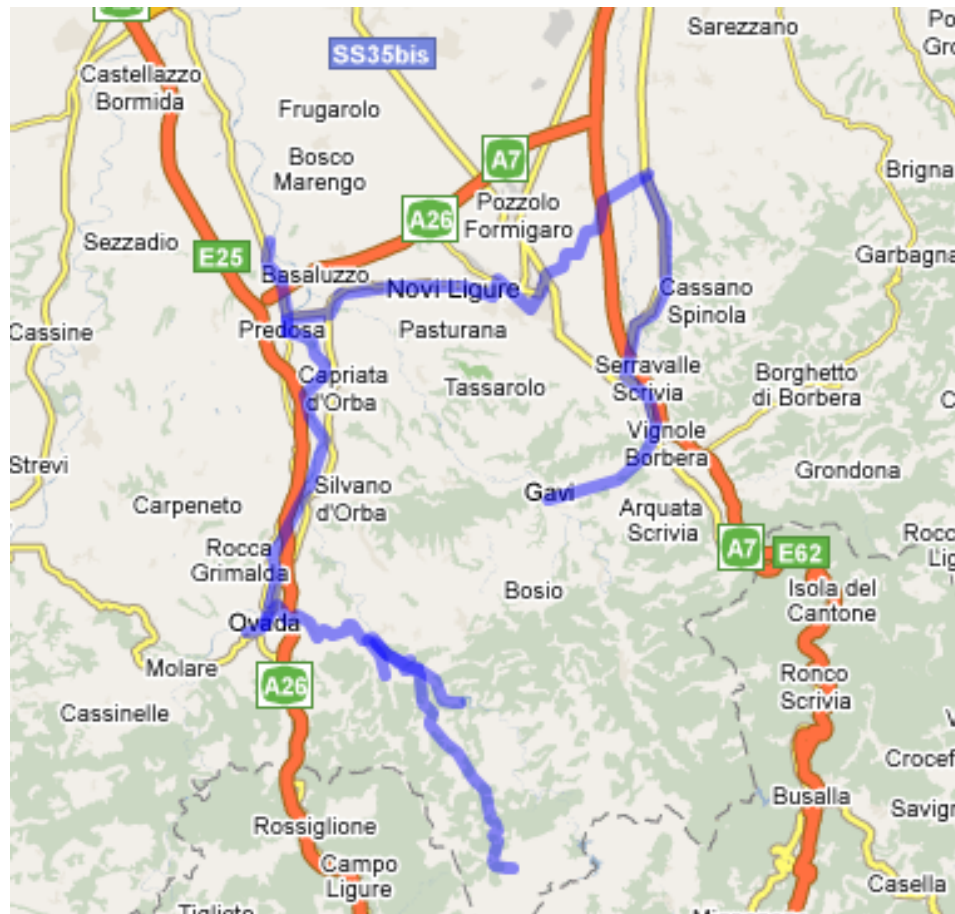


Specchi d'Acqua



You can go all over this route wholly or run only parts of the way throughout the towns of Ovada, Gavi, Novi Ligure and Bosco Marengo. You will cycle along the flow of our rivers and arrive to wonderful lakes along the borders between Piedmont and Liguria.

Duration of the stay: 5 days and 4 nights

Difficulty: medium

Distance: about 70 Km

Daily average distance: 20 Km about

Recommended bike: mountain bike

Kind of ground: asphalt and dirt road

Accommodation: hotels, farmhouse, B&B

Recommended period: March-October

Starting point: Ovada

Arriving point: Gavi

ITINERARY:

WILD RIVERS OF THE APPENNINE: GORZENTE AND PIOTA

1st day

Leave Ovada going towards Novi Ligure; turn right towards Lerma and run up the S-shaped



bends as far as the village; follow directions to Laghi della Lavagnina: at first the road is asphalted, then you cycle along a dirt road as far a dam. Go beyond the dam and go along the path running along the first artificial lake called Lago Inferiore and the second one, the Lago Superiore: the path is about 2,5 Km long and easy; along it there are 20 signals showing the different rocks and environments. If you want to go on this way, the path

becomes more and more difficult: it runs along two more lakes (Lago delle Vergini and Lago Verde) and goes up the river Gorzente and its affluent Rio Eremiti, as far as Valico Eremiti, where Tobbio Mount arises.

