

# L' oasi zegna



Since the 30's, Emenegildo Zegna had been designing and financing the panoramic road linking Trivero to Andrate, in the Canavese region and which still has his name. He changed the Triverese mount in a garden in harmony with nature, by promoting the planting of thousands of firs, rhododendrons and hydrangeas. The E. Zegna group, created the Zegna Oasis, aiming at going on with the founder's work, with the same care he had towards his land of birth. The project has been developed along the 26km Zegna panoramic road between Trivero and Rosazza. It aims at increasing the value of the territory and it offers the visitor the real opportunity to get in touch with nature, by using a new sign system.



## THE GOLD BEETLE

A very rare and iridescent coleoptero called Carabo (*Carabus olympiae*) is the symbol of the Zegna Oasis.

A midsummer day in 1854, Ms Olympia Sella came across a little dead body, walking near the Bocchetto Sessera: an insect, an iridescent coleoptero never seen before. She was the cousin of Eugenio Sella, a popular entomologist, so she gave him that wonderful insect. He suddenly understood that it was an unknown species, so in Spring they went hunting. The first specimen was called *Carabus olympiae sella*, in the lucky founder's honour. After that, teams of researchers rallied as well as greedy insect traffickers, and after years of unrestrained captures, a *Carabus* was as difficult to find as the philosopher's stone. But thanks to the interventions made by famous European entomologists in the early 40's, the basis for the protection of this precious coleoptero were laid. Nowadays the Carabo is protected by a law of the Piedmont region.



## ECOSPORTS

Many sports can be made without damaging the natural environment, thanks to the special natural conformation of the Zegna Oasis territory and to the many facilities existing from the beginning of the Panoramic road construction. Besides hiking, there are some winter sports: mountain-biking is very important, because of the many routes, most of which are closed to the traffic and run across the wild nature of the Alta Valsessera.

The air sports are supported by the endless draughts coming from the plain: paragliding and sailplaning; moreover, it is possible to go horsing, to practice sports climbing in natural gyms, to play bowls in the Stavello pitches and tennis in Caulera, or the amusing summer bob-sledding on the Bielmonte track. Many openings and panoramic places are ideal for bird watching.



## TRAILS FOR MOUNTAIN-BIKING

In the Zegna Oasis, three trails are clearly marked and signed where you can mountain-biking, starting and ending to the Bocchetto Sessera.

A ITINERARY: "Artignaga tour": length, 9 km; average time, 1h; not very demanding difficulty (within everybody's reach); total rise, 80 m.



B ITINERARY: "Bielmonte- Moncerchio tour": length, 8.5km; average time, 1h; medium demanding difficulty; total rise, 200m.

C ITINERARY: "Valley tour" (Piana del Ponte, Selletto Grosso, Dolca and back): length, 22 km; average time, 2h 30 min; medium demanding difficulty (some descents are very hard); total rise, 550m. You can also cut in half this itinerary, coming back from Selletto Grosso)

## HOW TO REACH IT

The Zegna Oasis lies in the Biellese Alps, in the Biella Province. Trivero is the starting point of the tour and it is about 110km from Milan, by car and 99km from Turin (A4 motorway TO-MI, exit of Carisio, take the Biella's direction for a short time, then turn to the right to Strada Panoramica Zegna (Zegna Panoramic Road) to Cossato, Vallemosso and Trivero.



### **Bielmonte**

It is a tourist resort, at 1500 of altitude, placed inside the Zegna Oasis, about 12km from Trivero. In winter, 20km of downhill ski runs, with lift stations and 20km cross country ski trail are available. It offers every kind of runs and especially suitable for families, beginners and snow-boarders. In the other seasons, Bielmonte is the ideal place for walks, by horse or by mountain-bike.

## **Paths**

In the Zegna Oasis, there are many naturalistic itineraries, clearly marked with teaching signs and boards for orientation. All of them start from the Zegna Panoramic Road, following paths, muletracks and dirt roads, they raise towards mountain pastures, reaching the lonely Alta Valsessera or going downhill to the towns in Valle di Mosso and Valle Cervo. The symbols help you to understand their features.

