

Bike.Sacile

THE TWO RIVERS CIRCULAR ROUTE

The Lower Pordenone area is characterised by two important rivers: the Livenza and its main tributary, the Meduna. Enclosed within mighty embankments, the rivers are not always visible from the path, but important towns have emerged along the banks and have shaped the history of this area: Sacile, Brugnera, San Cassiano, Portobuffolè, Prata di Pordenone.

Starting from Sacile we head along the Livenza FVG 7 and AIDA Fiab cycle route – the latter is signposted. After a few kilometres we will arrive in Brugnera, located on the banks of the Livenza. Villa Varda, with its large wooded park overlooking the river, is one of the most important destinations on this route. In S. Cassiano there is also a scenic stretch of river, after which we will arrive in Portobuffolè, a famous medieval village in Veneto, just over the border with the region Friuli Venezia Giulia. Skirting a stretch of the Livenza River on the embankment, we reach Ghirano and begin the ascent of the Meduna River via roads running alongside the main embankment. In Prata di Pordenone, in addition to important historical and artistic points of interest, we can get a better view of the Meduna from the well-known iron bridge which is painted in blue. We continue towards Pieve and there we come across the AIDA Fiab again, which we will follow to return to Sacile.

Points of interest

Smorta di Cavolano (16) - This bend in the Livenza now abandoned by the river, which has formed a natural oasis of marshland fauna and flora, is now a protected area used as a public park.

Chiesa S. Giovanni Battista (32) - This 13th-century church is internally frescoed in the late 16th century by artists from the Venetian-Cretan school and also contains artwork from various later periods.

Brugnera and Chiesa dei SS. Giacomo e Nicolò (33) - Brugnera was an ancient feud of the Counts of Porcia, a patriarchal garrison stationed against invasions from the Treviso area. The 15th-century *Church of S. Giacomo* contains a cycle of frescoes by the painter from Vittorio Veneto, Francesco da Milano.

Villa Varda and its Park - This sumptuous Villa (35) was built in the 16th century by the noble Mazzoleni family from Bergamo. Later enlarged and after changing hands several times, it is now owned by the Municipality of Brugnera, which makes it available for public and private events. The 18-hectare English-style park (34) is always open, to pedestrians only. Surrounded by a bend in the Livenza River, it preserves centuries-old exotic tree species as well as artistic buildings adjacent to the villa.

San Cassiano (36) - This village offers a panoramic view of the river, among the best of its course, especially near the neo-Gothic parish, a very ancient building, repeatedly destroyed or looted during the wars.

Portobuffolè - This medieval village in the Veneto region – included among the *'Borghi più Belli d'Italia'* (Most Beautiful Villages in Italy) – is characterised by its urban design and historical buildings. The most important is that of *Gaia da Camino (42)*, with beautiful original interior frescoes from the 12th century. In the same building there is also the extensive and unmissable *Museo del Ciclismo dell'Alto Livenza (43)* (Alto Livenza Cycling Museum), which contains bicycles from all eras and memorabilia of famous Italian and foreign cyclists.

Tempio di S. Giovanni dei Cavalieri (37) - This church to the south of Prata di Pordenone preserves important remains of Friulian Gothic architecture, including those of the noble Prata family.

Prata di Pordenone - At the centre of the village is the elegant Venetian *Villa Morosini Memmo (38)* built in the 16th century and now the town hall. In Prata di Sopra we can admire the imposing *Villa Brunetta (41)*, which is privately owned. A little further on is the wayside shrine of the same name (39), depicting the Madonna and Child painted by Gianfrancesco da Tolmezzo in 1499. The wayside shrine stands in front of the *Chiesa dei Santi Simone e Giuda Taddeo (40)*, a pre-13th-century church, inside which some Renaissance frescoes are preserved.



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Characteristics of the route

Total length: 44 km

Total climb: 30 m, completely flat.

Difficulty: easy

Usable bicycle types: all models

Paved road: 40 km

Unpaved road: 4 km

Fountains along the road: yes

Camper parking areas: yes

Bicycle services: in Sacile and Cavolano

Train+bike stations: in Sacile and Fontanafredda

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

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