You are inside one of the most important protected areas of the province of Alessandria: the Parco Naturale delle Capanne di Marcarolo: here the nature is still intact and wild providing a habitat where the fauna constantly multiplies and rare flowers like wild orchids blossom.

Starting point: Lago Inferiore della Lavagnina mt 337

Arriving point: Valico Eremiti mt 559

Drop: 250 mt

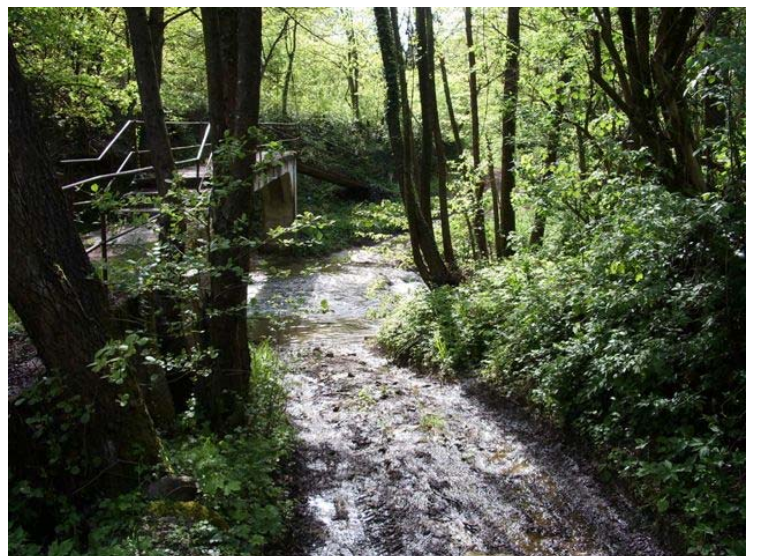
Length: 6.300 m

The way back is the same: path F2 and SNL, then asphalted road as far as Ovada.

2nd day

Leave Ovada towards Novi Ligure; turn right towards Lerma, cross the river Piota and follow its flow back according to road markings to Cirimilla; the road is asphalted as far as Cirimilla, a place where the river Gorzente pours into the river Piota, among woods and nature (even if, fortunately there is a restaurant). Get through woods of chestnuts following the main path (called G1 and G2); go along the river Piota as far as its source.

There are many ups and downs as far as a box Enel; take a dirt slope in front of you and arrive to Rocche Nere



("Black rocks"), a panoramic peak upon the valley of the Piota. Go up a slope and many other ups and downs as far as Cascina Fuià (an old farm made of stones). Another slope to arrive to a panoramic path over the river, then the path runs among the woods and arrives to Capanne di Marcarolo.

The way back is the same: path G2 and G1, then asphalted road as far as Ovada..

Starting point: Cirimilla mt 250

Arriving point: Capanne di Marcarolo mt 770

Drop: 550 mt

Length: 10900 mt

3rd day

The starting point of this way among nature and wild waters is Capanne di Marcarolo, where you can arrive by car through a beautiful road from Novi Ligure. The path from Capanne di Marcarolo is a dirt road of 4 km length, 160 mt drop, reaching the dam of the Lago Bruno, one of the three artificial basins of the river Gorzente (Lago Bruno, Lago Badana, Lago Lungo).

At first, the dirt path is easy and level; after Cascina Menta (an old farm of this valley), the path is more difficult and craggy, fit only for skilful bikers. The path brings to a panoramic point over the Lago



Badana (800mt height), then it gets down through a pinewood as far as the dam of the lake; cross the dam and reach the other side of the lake. The path gets down by bends towards the second lake, Lago Bruno: turn left and go to the base of the dam, cross a wooden bridge and go up to a promontory on the lake, as far as the other side.

The way back is the same.

Starting point: Capanne di Marcarolo 770 mt

Arriving point: dam of Lago Bruno 510 mt

Drop: - 160 mt

Length: 4000 mt

THE RIVERS OF THE PLAIN: ORBA AND SCRIVIA

4th day

Ovada, a nice town built at the confluence of two rivers, Orba and Stura, offers a simple and amusing bike road running along its rivers and called "The rivers way": it starts from Belforte, runs along the Stura and goes inside the town as far as Piazza Castello; go around in the old town centre and reach the side of the river Orba.

