



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

MODERN ARCHITECTURE, CASTLES AND VILLAS ON THE ADDA RIVER

This itinerary unfolds in-between the higher and lower plains around Milan, towards the Adda river and its park. Out of Milan, we cross an area that is only sparsely inhabited, also because of the Linate airport and of the Idroscalo seaplane base with its park. We reach Segrate, one of the main towns East of Milan. Starting in the 1970s, Segrate has become the location of many corporate offices, especially in the publishing and IT industries. The Milano 2 and San Felice residential neighbourhoods also transformed the area's farming heritage. Further South, new urban areas keep being built; however, we still see many historic memories, like castles, forts and ancient villas. Near Peschiera, many logistic and distribution centres serve the airport. After Paullo, the Parco dell'Adda begins, with forests and poplar groves interspersed among open fields. A winding road follows the river course in a scarcely built landscape, marked by farmhouses and unexpected villages, such as Corneliano Bertario with its Borromeo castle. We reach Cassano d'Adda, an ancient strategic control point on the river, rich in historic villas. We make our way back to Milan along Route 11. We pass Inzago, where the Martesana and Villoresi canals originate, and then travel through an area rich in infrastructures, reached by Milan's subway line 2 well out of the city.



Direttore centrale
Cultura e Turismo
Pia Benci

Responsabile Servizio
Turismo
Monica Giudici

Hanno collaborato
Roberto Barelli
Alessandra Costarpa
Silvia Iantorno
Loretta Sangalli
Luisa Zanardi
Anna Zetti



Area Programmazione
Comunicazione
e Relazioni Istituzionali

Renato Mattioni
Federica Villa
Laura Colombo



Research and copy
Monica Torri
Mara Martello
Massimo Tiano

General co-ordination
Luisa Toeschi
Carlo Berizzi
Claudia Galassi
Milly Di Bello

Graphic and photos
Roberto Redaelli

Itinerary guides
Società CIVITA

INFORMATION

www.provincia.milano.it
www.conosceremilano.it

Tourist Office Province of Milan
Piazza Castello 1 ang. Via Luca Beltrami
Tel 02 805.80.614/15/16
Monday to friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Mail: itinerari@provincia.milano.it

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ITINERARY 8

MODERN ARCHITECTURE, CASTLES AND VILLAS ON THE ADDA RIVER

Segrate
Beyond the Parco Azzurro at Idroscalo, buildings and neighbourhoods designed by leading architects

Peschiera Borromeo
A charming spot with a manor, moat, forests and a canal, right out of the city

Corneliano Bertario
On a hill over the Adda river, a farmhouse village with a lovely castle

Cassano d'Adda
An impressive fortress high above the Adda, sumptuous mansions and ancient Oratorios in the town centre

Inzago
Along the Martesana canal, an ancient beloved vacationing place with villas and gardens

1. SEGRATE

Upon leaving Milan, we go towards the Linate airport. The road travels through Parco Forlanini, that is soon going to be extended up to 160 hectares. Beyond the Idroscalo, "Milan's seaside", that was built in 1930 as a seaplane base and is now at the heart of Parco Azzurro, we reach Segrate. Originally, it was a farming town in Milan's flat countryside; since the 1970s, it changed completely with 3,000 companies (and 15,000 employees) that settled in this well-connected area. This is the location of the headquarters of the Mondadori publishing house (Oscar Niemeyer, 1975) IBM, that has a historic compound designed by Marco Zanuso, plus 3M, Mediaset, Microsoft, the Milano Oltre business centre and Hospital San Raffaele. Segrate also has experimental residential neighbourhoods, San Felice and Milano 2, modelled after the British New Towns.



4. CORNELIANO BERTARIO

As we go North, we reach Corneliano Bertario, a hilltop village above the Adda on the road to Trucazzano. The town has typical Lombard farmhouses, still active, and an unexpected small Borromeo castle first built in the late Middle Ages. It was located near a ford on the Adda river, where Lake Gerundo was supposed to be, a large patch of wetland.



2. PESCHIERA BORROMEO

We travel South through fields and trees in the Carengione forest. It spans over 23 hectares in the towns of Bettola, Mezzate and San Bovio, and still has an old-time look. Here, many historic memories are still visible, with the 15th-century Castle of Longhignana and the virtually intact Castle of Peschiera Borromeo, with its tall entrance tower. This lovely manor was built by the Borromeo family, who still inhabits it, after 1427, as a defensive fort. Under Earl Renato, it became a luxurious mansion decorated with 16th-century frescoes.



3. PARCO DELL'ADDA

We travel to the beautiful Adda river. The area around it is protected by two Regional Parks: Adda North, from Lecco to Trucazzano, and Adda South, from Rivolta d'Adda to the Po river. The 1983 Parco dell'Adda Nord spans over 7,400 hectares; here, the river flows wildly in deep gorges. Further South, it flows mildly in the plains. This area, rich in tree groves, is still pretty untouched; the river often changes its course after floods, thus creating sandbanks and very fertile wetlands. However, the Adda valley was also embellished by man: we still see industrial archaeology power stations and many castles, that were first built to protect the boundaries of Milan. Castles are also found in the 24,000 hectares of Parco dell'Adda Sud, which is mainly marked by corn and wheat fields, large poplar groves and meadows that grow feedstock thanks to easy access to water.



5. CASSANO D'ADDA

Travelling along the road that flanks Parco dell'Adda, we reach Cassano d'Adda, originally a control post over a strategic river ford. Villa Borromeo d'Adda is at the entrance of town, a sumptuous mansion with a vast courtyard in front. Its current neo-classical design is owed to Piermarini (1780-85), who worked on a F. Croce building. The villa faces a boulevard leading to the Borromeo castle on the main square. This fortress was very important when first built, around 1000 AD. It was modified several times, until military architect B. Gadio redesigned it in the 15th century. It is most impressive when seen from the river, where it has a huge fortified bastion straight over the Adda. At its feet lies the Linificio Canapificio Nazionale textile factory, that bears witness to a more recent past. To feed power to it, a power plant drawing energy from the waters of the Muzza canal was opened in 1927 - the canal having been dug back in 1230. The scenic views over the Adda, Muzza and Martesana must have been one of the reasons why many villas were built here. Amongst them, 18th-century Villa Rosales Pallavicini, looking onto the canal with a terraced garden decorated with statues.



6. INZAGO

Inzago is so charming that C. Cantù described it as "one of the most delightful places for vacationing". Ever since the 17th century, Inzago, like many other towns on the Martesana, became very popular with the Milanese aristocracy who built numerous villas; thanks to scenic views on the canal, they were used both for holidays and to keep the family estates under control. This can also be seen in the nearby area, where many farmhouses show the land is very fertile. Along the Naviglio, we find 19th-century Villa Aitelli Vitali; Villa Rej and the remains of an old watermill. The town centre is just as picturesque, with Palazzo Piola, now the Town Hall, 18th-century Villa Brambilla and Villa Magistretti; early 19th-century Villa Del Maino, beautiful Villa Gnechi Ruscone and Villa Facheris, the latter now hosting a bank and the city library, with a gate designed by A. Mazzucotelli.

