



Mountain bike



Gravel



Toce Cycleway Cycling between rivers

○ TC (EASY)

This **loop trail** starts from Domodossola and clockwise circles the plain between Domodossola, Crevoladossola, Montecrestese, Masera, and Trontano. The route owes its name to the fact that it touches five rivers: **Toce**, **Bogna**, **Diveria**, **Isorno**, and **Melezzo**.

The starting point is the **Domodossola train station**. We recommend the large parking lot "della Vigezzina" on Via Piave, behind the train station, for those coming by car.

From the **station**, following the signs, we go down **Via Bonomelli**; at the end, we turn right, taking the railway underpass, and at the next roundabout, we go straight along **Via Mizzoccola** for about 450 m.

Just before underpassing the freeway, we cross the road (crosswalk) to enter a low railway line underpass. Here begins a section of the bicycle path that runs on the barrier, skirting the **Toce River** in a northerly direction.

Alternating between bicycle path stretches and dirt track, continue to the bridge over the **Bogna River**. We cross the bridge on the side bike lane, and following the bike lanes in **Crevoladossola** territory, we cross the industrial area, passing behind the shed area.

The bike path continues past the **Preglia Oasis** (picnic area) to the karting area. Here, we turn left along a small asphalt road that skirts a canal, offering on the left beautiful views of the vast mowed meadows where herds of grazing cows can often still be seen.

At the end of the minor road, we intersect the provincial road. We turn immediately right into the available bicycle/pedestrian lane until the end of the bridge over the **Diveria Stream**, then, paying close attention to traffic, we follow the road to the roundabout, where we continue straight ahead.

Thus, we leave the busier road and reach the RV area under the beautiful **Crevoladossola Parish Church** dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul.

Take a bicycle and pedestrian path from the parking lot along the right bank of **Lake Tana**, a nature area where rich birdlife, both nesting and passage birds, can often be observed.

At the track's end, we turn along a short path that leads back to the provincial road. We follow the local road to the left and, still paying attention to traffic, we cross the bridge



road on the Toce River, downstream of the artificial dam that originates Lake Tana. We then turn immediately right in the direction of the **Sports field** and skirt the Toce River along a pleasant dirt road that passes under the freeway and continues as a natural bottom bike path skirting the **Isorno Stream to Pontetto**. You cross the stream on the road bridge, then enter **Masera** territory.

We turn on the first road to the right along a paved road alongside the stream (**Via Paolo Ferraris**). At the first junction, we can either continue left (a paved road that crosses fields, a recommended choice) or right (an uninteresting dirt road that skirts the foot of the freeway).

The two roads join further, so we continue alongside the **Melezso Stream** down from the **Vigezzo Valley**.

When we get to the church in Masera, we cross the creek on the bike/pedestrian footbridge and immediately beyond, at the roundabout, turn right following the main road leading to the freeway interchange. The road in this section is wide but busy: be very careful! After 500 m, we take a dirt track on the right with a somewhat uneven surface that continues in a winding pattern until it passes under the freeway. From here, the path continues, keeping to the top of the barrier, and we continue straight ahead for about 1.9 km.

Eventually, the track in the last 100 narrows as a small path that drops and passes under the **Vigezzina railway bridge**; we regain the road to Domodossola at **the Mizzoccola Bridge** (careful in this section: the track is narrow).

From the Mizzoccola Bridge, we continue on the road, reaching the "Avis" roundabout as we enter Domodossola, retracing the outward route to the train station.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

The route, marked with blue arrows, must be traveled in **TIME SENSE** and is reserved for mountain bikes or gravel bikes, as it also includes sections on rather rough dirt tracks.

The route is overall easy and almost flat.

POINTS OF ATTENTION

1. Section on ordinary roads from Domodossola station to Mizzoccola Bridge
2. Section on ordinary roads (provincial road) in Crevoladossola territory from the bridge over the Diveria at the roundabout
3. Section on ordinary road (provincial road) downstream Lake Tana.
4. Section on ordinary roads (provincial road) in Masera from the bicycle-pedestrian



footbridge to the freeway interchange

5. Narrow passage under the Vigezzina Railway bridge near the Mizzoccola Bridge.

TECHNICAL DATA.

Relevant geographical area: Verbano Cusio Ossola / Ossola Valley / Toce Plain

Place of departure: Domodossola Station

Place of arrival: Domodossola Station

Number of Legs: 1

Length: 18.5 km

Total ascent: 115 m indicative

Total descent: 115 m indicative

Difficulty: TC (easy)

Average duration: 1 hour 15 minutes

Minimum elevation: 262 m.a.s.l. (Mizzoccola Bridge)

Maximum elevation reached: 335 m.a.s.l. (Pontetto)

Degree of cyclability: Total

Recommended period: All year-round

Presence of dedicated signage: Yes

Target audience: MTB- Gravel lover

REFRESHMENT POINTS

Domodossola, Bisate, Pontetto, Masera

TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES

DOMODOSSOLA - Piazza Matteotti c/o Railway Station - 28845 Domodossola (VB), Tel. +39 0324 248265, infopoint@visitossola.it

BIKE SERVICE

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PLACES OF INTEREST

Along the route

The historic core of **Domodossola**, a cultural jewel of absolute prominence nationwide and beyond, has undergone a major architectural redevelopment in recent years. The "Borgo della Cultura" project aimed to design a new image of the entire historic center by redeveloping its most important buildings and evaluating the medieval wall system that has protected and jealously guarded it over the centuries. Sights: landmark center with the beautiful Market Square, the Civic Museums of Palazzo Silva and Palazzo San Francesco, the Medieval Tower, and the Collegiate Church of SS. Gervasio and Protasio.