River Orba sides are a protected area where herons and other birds live; follow the river towards the plain as far as the village of Predosa, where you will find a picnic area: a wide grass with the shape of two old elms.

Go on following the asphalted road as far as the village of Fresonara, follow the road to the cemetery as far as the artificial basin of the San Michele dam, a place good for fishing, if you like. The path goes on towards Bosco Marengo.

The way back arrives to Novi Ligure.

The way from Ovada to Novi is flat and easy, about 28 Km length .



5th day

Cycling from Novi Ligure to Tortona is really amusing if you go along the river Scrivia inside a protected area and nature reserve: leave Novi following the asphalted road towards Merella, after the houses and farm of this place, leave the asphalt and get inside the nature reserve of the river Scrivia; cycle along the river, sometimes on the beach of stones, sometimes throughout woods and bushes. The way back, if you want, will be on the other side of the river (from Tortona to Villalvernia), easier but nice.



In the afternoon, transfer to Gavi, a medieval village at the bottom of the Appennine. This dirt path starts out of the village, at the

beginning of the road to Novi: leave the asphalted road when meet the marking "Cascata del Neirone" (river Neirone fall), turn right along the dirt path, and cross the river Neirone immediately before its fall: really exciting! Go on with ups and downs, among rocks, woods and vineyards, where the Gavi wine is produced, along about 1800 mt.

When you return at the starting point, you can visit a water mill, moving thanks to Neirone waterfall.

SOME USEFUL INFORMATION

Hotels 4 stars

- **Villa Giulia Hotel**
S.S. per Alessandria, 7/A
15057 Tortona (AL)
Tel. 0131 862 396
Fax: 0131 868 561
Email: info@villagiulia-hotel.com
Web: www.villagiulia-hotel.com
- * **L'Ostelliere**
Frazione Monterotondo, 56
15066 Gavi (AL)
Tel. E Fax 0143 607801
Email: info@ostelliere.it
Web: www.ostelliere.it
- **Hotel Pio V**
Via S. Pio V, 41
15062 Bosco Marengo (AL)
Tel. 0131.289737
Fax 0131.289552
Email: info@piov.it
Web: www.piov.it

Hotels 3 stars

- **Hotel Ristorante Italia**
Via S. Paolo 54
15076 Ovada (AL)
Tel. 0143 86502
Fax 0143 86503
Web: www.albergoitaliaovada.it
- **Hotel Vittoria**
Via Voltri, 27D
15076 Ovada (AL)
Tel. 0143 80331
Fax 0143 80196
Email: info@vittorialbergo.it
Web: www.vittorialbergo.it
- * **Hotel Al Castello**
Piazza Dante Alighieri, 9
15066 Gavi (AL)
Tel. 0143 642794
Fax 0143 643974
E-mail: info@hotelalcastello.net
Web: www.hotelalcastello.net

- **Albergo Ristorante Viaggiatori**
 Corso Marengo Romualdo, 83
 15067 Novi Ligure (AL)
 Tel. 0143 322800
 Fax 0143 322993
- **Albergo Ristorante Da Noi**
 Via Belvedere, 35
 15068 Pozzolo Formigaro (AL)
 Tel. 0143 417194/5
 Fax 0143 418862
 Web: www.hoteldanoi.it
- **Albergo Ristorante La Fenice**
 S.s. Dei Giovi, 52
 Carbonara Scivia (AL)
 Tel. 0131 870000
 Fax 0131 889935
 Email: info@lafenicehotel.net
 Web: www.lafenicehotel.net
- **Novi Motel**
 Strada Statale 35 Bs Dei Giovi, 1
 15067 Novi Ligure (AL)
 Tel. E Fax 0143 322290
- **Albergo Ristorante Villa Viola**
 Strada Viola, 44/e
 15057 Tortona (AL)
 Tel. 0131 811462
 Fax 0131 813642
 Email: albergo@albergovillaviola.com
 Web: www.albergovillaviola.com
- **Hotel Ristorante Cavallino S. Marziano**
 Corso Giuseppe Romita, 83
 15057 Tortona (AL)
 Tel. 0131 862308
 Fax 0131 895286
 Email: info@cavallinotortona.it
 Web: www.cavallinotortona.it
- * **Albergo della Corona**
 Corso Romualdo Marengo, 11
 15067Novi Ligure (AL)
 Tel. 0143 322364
 Fax 0143 767935
 Email: info@albergodellacorona.it
 Web: www.albergodellacorona.it