### **3 - The owl's path (50 min)**

From the eighth and last hairpin bend of the panoramic road (1155m) to the Bocchetta dello Stavello (1206m). It makes the periplus of the Tirlo mount and it is equipped as a "fitness route", with some large views of Coggiola and Val Sessera.



### **4 - The bridge path (1h)**

From Stavello (1206m) the path goes downhill to the Babbiera (962m), through the greenery. It is an old muletrack used by the inhabitants of the Alps of Trivero to enter the Valsessera and it is the last part of the Dolciniano itinerary.

### **5 - Frà Dolcino path (1h 15min)**

From the Bocchetto di Stavello (1206m) to the Bocchetto di Luvera (1310m). It runs up the hillside in the shadow of the Rubello mount to the Margosio mount, crossing through beeches, firs and birches.

### **5 bis - Rubello path (1h)**

From the Bocchetto di Stavello (1206m) to the Bocchetto di Luvera. It is parallel to the previous one, but a bit higher and it can be useful on the way back.

### **6 - Mushrooms' path (50min)**

From the little church Alpina (picnic area is about 7km from Trivero, 1246m) to the Brughiera (810m). The excursion up to the southern hillside of the Rubello mount is wonderful. It runs across the coppices and small cultivated fields. The Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Brughiera, which is beautifully placed, is made of two churches of the XVI century.

### **7 - The San Bernardo path (30min)**

From the Panoramic road (1275m) just after the alpine Church, it goes downhill to the oratory of San Bernardo (1408m), built from the XVI century in order to celebrate the victory on the fra Dolcino. You can find breathtaking views of the Po' Valley and from the maritime Alps to the Rhaetian Alps.

### **8 - The golden path (40min)**

Just before the Bocchetta di Margioso, take the 7,8 km path of the Panoramic road, to the Oro resort (1181m, the link road to the 2 itinerary). It is the other path on the sunny mountainside, to a pleasant and open place.

### **9 - The path of the Rosa (1h)**

From the Bocchetto Luvera (1310m) to the Moncerchio mount (1430m). It is a narrow path along the steep northern walls of the Rocca d'Argimonia, with splendid views of the ALTA VALSESSERA.

### **10 - The wolf's path (1h)**

From the Bocchetto Luvera (1310m), it goes downhill to the Capo Mosso (838m). It runs the grassy side of the Cima della Ragna, where still today you can find the "luere", that is to say traps for wolfs.

### **11 - Rise of the Argimonia (50min)**

From the 11.7 kilometre of the Panoramic road (1425m) to the anti-summit of the Rocca d'Argimonia (1587m). It is an easy path overlooking the Monte Rosa and reaching the small chapel consecrated to those who had died on the mountains.

### **12 - The circle walk (30min)**

From Bielmonte (1483m) to the Moncerchio hill (1622m). Short rise up the grassy slopes of Bielmonte to the watershed.

### **13 - The road of the Alps (1h 20min)**

From the Bocchetto Sessera (1382m) to Cerale di Camandona (8810m). It covers the old "via d'alpe" used for herding locks to pasture from villages to the Alta Valsessera. The Sanctuary of Marzucco is very interesting (XVII century).

### **14 - The roe's path (40min)**

From the Bocchetto Sessera (1382m) to the Moncerchio mount (1430m, link road to the 9 itinerary). The large cartway slightly rises, along to the north of the mount Marca.

### **15 - The Valsessera road (1h 15min)**

From the Bocchetto Sessera (1382m) to the Piana del Ponte (1032m). It is the main access way to the Alta Valsessera and it comes to the bottom of the valley to the Casa del Pescatore. From the Piana del Ponte you can watch the ruins of the buildings where once they manufactured the materials extracted by the valley.

### **16 - The Artignaga road (1h)**

From the Bocchetto del Valsessera (1382m) to the Artignaga mount (1374m). It certainly reaches one of the most characteristic part of the Alps, in a splendid valley under the cliffs of the Cima delle Guardie (2006m).

