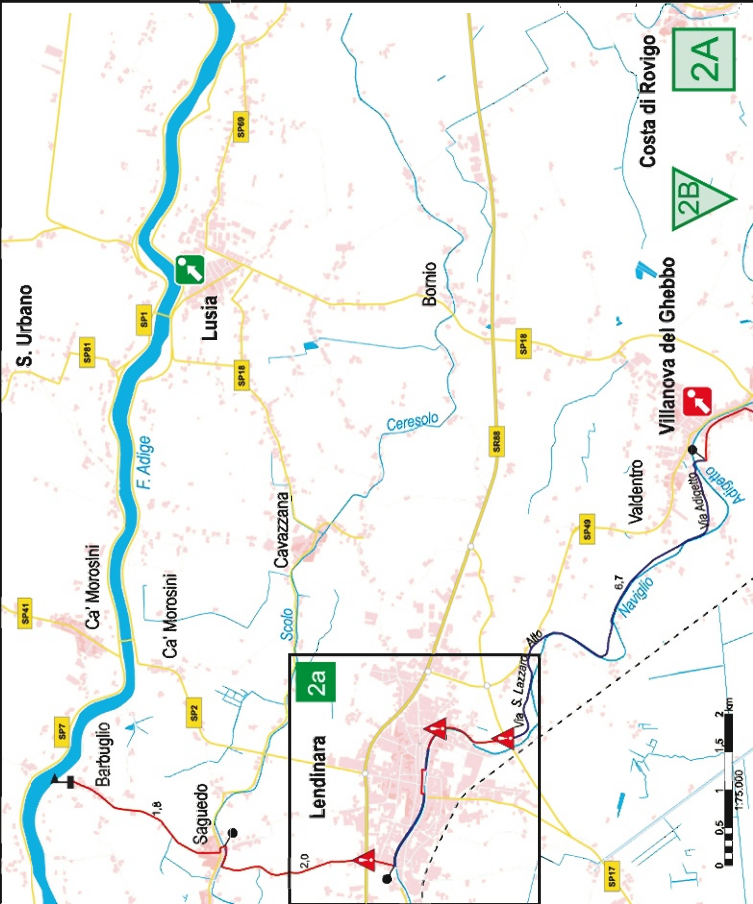
Places to see

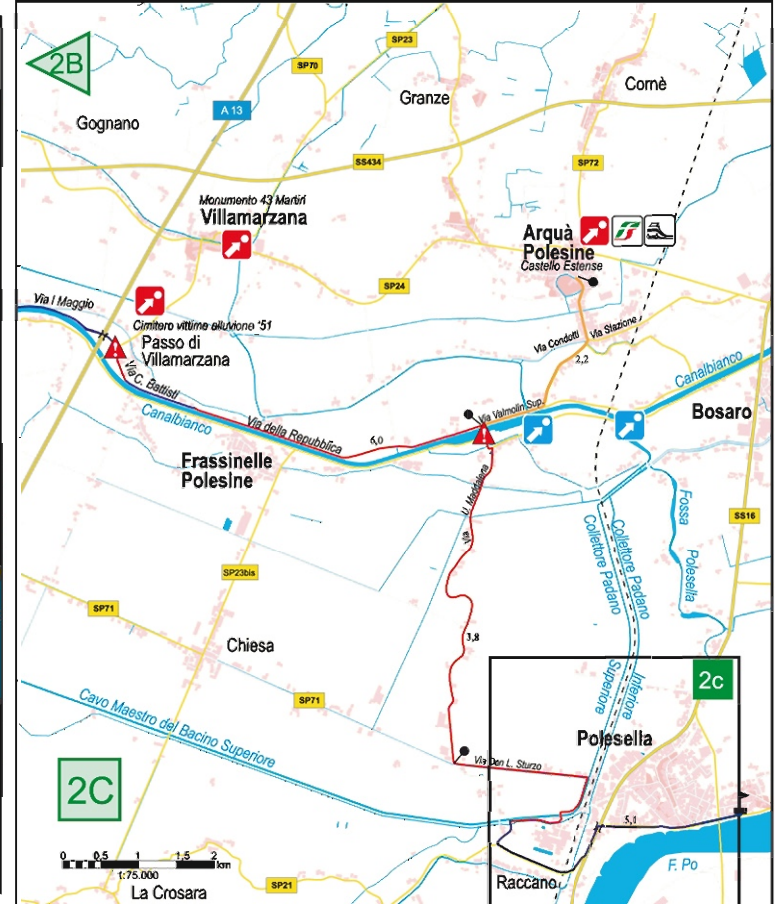
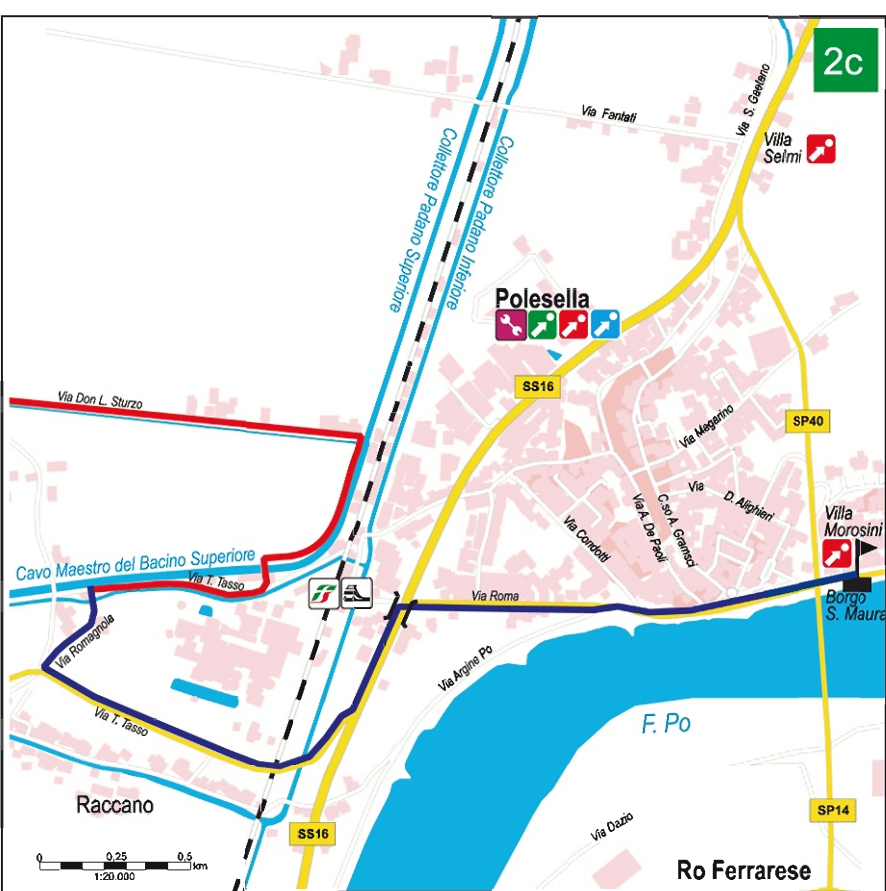
-  site of historic/artistic interest
-  site of natural interest
-  hydraulic artefact
-  museum



From the Adige to the Po







Following the Adigetto with its picturesque bridges, one passes the Perolari Palace and continues on the left bank.

Here begins a magnificent stretch of cyclable path that follows the Adigetto - once the main route of the Adige - and trailing along its meandering route one is



immersed in the peaceful Polesine countryside.

About 6 km further on, one crosses the Adigetto thanks to a new cycle-friendly bridge.

We are not far from the village of Villanova del Ghebbo (km 10,6) with its parish church dedicated to **Saint Michele Arcangelo** (2), internally decorated with important frescoes, altars and rich polychrome marble. Not far from the centre, one can see the Oratory of Ca' Nova, dating back to the late 600's, an object of great devotion due to the miraculous powers of its Virgin Mary.

Shortly past the village, one meets the Canale Scortico (an ancient canal and trade route between Canalbianco and Adigetto) that can be followed on a secondary road going south.

After a further 3 km, having

crossed the railway of Rovigo-Verona, one enters the historic centre of Fratta Polesine (km 14,0). This beautiful place is known for the splendid **Villa Badoer** (3), UNESCO heritage site, and it is



home of the National Archaeological Museum. With the Villa Badoer, Palladio left one of his most successful works in terms of taste and harmony of forms.

Along the two rivers that run through the village one can see

numerous villas and palaces of rare beauty among which stand out Villa Molin-Avezzù, designed by a pupil of Palladio, and the park of Villa Labia. The parish church is dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul, and holds two important paintings by Bortoloni. Fratta was also the birthplace of Giacomo Matteotti; in his family home there is now a **museum** (4) dedicated to this



renowned historical figure. Finally, in Palazzo Dolfin-Boniotti one can find the "*Manegium*" ethnographic museum.

Fratta is also famous for being the location of the Moti Carbonari against the Austrian rule in the early 1800s.

