



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.

Filippo Penati
Presidente
Provincia di Milano



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.

Carlo Sangalli
Presidente
Camera di Commercio di Milano



Dopo aver avviato, ormai nel lontano 2002, i primi itinerari alla scoperta di una Milano in profonda trasformazione, e in particolare dei nuovi quartieri con nuovi parchi sorti su aree industriali 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

ITINERARY 6

NEW SERVICE INDUSTRY, ART AND NATURE ALONG THE LAMBRO RIVER

Sesto San Giovanni
From abandoned industrial sites to the brand-new "Mediapolis" service centre

Monza
Unique history, from Queen Theodelinda to the Augsburg and King Umberto I

Canonica
In the Parco della Valle del Lambro, among rich atmospheric buildings

Tregasio and Besana Brianza
Green winding roads in Brianza, villas, gardens and important religious buildings

Arcore
At the foot of the hills of Brianza, an unbelievable cluster of 18th- and 19th-century villas



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NEW SERVICE INDUSTRY, ART AND NATURE ALONG THE LAMBRO RIVER

This itinerary in the heart of Brianza is marked by the two largest towns in Lombardy, Sesto San Giovanni and Monza: together, they have over 200,000 inhabitants. This is a densely urbanised area, with towns lining up one after another uninterrupted, along an axis that has been heavily industrialised until recently. Brianza is a land that has its own economic and cultural identity, so much so that the Province of Monza and Brianza has been created, that will come in force in 2009. In the 20th century, Sesto San Giovanni saw the thickest cluster of industrial sites in Lombardy: Falck, Breda, and Marelli are now being deeply transformed. The former Falck site is going to be redeveloped in the next ten years to accommodate a large new neighbourhood designed by Renzo Piano; some industrial facilities will be kept and are candidate World Heritage sites. Monza is the main production and activity centre of Brianza, and has had a rich history ever since Lombard times. Monza is also known for its Villa Reale and large Park, that includes the 1922 Autodromo motor racing circuit. The area between Monza and Besana Brianza is rich in art works: villas, Romanic churches and elegant atmospheric buildings. Here lies the Parco della Valle del Lambro, a 25-km regional park along the river. The itinerary finishes in Arcore, where some noteworthy villas are found on the lower hills of Brianza.



1. SESTO SAN GIOVANNI

Sesto owes its name to its location on the sixth milestone along the Roman road leading from Milan to Brianza. It is one of the towns where contemporary redevelopment plans are most visible, following the closure of industrial factories. In the early 20th century, its convenient location and connections prompted the settlement of many industrial plants here, such as Breda, Campari and Moto Garelli - so much so that it was nicknamed "little Manchester". Industrial development in Sesto did not spare many noble 16th- and 17th-century villas in the area; some were converted into textile factories. Today, on the former Marelli site, the Mediapolis neighbourhood is taking shape, while the Falck site will be redeveloped under Renzo Piano's design to highlight industrial memories in the area around Milan.



3. CANONICA

In the greenery of the Parco della Valle del Lambro, we reach Canonica, near a ford on the Lambro river. Between atmospheric buildings, through a Baroque gate and a well-kept garden, we see 16th-century Villa Taverna. The hills of Northern Brianza start here, that afford delightful views.



4. TREGASIO

Architect Luigi Cagnola obviously appreciated this hilly countryside; he was commissioned by the D'Adda family to build his neo-classical Rotonda in Tregasio, that was completed by A. Nava in 1842 and is now known as the Chapel of Saints Gervasio and Protasio. This little temple is modelled after the Rotonda of Inverigo; it sits scenically alone on top of a grand staircase, with a majestic sculptured porch and a shiny dome above it.



2. MONZA

Going northwards, thickly built areas give way to the 685-hectares Parco di Monza, one of the largest enclosed parks in Europe. It was first created in 1805 as an extension to the Gardens of Villa Reale, and is known both for its exotic plants and for its architecture, including the 1922 Autodromo motor racing circuit. The keystone of the area is Villa Reale, designed by Piermarini for the Augsburg Court (1770-80). A boulevard leads to it and crosses it, thus highlighting its function as a representative residence. Its grand rooms were frescoed by Appiani, and later modified by the House of Savoy. It was slowly abandoned by the Royal family after the King's assassination in 1900. The Villa is architecturally framed by the main streets in central Monza, leading to the bridge over the Lambro that sets an unexpected view of Monza as a river city. Here, we start to feel the ancient origins of the settlement, thanks to the 13th-century Tower of Theodelinda. Monza was first founded by the Romans; however, it owes its splendour to Queen Theodelinda (6th - 7th century), who made it the capital of the Lombard reign. Next to her palace, the Duomo was built, that was then rebuilt in the 14th century and frescoed inside in the 16th and 17th centuries. The church is famous for the Chapel of Theodelinda frescoed by the Zavattaris in 1444; it keeps the Corona Ferrea, the Iron Crown of Lombardy (6th - 7th century), so called because it was forged from a nail taken from the Holy Cross. It crowned all the Kings of Italy from the Middle Ages to Napoleon.



5. BESANA BRIANZA

4. TREGASIO

3. CANONICA

2. MONZA

6. ARCORE

5. BESANA BRIANZA

Because of its up-and-down landscape, Besana Brianza is divided in several settlements gathered around Besana Inferiore and Superiore. In Besana Inferiore, the most noteworthy building is the 1801 Villa Filippini; its park is open to the public, and has secular trees, that look like sculptures themselves, and works by sculptor Aligi Sassu. Nearby, we find the Romanic church of Saints Pietro and Paolo, the core of a Benedictine Nunnery established in 1102, now a retirement home. The building was modified in Baroque times, but still has a sumptuous grey stone façade. The inside is split between the public church and the Nunnery church, and has frescoes dating back to the 16th century.



1. SESTO S. GIOVANNI

6. ARCORE

South of Besana, hills make way to plains: looking towards Milan, one can appreciate the beauty of the varied landscape. This explains why so many villas are clustered here. In particular, Arcore has some of the best-known mansions, just at the foot of the hills. These include Villa Giulini and Villa d'Adda, a neo-rococo rendering of an 18th-century "noble house" above its park; Villa Ravizza with its eclectic garden and Villa Vittadini, called "la Cazzola", now appearing in the neo-classical shape that C. Amati designed in 1812, just where Tibaldi and Richini had transformed G.B. Durini's hunting pavilion into a villa.



PIAZZA CASTELLO