



Druogno - Re "Pineta"

○ TC (EASY)

The Vigizzo Valley is a unique valley among those of the Ossola. It is a corridor between the Ossola and the Ticino, has neither beginning nor end, and is a vast plateau 800 m above sea level covered with forests. The valley tells the legend of chimney sweeps and an artistic tradition of large brushes that has earned Vigizzo the nickname "valley of painters."

The valley has 15 marked bicycle and pedestrian routes, some of which use bicycle paths and some of which use agricultural tracks or existing roads. The following describes the main route No. 1, the Druogno—Re "Pineta" route.

This bicycle route par excellence in the Vigizzo Valley has an almost continuous dedicated bicycle path, except for a short section on a low-traffic secondary road before the Santa Maria Maggiore sports field and in crossing the village of Malesco. The route starts at the **Druogno station** and crosses the "**pineta**" (pine forest) to Santa Maria Maggiore, skirting the foot of the slope, passing by the Centro del Fondo and the sports field at the **Praudina** location. It then continues, always level, until it crosses the **T. Loana** at the Pozzo Vecchio waterfall on a spectacular suspension bridge and then descends into the center of **Malesco**.

By internal roads, one crosses the built-up area and continues eastward until descending to the long bridge that crosses the T. Melezzo Orientale. Past the bridge, take a right, skirting the river until you reach the foot of the built-up area of Re, then cross the river again on the bridge and take an immediate left until you reach the spectacular gorge of **Pozzo Maglione**, which you cross over the ancient stone bridge. From here, you climb up a narrow road until you cross the state road and close the route at the **Sanctuary of Re**.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Route suitable for everyone, ideal for families with children: almost always flat, with no significant elevation changes, and surrounded by immense coniferous forests that provide coolness even on the hottest summer days.

POINTS OF ATTENTION

Due to the high summer attendance by cyclists and hikers, it is recommended that you always maintain a moderate speed.

TECHNICAL DATA.

Relevant geographical area:	Verbano Cusio Ossola / Ossola / Viguzzo Valley
Place of departure:	Druogno train station (825 m)
Place of arrival:	Re, Sanctuary
Number of legs:	1
Length:	12.5 km
Total ascent:	100 m indicative
Total descent:	200 m indicative
Difficulty:	MC (EASY)
Average duration:	1 hour 00 minutes
Minimum altitude:	650 m asl
Highest altitude reached:	825 m asl Druogno station
Degree of cyclability:	Total
Recommended period:	May - October
Presence of dedicated signage:	Yes
Target Audience:	For families

VIEWPOINTS

Suspension bridge over the Loana stream, before Malesco

EATERIES

Many refreshment options in Druogno, Santa Maria Maggiore, Malesco, and Re.

Along the bike path, the Cross-Country Center offers several refreshment options.

TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES

Malesco

Via Ospedale, 1 - 28854 Malesco VB

Tel. 0324 929901

Mail: promalesco@libero.it

Santa Maria Maggiore

Piazza Risorgimento, 28 - 28857 Santa Maria Maggiore VB

Tel. 0324 95091

Mail: info@comune.santamariamaggiore.vb.it

Druogno

Piazza della Chiesa - 28853 Druogno VB

Tel. 0324 93565

Mail: turismo.druogno@libero.it

BIKE SERVICE

Società Piana di Vigezzo, Via Carlo Fornara Pittore No. 13 28852 Prestinone VB Tel. +39 351 6333560 info@pianadivigezzo.it. Activities: Bike rental, Bike School, guide service

- At the start of the gondola, go from Prestinone up to the Piana di Vigezzo.
- At the Piana Shop - on Cavalli Street, 16 in Santa Maria Maggiore
- At the Road Education Park in Druogno, Via Garibaldi

PLACES OF INTEREST

Along the route

The bike path is the ideal line connecting the villages in the valley to discover the many historical, artistic, and natural testimonies. Santa Maria Maggiore and Malesco are two of

the 200 villages in Italy that have received the Orange Flag, the Italian Touring Club's prestigious environmental tourism quality mark.

Opposite the Druogno train station, the large "Druogno Colony" building houses the **UniversiCà Museum**, run by the cultural foundation of the same name. The museum features multimedia tours dedicated to the valley's traditions, crafts, stories, and characters.

From the Druogno station, you can reach the **Road Education Center** and the sports field. Following the bicycle and pedestrian path, you will soon reach Santa Maria Maggiore, passing the campground, golf course, and equestrian club on the way to **Praudina Adventure Park**, a fun Adventure Park explicitly designed for youngsters, and equipped with tree-hanging courses, zip lines, and zip lines.

In Malesco, the **Soapstone and Stonemasons Ecomuseum**, with its cells and points of interest, encompasses the entire territory. Its goals are to protect the rich cultural, environmental, and traditional heritage. The common thread is stone, especially soapstone, which has been used since ancient times to make artifacts of various kinds for domestic, architectural, and urban use.

The **Soapstone Archaeological Museum** of Val Grande National Park presents an exhibition that combines archaeology, ethnography, and geology through a special reading of archaeological finds that highlights the tools of daily work and the skills of the ancient local stonemasons. The geological section delves into some of the geological peculiarities of the Vigezzo Valley and provides an understanding of the characteristics of soapstone.

The stretch from Malesco to Re allows us to encounter some points of particular geological and morphological interest: first, a soapstone boulder bearing cup-shaped engravings, then the so-called "fertility boulder," used as a chute in ancient rites related to female fertility. The bike path ends at the **medieval bridge of Maglione**, where it is possible to observe one of the most scenically beautiful places in the entire valley, characterized by wonderful erosive forms in the ancient glacial moraines.

Nearby:

Feminis-Farina Perfume House in Santa Maria Maggiore: Eau de Cologne has its Italian home in the Vigezzo Valley. A journey through scents, aromas, and suggestions will lead you to discover its true history.

Chimney Sweep Museum in Santa Maria Maggiore: located in the historic center of Santa Maria Maggiore, in the heart of Villa Antonia Park, it represents the place of memory of this ancient craft, whose cradle is the Vigezzo Valley. An exciting and evocative visit, a small museum that welcomes thousands of visitors from all over Italy and the world every year.

www.museospazzacamino.it

"Rossetti Valentini" School of Fine Arts in the historic center of Santa Maria Maggiore: The Vigezzo Valley, also known as the "Valley of the Painters," has been home to numerous artists and a source of inspiration for landscape and portrait painters who have influenced its art and culture over the centuries. The "Rossetti Valentini" school holds a veritable artistic treasure trove by exhibiting the works of Vigezzo painters from the mid-eighteenth century to the entire twentieth century. It also periodically offers painting, drawing, cartooning, and wood carving courses.

Museum of Vintage Postcards in Druogno: housed inside the deconsecrated Church of St. Julius on the outskirts of the village, the museum holds an archive of about 3,000 postcards of the old Vigezzo, starting in the late 19th century. Outside is an exhibition of the works of sculptor Giancarlo Sangregorio.