



## Panoramas of Piana di Vigizzo

 BC (Medium)

Two dirt roads that connect the municipalities of Toceno and Craveggia to the Piana di Vigizzo allow for a ring of more than 20 km unique and unmissable for its fantastic landscapes and views. Starting point of the route is the Piana di Vigizzo cable car station in Prestinone, which is equipped with parking, toilets, and an e-bike rental point.

Keeping the cable car station to your right, begin to climb along Via Carlo Fornara Pittore to enter the old part of **Prestinone**, where you immediately encounter the house where the great Vigizzo painter lived. Having crossed the village, continue along side streets until you reach **Vocogno**, where the beautiful Church of Santa Caterina welcomes you. Back on the main road coming from Toceno head toward Craveggia and immediately after the bridge turn left onto the road towards Vasca - Blizz to follow for about 800 m with beautiful panoramic views of the entire valley and the wonderful roofs and chimneys of the old mansions of **Craveggia**. Just before a bridge, on the left, the consortium track comes off, at first asphalted then natural-bottomed, which with a very long series of hairpin bends goes up the ridge, touching various mountain pastures and isolated huts until it reaches the **Colma di Craveggia**, a beautiful panoramic point. From the Colma, the track continues halfway up the hillside and a few more wide switchbacks until it goes over the ridge and finally descends to the **Piana di Vigizzo** where the gondola from the valley floor arrives. From here you take a flat track that skirts the southern slope of the Cima until you enter a new forest track that descends to the **Colma di fuori** (of Toceno) and then continues in wide switchbacks until it joins the Toceno-Arvogno road. Turn left (in the direction of Toceno) and after a hundred meters take the firebreak on the left also marked by **Nature Trail** signs. Follow the firebreak halfway down the hillside on a slight descent until you come out on small paved roads that go through the village of **Toceno** until you cross the main Toceno-Craveggia road. Take the road in the direction of Craveggia for a little more than 400 m until, just before crossing the gondola line to the Piana, take a sheep-track on the right that descends until it joins Via **Vocogno**, which leads just before the Cemetery, crossing the route taken earlier uphill. Return to the main Toceno-Craveggia road and this time reach the center of **Craveggia** with the beautiful Piazza San Giacomo.

To continue, you can take the first section of the beautiful **Via Crucis** (paved mule track with some steps) and then return to the paved road at the first hairpin bend (as an alternative to the mule track, you can safely follow the paved road). From the hairpin bend continue along the wide paved road (Via Vittorio Veneto) that descends to the bottom of the valley. Almost at the bottom, on the right, take the road that climbs briefly to the cable car departure station.

## TECHNICAL ASPECTS

The route uses natural-bed consortium roads and tracks. The route is rideable in both directions but it is recommended to ascend from the Craveggia Colma and descend from the Toceno Colma.

## POINTS OF ATTENTION

On the entire route, it is recommended to descend at a reduced speed because motor vehicles may cross: even if consortium tracks are not open to ordinary traffic, they can still be traveled by agricultural vehicles and consortium drivers' cars.

## TECHNICAL DATA

Relevant geographical area:	Verbano Cusio Ossola / Valle Ossola / Valle Vigezzo
Place of departure:	Prestinone (Piana di Vigezzo gondola lift station)
Place of arrival:	Prestinone (Piana di Vigezzo gondola lift station)
Number of legs:	1
Length:	22.5 km
Total ascent:	1150 m indicative
Total descent:	1150 m indicative
Difficulty:	BC medium
Average duration:	4 hours 00 minutes
Minimum altitude:	876 m asl (junction to Prestinone)
Highest elevation reached:	1882 m asl (ridge Piana di Vigezzo)
Degree of cyclability:	Total
Recommended period:	May-October

Presence of dedicated signage: No  
Target audience: MTB enthusiast

### VANTAGE POINTS

The entire tour is marked by beautiful views: particularly noteworthy are the splendid views from the Craveggia Colma, Piana and Toceno Colma

### EATERIES

Prestinone, Craveggia and Piana di Vigizzo

### TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES

Malesco

Via Ospedale, 1 - 28854 Malesco VB

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Mail: [promalesco@libero.it](mailto:promalesco@libero.it)

Santa Maria Maggiore

Piazza Risorgimento, 28 - 28857 Santa Maria Maggiore VB Tel.