Historical Mansions or villas

- *** Relais Villa Pomela**
Via Serravalle, 69
15057 Novi Ligure (AL)
Tel. 0143 329910
Fax 0143 329912
Email: villapomela@pomela.it
Web: www.pomela.it
- *** La Marcona Locanda Inn**
Strada Marcona Nuova
15068 Pozzolo Formigaro (AL)
Tel. 0143 417146
Web: www.lamarcona.it

Farmhouses

- **Agriturismo Il Mulino Di Lerma Eisa Sas**
Via Calderoni, 39
15070 Lerma (AL)
Tel. E Fax 0143 877140
Email: info@ilmulinodilerma.it
Web: www.ilmulinodilerma.it
- **Agriturismo De Maria Natalizia**
Via Roma, 46
15070 Casaleggio Boiro
Tel. 0143 877198
- **Azienda Agrituristica Le Miniere**
Regione Masino, 16
15070 Lerma (AL)
Tel. E Fax 0143 877801
- **Agriturismo Il Burlino**
Cascina Burlino, 14
15070 Lerma (AL)
Tel. E Fax 0143 877491
Email: info@agriturismoilburlino.it
Web: www.agriturismoilburlino.it
- *** Agriturismo La Federica**
via Villalvernia, 80
15067 Novi Ligure(AL)
T.el E Fax 0143 329533
Email: staff@lafederica.it
Web: www.lafederica.it

- *** Tenuta La Marchesa**
Strada di Gavi, 87
15067 Novi Ligure (AL)
Tel. 0143 743362
E-mail: info@tenutalamarchesa.it
Web: www.tenutalamarchesa.it

Bed and breakfast

- *** Cascina Il Folletto**
Strada Veneziana, 9
15057 Tortona (AL)
Tel. E Fax 0143 417224
Email: info@cascinafolletto.com
Web: www.cascinafolletto.com

Restaurants

- **Ristorante La Trapesa**
Corso Saracco, 74
15076 Ovada
Tel. 0143 824826
- **Ristorante "Da Pietro"**
Piazza Mazzini 13
15076 Ovada (AL)
Tel. 0143 80457
- **Ristorante "Giulio"**
Via Gramsci 111
15076 Ovada (AL)
Tel. 0143 86329
- **Trattoria Gino**
Via Roma 41/A
15070 Tagliolo Monferrato (AL)
Tel. 0143 89483
- **Ristorante Bar Italia Di Lerma**
Via Martiri Benedicta,4
15070 Lerma (AL)
Tel. 0143 877110
- **Ristorante Bar Italia**
Via Roma, 38
15075 Mornese (AL)
Tel. 0143 887947

- **Bar Ristorante Jolly**
Piazza Guglielmo Marconi, 2
15075 Mornese (AL)
Tel. 0143 887946
- **Cantine del Gavi**
Via Goffredo Mameli, 69
15066 Gavi (AL)
Tel. E Fax 0143 642458
- **Trattoria Pessenti**
Fraz. Rovereto
Loc. Pessenti
15066 Gavi (AL)
Tel. 0143 682147
- **Bünet**
Via Marconi Guglielmo, 83
15067 Novi Ligure (AL)
Tel. 0143 79314
- **Excelsior**
Corso Piave, 6
15067 Novi Ligure (AL)
Tel. 0143 321713
- **Emmalù di Bava Emma**
Viale Dei Campionissimi, 4
15067 Novi Ligure (AL)
Tel. E Fax 0143 746231
Email: info@emmalu.eu
Web: www.emmalu.eu
- **Le Petit Chateau**
Via Mazzini Giuseppe, 90
15067 Novi Ligure (AL)
Tel. 0143 2997
- **Ristorante Romano**
Via D. Carbone, 1
15050 Villalvernia (AL)
Tel. 0131 83119
- **Ristorante Villa Magnolia Snc Di Vargiu G. & C**
Cascina Arzona, 8/4,
15077 Predosa (AL)
Tel. 0131 718002
Fax 0131 718921
Email: info@villamagnolia.it
Web: www.villamagnolia.it

