



Cultura, arte, paesaggi, tradizioni fanno parte del patrimonio turistico, spesso sottovalutato, della provincia di Milano. Eppure il nostro territorio è al sesto posto nella graduatoria italiana per le presenze turistiche e, anche se gran parte di queste vengono generate dal flusso di visite per affari, vi è un sempre crescente numero di cittadini interessati a scoprire inaspettati luoghi di interesse a poca distanza da casa. Per questo motivo presentiamo con soddisfazione, insieme alla Camera di Commercio e con il patrocinio di Urban Center, questo programma di itinerari attraverso la storia e l'arte nei dintorni della città senza tralasciare le aree dedicate all'agricoltura, all'industria e quelle degli ambienti naturali. Brevi visite per scoprire che, per "fare turismo", non sempre è necessario affrontare lunghi viaggi in terre lontane.

Milano, la grande capitale della laboriosità italiana, ha una lunga storia da raccontare e da leggere nei segni che dal passato ad oggi e nelle prospettive del futuro segnalano gli interventi dell'uomo sul territorio, con le diversificate forme di agricoltura e di produzione e nelle infrastrutture. E poi la rete dei centri urbani divenuti centri dell'industria lungo le linee del trasporto viario, d'acqua e ferroviario, e accanto alle fonti di energia. E ancora gli snodi del commercio, dell'incontro e della residenza dalle più lontane forme di insediamento ai nuovi quartieri. Negli itinerari per "conoscere Milano e la Provincia" si leggono stratificati tutti questi interventi e si vede anche quanto lavoro ancora si possa e si debba promuovere per migliorare la qualità della vita e dell'ambiente e per dare nuovi impulsi economici e sociali allo sviluppo.

Dopo aver avviato, ormai nel lontano 2002, i primi itinerari alla scoperta di una Milano in profonda trasformazione, e in particolare dei nuovi quartieri li dismesse, Urban Center promuove questo nuovo Conoscere Milano esteso a tutto il territorio della provincia. Gli itinerari, disegnati a corolla attorno a Milano, con tappe molto diverse tra loro, toccheranno il ricco patrimonio storico e artistico insieme a trasformazioni e recuperi contemporanei, partendo spesso da luoghi storici, nuovi quartieri o progetti di recupero realizzati a Milano, a sottolineare il ruolo baricentrico che il capoluogo detiene. Urban Center si dimostra ancora una volta il luogo dedicato alla comunicazione e all'informazione sul territorio, in questo caso con l'obiettivo rivolto alle tante mete ricche di storia e di tesori disseminati nella provincia milanese

Conoscere Milano e la sua provincia. Un invito che AIM rivolge a tutti i cittadini della città centrale a diventare "viandanti nella loro terra", ad uscire dalle mura urbane e a ritrovare nei segni del passato e nelle realtà della vita odierna il percorso che l'uomo ha condotto occupando e facendo fruttare un territorio fra i più fertili e ricchi dell'Europa. Il percorso di conoscenza del moderno viandante incontrerà poi, pur nella ricorrente congestione di un territorio fitto di presenze abitative, produttive e infrastrutturali, i segni evidenti di nuove politiche di recupero e riassetto dei centri storici, di restauro di beni monumentali pubblici, privati ed ecclesiastici, nuove tipologie di parchi tutelati e aperti ad utilizzi vari per il tempo libero e lo sport. Segnali concreti di un diffuso rinascimento e rinnovamento ambientale promosso e gestito dagli enti locali che sono anch'essi una ricchezza del nostro territorio.

Knowing Milan's province: History, art, nature and new architecture

Today, Milan's province includes 189 cities. This area is so rich and diverse that it deserves several itineraries: hence, the publication "Knowing Milan and its province". This project aims at promoting and enhancing the Milan area; it was conceived by the Department for Tourism of the Provincial Administration, together with the Urban Center of the City of Milan and the Chamber of Commerce of Milan.

AIM designed and co-ordinated the itineraries. Ten guided tours, diverse and interesting, to unveil an area that has a rich heritage and a strong drive towards the future.



CONOSCERE MILANO E LA PROVINCIA

ARTE E NATURA, INDUSTRIA E ARCHITETTURA

Filippo Penati
Presidente
Provincia di Milano

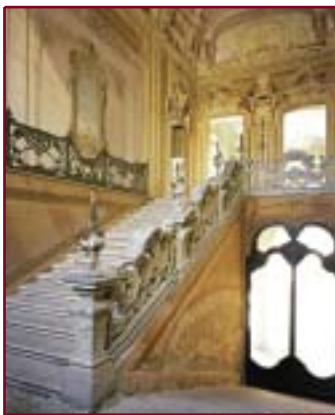
Carlo Sangalli
Presidente
Camera di Commercio di Milano

GREAT NOBLE VILLAS AND PARCO DELLE GROANE

North of Milan, this itinerary winds through some neighbourhoods that are changing deeply. From Affori to Quarto Oggiaro, this part of the city is being converted from industrial to mixed use: residential buildings, new or redeveloped parks, refurbished facilities that were not open to the public before - such as the former Paolo Pini Psychiatric Asylum.

Going towards Saronno, we get to Castellazzo di Bollate, also known as Villa Arconati, where great international musicians perform in the warm July evenings.