0324 95091

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Druogno

Piazza della Chiesa - 28853 Druogno VB Tel.0324 93565

Mail: [turismo.druogno@libero.it](mailto:turismo.druogno@libero.it)

### BIKE SERVICE

Società Piana di Vigizzo, Via Carlo Fornara Pittore n. 13 28852 Prestinone VB Tel. +39 351

6333560 [info@pianadivigizzo.it](mailto:info@pianadivigizzo.it). Activities : bike rental, bike school, guide service

- At the start of the gondola from Prestinone up to the Piana di Vigizzo
- At the Piana Shop - on via Cavalli, 16 in Santa Maria Maggiore
- At the Parco di Educazione Stradale in Druogno, via Garibaldi

## CHARGING STATIONS

Charging facilities at the start and finish of the Piana di Vigezzo gondola lift

## PLACES OF INTEREST

Along the route

**Craveggia** is a real jewel of art and faith, starting with the square with the parish church of Saints Giacomo and Cristoforo, the church of Santa Marta and the Baptistery: these three monuments, so harmoniously placed in the square, are reminiscent of the more famous Piazza dei Miracoli in Pisa and constitute a monumental complex of great value and rare beauty. The Craveggia Parish Church, which is accessed by a wide flight of steps, was built in the first half of the 18th century. It was designed by the painter Giuseppe Mattia Borgnis, who later decorated and frescoed the interior of the church.

Inside the parish church is kept the so-called "Treasure" of Craveggia, a collection of sacred art (religious vestments, liturgical objects, and paintings) that has been increased by purchases over the centuries.

The town is characterized by elegant stately buildings built because of fortunate stories of emigration. From the highest streets of the village, spectacular scenery opens, drawn by the famous stone roofs and tall chimneys.

### The Chapels of the Via Crucis

Just beyond the church square in Craveggia is the beautiful mule track that leads onto the path of the Via Crucis (Way of the Cross), composed of majestic votive shrines. These stations were begun in 1742. Some of them (8th, 9th, 13th) were frescoed by Giuseppe Mattia Borgnis.

### Toceno: Oratory of St. Anthony of Padua

The oratory of St. Anthony of Padua dates to at least the early 16th century and was the first sacred building in Toceno. The oratory's one-room interior features a wooden truss ceiling, which is original for the Vigezzo Valley. The polygonal apse contains interesting frescoes by the Lombard painter Battista da Legnano, painted in 1525.

Nearby:

The open, pleasant and restful Vigezzo Valley deserves to be discovered quietly. It is a valley that has inspired artists of the past and continues to amaze its visitors with its natural beauty and valuable cultural evidence.

In each of the seven municipalities of the Vigezzo Valley, it is easy to find out-of-the-ordinary points of visit and discovery: the Chimney Sweep Museum in Santa Maria Maggiore, the majestic Sanctuary of Re, the sundials in Villette, the Eco Museum in Malesco, and much more.

## 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. Drive carefully

A moment's distraction can endanger both yourself and others. Abide by speed limits and ride in such a way that you are always in control of 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 for bicycle use only but are also shared by hikers on foot. So, especially downhill, speed should be moderated: around a bend there may be someone coming up. Let other trail users know you are about to overtake them through a friendly greeting or use of a bell. Bicyclists must give way to all non-motorized trail users. Cyclists proceeding downhill should give right of way to those going uphill. Make any overtaking as safe and polite as possible.



## REMINDER: BIKERS MUST ALWAYS GIVE WAY TO OTHER USERS

### RULES OF CONDUCT FOR BIKERS

Since the appearance of the first mountain bikes, 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.

The N.O.R.B.A. Code has been adopted by many clubs, organizations, associations and schools throughout Italy. 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, rather 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 animals, whether domestic or wild; 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, if possible, go directly to the landowners to ask for permission to pass. "No trespassing" often just means "Please ask permission if you want to pass."

8. During cycle hiking it is always advisable to be self-sufficient. The destination to be reached and the speed at which one moves should be proportionate to the psychophysical fitness and skill of the driver, the equipment, the environment, the terrain and, above all, the weather conditions.
9. Never undertake a cycle tour alone, except in cases of force majeure. Do not pass through isolated areas distant from major roads and always leave clear directions regarding the route to be taken and the estimated time of return.
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 vehicle.