### **17 - The Monticchio rise (50min)**

From the Bocchetto Sessera (1382m) to Monticchio (1692m). It is a wonderful, but hard panoramic rising route. From the top of it, you can enjoy a magnificent view of the western Biellese, the Serra and the Alps .

### **18 - Pratetto path (45min)**

From the Bocchetto Sessera (1382m) to Pratetto of Tavigliano (1071m). It goes downhill to some pastures and farms, with a really beautiful architecture, between the Strona and Cervo rivers.

### **19 - Sentiero dei narcisi (40 min)**

Dalla Sella del Cucco (1251 m) all'alpe Musin (1445 m, raccordo itinerario 21). Piacevole salita su sentiero, tra prati e pascoli, fino agli alpeggi che punteggiano il versante orientale della bassa Valle Cervo.

### **21 - Strada del Musin ( 55 min)**

Dalle cascate La Goz (1221 m) all'alpe Musin (1445 m, raccordo itinerario 19). Altro facile itinerario per raggiungere uno dei più ampi alpeggi del Biellese.

### **23 - The Selle path (1h)**

From the Pairo (973m) to the Teggie del Campello (1375m). Pairo is a typical village, which preserves some interesting frescoes (XVII century). The path links the centre of the village to some farms.



#### **24 - The beeches' path (2h 10min)**

From the picturesque village of Forgnengo (910m) to the Teggie del Campo (1616m). It is a long path which gives satisfaction. It runs up the right side of the big valley of the rio Concabbia in order to reach the high pastures.

#### **25 - The road of the Alpini (10min)**

From the fork (1280m) of the dirt road, which goes downhill with some hairpin bends to the sunny Costa Pessine, to the small chapel consecrated to the Alpini (1220m, panoramic road). You can move on this road or take the path which in less than one hour links to Pratetto with the 18 itinerary.

#### **26 - The Belvedere walk (35min)**

From the fork along the Panoramic road (1120m), a steep asphalt path runs down to Riomosso in some minutes, one of the most charming village of the Alta Cervo Valley. Walking across covered passages and stairs. you come to the Belvedere della Pila (980m), where you can enjoy one of the most famous and fantastic view of the valley.



#### **27 - The Sassaia road (30min)**

From the fork of the Panoramic road (1030m) to Sassaia (970m). That is an easy excursion, where you can enjoy the architecture, the characteristic vaults and paved small squares of the village.

### **PATHS STARTING FROM THE ZEGNA OASIS**

- The GTB, the great crossing of Biella

A ring of nearly 200km of clearly marked trails. That is divided into 15 hikes, crossing the Biella province.

- **The San. Bernardo path –SSB (2h 30min)**

From Trivero (800m) to the Sanctuary of San Bernardo (1408m). Open up again by the C.A.I. of Trivero, it is also part of an old devotional itinerary rising to the panoramic small church on the top of the Rubello mount.

- **The Vie en Rose (not marked)**

It is a charming itinerary, starting from the Bocchetto Sessera. There are six increasingly difficult hikes, for expert climbers. It ends to the tops of the Monte Rosa. At each leg, you can stop at small refuges or mountain pastures.

- **The Daphne path**

It is a linking path to the Valsessera and it is marked by the CAI Valsessera. The path starts from the plains of Rivò (983m), from the road rising from Coggiola to the plateau of Noveis. Then enter the Alta Valsessera by reaching the Piancone plant and the Babbiera bridge (692m), linking point with the path n. 4 and with the Dolciniano itinerary (4h).

- **The Dolciniano itinerary**

It is a 10h walk, splits in two legs, stopping at the La Peccia mount. It is a suggestive itinerary, the same the heresiarch Fra Dolciniano did in 1306.

### **EQUIPPED ITINERARIES , MOUNTAIN AND CULTURE**

There are clearly marked itineraries, which make you know the most characterising aspects of the life, environment and culture of the Biellese valleys.

In the territory of the Zegna Oasis, the Ethnographic Itinerary Camandona-Bocchetto Sessera (path n.13).



#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

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