In **Crevoladossola**, the beautiful Parish Church of Saints Peter and Paul is worth a visit. Here, you can admire the beautiful polychrome stained-glass windows made by a Bernese artisan workshop and displayed along the Via del Gries.

The Enel Power Station built by Milanese architect Portaluppi just beyond the RV area is worth a detour.

In the hamlet of **Pontetto** (Montecrestese), the Old Fractional Oven dates back to about 1600 and is located in the old historic core. The Oven was lit twice or thrice a year, and families would take turns baking rye bread (pan négar).

Masera: The Church of Sant'Abbondio dates from the 10th-11th centuries but was extensively remodeled and transformed in later centuries. The interesting Romanesque bell tower with a square base, made of stone, and with arched string-course cornices is preserved of the original structure. The openings on the lower floors are almost all plugged; on the penultimate floor, there are fine-mullioned windows with two lights, and on the top floor, there are three-mullioned windows. The oratory is deconsecrated and is used during the famous Masera Grape Festival as a venue for photographic exhibitions or art shows.

Also, in **Masera**, the Church of San Martino was rebuilt in 1883 on the site of an earlier Romanesque church that had been destroyed. Of note are the 19th-century organ and the wooden Sepulcher group.



Standards of behavior

1. Stay on the trails

Respect the trail and any prohibitions on access. Respect private property.

2. Leave no trace

Respect the land. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable than dry trails. Stay on existing trails, and do not create new ones. Don't take shortcuts by cutting corners. Take any litter with you.

3. Ride carefully

A moment's distraction can endanger both yourself and others. Abide by speed limits and ride so that you can always control your bicycle. Always wear a helmet.

4. Don't scare the animals

Animals are easily startled by an abrupt approach, a sudden movement, or a loud noise. Allow them enough space and time to adjust to your presence.

5. Give right of way

These trails are not only for bicycle use but also shared by hikers on foot. So, especially downhill, speed should be moderated: around a bend, someone may be coming up. Let other trail users know you will overtake them through a friendly greeting or a bell. Bikers must give way to all non-motorized trail users. Cyclists proceeding downhill should give the right of way to those going uphill. Make any overtaking as safe and polite as possible.



REMINDER:

CYCLISTS MUST ALWAYS GIVE WAY TO OTHER USERS



RULES OF CONDUCT FOR BIKERS

Since the first mountain bikes appeared, the N.O.R.B.A. (National Off-Road Bicycle Association) drew up a code of conduct intended to regulate off-road activity with full respect for nature and other frequenters of the mountains and trails.

Many clubs, organizations, associations, and schools throughout Italy have adopted the N.O.R.B.A. Code. It consists of a series of general tips that, if followed carefully, can help make this sporting and hiking practice so much in vogue today more enjoyable for everyone.

N.O.R.B.A. Code

1. Always give priority to hikers on foot.
2. Slow down and use caution when approaching and overtaking hikers on foot or other cycle walkers, always making sure to signal your arrival well in advance; avoid cackling or shouting, apologize, and greet politely.
3. Always keep the speed of the mountain bike under control and approach turns with extreme caution, anticipating sudden obstacles. The pace should be commensurate with the type of terrain, the type of trail, and each person's experience.
4. Always stay within the marked path, thus minimizing environmental impact (permanent damage to surrounding vegetation and subsequent soil erosion).
5. Do not disturb or frighten domestic or wild animals; give them time to move away and off the path.
6. Do not, for any reason, leave garbage as a result of your passage; you should pick up your own and, when possible, also those abandoned by other "distracted" hikers.
7. Always respect private and public property, leaving gates, mobile barriers, or bars as they are found. In any case, go directly to the landowners to ask for permission to pass. "No trespassing" often means "Please ask permission if you want to pass."
8. During cycle hiking, it is always appropriate to be self-sufficient. The goal to be reached and the speed at which one moves should be proportionate to the psychophysical preparedness and



the driver's skill, equipment, environment, terrain, and, most importantly, weather conditions.

9. Never undertake a cycle tour alone, except in cases of force majeure. Stay away from isolated areas distant from major roads, and always leave clear directions regarding the route to be taken and the estimated return time.

10. Minimizing the impact with nature: stealing only images and memories and leaving, at most, the barely perceptible imprint of the wheels of one's bike.