Here, we are at the entrance of Parco delle Groane, a 3,400-hectare protected area that serves as a green lung for the whole city of Milan. The park was established in 1976, and it is named after its natural raised terraces. The park's natural beauty is complemented by lovely noble villas. Historic mansions are interspersed among high-rise factory chimneys, as a reminder of the site's diverse heritage. These villas were restored in the post-war period; Villa Visconti Borromeo Litta in Lainate and Villa Arese Borromeo in Cesano Maderno and their gardens are the most significant.



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ITINERARY 4

GREAT NOBLE VILLAS AND PARCO DELLE GROANE

Affori
In the former Psychiatric Asylum,
the Art Museum Paolo Pini - Mapp

Certosa neighbourhood and park
A new, modern neighbourhood
on the land of a former refinery

Castellazzo
"Little Versailles" near Bollate, one of the
most spectacular mansions in the Milan area

Lainate
An extraordinary building famous for
its water plays in the Nimpheum

Cesano Maderno
In the greenery of Parco delle Groane, an
elegant town with noble villas and mansions

1. ACQUARIO

Next to Milan's Castle, we find the City Aquarium, a historic 1906 exhibition pavilion that re-opened after renovation in April 2006. It currently includes educational facilities, a specialised library and an auditorium, besides the Water Way; its highlight is a bridge-shaped tank that makes visitors feel like they are walking under water.



5. LAINATE

We go through Parco delle Groane, a luxurious stretch of land where water abounds. This land has always been known for being extremely fertile, and has been farmed extensively until as late as the end of the 19th century, when the Villoresi irrigation canal was dug North of Milan.

The area around Lainate was deeply transformed after World War II; however, this did not spoil the beauty of Villa Visconti Borromeo Litta, that the City bought in 1970. Its current shape is owed to Pirro I Visconti Borromeo, a sophisticated collector and counsellor to the Duke of Mantua, who appointed Martino Bassi and painters Carlo Antonio and Camillo Procaccini to work on the villa between 1585 and 1591. In front of the villa, there is a splendid Nymphaeum, lovely water plays that are still working to this day. The large park comprises an English-style forestry area designed by Canonica in the early 19th century, a natural theatre and a citrus orchard. At the centre, it boasts the scenic 18th-century Fountain of Galatea.



2. AFFORI MAPP

Further North, we get to the Affori neighbourhood, all around 17th-century Villa Litta Modignani. Affori is also known for the Paolo Pini Psychiatric Asylum, now the location of the Paolo Pini Art Museum (MAPP); it was built in the city outskirts in the 1920s, enclosed by a wall to prevent any contact between the citizens and "scandalous" patients. In 1978, psychiatric asylums were closed in Italy; care is now provided to patients suffering from minor conditions through art therapy, right in the place where they were formerly locked in. Hence, Art Workshops were created on the former hospital site: patients, art therapists and international artists are engaged in the production of art works that are then exhibited here. The MAPP permanent collection is open to the public.



6. PARCO DELLE GROANE

Regional Park delle Groane was established in 1976: 3,400 hectares protected by a Consortium, criss-crossed by pedestrian and cycling lanes in an unspoiled natural environment just North of Milan. Heather grows in the moors, next to pine and oak forests, leading to the Manué pond, that fills an exhausted clay quarry, and provides an ideal habitat for many species of birds and amphibians.

3. QUARTIERE E PARCO CERTOSA

We pass the Villa Scheibler park in Vialba, that opened in 2005 after redeveloping areas for meeting, walkways and the former city conservatory. Another new park, partially opened in 2005, will form the core of the new Certosa neighbourhood, on a reclaimed stretch of land formerly occupied by a refinery. This settlement comprises residential buildings, retail shops and university residences. Once the plan is completed, the park will stretch over 20 hectares and it will have a large central green amphitheatre and many waterways.



7. SOLARO

Going towards Cesano Maderno on a beautiful road along the park, we get to Solaro, a small town enriched by the 14th-century Oratorio of Saints Caterina and Ambrogio; it was built by Ambrogio Birago, a counsellor to Bernabò Visconti, and is beautifully frescoed. From Solaro, we enter a protected area inside Parco delle Groane: the Ca' del Re (the King's House), so called because the Savoia Royal family used to go there, that boasts uncommon flora and fauna.



4. CASTELLAZZO

As we proceed towards Saronno, buildings are less thick, and more and more greenery leads to Parco delle Groane. Near Bollate, a long scenic boulevard leads to majestic Villa Arconati, or Castellazzo, so spectacular it is nicknamed "the little Versailles". The villa was designed by G. Ruggeri in 1722-1743 and has a spectacular front with 365 windows overlooking the family estate: a huge farming estate and a magnificent park with an Italian-style garden enriched by statues and a fountain. The villa was the core of a tiny town with a 16th-century church and a large farming compound.



8. CESANO MADERNO

In the greenery of the park, man left his mark through many industrial chimneys, and numerous villas. Limbiate, Senago, Arese, are all towns where noble villas exist, showing that this area has always been popular with the Milanese aristocracy. Villa Arese Borromeo in Cesano Maderno is one of the most important. Bartolomeo III Arese had it rebuilt in the late 17th century; it has a very sober front that does not disclose the extreme luxury it keeps inside. Many famous painters, including Ercole Procaccini, Montalto and Federico Bianchi, celebrated the family's fortune in a grand series of frescoes. The villa has been bought by the City in 1987 and is now open to the public; it is the headquarters of the Department of Philosophy of Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele.

