

THE SOURCES OF THE LIVENZA RIVER CIRCULAR ROUTE

Sacile's history, culture and even its name are linked to the Livenza river, which flows through the city and embraces the historic centre, branching off and coming together to form two islands. It owes much of its importance and historical, political and economic status to this treasured waterway. The Livenza River originates not far from here and its three spectacular springs (*Molinetto*, *Santissima* and *Gorgazzo*) have held a mystical and supernatural aura since ancient times, both because the water rises pure and very abundant from underground, and because the exact point where it originates and the route it takes to reach the surface are not yet known.

Riding on the cycle paths that exit Sacile towards the west, we will reach first Fratta and then Caneva. Heading in the direction of Fiaschetti, we will continue towards Polcenigo. The *Molinetto* spring is located along the SP 29 road, about 500 metres from the crossroads at the entrance to the village of Sarone. Continuing along Via Longone instead, we will pass by the UNESCO site of *Palù di Livenza*. Before reaching Polcenigo, we turn left at the crossroads of Col de Cao to head towards the beautiful *La Santissima* spring. Back on the main route, we enter the village and cross it to reach the famous *Gorgazzo* spring. Back in Polcenigo, we continue cycling back to Sacile, passing through the villages of S. Giovanni and Nave.

Points of interest

Loc. Fratta, Museo del Minatore (20) - This miners' museum collects the memories of hundreds of 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.

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 the former professional cyclist Toni Pessot.

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.

Sorgente del Molinetto (24) - Some karst water outcrops, at the foot of the Sarone quarries, form the *Molinetto* spring area, the waters of which are captured by a fish farm. They then form the Livenzetta river, which flows into the Livenza near the *Santissima* spring.

Palù di Livenza - In the Palaeolithic period there was a village of pile dwellings **(22)** above a marsh. It is one of the oldest Italian sites of its kind, with a wealth of archaeological finds unearthed during excavation campaigns. It has been on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 2011. The remains of the posts driven into the mud that supported the huts are still visible. The Palù biotope **(23)** is also an area of great natural interest, home to animal and plant species typical of wetlands.

Sorgente la Santissima - In this magical place at the foot of the mountains, a number of karst springs emerge close together, constantly gushing out water. The spring **(25)** owes its name to religious legends and traditions that made it a point of pilgrimage and prayer. The Church of SS. *Trinità* (the Holy Trinity) **(26)**, which contains prestigious works of art, was built in memory of an alleged apparition that occurred before Emperor Theodosius while he was camped there.

Sorgente del Gorgazzo (27) - From a karstic tunnel, which descends to depths not yet reached by man, gushes out water from Cansiglio. It is an intermittent source, which reacts promptly when it rains and then subsequently recedes. The point of emersion is a beautiful small lake of clear water; the waters of the Gorgazzo pass through the centre of Polcenigo and then flow into the Livenza.



Bike.Sacile

Polcenigo - Listed among the *'Borghi più Belli d'Italia'* (Most Beautiful Villages in Italy), Polcenigo still preserves a historic urban layout and impressive buildings. The castle **(28)**, which was the residence of the Counts, dominates the town and the nearby Church of *S. Giacomo (29)*, formerly part of a Franciscan monastery, and preserves works of art of considerable importance. Polcenigo is also home to the interesting *Museo dell'Arte Cucinaria* (Museum of Culinary Art) **(30)**. On the nearby San Floriano hill there is a rural park **(31)** which is a welcoming and educational environment where children and adults can admire the animals and enjoy various activities.

Loc. Nave, ansa del Livenza (17) - In a scenic, well-kept natural environment, stands the ancient church of *S. Antonio Abate*, the religious site of Nave. Here the Livenza flows at the foot of this country church offering one of the most beautiful view points along the course of this river.

Characteristics of the route

Total length of the main route: 28 km

Length with detours for the springs: 35 km

Total climb: 75 m.

Difficulty: easy

Usable bicycle types: all models

Paved road: 26 km

Unpaved road: 2 km

Fountains along the road: in Polcenigo

Camper parking areas: in Polcenigo

Bicycle services: in Polcenigo and Sacile

Train+bike stations: in Sacile and Budoia

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

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