Their fight was brutally repressed and a monument was erected in memory of their sacrifices.

After tasting the traditional Carbonaro sweet, one continues south, meeting the SS Transpolesana that should be followed eastbound until crossing it by means of an underpass.

One is now in the archaeological area of Frattesina.



Numerous excavations carried out here, and in close proximity, have brought to light a **large settlement** (5) and two large-scale necropolis dating back to the late Bronze Age.

The country road now turns southward and reaches the left bank of Canalbianco where, on an easy and smooth cycle path, the trail becomes immersed in a picturesque setting along the river. Here, the route has a detour.

Turning right, one shortly reaches the confluence of the Scortico and the Canalbianco. One is now in the location of Pizzon.

Here, in the midst of the gradient between the two rivers, an **earthy mill** (6) can be found that probably dates back to the eighteenth century and has lived a laborious past. The Watermill, unique of its kind, is now home to an inn and an

eco-museum and it has preserved intact the massive machinery that was used to grind wheat and corn.



Here one can continue westward, making a short detour from the main path; a little further on, by crossing the Canalbianco, one arrives at Pincara.

This village is developed along the main road, around the church dedicated to St. John the Baptist and the Canonica, both dating back to the sixteenth century.

Also interesting are the nearby Ca'

Bernarda (7), a characteristic eighteenth-century farmyard, and the first entrepreneurial museum in Polesine, where one can taste the typical 'fragolino' liqueur in its old distillery.

Returning to the crossroad in Pizzon, one follows the route of the Canalbianco eastward, which is surrounded by the typical landscape of the Polesine.

A few kilometers further on, one encounters the Passo di Villamarzana (km 20,6).



Here, adjacent to a church, one can see a small cemetery dedicated to the 84 victims of the terrible flood of 1951.

After a short break in the equipped resting area, one can take a detour to the nearby Villamarzana, infamous for the massacre of forty-three partisans carried out by nazi-fascists in 1944. In their memory, one can see a **monument (8)** with the names of the forty-three martyrs and a small museum in the same building where they had been



held captive prior to their execution.

The route continues along the left bank of the Canalbianco up to the navigation basin of Ponte Bussari, where a visit to Arquà Polesine is worth one further diversion.

The small town is steeped in history and is situated on the bend of the old Po of Adria.

Dominated by its crenellated tower, the **Estense Castle (9)** is a beautiful medieval fortress.

It houses intriguing frescoes recently restored to their former glory, such as the famous 'Myth of Phaeton', and the town hall.

Originating from Ferrara is also the Casino di Caccia Estense: built around the fifteenth century, it is a little gem of rural architecture surrounded by dense vegetation.

The construction of the parish

church of St. Andrea dates back to the period of Venetian domination. Going back to the Bussari Bridge and its navigation basin, one continues southbound.

At the entrance of Via Umberto Maddalena there is another parking area with benches and a



water fountain.

It is advisable to take a break before diving into the countryside, where one can't help but be captivated by the indefinite horizons and by how everything

appears perpetually static.

While passing some farms right and left, a gray heron takes flight and a flock of doves cross the sky. By now there is little left to cycle, and along a stretch following the Collettore Padano one reaches the gates of Polesella.

Here is Raccano, an ancient settlement developed on lands that had remained above water level during the numerous deviations of the Po.

Until the fifteenth - sixteenth century, it was a strategically important centre belonging to the Commune of the Duchy of Este.

The small Romanesque church of St. Mary of the Nativity remains as a witness of the passing of time.

On a beautiful cycle path one can wander around a former sugar refinery.

Passing the Bologna - Venice railway and making a safe crossing of Highway number 16, one arrives at the village of Polesella (km 32,0).

This little inhabited centre was developed around the **Fossa Polesella** (10), a channel that joined the Po and the Canalbianco.

Its banks have always been an obstacle to the flow of the Po's



floodwaters eastward; therefore, after the flood of 1951, its course in the urban areas was buried,



although it is still possible to see the remains of one of the bridges that used to cross the channel.

The urban layout of the historic centre has completely changed since then.

In place of the channel a magnificent park was created that

splits the village down the middle and provides a green lung for **this area** (11).

Overlooking the park are beautiful Venetian villas that testify to its noble past - their placement here being due to the fact that the Fossa Polesella constituted a convenient route for navigation.

Amongst these villas is the seventeenth-century **Ca' Rosetta** (12), with a double balcony and a large green space in front of the villa; almost in front of it there is



Villa Armellini, has come to be known as the "house with seven heads".



