

Bike.Sacile

SACILE - CANSIGLIO

The ascent to Cansiglio from Sacile is one of the classic Sunday excursions for MTB, E-Bike and road bike riders. You'll never be alone on the road, even on the most unlikely of days for cycling!

It is a steady, shady climb, not very long, with few climbs. The road is not particularly busy, even during tourist periods and at weekends, it is not very wide and there are several bends and hairpins; be careful, especially downhill!

We set off from Sacile, warming up our muscles on the plain as far as Caneva. Following the tourist signs for Cansiglio, we start to climb and reach the crossroads for Castello di Caneva (Caneva Castle, reachable with a 700-metre climb). A short flat stretch with a view of the well-known calcium carbonate quarries is the prelude to the start of the 11 km ascent at 8% that leads us to the finish. At first, we ride through mixed woodland and sloping meadows, with wide views, especially on the descent, then through beech forests. Once we reach La Crosetta Pass, the road levels out: after a few kilometres of gentle descent, we will arrive in the wide and panoramic Pian del Cansiglio, with its pastures, woods, farmhouses and Cimbri villages. If you are on an MTB or E-MTB, you have a wide choice of routes through the famous Forest, also to return to Sacile along alternative roads.

Points of interest

Caneva, Chiesa di S. Tomaso (18) – This 19th-century parish church has a distinctive façade, with the lower part made from the remains of a 16th-century theatre and the upper part built after the Second World War. Inside there is a triptych by the painter from Vittorio Veneto, Francesco da Milano, while the ceiling fresco is by Giovanni De Min from Belluno.

Caneva, Castello (21) – This ancient castle, located on the hill above the town, was witness to a very old military garrison with an adjoining rural village. Extremely loyal to the Patriarch of Aquileia, it withstood numerous sieges. The remains of the walls, some public buildings and the well are still visible; the 11th-century Church of *Santa Lucia* with its bell tower is well preserved. It offers wide panoramic views over the plain and the surrounding hills.

Pian del Cansiglio - A vast, sunny plateau surrounded by the famous forests once used for building ships in the Venice Arsenal. There are several '*malghe*' (**59-60**) that still maintain active mountain pastures, produce dairy products of various qualities and offer refreshment and hospitality to tourists. The groups of dwellings on the edge of the woods are the Cimbri villages (**61**), a population of the Asiago Plateau that migrated here at the beginning of the 19th century: they speak a very ancient language and were once dedicated to forestry and woodworking. In the forest there are hundreds of sinkholes and abysses (**58**), vertical cavities that sink into the karst subsoil of the plateau: the best known is the '*Bus de la Lum*' (Hole of Light), a 180 metres deep karst sinkhole; information is available on site.

Characteristics of the route

Total length: 27 km

Total climb: 1,150 m.

Difficulty: challenging

Usable bicycle types: MTB, RDB, E-Bike

Paved road: 27 km

Unpaved road: 0 km

Fountains along the road: no

Camper parking areas: La Crosetta and Pian del Cansiglio

Bicycle services: in Sacile

Train+bike stations: in Sacile

Car parking areas: in all towns and villages along the route

Restaurants and bars: in all towns and villages, also along the uphill route