- **La Corte Dei Grilli di Canavesio Valentina**
Via Roma, 39
15060 Capriata d'Orba (AL)
Tel. 0143 467425
- **Il Moro**
Piazza Garibaldi, 6
15060 Capriata d'Orba (AL)
Tel. 0143 46157
Fax 0143 460840
Email: info@ristoranteilmoro.it
Web: www.ristoranteilmoro.it

Worth visiting

- **Nature Reserve of the torrent Orba**
Via Marconi 10
15062 Bosco Marengo (AL)
Tel. 0131 299712
Fax 0131 289607
Email riserva.orba@parcodelpo-vc.al.it
Web: www.parcodelpo-vc.al.it
- **Natural Park of Capanne di Marcarolo**
Via G.B.Baldo, 29
15070 Lerma (AL)
Tel 0143 877825
Web: www.parcocapanne.it

Tourists Offices

- **I.A.T. di Novi Ligure**
Viale dei Campionissimi, 2
15067 Novi Ligure (AL)
Tel. E Fax 0143 725858
E-mail: innovando@comune.noviligure.al.it
- **I.A.T. Di Ovada**
Via Cairoli
15076 Ovada (AL)
Tel. E Fax 0143 821043
E-mail: iat@comune.ovada.al.it
- **Il Cuore di Novi**
Corso Marengo, 103
15067 Novi Ligure (AL)
Tel. 0143 322118
Email: info@ilcuoredinovi.it

* Association Il cuore di Novi offers an exclusive proposal to whom that will have an overnight stay in the associated hotels and farmhouses : the Shopping Days offer, consisting of:
Shopping tickets: special discounts (up to 20%) in the stores located in the Novi Ligure town centre
Shopping card: reductions on Serravalle Outlet prices
Low costs for hotels
If you are interested in this offer, please contact Il Cuore di Novi:
info@ilcuoredinovi.it or +39 0143 322118

Tourists Service

- **Innovando cooperativa s.r.l.**
Viale dei Campionissimi, 2
15067 Novi Ligure (AL)
Tel. 0143 72585
- **Gioia di Andreina Polentes**
Corso Cavour, 8
15076 Ovada (AL)
Cell. 3492922835
- **Gaia Servizi Turistici**
Via Calderani, 29
15070 Lerma (AL)
Cell. 339 7288810
- **Consorzio Turistico Terre di Fausto Coppi**
Corso Marengo, 103 – Portici Vecchi
15067 Novi Ligure (AL)
Tel. 0143 321593

Bike selling and bike repair

- **La Bici Di Braini Fernanda & C. (S.N.C.)**
Strada Del Vapore,17
15061 Arquata Scrivia
Tel. E Fax 0143 667594
Email: info@labici.it
Web: www.labici.it
- **Hobbybici di Enzo Bergaglio**
Via Roma, 3
15066 Gavi (AL)
Tel. E Fax 0143 642612
Email: hobbybici@libero.it
Web: www.hobbybici.altervista.org
- **Le Bici di Cammarota Alberto**
Viale dei Campionissimi, 2
15067 Novi Ligure (AL)
Tel. 0143 2995
Email: lebici@fastwebnet.it
- **Ravera R.M.**
Corso Marengo, 5
15067 Novi Ligure (AL)
Tel. 0143 2649
- **Cicli Guizzardi di Guizzardi Mario e C. s.n.c**
Corso Martiri della Libertà, 30
15067 Ovada (AL)
Tel. 0143 86021

Rent a bike

- **Museo dei Campionissimi**
Viale dei Campionissimi, 2
15067 Novi Ligure (AL)
Tel 0143 72585
Email: museodeicampionissimi@comune.novigure.al.it
Web: www.museodeicampionissimi.it
- **Bike Sharing**
You can subscribe this service at the Tourists Office of Novi Ligure and have your electronic card.
Viale dei Campionissimi, 2
15067 Novi Ligure (AL)
Tel. 0143 72585

Bike sharing stands

Piazza Pascoli
Piazza Falcone Borsellino
Viale Saffi – Giardini Pubblici
Via Crispi – Stadio Comunale
Piazza Gobetti