Home
Grande Traversata delle Langhe in mountain bike - Leg 3: Bergolo - Prunetto
Utilization
Cycle touring
Official itinerary
No

Lenght
9.20 km

Tempo
58 minutes

Stage
3

Max altitude
780 m

Ascent elevation gain
318 m

Descent elevation loss
369 m

Difficulty
Challenging

Informazioni

Region
Piemonte

Country
Italy

Address

Bergolo
Via Roma
12074 Bergolo CN
Italy

Coordinates

POINT (8.183419 44.547939)
Altitude
620 m
Arrival address

Prunetto
Strada Provinciale SP53
12077 Prunetto CN
Italy

Arrival coordinates
POINT (8.143583 44.488278)
Arrival altitude
670 m
Access

By car, motorways:
A6 – Torino Savona, Marene or Carmagnola exit
A21 – Torino Piacenza, Asti Est exit
A33 – Asti Cuneo, Alba exit

By plane:
Milano Malpensa and Linate – www.sea-aeroportimilano.it
Torino Caselle – www.aeroportoditorino.it
Cuneo Levaldigi – www.aeroporto.cuneo.it

By train:
Ferrovie dello Stato: www.trenitalia.com

Descrizione

A hillcrest route through the heart of the Alta Langa, rich with castles and stone houses telling age-old tales.

The medieval section of **Bergolo** essentially makes up the entirety of this town of fewer than seventy inhabitants, one of the smallest in all the Langhe in both population and surface area. Historically always bound to the nearby Cortemilia, from which the marquises exercised their influence over all the nearby fiefdoms, the village lost its castle during the late Middle Ages. However, on the whole it remains an intact architectural unit, particularly in terms of construction materials, which essentially means Langhe stone, hence the town's nickname: "Paese di Pietra" (Village of Stone).

From the centre of town, take the road that leads to the campground and continue along the flat, paved road to the right, near the entrance to the bungalows. Continue along the flat until a house standing on its own. From here, stay along the crest of the hill, then, near a wayside shrine, head up to the right until you reach Bric Massimino, which features an isolated farmhouse. The hillcrest here is very narrow, so you can enjoy the view of both valleys—with the rolling hills of the Bormida Valley and the steeper landscapes of the Uzzone Valley—at the same time.

From here, the road turns to gravel and heads along the flat into a lovely chestnut grove. Keep to the right at a couple of forks in the road and continue on to the saddle in the hillcrest overlooking the village of Levice. A brief detour here of around a hundred metres along a dirt road will take you what's left of the tower of this village, first established here in the early Middle Ages and then moved lower along the current main highway where Levice is located today.

If desired, a longer, unmarked detour to visit the actual village is also possible. The closed village of **Levice** is certainly worth a visit to see its particular, sloped checker-board layout, which is extremely rare in the Langhe region (with only La Morra perhaps having something similar). The main square, with the Church of Sant'Antonio Abate and its lovely Romanesque bell tower, also features the 17th century Palazzotto degli Scarampi, which lends the square a certain importance. The charm of this village is enhanced by the stone streets, which were designed in such a way as to facilitate the passage of mules and horses and by the vaulted entryways and shadowy passageways connecting the village's steep streets.

Continuing the itinerary along the crest, after a brief section of paved road, you will need to make a sharp turn to the left to climb up a difficult section of dirt road between two rows of shrubs. Ignore the roads that head down to the right and to the left and continue along the broad crest, as it climbs gradually, until you reach an intersection; after that, continue straight through onto the paved road with adjacent rest area. This slightly uphill road will take you to the panoramic Pian della Croce.

Remaining on the hillcrest, but now on a gravel road, climb further towards the summit of the hill. Head down for a brief section, but staying along the crest, to a paved road at the saddle beneath the summit of Bricco delle Forche. Climb for a few metres to an aqueduct depot, then head down to the right to a crossroads located just a few dozen metres from Cascina Coste in the middle of cultivated fields and reforested pine trees.

Leave the paved road and head up to the left along a dirt road, then continue on the flat through cultivated fields, on a road more difficult to identify, until you reach a villa. Continue alongside this house to a paved road, then follow this road to the right and head down to the wider main highway. Once you have left the greenery, continue along the crest of the hill to the hamlet of Serra. At the next crossroads, follow the signs for the castle (castello) to the right and you will soon reach the summit of the hill.

The view from **Prunetto** is one of a kind. Its magnificent castle erected by the Del Carretto Marquises is a wondrous sight as it rises above the hill beneath it. Together, the castle and the adjacent church (a Romanesque church originally dedicated to San Lorenzo, but now the Sanctuary of Carmine) form one of the most stunning landmarks in the entire Langhe region. The sanctuary, which was expanded multiple times following its circa 12th century founding, features remarkable frescos that are some of the oldest in the valley, as well as a series of works by Segurano Cigna, master of the neo-Gothic Mondovì school of the 15th century. The castle rests right on the edge of the cliff face, probably because of a landslide that swallowed up a section of the oldest part of the village and maintains the look of an ominous medieval manner. You will need to continue on to the beginning of the wall that runs along the entryway known as "La Battagliera" and then head down to the left along the steep Via Castello to cross the oldest hamlet of this municipality. You will soon be back on the main highway, where you will turn to the right and continue on to the main church.

Public transport access
Yes

Http://Www.grandabus.it/Tpl_orari.asp

Recommended period

Spring
Summer
Fall
March - November

Accessible to people with disabilities

No

Interest points

Bergolo, la Città di Pietra (The Village of Stone) : Church of San Sebastiano .
Levice : Church of San Rocco .
Prunetto : Castle of Prunetto , Sanctuary of Madonna del Carmine .

Devotional relevance
Sì

Historical relevance
Yes

Dettagli

Local Tourist Agency (LTA) reference
ATL Langhe Monferrato Roero

Code
GTN

Classification
Provincial

Province
Cuneo

GTL_Tappa3.pdf

Ultima data di aggiornamento
15/12/2023

Altre info
Accommodation facilities
'l bunet
La curma
La luna e i falo'

Itinerary index
No

Province names
Cuneo