

Bike.Sacile

THE MESCHIO CIRCULAR ROUTE

The Meschio River, which emerges from a couple of small lakes just above Vittorio Veneto, is a tributary of the Livenza River, where it flows into just below Sacile. There is a natural and historical link between these two cities: the river and the fact that they belong to the same diocese. A visit to this historical town is therefore a must, not least because it is still the main point of reference for the whole communities on the Livenza side.

The circular route starts from Sacile, heading south towards Schiavoi and Vistorta. From here we begin to ascend fairly closely to the Meschio river, also via green paths and cycle tracks, through Ponte della Muda, Cordignano, Pinidello and Mescolino. In S. Giacomo di Veglia the scenic cycle and pedestrian path along the river leads to the historic centre of Serravalle.

We return to Sacile along a hilly, rural route, crossing villages and hamlets, countryside and vineyards. Leaving Vittorio Veneto in the direction of the hospital, we pass through Anzano, Fratte, Cappella Maggiore, Sarmede, Stevenà and Caneva. Along the provincial road 151, between Sarmede and Villa di Villa, we find the "Conche di Villa", two exciting "humps" very well known among cyclists.

If you do not wish to return by bicycle along this route, you can take the outward route again or take the train+bike service in Vittorio Veneto and return to Sacile, changing in Conegliano.

Points of interest

Loc. Topaligo - Chiesetta di San Daniele (14) - This old castle church of a manor house destroyed in the 12th century preserves rare 14th-century frescoes depicting a Crucifixion and Saints as well as other works of art.

Borgo Vistorta - This ancient rural village (11) expanded in the 19th century as a dependency of the large villa of the Counts of Brandolini d'Adda, landowners of vast vineyards around the settlement. It is possible to book a visit of the well-stocked historic wine cellar and the villa's large park designed by Russell Page and characterised by small lakes fed by the Meschio river, as well as the two historic churches of the *Trasfigurazione di Cristo* (Transfiguration of Christ) (13), the village's historic chapel, and *Madonna delle Grazie di Fossabiuba* (Our Lady of Graces of Fossabiuba) (12), the only vestige of an ancient feud dating back to the year 1000, decorated with Marian frescoes painted in various periods.

Cordignano - Town at the centre of a vast agricultural and industrial area along the Meschio river. In the hamlet of Ponte della Muda, there is the 16th-century *Palazzo del Dazio* and horse changing station (the Muda), from the time when people could cross the river on the only bridge – demolished many decades ago – on the road from Venice to Udine.

Borgo Mescolino - In this village of Colle Umberto, there is a crucifix – *Cristo del Meschio* – located on an artificial island in the river. Along the bank there is a stone bench where we can sit in the shade and listen to the flow of the water and the sound of the waterfall. A few steps from the *Cristo*, on Via Mazzini, is the birthplace of Ottavio Bottecchia, a great champion of Italian professional cycling, winner of two consecutive Tour de France titles in 1925 and 1926, who died in 1927 in hospital in Gemona after being found in Peonis (UD) seriously injured after falling from his bicycle due to a sudden illness. He was the joint owner of the famous bicycle factory that still bears his name.

Vittorio Veneto - This city was created in 1866 from the union of the ancient villages of Serravalle, a fortified trading village on the road to Cadore and Germany, and Ceneda, the bishop's seat. On that occasion it was named 'Vittorio', in honour of King Victor Emmanuel II. The name 'Veneto' was added after the great battle that saw it at the centre of the events that in October/November 1918 brought the First World War to an end in Italy. There are notable tourist attractions such as the *Museo della Grande guerra* (Museum of the Great War), the Cathedral of *S.ta Maria Assunta*, the Cathedral of *S.ta Maria Nova*, the historic centre of Serravalle, etc. More information is available at the tourist information point in Viale della Vittoria 110.



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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, Museo del Ciclismo “Toni Pessot” (19) - This cycling museum brings together collections of jerseys, objects and photographs belonging to great cycling champions such as Bartali, Coppi, Binda, Guerra, Girardengo, Gimondi, Merckx, Maspes, collected by Toni Pessot, a friend of the famous Italian cyclist Gino Bartali.

Loc. Fratta, Museo del Minatore (20) - This miners’ museum collects the memories of many miners from Caneva, who emigrated to Belgium immediately after the war. On display are the tools used in the gallery, period photos and many other objects related to the coal industry.

Characteristics of the route

Total length: 49 km

Total climb: 230 m

Difficulty: medium

Usable bicycle types: all models with gears

Paved road: 47.5 km

Unpaved road: 1.5 km

Fountains along the road: no

Camper parking areas: no

Bicycle services: in Sacile

Train+bike stations: in Sacile and Vittorio Veneto

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

Restaurants and bars: in all towns and villages along the route