It is characterized by a cubic shape, typical of its time, and the 'Mascheroni', similar to Venetian gargoyles, that adorn its windows. Just outside the historic centre is

Villa Selmi (13), with its harmonious and essential lines, found within the grounds of a large romantic park. This villa would also have overlooked the Fossa Polesella. One should now cross the village and go up the left bank of the Po. The great river is below and makes a wide bend here. It is the end of the journey. Here one encounters the bicycle and pedestrian trails "Left Po" and "Fissero Tartaro-Canalbianco-Po di Levante" with the information panels that describe their route.

A tiny and picturesque beach can be seen between the dense vegetation of the floodplain. **The pier** (14) of a well-equipped river dock allows one to go down, get to the water level and appreciate, in the hot summer

months, the characteristic breeze of the river and taste some typical dishes of the Venetian tradition including the cod in polesellana version and the river fried. In the last post-war period, all the floodplain areas were cleared and



today only the magical village of S. Maura remains, a little further downstream. Recently restored, here one can take a break in the shade of tall poplars. In front of the village is the

magnificent and beautifully restored **Villa Morosini** (15), inhabited in the seventeenth century by Francesco Morosini, Doge of Venice. The large stairway that once looked out on the river is very



characteristic, as are the **corner towers** (16) on the crenellated walls that surround its boundaries. The Villa is the product of the gradual conversion of a rural house over time. The natural environment is marked

by a large bend that the river makes in this stretch. One has now arrived.



The tour, from its start at the bank of the Adige, has been a little under 34 km, excluding the detours.



	Lendinara Villanova del Ghebbo (10,6 km)	Villanova del Ghebbo Fratta Polesine (3,8 km)	Fratta Polesine Passo di Villamarzana (7,0 km)	Passo di Villamarzana Polesella (12,7 km)
Information	Lendinara Via G.B. Conti, 30 Tel. +39 0425 605668 iat@comune.lendinara.ro.it	Fratta Polesine c/o Villa Badoer Via G. Tasso, 1 Tel. +39 0425 668523	Fratta Polesine c/o Villa Badoer Via G. Tasso, 1 Tel. +39 0425 668523	Town hall of Polesella Piazza G. Matteotti, 11 Tel. +39 0425 447111
Intermodal transport	Train station Lendinara Rovigo-Verona line (www.trenitalia.com)	Train station Fratta Polesine Rovigo-Verona line (www.trenitalia.com)	Train station Fratta Polesine Rovigo-Verona line (www.trenitalia.com)	Train station Arquà Polesine Polesella Bologna-Venezia line (www.trenitalia.com)
	Coach service www.fsbusitaliaveneto.it	Coach service www.fsbusitaliaveneto.it	Coach service www.fsbusitaliaveneto.it	Coach service (www.garbellini.it, www.fsbusitaliaveneto.it)
Road conditions	Secondary roads and paved cyclable path	Secondary roads and paved cyclable path	Secondary roads and paved cyclable path	Secondary roads and paved cyclable path
Recommended detours	From Barbuglio, on the right Adige, to Legnago (VR) or to Rovigo. Crossing the Adige, towards Este (PD).		From the locality Frattesina, on the left Canalbianco, towards Pincara. From Pincara towards Canda.	From the locality Passo towards Villamarzana. From the locality Ponte Bussari towards Arquà Polesine. From Polesella towards Po Delta on the left and right Po.

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G. Barbi; Superintendence for the Archaeological Heritage of Veneto (the reproductions of the Italian State property have been made under concession of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities; further reproduction and duplication by any means whatsoever is prohibited).

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Web

www.ciclabileadigepo.it

www.galadige.it

www.galdeltapo.it

www.polesineterratradauefiumi.it

www.comune.arqua.ro.it

www.comune.frassinelle-polesine.ro.it

www.visit-fratta.it

www.comune.lendinara.ro.it

www.comune.pincara.ro.it

www.comune.polesella.ro.it

www.comune.villamarzana.ro.it

www.comune.villanovadelghebbo.ro.it



Route info

Length: 33.5 km; *with detours to alternative visitation centres: 47.7 km*
Starting point: *Barbuglio (Lendinara).*

Arrival point: *Polesella.*

The route can also be followed in the opposite direction.

Conditions of the trail: *route completely flat on bike path and paved roads with little traffic.*

The route is fully marked.



Cicloroute
Adige-Po

Bike info

Bicycle rental and repair

Lendinara, Fratta Polesine, Pincara, Arquà Polesine, Polesella.

Information:

www.ciclabileadigepo.it

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