



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 di 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.



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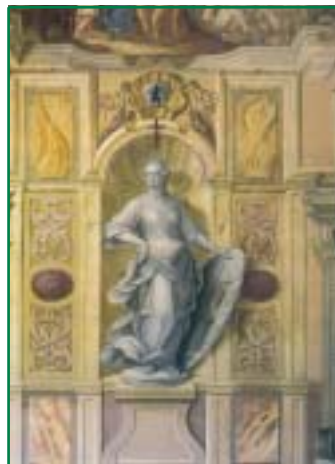
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VILLAS AND HISTORIC CENTRES BETWEEN THE MARTESANA CANAL AND THE ADDA RIVER

As we go north-east of Milan, we flank the Martesana canal along Via Padova; in the past, it was known as the riviera of Milan because of the villas, famous hostels and restaurants along the canal. Unfortunately, today the villas are surrounded by modern high-rise buildings, but the old-time beauty can still be perceived. The Naviglio della Martesana was designed under Duke Filippo Maria Visconti in the 15th century, to provide water to farming fields, power to the industry and to create a navigable canal connecting to the Adda river and the region of Bergamo. It leads from the ancient Castle of Trezzo to central Milan, where it is now flowing under the street at the San Marco Locks - the city's old fluvial harbour. The land around the Martesana is characterised by ancient settlements, noble villas and hydraulic-powered workshops, still visible in a heavily industrialised and urbanised area. Up the Naviglio, we reach the area of Vimercate, where many industrial concerns specialise in IT, technology and communication. This area has many small or medium-sized towns, that have attracted plenty of business activities. Vimercate itself has a surprising town centre, with villas, mansions and churches. Back to the waterfront, our itinerary leads to Trezzo sull'Adda, where the river is still used for the production of hydraulic power. Here, we find the historic Taccani power station, that dates back to the early 20th century and stands as an extraordinary example of elegant industrial archaeology.



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ITINERARY 7

VILLAS AND HISTORIC CENTRES BETWEEN THE MARTESANA CANAL AND THE ADDA RIVER

City Doors
The city's Custom Houses are being renovated to accommodate new functions

Via Padova - Martesana
A multi-ethnic neighbourhood and historic villas on the canal along the ancient "Venetian Post Road"

Cernusco sul Naviglio
In the historic centre and all along Martesana, sumptuous villas with their huge parks

Vimercate
A rich, commercial town with scenic monuments and noble houses

Trezzo sull'Adda
A scenic view on river from the top of the castle, with the famous hydroelectric power plant

1. LE PORTE

The Custom Houses at Porta Venezia, now renovated, are the location of the Bread Museum. They belong to a wider scheme including the Porta Garibaldi and Porta Nuova Custom Houses, that aims at renovating the Doors that marked Milan's boundaries until the 19th century. The beautiful neo-classical Villa Belgiojoso Bonaparte at Porta Venezia has also been recently renovated; it opened in 2006 as the 19th century Museum.



2. VIA PADOVA

Out of the Doors, the Stradone del Loreto, now Corso Buenos Aires, was created in 1787, leading to the "Venetian Post Road", today Via Padova. This convenient transport network attracted industries to settle in the area, such as Magneti Marelli and Ovomaltina. A council housing district was built here in the early 19th century, that has become a lively multi-ethnic neighbourhood.



3. LA MARTESANA

Between the 18th and 19th centuries, Via Padova was known as "Milan's riviera" thanks to its many noble mansions. Lavish gardens were easily grown thanks to their proximity to the canal, that also afforded scenic views. Near the Church of Santa Maria Rossa in Crescenzago, we find Villa Petrovic, Villa De Ponti and Villa Lecchi. The Naviglio was completed in just 40 years, in 1497; it connected Milan to the Adda river, and was a part of the canal system that transformed Milan into a water city between the 12th and 19th centuries.



4. CERNUSCO SUL NAVIGLIO

Martesana is also one of the reasons for the fortunes of Cernusco sul Naviglio, that was founded by the Romans and later became a feud of the Torriani, Trivulzio and Serbelloni families. In the 18th century, "delight houses" started to appear along the canal, belonging to Milan's aristocracy. They can still be seen in the town centre, where precious architectural details appear, such as the 18th-century Villa Biancani Greppi, and along the canal - where we see the parks of Villa Uboldo and Villa Alari Visconti; the latter is a sumptuous mansion designed by Ruggeri in 1719. Both gardens now belong to the City; they are included in the Parco della Martesana, that has a 2-km walk along the water and is the largest linear park in Lombardy. Water abounds here, and it is the theme of many park facilities and amenities.



5. PESSANO CON BORNAGO

After a stretch of land interspersed with farmhouses, we get to the industrial area of Pessano con Bornago; in 1991, the Corriere della Sera daily opened its printing facility here. This area is protected within the Parco del Molgora, 1,000 hectares of wetland and farmland around the namesake creek.

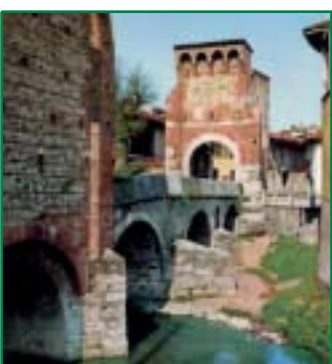
6. VIMERCATE

7. TREZZO SULL'ADDA



6. VIMERCATE

Until the 19th century, this area was basically moor land. Its main centre is Vimercate, that has been an active marketplace ever since Roman times. It became particularly important during the Middle Ages, when the Roman Bridge of San Rocco was fortified. The period Romanic church of Santo Stefano still exists (10th-11th century), modified in the 16th century with Campi frescoes and the Oratorio of Sant'Antonio Abate (12th-14th century). The most impressive building is Palazzo Trotti, now the Town Hall, built in the late 17th century. It is very sober on the outside, but hides rich mythological 18th-century frescoes in its rooms. In Oreno, we find more mansions: neo-classical Villa Gallarati Scotti (1790-93) and the Borromeo Hunting Pavilion, decorated with 15th century frescoes.



4. CERNUSCO SUL NAVIGLIO

5. PESSANO CON BORNAGO

7. TREZZO SULL'ADDA

Going towards the Adda river, we pass the Sulbiate Inferiore and Bellusco castles, that bear witness to a land that has long been fought over; the river marked the natural boundary between the Duchy of Milan and Venice's Serenissima Republic. Three centuries later, the same river became the main source of hydraulic power, that spurred the area's industrial development. This is shown by the many power plants built along the Adda in the early 20th century; the most famous is the Tacconi power plant, then a state-of-the-art installation. G. Moretti designed it in 1906 to feed power to the nearby Crespi d'Adda factories. It mirrors in the river and is a unique environmental case study. Because of its location, the outside is covered in local stone, and it is embattled on top, like the Castle just above. The plant still provides power to the provinces of Milan, Como and Bergamo. The need to control the river was the reason why the castle was built to defend Milan; Bernabò Visconti started its plan in 1377 on the site of an ancient Lombard fort. The castle, that stood as a proud display of the Visconti's power, was destroyed several times; it stands on top of a cliff high above the winding river.

